

## MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

### BLOOM 'N LOCO

A huge congratulations to our main street florist and homeware store Bloom 'n loco on being awarded the Ultimate Visitor Experience Award at the Hawke's Bay Chamber of Commerce, Pan Pac Hawke's Bay Business Awards.

Owner, Kimberley Bell, and her team did so well to be selected for this top award out of all of Hawke's Bay. The ultimate visitor experience

award was based on a mystery shopper visiting businesses, and in Bloom 'n Loco's case we heard the secret shopper experience was second to none.

The award was sponsored by the Napier City Council. It is great to have a Wairoa business delivering at this level. I attended the awards with my wife Jan and other Council representatives, and it was certainly a proud moment for Wairoa. Well done Kimberley and your team.

### EMISSIONS PRICING PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Wairoa District Council, like many others, has lodged an individual submission to the Government's He Waka Eke Noa emissions pricing proposal.

Our Council unanimously opposes the proposal in its entirety and is standing up to protect our rural communities. The consequence of this proposal has huge ramifications for our district. This is another example of the government railroading its way through without taking its communities on the journey because of a lack of consultation.

We have also led a regional submission and assisted many more people to individually lodge their own submissions. It is really disappointing that our Council has had to invest so much time and resources into opposing a proposal that clearly has not considered the current and future needs of rural isolated communities like Wairoa. The government doesn't appear to be looking at the bigger picture, i.e., when productive farmland is completely planted in trees. We should be working in partnership where all of NZ is considered in the government's decision-making.

The emissions pricing proposal is in direct contravention to the wellbeing of Wairoa, and other rural communities, and does not support thriving sustainable communities locally, regionally, and nationally.

We have asked the Government to halt the proposal in its current format, and instead adopt a common-sense science-based approach, rather than a political-based approach, and not neglect meaningful engagement with its communities in order to greenwash on an international platform.

We acknowledge Climate Change is an important issue, but the proposed actions are inappropriate, rushed and predetermined and will disproportionately affect the isolated rural communities of the Wairoa district.

Engagement to date has demonstrated that communities, such as Wairoa, have been overlooked and the technical focus of the proposal neglects to consider the impacts on communities and wellbeing. Historically Wairoa has been marginalised by government policy decisions, often due to "unintended consequences", that have occurred through a lack of understanding of communities outside of the dominant paradigm.

Under this proposal the impacts for Wairoa are astronomical. To make changes of such consequence, without detailing any support policies or intervention, demonstrates a complete disregard for the Government's duty of care to its rural communities.

### MAYORAL CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA

Local senior citizens are invited to join in a morning of fun, entertainment and festivities.

A Mayoral Christmas morning tea is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, with as many local senior citizens and kaumātua as possible encouraged to attend.

Due to the October election, the usual Mayoral morning tea was unable to be held, so this is a great opportunity to combine the Mayoral morning tea with a Christmas celebration.

I look forward to these types of events every year. It is great to be able to catch up with so many people who have done so much for our community. These are the people who in many cases have created the legacy that our younger generation enjoys, and I commend that. This is a great chance for our community to give back and show their honour, respect and gratitude to so many people who have given so much.

My wife Jan, who is the patron of Age Concern, and myself, look forward to catching up with familiar faces. This will be a great chance to have a bite to eat, hear some music and enjoy each other's company.

The event will be held at the Presbyterian Hall from 10am to noon. To assist with catering, please register your attendance by phoning the Council on 06 838 7309 or calling into the Council offices or i-Site.

### WATER SERVICES ENTITIES BILL

I was in Wellington, and went to Parliament, along with other Mayors, to listen to the government's reaction to the submissions relating to the Government's Water Services Entities Bill. My experience left me concerned about this government's inability to listen to the views of other people.

MP Barbara Edmonds said 88,383 written submissions on the Water Services Entities Bill were received and considered. Approximately 82,000 used four different templates or were considered form submissions—by the Taxpayers' Union or the National Party. She said because these 82,000 submissions are identical or substantially identical, the committee aggregated them together and only published one example of each. These 82,000 submissions were described by Hon Minister Edmonds as identical or substantially identical - with some minor personalisation. I am sure the 82,000 people who took the time out to submit would be surprised and disappointed their submissions weren't considered individually.

Just over 200 submissions were actually heard, with the Hon Minister Edmonds saying many of the other approximately 6,000 submitters were not able to be contacted and that is why their submissions were not heard. Again, I am sure members of the public do not sit around waiting for the government to contact them, and it seems incredible, considering the technology we have available to contact and connect with people these days, that contact could not be made.

It is particularly concerning that an issue as controversial as the Three Waters had only a couple of hundred submitters who were able to speak to their submissions, from over 88,000 submissions, and incredible that this seems to be acceptable.

This is not the democratic process we expect and is why local Councils must continue to be the voice for our grassroots communities in order to stop central government railroading through change that the majority of New Zealanders have clearly identified they do not want.

It is extraordinary that the government did not listen to the people who spent time and money and made an effort to personalise their submissions and put their thoughts forward, and then have their opinions totally ignored.

My biggest concern is this same situation could happen with the He Waka Eke Noa emissions pricing proposal submissions hearing. This consultation process is flawed, and its faults need to be recognised and remedied before the emissions hearings.

Regarding the Water Services Entities Bill, the government has said it will make some amendments, but these changes do not go far enough or address the concerns of the people and are another example of the government trying to trick us into thinking they are listening. Once again, there is not a robust process in place and the government has not stepped away from its original parameters.

### REGISTER NOW FOR THE CHRISTMAS FLOAT PARADE

Wairoa's upcoming Christmas Parade is drawing loads of interest, and people who are planning on joining in need to confirm their registration.

Anticipation is building for the long-awaited Wairoa Christmas Parade and Boulevard Day which will feature a nursery rhyme theme and a focus on tamariki.

The parade will take place on Saturday, December 10, from 2pm. The traditional chain of floats will meander along the main street and back again, featuring a range of nursery rhyme characters with a local Wairoa flavour. There will be a selection of prizes up for grabs at the prizegiving which will take place at the lighthouse at 3.30pm. Categories include, first place and runners-up in the best commercial float, best education provider float, best community organisation float and best overall float.

There will also be a range of boys' and girls' best costume prizes as well as an overall best costume.

Prizegiving will be followed by a free family concert under the lighthouse.

There has been a lot of interest from people keen to take part in the parade, and lots of registration forms have gone out, but people need to please return those forms, so organisers know how many floats they are working with.

The fun day will feature main street Boulevard Day style bargains and a sausage sizzle with meat kindly donated by Affco. The sausage sizzle will be way of a koha and the Council will match what is raised and the money will be donated to the Wairoa Fire Brigade.

It is great to once again be able to have celebratory events, as we did pre-COVID-19, and we all look forward to our Wairoa community coming together for fun and festivities. Please don't forget to confirm your registration, or register, by collecting your registration form from the i-Site or emailing [rubbyanne@wairoadc.co.nz](mailto:rubbyanne@wairoadc.co.nz) or phoning Rubyanne Edwards on 8387440 or 0272741548.

**The Wairoa Christmas Float Parade and concert is on Saturday, December 10.**

**Please register now by collecting your registration form from the i-Site or emailing [rubbyanne@wairoadc.co.nz](mailto:rubbyanne@wairoadc.co.nz)**

**FOR YOUR DIARY  
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

**COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday 13th December 1.30 pm**

CONTACT US  
Wairoa District Council  
Queen St, Wairoa  
[info@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:info@wairoadc.govt.nz) (06) 838 7309

