

WAIROA TAIRAWHITI COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE

The redevelopment of the Wairoa Tairawhiti Community Law Centre building in Paul Street is an investment into a vital community asset.

Community Law Centres were first established in the late 1970s starting with Auckland and followed by many more in New Zealand.

Local woman Hine Kohn started the first community law centre in Wairoa in response to unmet legal needs in the community. Over the years a team of staff and governance members have kept the service running strongly, in particular long-serving staff member Marie Tuahine along with Oha Manuel, the Wairoa Tairawhiti Community Law Centre board member.

Decades of behind-the-scenes work has gone into providing this service and the re-opening of the Paul Street centre ensures Wairoa people will continue to have access to free legal information and education.

REGIONAL WORKFORCE APPROACH

The Hawke's Bay Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG) has prepared a Regional Workforce Plan (RWP) for our region. This plan is the start of a collaborative journey to increase wellbeing and provides a common starting point and supports a shared understanding of the work that needs to be done to improve work skills and increase regional productivity.

The Regional Workforce Plan will focus on the primary sector, construction sector, wāhine in the workforce, rangatahi and school transitions and work-ready job seekers.

The Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG) is delighted to have shared this milestone achievement with many of the people and organisations who have supported the RWP.

RATES

The Wairoa District Council has adopted its 2022/23 Annual Plan and set the rates for the year commencing July 1, 2022.

The rates assessment notices are being sent out this week.

FOR YOUR DIARY
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, July 26, 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 2, 1.30pm

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 9, 1.30pm

CONTACT US

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If you are struggling to afford to pay for your rates, it is worth checking to see if you qualify for financial assistance through the government-driven rates rebate scheme.

Every year hundreds of people living in the Wairoa community meet the criteria to apply for a rates rebate and receive up to \$700 off their rates bill. This year the income abatement threshold has been increased from \$26,510 to \$28,080 and based on the 2021 year.

Homeowners can make an application for a rates rebate from 1 July of each year. The closing date for applications is 30 June of each year.

Locally, much of the administration of the scheme is completed by Wairoa District Council staff on the Government's behalf. Homeowners make their applications to the Council, which does most of the processing, and then forwards the applications to the Department of Internal Affairs for approval.

Even if a ratepayer's income might exceed the base income threshold, a partial rates rebate could still be available depending on a number of variables including household income, number of dependents, and the level of rates being paid.

The majority of rates rebates applications are from superannuitants who receive the maximum rates rebate, but there are a lot of other people out there who could qualify for full or partial relief.

Checking whether you should put in an application is really easy. An online calculator is available at: www.govt.nz Just enter 'rates rebate' in the search box. People can also drop in or phone the local Council office where staff can discuss the eligibility criteria and help complete the application forms if needed.

More information about rates instalment dates and penalty changes and the rates rebate scheme can be found on the Wairoa District Council website - search for #ratesdates or call into the Council's Queen Street offices.

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST

Congratulations again to Council staff who secured nearly \$800,000 of facilities that will benefit locals and tourists through the Tourism Infrastructure Funding Application.

The successful Wairoa District Council application saw \$776,160 awarded for public toilet facilities and smart solar powered compactor bins across the district.

The funding will see \$498,000 for the upgrade of Wairoa Camping ground toilet facilities in town, two lots of \$106,080 for upgrades of Oraka and Nuhaka public toilet facilities and \$66,000 for the installation of 10 BigBelly Bins.

This funding allows Council to provide facilities for visitors and locals without impacting our ratepayers. Wairoa District Council chief executive Kitea Tipuna said we are fortunate our local MP and Tourism Minister Stuart Nash recognises how important it is to grow infrastructure to support tourism in rural areas. We are appreciative of Stuart's support of our district with Wairoa receiving the highest amount of Tourism Infrastructure Funding in Hawke's Bay which is a credit to everyone involved.



Local people. Local impact.

Stand for our local or regional council today and make a positive difference for our local community.

Nominations open Friday 15 July and close 12 noon Friday 12 August.
Visit wairoadc.govt.nz and hbrc.govt.nz for more info.



LOCAL BODY NOMINATIONS OPEN

This year's local body election is less than three months away.

Nominations for the Mayor and councillors have opened and close midday on Friday, August 12, 2022.

The upcoming election will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2022. Locally the Wairoa District Council is made up of a Mayor, who is elected at large, and six councillors. The councillor seats are split into three Māori Ward seats and three General Ward seats.

As well as voting in the Wairoa District Council election, Wairoa voters will be able to vote for the Wairoa representative on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, and for those on the Māori Electoral Roll, the new Māori ward seat.

To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be a New Zealand citizen, enrolled as a Parliamentary elector and nominated by two electors whose names appear on the respective electoral roll within the area that a candidate is standing for.

If you are an enrolled voter, you'll receive a voting information pack in the mail. Enrol, check or update your details here, <https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online/>.

Voting papers will be sent to all eligible voters from Friday, September 16, 2022. Voting will close at 12 noon on Saturday, October 8, 2022.

For more information go to
www.wairoadc.govt.nz

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NOMINATIONS
OPEN JULY 15 AND
CLOSE 12 NOON
AUGUST 12