



## FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE

Flood mitigation for Wairoa is one of the most significant projects our town has seen in decades.

History shows that Wairoa has been impacted by flooding for as far back as records were kept, and yet we have never had any type of flood protection in place.

Now, through the Government's \$70m contribution, we have an opportunity to develop a solution to lessen Wairoa's susceptibility to flooding. We know there will never be a magic silver bullet to stop all flooding, but reducing the flood risk will help protect our community and build our confidence.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Tripartite Group, comprising Tātatu Tātau o Te Wairoa, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Wairoa District Council, and the Wairoa Stakeholder Group that have been working on Wairoa's river protection journey since day one.

Community engagement around the next steps of this important project is now underway. This began with visits to whānau whose homes are potentially directly impacted by the two most technically viable options. I commend the work of Wairoa District Council Deputy Mayor Denise Eaglesome-Karekare and Chief Executive Kitea Tipuna for meeting face-to-face with affected whānau. This was above and beyond their roles. From an emotional perspective, it was hard for them to talk with whānau, but because of their connections to North Clyde, they wanted the messaging to be delivered

personally by local people.

Last week, a meeting was held at Takitimu Marae to provide more information for those whānau whose homes may be impacted. My heart goes out to these people who may have to leave their homes, memories and whenua if one of the two technically viable options goes ahead. Unless you are a potentially affected person, it is hard to understand the gravity of what they are going through. I admire the strength of these people. No matter what option is selected, it will impact some people and some land, which is incredibly sad but also incredibly necessary.

It has been said by some that this is a land grab. It is not. This is about helping to protect our future, and those impacted will be fairly compensated.

I commend the work of Crown Manager, Lawrence Yule, and his team. Their role is tough work and they are doing a great job. Since Lawrence's appointment in August, we have achieved real progress. The timeframes are tight, and there is still a tremendous amount of work to do, but we are moving forward. Community engagement continued this week, and as the project advances and information becomes available, it will continue to be shared with the community. Please remember while flood mitigation will help the entire community, our focus at the moment is on those people whose homes and land may be impacted.

We need to have settled on a model before early February to meet the Government requirements so a

business case can be completed by the end of March next year.

If we do not meet this tight timeframe, we risk losing the \$70m. This is not a threat but simply a reality. If that happens, Wairoa will have no flood mitigation, and because of our geographical makeup, we will continue to be susceptible to flooding and the North Clyde area will go to Land Category 3. This cannot happen. Category 3 means people would no longer be able to legally live in the designated area, buildings will not be able to be consented, or insured, and businesses will be forced to close. It really could be the end of Wairoa as we know it. Doing nothing is not an option, we cannot let our community experience another heartbreaking flood event.

No decisions have been made on what the final flood mitigation will look like. Exploratory work is still taking place, and all we can do is hope we can develop a solution that will go towards protecting us in the future.

This is a hard time, especially for those most likely affected, who may be asked to sacrifice their homes and land. Again, my heart goes out to you all. There are supports that have been put in place to help our town, and particularly our impacted whānau, get through this. Please reach out if you need information or help so we can all move through this journey together. If you need assistance, or need to talk to somebody, please email [info@wairoafloodproject.co.nz](mailto:info@wairoafloodproject.co.nz) or phone 027 236 7494.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

### MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 12, 10am

### STRATEGY, WELLBEING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 12, 2pm

### COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, November 19, 10am

### ORDINARY COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 19, 1.30pm

### WAIROA YOUTH COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 19, 3.30pm

### FINANCE, ASSURANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 26, 1.30pm



Mayor Craig Little

## MEET THE MAYOR KANOHI KI TE KANOHI

If you would like to have a meeting with the Mayor, call the council offices on 06 838 7309 to arrange a meeting time.

He is available to meet with people on Wednesdays.

## SNAPSHOTS

Hawke's Bay Chamber of Commerce are offering support to businesses.

If you are interested in speaking with them, please email your name and phone number to [ed@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:ed@wairoadc.govt.nz).

Work on the new main street Wairoa isite Visitor Information Centre development is steadily progressing with a late January opening likely.

For more information [www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/news](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/news)

Expressions of interest are now open for District Licensing Committee Commissioner and District Licensing Committee Members. For more information go to [www.wairoadc.govt.nz/public-notice](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/public-notice). Applications close 14 November.

**LONG OR STRONG?  
GET GONE!**

Visit [HBemergency.govt.nz](http://HBemergency.govt.nz) to view the tsunami evacuation zone.

 **WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## WAIROA DISTRICT ROAD CLOSURES

8am Saturday 9th November 2024 to 11am Saturday 9th November 2024

Pursuant to section 342(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that the Wairoa District Council, for the purpose of the Wairoa Rod & Custom Show and Shine on Marine Parade.

- Closure of the Marine Parade between Locke Street and Delhi Street from 8am to 11am on Saturday 9th November 2024. A detour will be available on Queen Street.

Any further queries can be directed to the Wairoa District Council on 06 838 7309

**K Tipuna**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



## A Kiwiana Christmas

Christmas Market & Parade December 14, 2024

For more information or to register call 06 838 7309 or head to [www.wairoadc.govt.nz/a-kiwiana-christmas](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/a-kiwiana-christmas)

## GAITY Now Showing November 7 - 14

### Gladiator II PREMIERE

M | 2hrs 28m  
Thursday 14th 5.30pm

### Red One PREMIERE

PG | 2hrs 3m  
Thursday 7th 5.30pm

### Venom: The Last Dance

M | 1hrs 49m  
Friday 8th 5.30pm  
Wednesday 13th 5.30pm

### Joker: Folie A Deux

R16 | 2hrs 19m  
Friday 8th 8pm

### Transformers One

Saturday 9th 2pm

### The Wild Robot

PG | 1hrs 40m  
Saturday 9th 5.30pm  
Sunday 10th 11.30am

### Harold and the Purple Crayon

PG | 1hrs 32m  
Sunday 10th 2pm  
Tickets from \$12  
Hot Food available

Brought to you by

