

VOTE FOR OUR FUTURE

Have your say today!

LOCAL ELECTIONS
SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2025



Your Vote, Your Power.

With just over a week of voting time left, Wairoa residents and ratepayers are urged to make their vote count.

Nominations for the Wairoa District Council election have seen 20 candidates throw their hats into the ring, with four people nominated for the mayoral position and nine each for the three General Ward seats and the three Māori Ward seats.

Profiles and lists of confirmed candidates are available on the Council website at www.wairoadc.govt.nz

Voters should cast their selections and post or drop their votes into local ballot bins at the Council office in Queen

Street and at New World supermarket, before voting closes at 12 noon, Saturday 11 October. After October 7, it is best to deliver your votes to the ballot bins to ensure they arrive on time and are not held up in the post.

People need to check their enrolment details to ensure they receive their voting papers at the correct address. If you are not enrolled, take action now by heading to the Electoral Commission New Zealand's website to enrol or update your details online.

If you haven't received your voting papers, enrolled after 1 August, or haven't received your papers and are going to be away, you may need to cast a Special Vote. Just contact the Council

or call into the Queen Street office, and staff will get you sorted.

Don't forget, you can apply to enrol as either a residential or ratepayer elector right up to and including Friday, 10 October 2025 – the day before the close of voting.

Thinking of getting a pool this summer?

Making a splash in your backyard swimming pool is great summer fun, but pool owners are reminded of their pool fencing safety obligations. Home-based pools are a popular way to cool down. However, unfenced pools can be dangerous for young children, and a barrier around your pool can mean the difference between life and death.

Wairoa District Council's Building team is reminding pool owners of the importance of meeting the national safety requirements including that pools that are 40cm or more in depth need a physical barrier restricting access to unsupervised children and be placed on the Council register.

Wairoa District Council Chief Matt Lawson said it is important people understand the requirements for residential pool fencing so they can make informed decisions when purchasing and installing a pool.

"Any residential pool, including permanent, temporary, portable, paddling and spa pools, poses a serious drowning risk and must have barriers that restrict unsupervised access by young children.

"The rules around pool fencing were put in place by the government in 2017, providing consistent guidelines for the whole country and aimed at reducing the number of children drowning in pools.

"The requirements around pool fencing are in place to help prevent a tragedy. The Council encourages pool owners to ensure they are familiar with the legislation, which will likely include building consent for the pool fence and a three-yearly inspection to ensure the pool barrier is compliant."

Councils keep a record of all pools in the district. Pool owners can choose to have the pool fence inspection carried out by a local council inspector or an independently qualified pool inspector.

The Council inspection cost is \$185 plus mileage and time.

For more information or to book an inspection, call into the Council office and talk to the Building Consents team or head to www.wairoadc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Publications/Building-Control/Information-Sheet-6-Pool-fencing.pdf

Dog control focus continues

Wairoa District Council's focus on dog ownership compliance has been boosted with two new trucks, purpose-designed for animal control.

The previous trucks were due for replacement with the new vehicles featuring five animal cages and a range of functions that will assist Council staff.

Wairoa District Council Chief Executive Matt Lawson said these types of vehicles are used all over the country and will provide a quicker and more efficient response. "The trucks are designed to make it easier and safer for staff to be able to do their job and also feature improvements for when animals are picked up.

"We are committed to providing the best service we can around animal control, and these vehicles are a key part of that approach."

Meanwhile, Council staff have continued their increased dog patrols and appreciate support from members of the community who have been working with their team.

Mr Lawson said people have been reporting roaming dogs, and other dog-related situations to the Council. "By the community working with us, we can act more quickly."



Compliance team leader Violet Hammond with one of the new Council purpose-designed animal control trucks.

Council staff will also be working to the requirements of the new dog tethering regulations that become effective on September 25. The changes target owners who do not adequately care for their pets, particularly through the prolonged tethering/or tying up of dogs. Animal welfare inspectors will be able to issue infringements if they identify that a dog is suffering harm from being tied up for long periods.

This will mean that if Council's Animal Control team encounters a dog that appears not to have its needs met for a quality life, the officer will assess the

situation and, under the Dog Control Act 1996, specifically Section 15, and if necessary, take action to remove the dog if deemed appropriate.

Animal Control also collaborates with the SPCA and MPI when cases are more serious.

Anyone who sees a wandering dog, or has concerns about whether dogs are securely contained, is encouraged to please contact the Council immediately on 06 838 7309.

The Gaiety Now Showing October 2 - 9

Sketch

PG | 1hr 32m
Thursday 2nd October 11.30am
Saturday 4th October 2pm

Bad Guys 2

PG | 1hr 44m
Thursday 2nd October 2pm
Friday 3rd October 11.30am
Sunday 5th October 11.30am

Fight or Flight

R16 | 1hr 41m
Thursday 2nd October 5.30pm
Thursday 9th October 5.30pm

Demon Slayer: Infinity Castle

R13 | 2hr 35m
Friday 3rd October 2pm
Sunday 5th October 2pm

Prime Minister

TBC | 1hrs 41m
Friday 3rd October 5.30pm
Wednesday 8th October 5.30pm

The Conjuring: Last Rites

R16 | 2hr 15m
Saturday 4th October 5.30pm

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