



FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE

With the 2025 election results now confirmed, it is exciting to be able to prioritise the next steps for our new Council and to plan and work together to make Wairoa the best it can be.

This week, we held the swearing-in ceremony for the elected members, and I know we are all now keen to get to work for our community. We have a great team of community-focused people around the council table, and I am really looking forward to working with everyone.

Top of our priority list has to be mitigating future flood risk. A plan for the spillway/stopbank project has been confirmed, and the \$70 million crown funding ringfenced for Wairoa for this work has been released. Engagement with homeowners and landowners directly affected by the proposed flood mitigation solution is ongoing, and we look forward to a solution.

Without spillway and stopbank protection, our town remains extremely vulnerable to flooding. I am working with the Wairoa Flood Mitigation Project Crown Manager Lawrence Yule and central government to try to secure funding to also build a groyne at the Wairoa River mouth to support the bar staying in the optimal position and condition.

The flood mitigation project will impact the Alexandra Park reserve area, located to the west of the town bridge, including the skate bowl, flying fox, playground, camping ground, and reserve, which are occupied by Adventure Wairoa and the Wairoa Water Ski Club. Council is

working through these impacts and sees this as an opportunity to create a hub for the town.

Three Waters is another space where there is a lot of work ahead of us. The Government's reform of water services represents a fundamental shift in how water services are delivered to communities. Wairoa has chosen to provide future water services through a local standalone Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), which will give Wairoa more flexibility as the master of its own destiny and have the ability to meet Wairoa's unique needs while keeping the door open to collaborate and cooperate with other water entities from other districts. Water service delivery is expensive, and at this stage, there has been no commitment of additional government funds for the new entities that will be delivering these services. Council is working through the development stages of this change, and in the meantime, water services delivery will remain status quo.

Our new Council also needs to review the affordability of rates. This is not simply about the dollar amount we pay as ratepayers. It is about levels of service, where we talk about what our community wants and how that is going to be paid for.

The Council is also committed to a comprehensive roading recovery programme that will restore a reliable and resilient roading network for our district. We have completed a tremendous amount of roading work with around \$25 million of emergency roading works completed over the

CATCH UP WITH MAYOR CRAIG

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

The Mayor is available to meet on Wednesdays or by appointment.



Mayor Craig Little

2024/25 year. The work included fixing 75 dropouts, repairing 19 bridges, and clearing hundreds of landslides.

Significant projects included completing repairs on the Opoiti Bridge and the start of the replacement of the permanent Te Reinga Bridge. This work began in May 2025 and is a \$14 million fully subsidised project. Progress is continuing around the replacement of the Waikare (Glenbrook) Bridge and the Te Puna Bridge.

The Mahia blowhole single lane dropout was repaired at the end of December 2024, and Black's Beach coastal resilience work is ongoing.

I would also like to acknowledge Ngāti Pāhauwera. It was an honour to be invited and attend a reception at Government House celebrating the 20th anniversary of Te Tātai Hauora o

Hine – the National Centre for Women's Health Research Aotearoa. For 20 years, Te Tātai Hauora o Hine has been striving to improve health outcomes for women and babies in New Zealand, with a particular focus on equity and the needs of Māori and Pacific communities.

Ngāti Pāhauwera has been a research partner of Te Tātai Hauora o Hine – the National Centre for Women's Health Research Aotearoa since 2016, with Wairoa contributing to the success of this very important research. This is an amazing project to be part of, and, in addition to supporting women's health research, there have been very real grassroots benefits for Wairoa as a result of this partnership.

Ngāti Pāhauwera are quite achievers, and I am always impressed by their innovation and success.

KEEPING LIVESTOCK SAFE AND SECURE

This is a friendly reminder for stock owners in our district to keep stock safe and secure.

If stock gets out onto the road, serious

vehicle accidents can occur. Please check your fences to ensure your stock and our whānau, friends, locals and travellers driving on our roads are safe.

To report wandering livestock, please call us on 06 838 7309

The **GAIETY**
Cinema & Theatre
★ ★ ★

Now Showing

October 30 - November 6

Pike River PREMIERE

M | 2hr 11m

Thursday 30th October 5.30pm

Saturday 1st November 5.30pm

Sunday 2nd November 2pm

Prime Minister

M | 1hrs 41m

Wednesday 5th November 5.30pm

Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie

G | 1hr 38m

Sunday 2nd November 11.30am

Black Phone 2

R16 | 1hrs 54m

Friday 31st October 8pm

Predator: Badlands PREMIERE

R16 | 2hr 31m

Thursday 6th November 5.30pm

A Paw Patrol Christmas PREMIERE

TBC | 1hrs 6m

Saturday 1st November 2pm

Brought to you by

MUSIC THROUGH THE DECADES

Saturday, 13 December
Market: 9am - 1.30pm
Parade: 2pm

For more information go to wairoadc.govt.nz/wairoa-christmas-celebration-2025