



WAIROA IN FOCUS

(06) 838 7309 | info@wairoadc.govt.nz | www.wairoadc.govt.nz | www.facebook.com/wairoadistrictcouncil



Wairoa District Council elected members and staff visited the ultraviolet filtration trial at the Wairoa wastewater ponds.

FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE REVOLUTIONARY WASTEWATER TREATMENT TRIALLED

Council is turning the tide on wastewater treatment by trialling a groundbreaking ultraviolet filtration method. The new technology has been described as a game-changer by my fellow elected members.

Currently, Wairoa's wastewater is treated using biological processes before discharge into the Wairoa River. As part of the Council's wastewater discharge consent conditions, there is a requirement to transition over time to a land-based discharge system, replacing the existing treated discharge to the river. However, location and affordability issues make this a challenging option.

That led us to investigate an alternative method using New Zealand-based company NovoLab's revolutionary light penetration technology. Early results showed that this new disinfection system reduced E. coli levels from 83,400 down to only 5. Council's consent is that treated wastewater must be discharged at E-coli levels of 5,000 or below, with the new technology treatment resulting in wastewater that is significantly below the required standards and meeting the Ministry for the Environment's 'Excellent swimming conditions' with E. coli levels of less than 130.

While we are still in the trial period, this revolutionary ultraviolet disinfection process could provide a cost-effective, efficient and long-term solution.

NovaLab's approach drastically shortens the path length that ultraviolet light travels through liquid, allowing for greater light delivery to the target and reducing pathogens. The system fits in a shipping container, runs on a series of rack-mounted slide-out modules, and includes backups to ensure continuity of treatment. The disinfection system is being trialled across many industries to support compliance and help deliver a cleaner, greener future.

Because it is new technology, it is important to complete the trial. Still, at this stage, the treatment is improving the quality of treated wastewater to well above the required standards. In fact, in most cases, we have found that wastewater treated through this process is, from an E. coli perspective, cleaner than water taken from the Wairoa River in its natural environment. This approach takes us from secondary to tertiary treatment and could be the key to a future-proof, resilient treatment strategy.

As well as dramatically improving water quality, the system could also reduce operating costs through automated power control, long-life lamps, and reduced chemical dependence.

Wairoa has limited options for treated wastewater discharge, with the other options unaffordable or not feasible. We will continue to collect data and hope the results will support a variation in our consent, which could provide a future-proofed option using the ultraviolet filtration method.

CYCLONE VAIANU

Thank you Wairoa for your support regarding the recent Cyclone Vaianu potential weather threat.

Fortunately for Wairoa, the cyclone did not meet the criteria to be classified as a state of emergency as defined in the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act. We had a well-prepared Civil Defence team and emergency services monitoring the situation and were constantly receiving updates through multi-agency meetings and information sharing.

Since Cyclone Gabrielle, Wairoa District Council has put in an enormous amount of readiness work with our communities, including the development of localised resilience plans, the establishment of local "community champions" and the development of sound Civil Defence processes.

Declaring a state of emergency is a special power that should be exercised only when necessary, in situations where the local Civil Defence and emergency services cannot deal with the situation. By declaring states of emergency too readily, the force and importance of such a declaration is diminished. People become complacent when there is a constant tendency to cry wolf, and there are risks of diverting resources from where they may actually be needed and causing unnecessary anxiety and panic.

I respect our local people's judgment and believe our communities can think for themselves and take responsibility as needed.

We absolutely need to be prepared to respond to challenges. However, we do not need to declare a state of emergency to be prepared, and if a situation worsens, a declaration can be made at any time.



Wairoa Mayor Craig Little

Council Meetings

Māori Standing Committee

Tuesday, April 28, 1pm

Assurance, Risk & Infrastructure Committee

Wednesday, April 29, 1pm

Council Forum

Tuesday, May 5, 10am

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Tuesday, May 5, 1pm

Assurance, Risk & Infrastructure Committee

Wednesday, May 27, 1pm

Catch up with Mayor Craig Kanohi ki te Kanohi Face to Face

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.

The GAIETY **Now Showing** April 23 - 30

Michael PREMIERE

TBC | 2hr 10m

Thursday 23rd April 5.30pm

Saturday 25th April 5.30pm

The Magic Faraway Tree

G | 1hr 50m

Friday 24th April 5.30pm

Project Hail Mary

M | 2hr 36m

Wednesday 29th April 5.30pm

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie

PG | 1hr 38m

Saturday 26th April 11.30am

Holy Days

PG | 1hr 41m

Sunday 26th April 2pm

Hoppers

PG | 1hr 45m

Saturday 25th April 2pm

Ready or Not 2: Here I come

R16 | 1hr 44m

Friday 24th April 8pm

The Devil Wears Prada 2 PREMIERE

TBC | 1hr 53m

Thursday 30th April 5.30pm

25 April 2026 ANZAC DAY WAIROA

5:45am
Kaiuku Marae Dawn Service
Mahia East Coast Road | Mahia

8:30am
Taihoa Marae Service
State Highway 2 | Wairoa

5:45am
Mohaka Marae Dawn Service
Mohaka Township Road | Mohaka

10:00am
Frasertown Civic Service
Carroll Street | Frasertown

11:45am
Wairoa Civic Service
Wairoa War Memorial Hall | Wairoa

11:00am
Whakaki Marae Service
State Highway 2 | Whakaki



Acknowledgements to Wairoa artist Chance Rohe, who designed the graphics in this banner. **Korero from the artist:** Kei Wareware Tātau - the imagery used in the poppy graphic above is derived from conversations I've heard and had about our Tipuna who fought in the World Wars. The Māori Battalion. Kōrero tuku iho heavily aligned to us and how we are a result of their sacrifice. We shall never take life for granted. We shall never forget. Your sacrifice, created my future. Thank you.

RURAL TRAVEL FUND

APPLY NOW!

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email latoya@wairoac.govt.nz or
go to www.wairoadc.govt.nz



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