

## Chairman's chat

### Council in great shape for the future

Ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, greetings to you all.

This will be my last 'Chairman's chat' as I prepare to say farewell to Taranaki Regional Council after serving as an elected member for 22 years, the last 15 of those as chairman.

I want to start by thanking everyone who has supported and helped me over those years including my fellow councillors, the amazing staff and, of course, the public. It's only from working as a team that we have managed to achieve so much over the last two decades and that comes down to the kotahitanga I have seen again and again from the people of Taranaki.



As the Māori proverb says:  
He aha te mea nui o te ao  
What is the most important thing in the world?  
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata  
It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

It is the people who made my time on the Council such a pleasure. It is people who have made it a privilege to serve. It is people who have and who will continue to take our region forward.

A huge amount has changed since the early 2000s as the Council has worked hard to improve lifestyles and support livelihoods across the region. There are too many programmes to list all of them but I'm particularly proud of the work to improve our waterways through riparian planting and the efforts to control pests

like possums through our Towards Predator-Free Taranaki programme.

I've also been pleased to see how the Council has moved towards a partnership approach with tangata whenua and stepped up to fix Yarrow Stadium when it was discovered the East and West Stands were earthquake-prone.

There is an enormous amount of change to come such as freshwater reforms, Three Waters reforms, Resource Management Act reforms, local government reforms and adapting to climate change but I know the Council has the right people and right approach to meet all of these challenges and opportunities.

Ngā mihi maioha, thank you with appreciation.

David MacLeod, Chair

## Around & about the region



### East Stand revealed

Yarrow Stadium's new East Stand has been revealed with the release of artist's impressions of the design. The stand has a flexible 'double sided' design meaning it can be used by those watching the main pitch or the sports field behind it and is fully accessible to those with mobility issues. There are three spaces in the hospitality area, the kitchens can be opened for weekend sports as well as large-scale events and there are a mix of toilets including gender neutral facilities to cut down on waiting times. Construction of the stand starts this year and is scheduled to be completed by 2024.

### Biosecurity threats

Alligator weed was discovered in a lagoon near Waitara last month – the first confirmed sighting in Taranaki. This invasive pest plant clogs waterways, increases the risk of flooding and can be toxic to livestock. Inspections so far indicate it is confined to the lagoon system. A further survey is planned for November when the plant would be most visible. Meanwhile, a wallaby found in Mōkau also sparked concern, given its proximity to Taranaki. The Council is in close contact with Waikato Regional Council and to date, no further wallabies have been found. We're always on alert for Taranaki's 'next pest' and you can help. If you see an unusual species, upload a photo to Find-A-Pest or call us on 0800 736 222.

### Nitrogen reporting tools

Three new tools are now available for dairy farmers to report the amount of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser they are using. The tools are provided by fertiliser companies Ravensdown and Ballance as well as a regional portal called N-Cap. Farmers who are Ravensdown or Ballance customers can use their tools while all other farmers should use the N-Cap tool. Farmers have until 31 October 2022 to submit their data. For more information head to [trc.govt.nz/synthetic-nitrogen-fertiliser-cap/](http://trc.govt.nz/synthetic-nitrogen-fertiliser-cap/)

## Make your mark and vote in the 2022 local elections

Voters will get the chance to make their mark and choose who will make the big decisions around the Taranaki Regional Council table when voting packs arrive from 16 September.

There are 24 candidates running for 11 seats across the region with the election ending at noon on Saturday 8 October. Voting papers should be posted before 4 October to ensure voters make their voice counted.

Council Chief Executive Steve Ruru urged Taranaki residents not to miss the chance to have their say.

"We really want to see as many people as possible getting involved in local democracy as your councillors will be making some big calls that will directly impact on people's lives.

"We know that the turnout for local elections has been low in recent years so it's vital we get the message out to people that your vote counts. Please take the time to find out more about your candidates and what they stand for and get those voting papers in the post as soon as possible."

For information on the candidates, please head to [trc.govt.nz/2022localelections/](http://trc.govt.nz/2022localelections/)

The Council uses the first past the post electoral system and this year's election will see the addition of a Māori constituency for the whole of Taranaki and a reduction in the number of South Taranaki Constituency members from three to two.

Elsewhere, voters will elect five members in the New Plymouth constituency, two members in North Taranaki and one member in Stratford and the councillors will serve a term of three years.

### NEW PLYMOUTH CONSTITUENCY



Five vacancies

**Cloke** Tom  
**Field** Lyall James *Independent*  
**Hughes** Susan  
**Juffermans** Allen  
**Kane** Rusty *Independent*  
**Lean** David Lloyd  
**Littlewood** Charlotte  
**Nicholas** Darrel  
**Van Der Leden** Elvira  
**Wilkes** Chris  
**Williamson** Craig

### NORTH TARANAKI CONSTITUENCY



Two vacancies

**Blackburn** Tama  
**Davey** Mike  
**McIntyre** Donald Hugh

### STRATFORD CONSTITUENCY



One vacancy

**Bourke** Mary  
**Jamieson** Alan  
**McDonald** Matthew  
**Wood** Andrew

### SOUTH TARANAKI CONSTITUENCY



Two vacancies

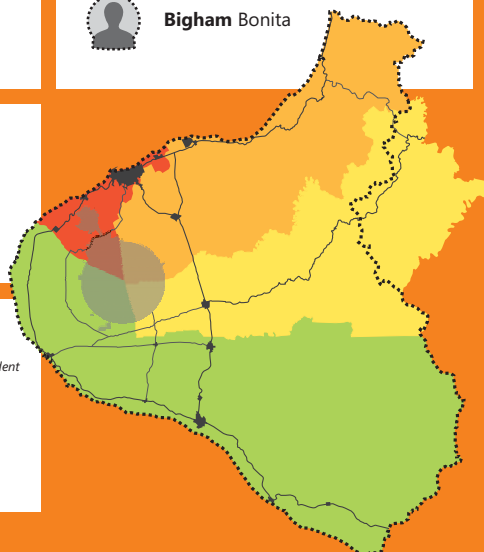
**Clough** Deborah *Independent*  
**Cram** Donna  
**Murray** Alan  
**Signer** Urs  
**Walker** Neil William

### TARANAKI MĀORI CONSTITUENCY

One vacancy - *elected unopposed*



**Bigham** Bonita



**MAKE  
YOUR  
MARK**

**PŌTI  
2022**  
HEA PŌTINŌKA HŌKE

**VOTE  
2022**  
LOCAL ELECTIONS

**VOTING CLOSES: noon Saturday 8 October  
or post your vote before Tuesday 4 October**

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TaranakiRC

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