



January



February



March



April

Figures revealed an 18% rise in the number of trips taken on buses in Taranaki in 2023. Buses in the region carried a total of 744,037 passengers across 42,973 bus trips last year. 2024 was to see the introduction of new and upgraded services including the Waitara Express and improvements to the bus network after community consultation. A new Regional Land Transport Plan was also adopted in June.

We started work on a major upgrade to the Waiwhakaiho River Flood Control Scheme. The \$430,000 project was completed in March and better protects The Valley in New Plymouth from 1-in-100-year floods. The upgrades raised two sections of the existing defences including along the stopbank and a flood wall, protecting businesses and homes near Constance Street and Rifle Range Road.

We joined with other organisations and individuals for the launch of Biosecurity Taranaki, a new collective committed to protecting the region from the threat of pests, weeds and diseases. The partnership aims to be proactive in safeguarding our environment, economy and way of life.

Our Can I Swim Here? water quality monitoring programme ended for the summer, during which time we took more than 850 samples from 41 swimming spots at rivers, beaches and lakes. The results are shared via the Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) website, with the Taranaki pages having 28,000 views. The programme is under way again this summer.



May



June



July



August

We adopted our 2024/34 Long-Term Plan following public consultation on what our priorities should be over the next 10 years. The plan includes \$4.04m in additional funding for freshwater monitoring and developing a new Land and Freshwater Plan, \$915,000 for improving climate science and \$540,000 to improve resource management by creating a spatial plan to guide development.

We kicked off an extensive conversation about freshwater which included 16 drop-in sessions around the region and an online survey. The consultation from June to early August offered farmers, industry, businesses and communities the chance to shape the rules around how we care for freshwater ahead of targets and limits being set in our new Taranaki Land and Freshwater Plan. Nearly 450 attended the sessions and we received 1,100 points of feedback.

The project to redevelop Yarrow Stadium and create the best regional stadium in the country reached another landmark with work starting on raising the roof. The trusses were installed and the roof was completed by the end of October. The new East Stand remains on target and on budget with the redevelopment set to be completed by the end of March 2025. The venue hosted many games in 2024 including the NPC quarterfinals where defending champions the Taranaki Bulls lost to Waikato.

Our ground-breaking riparian programme hit an incredible milestone with the eight millionth plant leaving a depot to be planted on a riparian margin. The programme is the largest revegetation project in the country on private land with 5,385km of planting across the ring plain since its launch in 1996. Landowners' efforts planting and fencing waterways have had a positive impact on water quality and boosted the region's ecosystems and biodiversity.



September



October



November



December

The Towards Predator-Free Taranaki Zero Possum project entered an exciting new phase, featuring a high-tech farmland barrier and a few squirts of mayo. Work started on the design and creation of a 3km barrier stretching across private farmland south-east of the Kaitake Range while self-reporting cameras have been installed on trees, pointing at an automatic lure dispenser that squirts a small taster of mayonnaise each evening to attract possums. Self-setting traps were also being deployed along the barrier.

We were stoked with your response to our appeal for sightings of the rare wetlands bird the matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern. We backed the nationally critical bird as our pick for Bird of the Year then continued efforts to protect it with the launch of a map where the public could report sightings. As well as local reports, we've had people from Northland to Bluff record sightings and the data will assist conservation efforts.

We honoured groups, businesses, schools, young environmental leaders, farmers, hapū and charities for their mahi in protecting the region at the 2024 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards. The seven winners and five highly commended in the seven categories included projects to protect nature reserves, environmental action by tamariki and rangatahi, work to stop 630,000kg of CO2 emissions, mahi improving fish passages and efforts to improve farming sustainability.

It's been another busy year at our three amazing regional gardens with thousands of visitors enjoying a range of events at Pukeiti, Tūpare and Hollard Gardens. The highlights included the Centuria Taranaki Garden Festival in November, workshops, concerts, food and coffee trucks, nature walks and markets. The gardens are great spots to visit over the summer and we've got more events planned over the next four months. See trc.govt.nz/gardens/whats-on for more.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

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