

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Tēnā koe, We are currently in Week 3 of Covid lockdown. With our move down to Alert Level 3 we need to keep being vigilant and adhere to all health and safety measures, especially wearing face coverings in public, washing and sanitising hands and physical distancing.

Just a note about pop-up vaccination centres. Due to high demand more vaccination clinics are being opened up when they can – Council has details on where to check for these clinics on its website, we also publish details on our Facebook page when we get confirmation of dates, times and locations.

Please remember that Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is the first point of contact for food supply issues – their number is 0800 559 009. Council is working with local food pantries and MSD regarding local food supply. If you have already tried other avenues for support with food supply, such as family / whānau and MSD, and your needs are still not met, please contact our Customer Experience Team on 0800 422 522. Once we have your details, a member of our Civil Defence response team will be in contact to assist.

Three Waters reform continues to be a strong focus of Central Government, irrespective of Covid, and no timeframes have been altered in the rollout. Government have requested Councils not to consult with the general public on the decision to either stay in or opt out of an aggregated model, asking instead for Councils to spend until the end of September to fully understand the proposed reform. An aggregated model is where wastewater, drinking water and stormwater is provided by a regional entity that is not Council. My personal view is while we can't consult, we should certainly be providing as much information as we have been given by Government to the public as possible. Council however will be embarking on a community engagement programme where we will share relevant information with you. The Rangitikei region has been placed in Entity B which includes basically everything between ourselves and Auckland including Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Waikato through to Coromandel. When the eight week period is up at the end of September, I believe we have not only the right but an obligation to provide feedback to, and consult with, the public before making a decision of this scale. Again, my personal view is that we look to send a letterbox drop to all households and provide as much information via social media and our website as we can.

With spring around the corner comes growth in our outdoor areas such as parks and cemeteries. Under Levels 4 and 3 Council staff are not permitted to work to maintain these areas. You will see teams return to lawnmowing and weed trimming at Level 2 with the appropriate health and safety protocols in place. Plans are being put in place at the moment to catch up once we can return to business as usual. We will monitor the situation and if we feel the spring growth is becoming uncontrollable we will look at alternative work procedures to restart mowing. Please be patient with us on this.

The Unite against COVID-19 - covid19.govt.nz contains the most up to date information on locations of interest, alert level guidance, testing, vaccination bookings and other support available and I encourage you to check this regularly. Our Council website also contains links and information you may find useful. Please stay safe, be kind and look after one another.

Ngā mihi, **Andy Watson**, Mayor of Rangitikei District.



## What to do at Alert Level 3



### IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME.

Do not go to work or school. Do not socialise.

If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms call your doctor or Healthline on 0800 358 5453 and get advice about being tested.



### WEARING A FACE COVERING IS MANDATORY

You are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering when you are outside your home and in a place where it is hard to keep your distance from other people.



### KEEP TRACK OF WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN

Everyone over the age of 12 legally must keep a record of where they have been when visiting certain places so contact tracing can happen quickly. You must do this at all Alert Levels.



### TRAVEL AND PERSONAL MOVEMENT

You legally must stay within your household bubble whenever you are not at work or school. You can expand this to connect with close family and whānau, bring in caregivers, or support isolated people.



### GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

Gatherings of up to 10 people can go ahead, but only for wedding and civil union ceremonies, funerals and tangihanga.



### EXERCISE, SPORT AND RECREATION

Now is not the time to take up new activities, or expose yourself or your bubble to any risk. You can do low-risk recreation activities in your local area.



### WORKPLACES AND BUSINESSES

There are restrictions to keep workers safe, limit interaction with customers and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is recommended you work from home if you can.



### WELLBEING AND COVID-19-RELATED SUPPORT

If you feel you are not coping, or you have concerns for others, it is important to talk with a health professional. There are helplines available if you need help.



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Help is available if you're experiencing financial distress including help for businesses and foreign nationals stranded in NZ.



### EDUCATION

Children and young people should learn from home at Alert Level 3. Any child who does not have supervision at home from an appropriate person can attend their service or school.

Full information and updates are available at [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz)



## Kōrero mai, Have your say... Representation Review

### Consultation begins on Council's Representation Arrangements

**Council is now consulting on its "Initial Proposal" for representation for the 2022 Local Government elections.**

The Initial Proposal identifies the proposed number of councillors, ward structure and community board structure for the 2022 local elections. The total number of elected members is proposed to remain at 11 councillors plus the Mayor, with the community boards for Taihape and Ratana proposed to remain unchanged.

Five wards are proposed as follows:

Ward	No. of Councillors per Ward
Northern General	2
Central General	5
Southern General	2
Northern Māori	1
Southern Māori	1

The key change to the three general wards involves a number of people from the Turakina Valley Road area being moved from the Southern General Ward to the Central General Ward so that the councillors have relatively the same number of ratepayers to represent.

In developing the Initial Proposal, Elected Members considered a wide range of options to determine what arrangement would provide the most effective representation for the district. These options are available as supporting information on our website.

Have your say by 30 September 2021 by going to Council's website [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/representationreview](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/representationreview)

At the end of October, after considering submissions, Council will decide on a Final Proposal which will then be open for objections/appeals.



### Taihape Amenities Building

The Taihape Amenities Building is nearing the end of its engineering and architectural design phase. The project team is currently at the 60% mark of the detailed design stage which is the last stage detailing the building and all the services before building consent can be applied for. We have also started the formal procurement process for the construction of the building and have concluded the Registration of Interest. Next steps are to tender the contract for pricing and for full council to endorse the detailed design when it is completed.

The construction is scheduled for a start in February 2022.

Don't forget, we're looking for ideas from the community to name the new Taihape Amenities Building and the rooms within it. Scan the QR code to fill in our survey online.



## The vaccine keeps us together

Everyone over the age of 12 can now book in for a vaccine.

**0800 28 29 26**

**BookMyVaccine.nz**

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

Unite  
against  
COVID-19