

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## JUNE 2021



### Have Your Say on the Long Term Plan 2021-2031 by making a written submission.

- Email [submissions@kaweraudc.govt](mailto:submissions@kaweraudc.govt)
- Website [www.kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz)
- Drop in your submission to the Council Office.

**Submissions close 5:00pm Monday, 14 June 2021**

## ▶ From the Mayor

Our focus during recent weeks has been engaging with the community about the Long Term Plan 2021-2031.

We have had more than a dozen meetings with Iwi and Tangata Whenua, Stakeholders, industry leaders, neighbours of Stoneham Park (the old Soccer Club grounds), Tarawera High School senior students and the Kawerau Youth Council, community organisations and also the public.

At these meetings, we have presented the major achievements and projects completed during the past three years. We have also presented the three major consultation topics planned for the coming years, which are:

1. Replacing 48km of the old drinking water pipes over the next six years. Council will have to borrow \$12 million to complete this.
2. Using sales proceeds from the residential developments to keep the rates increase to 5.1% in year one of the Long Term Plan.
3. Growing Our District by developing Stoneham Park (the old Soccer Club grounds).

If the community supports the development, Council will continue to consult with stakeholders and neighbours about all the issues such as roading and traffic management, parks and green spaces, lighting and the layout of the subdivision. In parallel, we would work through the land reclassification process which we expect could take between one and two years.

More information about these topics are in this Community Update. Copies of the Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Consultation Document are in the Council Offices and also on the Council website.

The submission period is open until 5:00pm on Monday, 14 June 2021.

We look forward to hearing from those submitters who wish to talk to their submission on Tuesday, 22 June. You can still submit even if you are not able to speak to your submission.

We look forward to continuing this discussion about these consultation topics as we work through the next phases of the Long Term Planning process.

**– Malcolm Campbell, Mayor**

## PEDESTRIAN CROSSING COMING FOR TARAWERA HIGH SCHOOL



Please be aware that next week there will be a pedestrian crossing installed nearby Tarawera High School.

The pedestrian crossing is being installed at 77 River Road as discussed and agreed with the Tarawera High School Principal and Board of Trustees.

For now, this crossing will be a trial with painted lines across the road, and include a pram crossing on either side of the road

(similar to driveways). This will enable easier access for people with prams and in wheelchairs.

Please note at this stage only signage is installed and the 'zebra' crossing lines will be painted next week.

As always outside our kura, motorists are asked to proceed with caution as both they and pedestrians become used to the crossing.

# LONG TERM PLAN 2021-2031 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## CONSULTATION TOPIC 1 DRINKING WATER PIPE REPLACEMENT

### Option 1

Council's preferred option

Replace 48km (which excludes the Riser and Gravity Mains) of old pipes in a planned and staged approach over the next six years with polyethylene pipes. Council will fund this replacement programme by loans of \$2 million per year for six years. The loan term would be for a period of 90 years. This is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed budget.

#### Impact on level of service

- Reduces 'discoloured water' issues.
- Removes all asbestos cement pipes from the network.
- Future generations benefit and contribute by repaying loans.

#### Impact on rates

Total Rates for Water:

- 2021/22 \$1,341.4k
- 2022/23 \$1,480.1k
- 2023/24 \$1,551.3k

Loan interest payable to service the debt:

- 2021/22 \$25,040
- 2022/23 \$74,930
- 2023/24 \$124,660
- 2024-2031 \$174,230 to 296,920 each year

Impact on the average property is \$4.50 to \$53.00 per annum.

#### Impact on debt

- Requires borrowing and \$12m debt as there are insufficient depreciation reserves to fund this project.

### Option 2

Continue to replace pipes as breaks and failures occur (status quo). This is estimated to cost \$4.6 million over the next 10 years. However, this will only replace approximately 40% of the old pipes.

#### Impact on level of service

- Reduces the need for debt and borrowing.
- Discoloured water issues may continue, even in areas with new pipes, as the water has to travel through old pipes.
- Potential for increasing number of water main failures as pipes deteriorate.

#### Impact on rates

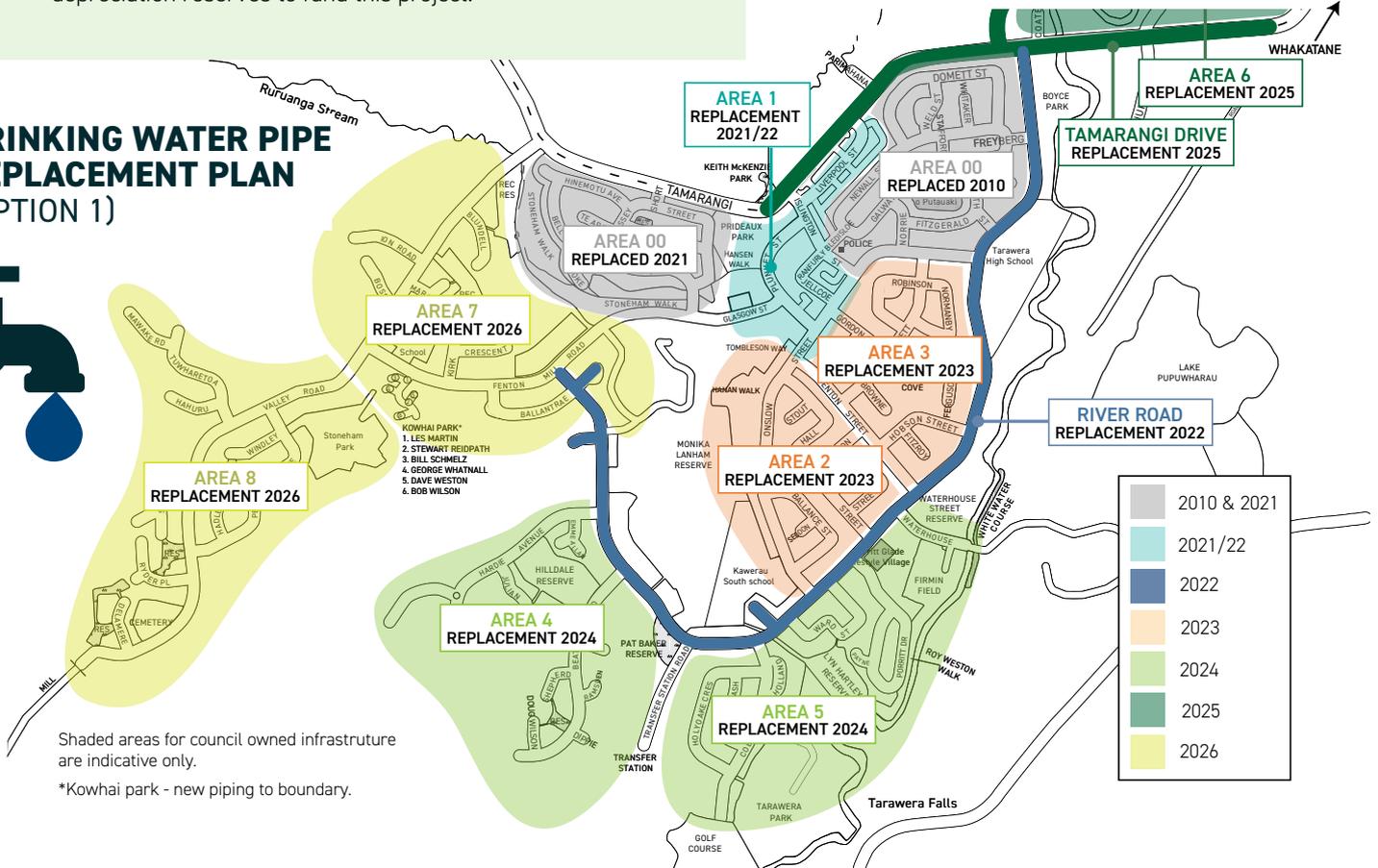
Total Rates for Water:

- 2021/22 \$1,316.4k
- 2022/23 \$1,405.2k
- 2023/24 \$1,426.6k

#### Impact on debt

- Removes the need for borrowing and debt as this would be funded from depreciation reserves.

## DRINKING WATER PIPE REPLACEMENT PLAN (OPTION 1)



**Q: Will the old pipes be removed from the ground?**

No, the pipes will be left in the ground because:

1. The old pipe network may be useful in the future, for example if other technology cables need to be run throughout the district, and
2. The pipes made from asbestos cement are safest in the ground. Asbestos becomes dangerous when it is broken up into small pieces in the air as the fibres can be inhaled by people.

**Q: How long will Council take the loan out for?**

The loan will be for a 90-year term. This means the current and future generations who benefit will also pay back the loans.

**Q: What is the main driver for the faster pipe replacement programme?**

Firstly, much of the old drinking water pipes are nearing the end of their lifespan, and need replacing. Also, the pipe replacements will greatly reduce the discoloured water issues.

**Q: Why doesn't air scouring totally clean the pipes?**

The build-up of manganese and iron in the pipes has occurred over many decades. Since chlorination of the water in 2018, this is prone to washing out.

When the Three Waters team air scoured the district's 77km network of drinking water pipes it helped remove most of this build-up, but not all of it. Council plans to air-scour the network again in the new financial year 2021/22.

## CONSULTATION TOPIC 2 PROCEEDS FROM RESIDENTIAL SALES

### Option 1

*Council's preferred option*

Use proceeds from residential sales.  
Council's preferred option.

**Impact on level of service**

- No impact on level of service.
- Proceeds not available to fund other projects.

**Impact on rates**

- **Year one** – Council uses \$500,000, keeps the rates increase down to 5.1%.  
The impact on rates for the average property is an increase of \$111.
- **Year two** – Council uses \$400,000, keeps the rates increase down to 3.5%.
- **Year three** – Council uses \$300,000, keeps the rates increase down to 3.8%.

**Impact on debt**

- \$0

### Option 2

Do **not** use proceeds from residential sales to fund rates.

**Impact on level of service**

- No impact on level of service.
- Proceeds available to fund other projects.

**Impact on rates**

- **Year one** – rates increase 9.7% which exceeds the affordability limit of 5.6%. The impact on rates for an average property is an increase of \$211.
- **Year two** – rates increase 2.5%.
- **Year three** – rates increase 2.9%.

**Impact on debt**

- \$0

**Q: What are the rates increases for the first three years if Council continues to use the proceeds from the residential developments?**

Year 1 – 5.1%, Year 2 – 3.5%, Year 3 – 3.8%

## CONSULTATION TOPIC 3 GROWING OUR DISTRICT

**PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS**



**Q: Is the concept plan for the development at Stoneham Park (the old Soccer Club grounds) for freehold house and land packages?**

Yes. The concept is for a variety of house and land packages to suit all ages, with smaller and larger sections.

**Q: What is the ratio of green space and homes planned?**

The concept plan has the ratio of 60% of Stoneham Park (the old Soccer Club grounds) being utilised for single storey, and some double-storey housing; and 40% of the park being developed for enhanced recreational areas (playgrounds, parks and community spaces).



**Q: Has the Reserve status already been changed on Stoneham Park (the old Soccer Club grounds)?**

No, Council is currently seeking feedback and if the community supports the development Council will begin the reclassification process.

**Q: What about the extra traffic the development would cause on Valley Road and Peter Lipka Drive?**

If the community supports this initial proposal, the Council would then continue to consult and work through all the details of the development.

Council would assess all the options to ensure safe traffic flows and we would work through that with neighbours of Stoneham Park (the old Soccer Club grounds).

**Q: Can the District's infrastructure (drinking, stormwater and wastewater pipes) handle an increase in population?**

Yes. Kawerau District has capacity in all areas of the Three Waters for more people.

**Q: Have other areas of the District being considered for the development (such as Boyce Park)?**

Yes. Council has considered all the areas available. Boyce Park is in a lovely area, but there are issues traffic flow off River Road (especially towards the bridge area) and also the fact that there are major commercial and industrial businesses across the river.

There are no other areas of suitable flat land that are owned by Council in the district.

**Q: What about the other Council developments which aren't finished yet?**

We know there is a demand for housing in Kawerau.

Interest at Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village (the retirement village) remains high. By the end of June, 12 units will be finished, and all will soon have residents living in them. The next build, already has three units under contract.

In the past year, since they went on sale, 10 of the 31 sections at Central Cove have been sold and eight homes constructed.



**135 BAY HOPPER BUS AND TIMETABLE**

The new bus service is running Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (excluding public holidays).

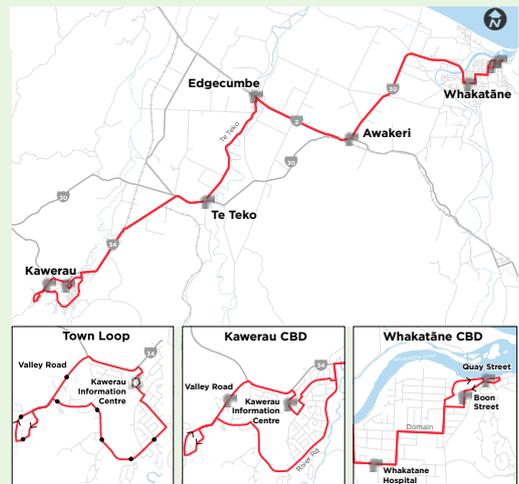
Maps and detailed timetables of the stops around the Kawerau District are available at the Council Offices, i-SITE and also on the Council website.

This gives approximate times that the bus will be picking up and dropping off around the Kawerau District.

Remember BEE Cards are available for purchase \$5 at the Kawerau i-SITE.

BEE cards can be topped up online with a credit or debit card, or with cash on the bus.

The bus service will do drop-offs and pick-ups throughout the route.



**DOG REGISTRATION RENEWALS**

Its dog registration time and invoices have been emailed and posted out to residents who own dogs. **Registration fees must be paid by 31 July this year.** You will need to know your dog identification number (which is on the registration renewal form). You can complete the registration process:

- **Online via the Council's website [www.kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz)**
- **At the Council Offices**
- **By credit or debit card over the phone 07 306 9009**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK**

Thanks to the people who gave feedback about the asphalt River Road speed hump that has been re-installed.

Council's roading engineer listened to your comments and had contractors taper the entry and exit points of the asphalt speed hump to make it more comfortable for motorists to cross.

Please remember the idea of speed humps is to slow traffic and make the road a safer place for all users. Until the speed hump is painted, temporary road marking and cones are in place.

Also, please note that speed humps are installed on request from residents who live in areas where speeding motorists have been causing safety issues.