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Farmers gather for pest control
P2



Daffodil Day Friday!
See P6

Double the size Health Centre in \$4.4m expansion welcomed



Turning the first sods for the Waimarino Health Centre expansion was celebrated on Friday, supported by representatives of a number of groups and organisations. Doing the honours with the shovels were (holding their implements), from left, Aiden Gilbert, Lucy Pettit, MP Carl Bates, Weston Kirton, and Honey Winter. Photo: Robert Milne.

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

A \$4.4 million redevelopment of the Waimarino Health Centre in Raetihi began on Monday, following breaking ground at a ceremony on Friday.

The Seddon Street facility is set to more than double in size and bring a range of health services together under one roof.

The revamp includes a new 345-square-metre extension alongside refurbishment of the existing health centre.

Health Minister Simeon Brown said the redevelopment would make it easier for people to access

the care they need locally.

“This is a big day for the community,” Brown said.

The expanded centre will bring public, primary and community health services together in one location, with the aim of improving access and making services work better for patients.

Associate Health Minister Matt Doocey said the work was particularly important for the rural community.

“With the expansion more than doubling the size of the current health centre and services working

better together for patients, this is an important step in building the future of rural healthcare for the community,” Doocey said.

The Minister said the investment reflects a focus on improving access to healthcare for people living in rural areas, which account for about one in five New Zealanders.

Stalled

Work on the facility had stalled while awaiting funding.

In April 2025, Ruapehu’s mayor Weston Kirton called on Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora to

urgently prioritise work on the health facility amid growing concern from the community.

He said the Waimarino Wellness Centre steering group had raised concerns over the lack of movement on the project.

“The need to stabilise and strengthen our health services is essential to the wellbeing of our communities, particularly following the economic and social disruption caused by the challenges faced by Ruapehu’s major employment sectors in recent years,” Kirton said at the time.

Turn to Page 9

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP ENSURE NO ONE FACES CANCER ALONE.



ALTOGETHER BETTER



LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

Farmers work together for healthier catchments

A farmer-led organisation wants readers of the Bulletin to know what they're about – supporting farmers, landowners and rural communities to care for their land and waterways while maintaining productive, resilient farming businesses.

The Rangitikei Rivers Catchment Collective (RRCC) works across the Rangitikei, Turakina and Whangaeu river catchments, including the wider Ruapehu area.

“Rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach, we bring people together through local sub-catchment groups, recognising that farmers know their land and waterways best,” says Mandy Stevenson, Northwestern Catchment co-ordinator.

“Each group can identify the issues that matter most in its area and help shape practical projects, workshops and activities that respond to local needs.”

She said one of RRCC's key programmes is community water quality monitoring. Local farmers and volunteers collect water samples regularly, building a valuable long-term picture of the health and natural characteristics of local waterways.

“This information is assessed alongside local geology, land use and macroinvertebrate sampling, helping communities understand what is happening within their

catchments and where practical action may make the greatest difference.”

RRCC also organises workshops, field days and guest speakers covering topics such as pest and weed control, native plant propagation, riparian and wetland planting, winter grazing, water quality and farm resilience.

“We help connect farmers with technical experts, councils, rural organisations and potential sources of support or funding.

“The aim is not to tell farmers how to farm. It is to provide them with useful information, trusted local connections and practical support so they can make well-informed decisions for their own properties. By working collectively, communities can share knowledge, demonstrate the positive environmental work already taking place on farms and have a stronger voice in decisions affecting their areas.”

She said RRCC is continuing to strengthen its presence throughout the Ruapehu District.

“We would love to hear from farmers and landowners who want to become involved, establish or join a local group, participate in water sampling, or suggest ideas for future workshops.”

Contact: Mandy Stevenson, Northwestern Catchment Coordinator, via email on; mandy@rrcc.co.nz or phone 0276 422 119.



Members of RRCC hear from pest trapping expert Cam Speedy at Karioi Reserve. Photo: RRCC.

Kirton signs MOU with neighbouring councils

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton has signed a memorandum of understanding with four neighbouring council's mayors, covering options for amalgamation under Central Government's Head Start amalgamation demand.

Kirton says this is about keeping options open. “The MOU does not commit Ruapehu District Council to amalgamation, nor does it commit Council to any particular work programme, process or outcome. It is not legally binding,” he adds.

Ruapehu District Council had previously resolved to be a party to a joint regional letter to the Minister for Local

Government. At that time, there was no proposal for an MOU between the councils.

Since then, Palmerston North City Council and Horowhenua District Council withdrew from the joint letter and instead submitted their own Head Start Amalgamation Proposal.

That change prompted concerns for Kirton as well as others in the region.

“Ruapehu has been clear from the outset that we need to consider all options and, most importantly, that the people of the Ruapehu District should have a meaningful say in determining their own future,” Kirton says.

“Signing this MOU does not change that position.”

RDC has also written separately to the Minister for Local Government, reiterating its commitment to considering all available options, working with its iwi partners and making clear that the future of the Ruapehu District should be determined with the in-

terests and aspirations of its communities at the centre.

“Council expects to have a clearer understanding of its next steps once the Government responds and provides further detail on its intentions for the proposed backstop process,” says Kirton.

The MOU was to be presented to Ruapehu District councillors at the Council meeting today, 26 August. Council will then be asked to formally resolve the MOU as signed, or look at alternative avenues available to it.

Correction

Last week's *Bulletin* included a photo of breaking ground for the new Waiouru playground (front page), which incorrectly named one of the people. At left in the photo is WO2 Paul Tamati.

Ruapehu Events & What's On

AUGUST 2026

Winter Art Exhibition

23 Aug - 6 Sept

Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz

SEPTEMBER 2026

Peak to Keg

26 Sep

www.powderhorn.co.nz

Waimarino Art Awards

26 Sept - 2 Oct

See WaimarinoArtAwards.org.nz for more information

OCTOBER 2026

Retro Day

3 Oct

Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz

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Community and Emergency Services

Alzheimers Whanganui Inc – Email admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz or for support phone 06-345 8833

Budget Advice – Email waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com or phone 027 259 5285.

CCS Disability Action (Whanganui) – Sheryl Brightwell 0800-789-654

Child, Adolescent and Sexual Health Nurse – 06-385-5019

Child Youth and Family Service – 0508-326 459

Churches: Anglican, 06-385-4957. Baptist, 027-206-1874. Catholic, 06-385-8858 or 027 606 5186. Gospel Chapel, 06-385-8453. Presbyterian, 06-388-0675 or 06-385-8708. Waiouru – duty chaplain 06-387-5599 ext 7031 or 021-493-692

Civil Defence – Simon Osborne, Emergency Management Officer (EMO), RDC – 07 895 8188, or 027 220 0569. Simon. Osborne@ruapehudc.govt.nz

CLAW community free legal advice: Whanganui 06-348-8288, 0800 00 36 36

Doctors: In an emergency call 111. Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211

Information Centres – Ohakune 0800 647 483, Raetihi 06-385-4805

Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono – Lynley Twyman, Trail Manager, +64 21 403036

Ngati Rangi Community Health Centre – 06-385-9580

Plunket Society – Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019

Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111

Ohakune 06-385-0100, Raetihi 06-385-4002, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22

Red Cross – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677)

Rotary Club Raetihi - Ohakune – 027-344-5669

Ruapehu Budgeting Service Ohakune. Budgeting License No 119423. Email: Ruapehubudgetingservice@gmail.com or call Justin on 0211-735-767

Ruapehu Maori Wardens – Email: ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com

Ruapehu Neighborhood Support Groups – Email: Ruapehuneighborhoodgroup@gmail.com or call Justin 0211-735-767

Ruapehu REAP – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)

St John – in an emergency call 111

Taumarunui Counselling Services: For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393

Victim Support Contact Centre – 0800 842 846

Waimarino Cancer Society: Co-ordinator 06 348 7402

Waimarino Health Care Centre – Raetihi 06-385-5019

Waimarino Community Toy Library – waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com

Women's Refuge – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384

Ruapehu Mayor – Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.

Owhango-National Park Community Board:

Peter Zimmer - Chairperson 027 479 1926; Gail Gray - Deputy Chair 027 434 6599; Anthony Gurr 021 487 742; Eddie Marsters 021 108 0279; Murray Wilson 027 542 9079; Luke Pepper - (RDC Rep) 027 329 2849

Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board:

Molly Jeffries, Chairperson 021 431 833; Sophie Stockbridge, Deputy Chairperson 020 401 11190; Johnny Dryden 027 573 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriwia Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912

Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board:

John (Luigi) Hotter - Chairperson 027 274 2616; Stu Robinson - Deputy Chairperson 021 024 07657; Kay Henare 027 924 7252; Colin Pakai 021 091 67315; Emma Young 027 347 1457; David (Rabbit) Nottage - (RDC Rep) 021 111 6514

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Ohakune water crisis exposes funding gap for infrastructure: Kirton

Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter
Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton says Ohakune's recent water supply emergency has highlighted the need for a fairer funding model for critical infrastructure.

A major break in the town's raw water intake pipe – thought to have been damaged during the 5.9 magnitude earthquake in Taumarunui on 25 July – left Ohakune without water during the height of the ski season.

The emergency just over a week ago caused significant disruption for five days, with businesses and schools closed.

"It is unreasonable to expect our relatively small number of water users to carry the full cost of infrastructure needed to service a major visitor destination such as Ohakune," Kirton said.

Projects such as replacing the raw water pipeline would require significant investment.

However, previous funding programmes that helped smaller councils meet infrastructure pressures created by high visitor numbers were no longer available, Kirton said.

He cited the former Tourism Infrastructure Fund as an example.

The town's water supply was safely restored on Tuesday last week, although residents were told to continue boiling water as a precaution.

The council will now undertake a thorough review of the response to the emergency.

"The next step is to learn from this event, strengthen the resilience of the network and

pursue the investment needed to provide Ohakune with a more secure water supply for the future," Kirton said.

"This review is about learning from what happened and ensuring we are better prepared for future events. We need to understand what worked well, where improvements can be made and what further safeguards may be practical."

Kirton acknowledged the disruption caused by the emergency and praised the community-wide effort to support residents and assist with the response.

"This was an extremely difficult event for Ohakune, and I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding," he said.

The response involved the council's water and Civil Defence teams, water contractor Veolia, regional Civil Defence staff, Ngāti Rangi, partner agencies, elected members, volunteers and others.

"The many people who stepped forward to distribute water, support residents, share information and help wherever they could, demonstrated the strength and resilience of the Ohakune community," Kirton said.

He said messages of encouragement and support posted on social media had also been appreciated by those involved in the response and recovery, many of whom worked long hours under difficult circumstances.

"Knowing that their efforts were recognised and supported by the community meant a great deal to them," he said.

(Editor's note: the *Ruapehu Bulletin* mainly focussed its coverage on the many volunteers who stepped up to run the re-

sponse to the water crisis).

Local Government Minister Simon Watts told Local Democracy Reporting it was always unfortunate and difficult when natural hazards damaged critical infrastructure like Ohakune's raw water pipeline.

He said existing mechanisms in place to meet the cost of fixing natural disaster damage include infrastructure insurance and the natural disaster cost sharing arrangements between central and local government.

"I'm advised by officials that Ruapehu District Council confirmed in its Water Services Delivery Plan that it

maintains infrastructure insurance."

The minister said Local Water Done Well reforms also give councils and their water services providers access to lower cost finance from the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA).

"Ruapehu District Council is forming a multi council water services organisation with its larger neighbour Whanganui District Council, which will give them greater access to lower cost LGFA finance and assist in managing the impact of necessary infrastructure investment on ratepayers," Watts said.



Weston Kirton and Government MP Suze Redmayne. Kirton says Ruapehu needs government help to pay for critical infrastructure. File photo: John Chapman.

Whanganui-Rangitikei-Waimarino Cancer Society

DAFFODIL DAY

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Raetihi

Starting at 8.30am,
Seddon Street, Raetihi

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- Baking & produce
- Cancer Society merchandise
- Daffodil Bouquets

Ohakune

Starting at 9am,
outside New World

- Fresh and silk daffodils
- Raffles
- Baking & produce
- Cancer Society merchandise

Sausage Sizzle & Steak Sandwiches Available in Ohakune from 10:30am

Cancer Society

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Change of chair for Raetihi's Royal Trust

The Royal Theatre Raetihi Trust has elected John Chapman as its new Chair, succeeding Gary Griffin-Chappel, who the Trust says his "dedication and leadership have contributed significantly to the continued development and success of the Theatre".

"I would like to sincerely thank Gary for his commitment to The Royal Theatre and for the work he has undertaken on behalf of the community," said Chapman.

"Community facilities such as the Royal depend on people who are willing to give their time and energy, and I acknowledge that service with gratitude and respect."

Chapman said he is looked forward to working alongside fellow trustees, volunteers, supporters, performers, community organisations and audiences.

"The Royal Theatre is one of Raetihi's most important cultural and heritage assets. It stands as a symbol of the creativity, resilience and spirit of our community."

Chapman said his focus would be on ensuring the Theatre remains firmly connected to the community it serves.

"My approach is straightforward: the Theatre belongs to the community and its future should be shaped by the community. I want people to feel that this is their Theatre, a welcoming and vibrant place where local people can gather, enjoy shared experiences, celebrate the arts, and create new opportunities for future generations."

He said the Theatre's long-term success would depend on community participation, strong partnerships and a commitment to making the venue accessible and relevant to people of all ages and backgrounds.

"We have a wonderful heritage to protect, but we also have an exciting future to build. I am particularly interested in encouraging greater community involvement, supporting local talent and events, and ensuring the Royal remains a place that contributes to the social and cultural



John Chapman, centre, is the new Royal Theatre Trust chair. He is pictured with Whanganui MP Carl Bates, left, and Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton. Photo: Robert Milne.

Earthquake questions

• We have been told that our water supply stopped because the pipe (singular) cracked. But when I clambered down under that bridge over the Tutara Stream, I discovered two water pipes, side by side. And there are two blue valve covers side by side where the repair was done. If only one pipe was broken, why couldn't water keep flowing through the other pipe?

And there is the coincidence that the pipe burst right in the middle of where a bike trail contractor had driven eight bridge posts into the ground. I watched another contractor's team building a similar bridge further up the bike trail. They were using a digger with a hydraulic pounder at the end of its arm instead of a bucket.

I have been told the pipe walls are asbestos-cement. No doubt the Tutara bridge contractor caused a good deal of local earthquaking that could have started a hairline fracture in a pipe, a fracture made worse by the big Taumarunui quake.

Did Veolia's engineers give an OK for all that pounding so close to their pipes?

I must compliment the Veolia team for vastly improving the kilometre of bike trail their heavily-laden quad drove up and down so many times. It is now the trail's firmest and smoothest section and a pleasure to ride on. But many visitors are complaining about another section of the trail a kilometre above the campground that was badly washed-out six months ago and which nobody has bothered to fix yet.

Could the Veolia team find a spare hour or two to go and work their same magic on that dangerous bit of track?

There used to be a big sign at the entrance to Raetihi's Majestic Theatre telling patrons they entered at their own risk because it was not earthquake-proof. Is that sign still there?

John Archer

Letters

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

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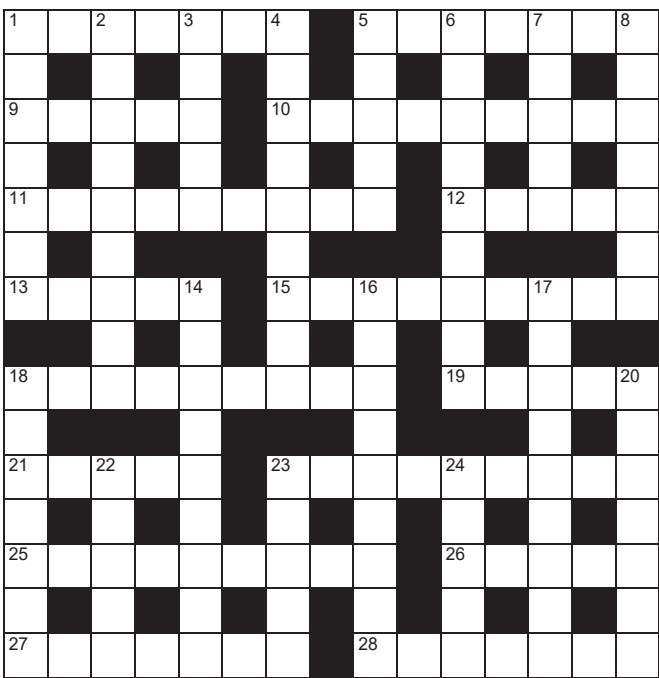
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

1. Demanding (7)
5. Giant wave (7)
9. Church payment (5)
10. Restrict (9)
11. Serving no useful purpose (9)
12. Skinflint (5)
13. A Hindu religious teacher (male) (5)
15. Garden shears (9)
18. Depose (9)
19. Intends (5)
21. Might (5)
23. Type of falcon (9)
25. Code of behaviour (9)
26. Rebuke (5)
27. Sanctuary (7)
28. Financial supporter (7)

Down

1. Cephalopod (7)
2. Disentangle, get free (9)
3. Undisguised (5)
4. Replacement (9)
5. Kitchen tool (5)
6. Final demand (9)
7. Accumulate (5)
8. Entrails (7)
14. Cut in, disturb (9)
16. Colleagues (2-7)
17. Agreed by all (9)
18. Subjugate (7)
20. Lean (7)
22. Complain (5)
23. Father (colloq) (5)
24. Vigour, enjoyment (5)



SUDOKU

Fill the grid so every row, column and every 3x3 box contains 1-9

5	4		2	9	6			
		2	7			4		
			4	1		5	7	2
	7							5
6	5	3				7	8	4
9						6		
4	6	1		5	2			
	2			7	3			
			6	8	9		2	1

EASY 2

MEDIUM

				1	5		9	3
	2			6				
	5		9					
						9		7
9		3	1		2	4		6
1	5							
				9		8		
			4			2		
6	1		2	5				

The Top 10

1. Which is the world's largest continent?
2. Which TV series was a spin-off of Beverly Hills 90210?
3. The River Lo flows through which European city?
4. What major international sporting event was held in Christchurch in 1974?
5. Michael Jackson was in the UK charts for 170 weeks with which 1979 album?
6. A ruby wedding anniversary celebrates how many years of marriage?
7. Which tanker spilled millions of gallons of oil into Prince William Sound in Alaska in 1989?
8. Which is the longest nerve in the human body?
9. Who created the character Fred Dagg?
10. What soft white Italian cheese is used for making dishes such as lasagne and gnocchi?

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Onerous, 5. Tsunami, 9. Tithe, 10. Constrain, 11. Pointless, 12. Miser, 13. Swami, 15. Secateurs, 18. Overthrow, 19. Means, 21. Power, 23. Peregrine, 25. Etiquette, 26. Scold, 27. Shelter, 28. Sponsor. Down: 1. Octopus, 2. Extricate, 3. Over, 4. Successor, 5. Tong, 6. Ultimatum, 7. Amass, 8. Innards, 14. Interrupt, 16. Co-workers, 17. Unanimous, 18. Oppress, 20. Slender, 22. Whine, 23. Pater, 24. Gusto.

SUDOKU

1	2
7 3 5 6 8 9 4 2 1	6 9 3 7 8 5 4 2 1
8 2 9 1 4 7 3 5 6	7 8 6 4 3 1 6 2 5
4 9 1 3 5 2 8 9 7	5 3 2 7 9 6 1 8 4
6 1 8 5 7 4 2 6 3	1 4 5 6 9 7 8 3 2
9 7 3 1 8 2 3 1 7 8 4	6 5 3 4 8 2 4 6 5
2 7 4 8 6 3 9 1 5	2 8 5 3 4 3 9 1 7
3 5 1 9 2 4 7 6 8	8 3 6 4 1 8 5 7 2
1 8 2 7 3 5 6 4 9	8 2 6 3 7 6 5 4 1
5 4 7 2 9 6 1 3 8	5 4 7 2 9 6 1 3 8

THE TOP 10

1. Asia, 2. Melrose Place, 3. Oslo, 4. The Common-wealth Games, 5. Thriller, 6. Forty, 7. Exxon Valdez, 8. Sciatic, 9. John Clarke, 10. Ricotta.



Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

Community pressure pays off as Health Centre work begins

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter
Iwi and community leaders are welcoming the start of construction on the \$4.4 million redevelopment of the Waimarino Health Centre in Raetihi.

They say the project is an important step toward more integrated and accessible healthcare for the Waimarino community.

Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton said the start of construction was a significant milestone after years of local advocacy to secure funding and get the project moving.

“This is a fantastic outcome for the community and everyone who has worked so hard to make it happen,” Kirton said.

Kirton said the redevelopment would make it easier for patients to access services while allowing providers to work more closely together.

“Having a range of health and social services operating from one modern facility will make a real difference for local patients and whānau,” he said.

Honey Winter, now chair of Ruapehu Health Limited and Te Mātuku Iwi-Māori Partnership Board and Kirton publicly called on Health New Zealand last year to prioritise the stalled project.

Health Minister Simeon Brown then asked Health New Zealand to accelerate the work and involve key stakeholders in securing an outcome for the community.

Winter described the project as seven years in the making, saying the community and iwi had waited a long time for construction to begin.

The expanded centre is expected to bring public, primary and community health services together under one roof, with construction due to be completed in the second half of 2027.

The project has also been welcomed by Te Mātuku iwi-Māori partnership board, which says the development reflects years of community advocacy and consultation.

Te Mātuku chief executive Elijah Pue said whānau had been clear about their needs through two significant community consultation processes.



group alongside Health New Zealand, Ruapehu Health Ltd, iwi and local providers.

The development was an example of how an iwi-Māori partnership board could work alongside the health system to bring local knowledge and experience into decisions affecting its communities, Pue said.

The redevelopment is being viewed as the next step toward the community’s longer-term vision for an integrated wellness centre in Raetihi.

The original “Manawanui, Manawaroa, Manawara E” concept envisaged an integrated centre of wellness in Raetihi, focused not only on treatment but prevention and wider community wellbeing.

Wellness centre “one day”

Pue said the full wellness centre vision was not being delivered as part of the current redevelopment, but remained an aspiration for the future.

“I look forward to celebrating a wellness centre one day operating in Raetihi,” he said.

Pue said Te Mātuku would continue working with Health New Zealand and local providers to keep patients and whānau at the centre of the next stage of the project.

Kirton said the investment had significance beyond the health sector, given the high levels of deprivation across Raetihi and the wider Waimarino area.

He said limited access to integrated health and social services contributed to wider challenges including unemployment, mental health distress and persistent health inequities.

“This investment is an important step towards building a stronger and more sustainable future for rural healthcare in our district,” Kirton said.

LDR is local body journalism co-funded by RNZ and NZ On Air



An architect’s rendering showing how the Waimarino Health Centre expansion will look. Image: Dalglish Architects.



Ohakune 34 Snowmass Drive

Light, bright and ready to enjoy

Located in the popular Snowmass subdivision, this attractive three-bedroom home offers easy-care living in a fantastic location. The generous open-plan kitchen and living area is filled with natural light and opens effortlessly onto a spacious deck, creating a wonderful setting for entertaining, relaxing with family and friends, or soaking up the morning sun. Double glazing throughout enhances comfort and warmth, while the home’s airy feel makes it inviting year-round.

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Members of the Waimarino Development Project steering group, from left, Lucy Pettit, chief midwife and associate group director operations; Louise Allsop, group manager community services; Judith McDonald, CE Whanganui Regional Health Network; Honey Winter, chair of Ruapehu Health Limited; Bill Krippner, Te Whatu Ora; Lynda Hocquard, Te Whatu Ora; Tracy Mitchell, RHL clinical services manager; Elijah Pue, Te Mātuku CE. Absent: Louise Thompson and Kath Fraser-Chapple from Te Whatu Ora. Photo: Robert Milne.

“They have continued to advocate for those needs to be recognised.”

Pue said rural communities experienced the health system differently and were often best placed to identify the barriers and gaps affecting their whānau.

“The challenge for the health system is not simply to ask communities what they need, but to ensure what they tell us genuinely influences the decisions and solutions that follow.”

Te Mātuku became directly involved in the redevelopment about 12 months ago through its partnership with Health New Zealand, with Pue serving as co-chair of the project’s governance



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FATHER'S DAY SAVINGS ON NOW AT STIHL

Daffodil Day about raising hope as well as funds



Tane from Ngāti Rangi are keen supporters for Daffodil Day – including, from left, Jude Sinai, Rex Paraku and Neja Kaire. Photo: Robert Milne.

Daffodil Day, on Friday, aims to raise funds for the Waimarino Cancer Society, which they use to support locals living with cancer, but it's not just about money.

"This Daffodil Day, we're not just raising funds. We're raising hope," says Belinda Pilcher, Cancer Society events co-ordinator.

"We're showing compassion. We're standing beside people facing cancer and reminding them that their community is with them every step of the way. One Community. One Cause.

"Behind every person we support is a community that chooses to give. With no regular government funding for the core services that the Cancer Society provides, Daffodil Day is critical to helping us continue supporting people throughout their cancer journey."

Belinda urges people to donate today and help ensure these essential services remain available to everyone who needs them.

Readers can visit daffodilday.org.nz to donate, or register a fundraiser, or find out how you can get involved."

Local Daffodil Day co-ordinator Sarah Drinkwater says Daffodil Day is so well supported in this area, by locals and visitors alike.

"I am just looking forward to seeing everyone who visits us on Friday, for some fresh daffodils or a yummy steak sandwich!"

This Daffodil Day, stalls are once again planned for Raetihi and Ohakune.

In 2024, they raised around \$8000, despite the tough economic times, which was up nearly \$2000 on the previous year. 2025 saw a similar amount raised.

"This is the eighth year of organising for me and the fifth for Cate Robb (who looks after Raetihi) and we are both very grateful for the support we receive from our community, our local schools and businesses in raising money for our local Cancer Society," says Sarah.

"From donations of time and baking to running mufti days at our schools or just popping down on the day to get some morning tea and a bunch of daffodils, our community has always been extremely generous towards this fantastic cause."

Proudly supporting the Whanganui -Rangitikei- Waimarino Cancer Society this Daffodil Day

Jenna and Polly proudly support the Whanganui -Rangitikei- Waimarino Cancer Society this Daffodil Day

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Ōwhango Alive names pic winner

Jesse Weir, 19, is the winner of the Ōwhango Alive Youth Photo competition, with her image of forest foliage looking up from below.

“It’s never easy to choose a winner for these competitions, but Jesse’s photo stood out for its composition, colour contrast and location,” said Sally Lashmar from Ōwhango Alive.

The photo was taken on the steps leading up from the Lagoon boardwalk on the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve walking track, where you can peer through the native trees and catch a glimpse of the Lagoon and the boardwalk.

“Well done Jesse – we are sure you will make good use of the \$250 Photo Warehouse gift voucher.”

The voucher was donated by Josh Thomson of KoruForm. Josh is a graphic designer based in Ōwhango and enjoys being involved in community creativity.

Jesse is off to Invercargill in the next couple of days, to start a pre-trade mechanic course at the Southern Institute of Technology.

“We wish you well with your course Jesse and keep taking photos – we love your work!”



Jesse Weir’s winning photo – Ōwhango forest foliage.

‘Dynamic Duo’ one of a kind

They call them the ‘Ruapehu Dynamic Duo’ – a couple of women real estate agents who teamed up to make a difference in the North Island’s summer and winter adventure playground.

They’re the ultimate two-for-one package, known throughout the Ruapehu region by their business handle, Jenna & Polly.

You talk to one, you talk to two. You don’t pronounce one and not the other. Think Fisher & Paykel, Black & Decker, Marks & Spencer ... Their email address tells it like it is: jenna.polly@arizto.co.nz

Jenna Hovelle and Polly Ingles, both live with their families – and dogs and horses – on lifestyle blocks minutes from Ohakune, known popularly as ‘The Mountain Town’.

Its resident population hasn’t changed much over the years. These days it’s around 1300 – in 2005 it was just short of 1200.

It is in the winter where visiting skiers, snowboarders and the like can more than triple the population. In summer the place swarms with backpackers, mountain bikers, and canoeists on the Whanganui River.

ADVERTORIAL

Jenna settled in Ohakune 20 years ago. Polly came later. Both worked for real estate companies before joining Arizto.

“Polly and I moved over to Arizto because we both felt their systems were the way real estate was heading,” says Jenna.

“Everything is done online and made a lot easier for our vendors and buyers. We felt the commission was much fairer for our vendors as well.

“And with the free marketing and no-sale, no-fee motto it was a no-brainer for us to make the change.”

They’ve nailed their Arizto shingle on at least 20 properties in the region. So, how’s it going?

“We’ve got some of our properties going through the sale process already,” says Polly.

Both women are looking forward to the town’s next big event, the Peak to Powderkeg. It’s a skiing, running, cycling race down Mt Ruapehu to the Powderkeg bar and a post-race barbecue.



A NEW REAL ESTATE TEAM: Poly Ingles, left, and Jenna Hovelle.

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Power Trust to give \$1.6m to consumers

Following the 32nd AGM of the King Country Trust (KCT), the Trust has announced that it has distributed \$1,694,000 to the communities of Taumarunui, Turangi and Ohakune.

The AGM was held last Thursday at Ore-ti in Pukawa, with 20 people in attendance.

A small portion went to community groups, the vast majority paid in the form of a credit to consumer beneficiaries' power accounts.

In addition, the Trust Fund itself increased from \$53,225,000 to \$76,965,000,

as a result of the sale of the KCT's 25% share in KCE Ltd to Contact Energy Ltd.

"Both new and former trustees were very pleased with this result, said Trust chair Adie Doyle.

Prior to the meeting and given that the nature of the trust has changed considerably, trustees held a Strategic Planning meeting in order to focus on KCT's ability to assist its communities into the future.

Doyle asks consumers to watch out for this year's distribution on their power account, which is due in September.

Double the size Health Centre in \$4.4m expansion

From Page 1

The Health Minister responded within a few days, saying he had asked Health New Zealand to accelerate the work.

Brown also credited local MPs Suze Redmayne and Carl Bates for advocating for the redevelopment.

Construction is expected to be completed in the second half of 2027.

Steering group member Honey Winter said iwi and the community had waited a long time for the build.

"We turned the first sod today – it is really good to begin this work. It's been seven years in the making. Hopefully this gives our iwi and our communities confidence that we're on track again for the

integrated health and social services our people need."

Winter said the community and iwi-driven wellness centre would enable providers to work together to achieve community wellbeing.

"There are things we want to achieve in terms of what the meaning of wellness really is, including a focus on preventative health strategies," Winter said.

"In rural areas, we have to work in an integrated way, looking at where the gaps are and how, collectively, we can meet those needs and provide really good services to people. This is the beginning of it."

LDR is local body journalism co-funded by RNZ and NZ On Air

Ohakune squash

Results from Thursday's Ohakune Squash Club interbusiness: In pool one Eagle beat Crab 13-5, Deer beat Potty Mouths 15-6, Watlings beat Rabbit 12-8 and Baboon got 8 points for the bye. In pool two Fatz Oysters beat Horse 14-5, Goat beat Frog 13-6, Alpaca beat Peacock 13-6 and Orange Choc Chip got 8 points for the bye. In pool three Ibex beat Narwhal 13-8, Octopus beat Jaguar 11-6, Kiwi beat Moose 11-7 and Lion got 8 points for the bye.

Points after three weeks are: pool one, Deer 37, Eagle 35, Baboon 29, Rabbit 26, Crab 24, Potty Mouths 20, Watlings 18; Pool two, Goat 43, Fatz Oysters 35, Alpaca 34, Frog 26 Peacock 21, Horse 20, Orange Choc Chip 15; Pool three, Narwhal 35, Lion 34, Kiwi 32, Ibex 28, Octopus 27, Moose 22, Jaguar 18.

Draw for this Thursday: 5:30pm - Pool one games - Potty Mouths vs Watlings, Eagle vs Baboon, Deer vs Crab, bye Rabbit. 6:45pm – pool two games - Fatz Oysters vs Peacock, Frog vs Orange Choc Chip, Horse vs Goat, bye Alpaca. 8:00pm – pool three games – Ibex vs Jaguar, Kiwi vs Lion, Narwhal vs Moose, bye Octopus.

Over 60 players took part in the Catalyst Performance Agronomy B grade and below tournament over the weekend. In the men's division one final top seed Nathan Morgan from Upper Hutt beat Riley Priest from Dannevirke 11/7, 5/11, 11/4, 11/7. In other finals women's division one Olivia Gray (Ohakune) beat Casey Shields (Ohakune), men's division two Kelley Webber (Dannevirke) beat Ben Lee (Ohakune), women's division two Kirsty Litt (Ohakune) beat Laura Double (Ohakune), men's division three Ashton Smith (Ohakune) beat Jack Edginton (Taihape), women's division three Hazel Richardson (Hunterville) beat Bella Drayton (Ohakune), men's division four Cayde Inglis (Turangi) beat Shane Christie (Turangi), women's division four Keisha McDonough (Ohakune) beat Carmen Armstrong (Whanganui), men's division five Cameron Laing (Turangi) beat Quenton Sweet (Turangi), men's division six Ocean Thompson (Ohakune) beat Chase Haitana (Ohakune).





Spotted rooks?

Horizons Regional Council is on the hunt for rooks and rookeries (rook nesting areas).

Rooks are an introduced pest bird species to New Zealand. In large numbers they can cause extensive damage to crops and pasture. Horizons undertakes operations to control rook populations in the region.

- How to spot rooks and rookeries:**
- Commonly nest in gum and pine trees
 - Flying the same path morning and night
 - Rooks are entirely black with a purple 'gloss'

If you spot a rook or rookery, let us know by:

 **Calling freephone 0508 800 800, or**

 **Emailing help@horizons.govt.nz**

In your enquiry, please include where and when you made the sighting and your contact details so we can follow up.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WORSE than being talked about, is not being talked about. If you're not in the Bulletin, are they talking about you? Call us today, 06-385-8532 – we'll get them talking about you



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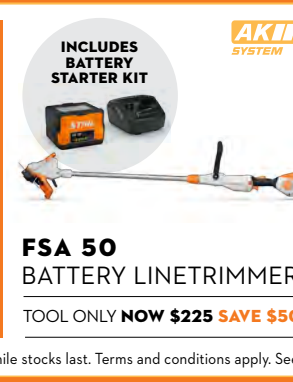
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PUBLIC NOTICES



Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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PUBLIC NOTICES

MEETINGS

The following meetings of Horizons Regional Council (Livestreamed) will be held during **September 2026** in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, unless otherwise advised:

Tuesday, 1 September
11.00am Regional Transport Committee

Monday, 7 September
1.30pm Climate Action Joint Committee

Tuesday, 22 September
9.30am Regional Council

Should Members of the public wish to speak at Meetings, they are advised to phone 0508 800 800.

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



horizons.govt.nz



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Powderhorn Leisure Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **194 Mangawhero Terrace, Ohakune** known as **Powderhorn Chateau**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Hotel/Restaurant/Bar**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday - Sunday: 8.00am – 3.00am the following day**. The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946.

No objections to the renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 19 August 2026.

TAUMATAMAHOE 2B2B19C PARTS MĀORI RESERVATION (PARINUI MARAE)

TAKE NOTICE THAT a Judge of the Māori Land Court, Aotea District, has directed that notice be placed by the trustees of the abovenamed Māori Reservation, advising of the following:

On 16 November 2025, at an AGM for the Māori Reservation, new trustees were elected.

Notice of the AGM was not placed in a local newspaper as required by the Māori Reservation Regulations 1994.

The Court heard an application on 17 August 2026 to replace trustees who have passed or resigned with the newly appointed trustees.

The Court will proceed to make orders for replacement of trustees in Chambers, subject to no objections or submissions being filed with the Registrar within 21 days of the publishing of this notice.

Any objections or submissions, or requests for further information, must be sent to Oliver Bailey, Deputy Registrar, at oliver.bailey@justice.govt.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ruapehu District Council Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu Boards and Committees UPCOMING MEETING DATES



Agendas are published on our Public Portal two working days before each scheduled meeting.

To speak at our Public Forum and share your thoughts directly with Elected Members, please contact our Governance team at governance@ruapehudc.govt.nz.

All meetings are livestreamed and can be found on the Ruapehu District Council website under the Agendas & Livestream icon on the main page.

Ōwhango-National Park Community Board

6PM, Tuesday, 1 September 2026
Blue Mountain Adventure Centre
17 Pito Street, Raurimu

Ruapehu District Council

10AM, Wednesday, 30 September 2026
Council Chambers, Huia Street, Taumarunui

MEETING CONTACTS

Ruapehu District Council	07 895 8188
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board	
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson	021 431 833
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board	
Peter Zimmer, Chairperson	027 479 1926
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board	
John (Luigi) Hotter, Chairperson	027 274 2616
Risk & Assurance Committee	
Philip Jones, Chairperson	027 499 9408

PUBLIC NOTICES

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2026 Trustee Election



Te Whiringa Kāhako o Ngāti Hāua Trust (the Trust) is the PSGE entity established to receive, manage, hold and administer Trust Assets on behalf of and for the benefit of present and future Members of Ngāti Hāua in accordance with Trust Deed.

The Trust is currently governed by Seven (7) initial Trustees. The initial Trustees' term of office ends at the successful completion of this election process. In this first election, nominations are called to fill all seven (7) Trustee positions. At least three (3) of the successfully elected Trustees must be Resident (at least 50% of the year) in the Ngāti Hāua Area of Interest. The elected Trustees will take office at the conclusion of the AGM on 12 December 2026.

The Trust now calls for nominations from Adult Registered Members of the Trust for the Seven (7) available Trustee positions.

Nominations must be made on an official nomination form and submitted in full to the Returning Officer by the close of nominations at **5pm on Thursday 10 September 2026**.

Candidates must meet the eligibility criteria set out in rule 2.1 of the Second Schedule of the Trust Deed. The Trust will give further notification of the election process after nominations have closed.

Hui ā-Iwi - Candidates' Forum

Following the close of nominations a Hui ā-iwi will be held. Open to all Adult Registered Members for the purpose of a candidates' forum where the nominees will be required to present to those Adult Registered Members in attendance.

All candidates are required to attend (either in person or online). The Hui will be held in-person and online.

10am Saturday 10 October 2026

Ngāpuwaiwaha Marae, Taumarunui

Voting

Where more nominations are received than available positions an election will be held via postal and online voting. Voting will open on Monday 2 November 2026 and voting will close on Friday 4 December 2026.

Membership Registration

The Trust also takes this opportunity to invite all adults of Ngāti Hāua descent who have not already registered, to do so by completing a registration form. To be eligible to vote in the Trustee election, registrations must be submitted to the Trust by **5pm on Thursday 10 September 2026**. All registrations are subject to the Trust's standard validation process.

Registration forms and nomination papers can be sourced from the Returning Officer using the below details.

The Returning Officer
electionz.com Ltd
PO Box 3138, Christchurch

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Problem of parking at the Junction

The problem of parking at certain times of the day in the Ohakune Junction area has led the Ohakune Borough Council to ask for a report from its town planner.

Chairman of the town planning committee, Cr Errol Sue, said that two new businesses, a ski hire shop and a nightclub, had opened recently in the junction area, and had appreciably increased parking congestion at certain times.

"It's like Queen Street for an hour. Two businesses are operating without adequate parking - if we allow it we set a precedent for the area," said Cr Sue.

He said that a change of use according to the town planning scheme should mean the provision of off-street parking.

Cr Snow Brannigan said that elsewhere in the Ohakune retail area stringent requirements for ski hire businesses had been instituted.

"We must do something here - we have no choice. It can't be allowed to continue otherwise things will run riot up there at the junction," he said.

The Mayor, Bill Taylor said the parking problems of this type were common in Ohakune now during the winter season.

"One of the council's policies has been to encourage businesses at the junction. While not blatantly ignoring town planning requirements we don't want to discourage new developments," he said.

Councillors resolved to support a resolution that "council require a full written report from the town planner on both the ski hire and the nightclub and give the town planning committee of council full power to act."

The Mayor said it was probably the best they could achieve that night.

Cr Wiggins declared a pecuniary interest and did not take part in debate.



Like Queen Street? Well, maybe not. But parking is at a premium at certain times of the day.

Swimming baths will be open this summer

The Ohakune Borough Council is trying to remove itself from a lease with Victoria Park Markets, an Auckland firm which had planned to develop the Jubilee Park area including the swimming pool.

Many residents, especially parents and teachers concerned at lost opportunities for teaching swimming and water survival skills, are angry that the pool was closed last summer.

At a recent meeting of the council a letter was received from the chairman of Victoria Park Markets, J.D. St

Clair Brown, which said that no progress would be possible on the development this winter.

The company leased the Jubilee Park area to carry out a major development including an ice skating rink and heating and covering the swimming pool.

Late notice of lack of action on the pool last summer left the council too late to open the baths.

The council plans to open the baths this summer and has asked its building and health inspectors to report on upgrading required to get them ready.

Dancing welcomes holidays



Ohakune School junior pupils celebrated the end of term last week with an evening of folk dancing and singing.

Difficulties with lack of toilets, winter crowds

Getting relief at Ohakune Junction is a bit of a strain, according to Ohakune Borough Councilor Mike Wiggins.

Cr Wiggins, also the proprietor of the Junction Ski Shop, said the lack of public toilets in the junction area created some pressure among crowds of skiers waiting to hire or return ski gear.

"It was very bad over recent weekends when there has been a steady stream of people through our premises," he said.

Cr Wiggins suggested that it might be possible to negotiate for the use of the nearby railway station toilets during the ski season. He said that he would be prepared to take responsibility and open and close them on weekends.

Other councillors agreed with Cr Wiggins, and the Mayor, Bill Taylor, suggested that the incoming council might look at providing more public toilets for Ohakune, perhaps at the carot site.

It was decided to approach NZ Railways concerning the use of the station toilets and the issue be put on the agenda for the next town planning committee's meeting.



Moreen Hancock, retiring deputy principal of Ohakune School, was given a bouquet by the children during the evening.

Watch those skis!

A spate of thefts of skis, poles and car ski racks around Ohakune recently has led police to warn skiers not to leave their gear on their cars.

After a day's skiing it is wise to put ski gear in a safe place and not leave it on roof racks while in restaurants or visiting friends.

Ski left outside cafes on Turoa Skifields have also been stolen. A useful ploy here is to separate your skis, placing them in two places. Be careful to remember where, however!

Raetihi support meeting

A further meeting to set up Neighbourhood Watch Support Groups in the Waimarino will be held by the Ruapehu Lions Club in Raetihi this week.

Convenor of the meeting, Greg Ellis, said he hoped that as many people as possible would come because the support groups helped fight crime.

"Information from Taupo and Taihape shows that since groups have been set up there crime has been reduced by about 50 per cent," said Mr Ellis.

Mr Ellis said that the use of the Neighbourhood Watch logo on the houses of people involved, and on posters in the town, was often enough in itself to deter crime.

"Visible signs of the support groups discourage criminals because they know people will be watching and will report what they see," he said.

The groups work on a three-tier system. At the lowest level a coordinator contacts eight to twelve houses, while on the next step up street controllers cover 40 to 50. Above them is the overall town controller.

If a resident spots suspicious activity they can report it to their coordinator if they wish, rather than direct to the police.

Mr Ellis said that there was no doubt that Neighbourhood Watch Support Groups helped deter crime and also helped bolster people's feeling of security.

The meeting will be held in the Anglican Church Hall, Seddon Street, Raetihi, at 7.30pm on Thursday 28 August. A video which illustrates the effectiveness of the groups will be shown.

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Government alters plans, promising certainty for region's farmers

By Rebecca Hogan, Local Democracy Reporter

Following years of deliberation at the council table and legal scrutiny, the plan for managing intensive farming in the Manawatu-Whanganui region is facing more changes.

Central government announced on Wednesday that requirements outlined within the Horizons Regional Council's Plan Change 2 (PC2) – which was passed by

the Environmental Court in June and aimed at remedying issues in the One Plan – would no longer need to be upheld.

The original One Plan provided policy and provisions for farmers and growers that attempted to manage intensive farming land use and applied nitrogen caps to try to mitigate environmental damage, particularly within catchments with poor water quality.

Biosecurity Minister Andrew Hoggard said requirements would be altered to ensure farmers and growers didn't have to meet specific or additional requirements within PC2, which would eventually be replaced by the Government's new planning system.

"To smooth the transition for PC2, farmers and growers will still be required to make ongoing environmental improvements, but the prescribed nitrogen reductions will no longer apply."

Horizons group manager of strategy, regulation and science, Elizabeth Daly, said when PC2 was announced there were "very few" existing intensive farmers or growers meeting nitrogen leaching limits.

This created "considerable" uncertainty for those unable to obtain consents due to excess nitrogen, and Daly said PC2 was passed in June to "improve the workability" of the original legislation and restore certainty.

The court's decisions in June provided "pathways" for impacted farmers to seek consents that had been otherwise unobtainable, said Daly.

Farmers seeking consents under PC2 were initially given 12 months to apply for consents, and Horizons included a pathway that required landowners to produce a percentage reduction in nitrogen levels from a 2012/13 baseline.

Resource Management Act (RMA) Reform Minister Chris Bishop said aspects of the plan changes were on a "collision course" with objectives that the new planning system wished to drive – such as simplification, cutting "red tape" and reduced duplication.

In recent weeks, Federated Farmers had criticised PC2, arguing both the nitrogen-tracking system and the required baseline reductions were "setting farmers up to fail" across Manawatu-Whanganui.

The federation's Manawatu-Rangitikei president, Ian Strahan, said it was not "reasonable or practical" to expect farmers in 2012 to have anticipated changes or to keep such records since then.

Following the announcement, Horizons chairwoman Nikki Riley said they'd continue working with farmers, and officers would now consider the impacts of these further changes.

Farmers and growers were still required to apply for consents, so Riley urges them to do so in advance of PC2 becoming operative.

Waikato Regional Council's Plan Change 1, which was passed recently after 14 years of hearings, was also included in these changes.

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Nitrate producers: the Government has stepped in on Horizons' plan to manage intensive farming. Photo supplied.

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