

Central Link

He karere tā te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Whakaahurangi News from the Stratford District Council

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

From the Council table:

Stratford District councillors considered a range of governance and service delivery matters at the August Policy & Services Committee meeting last week. If you're interested in what goes on around the council table, check out our agendas and minutes online. We send a "What's on the agenda?" Antenna notice the Friday before all Council meetings.

Below is a quick snapshot from the hui.

Working together on waste services: Elected members agreed to establish a regional Waste Services Joint Committee, replacing existing waste governance arrangements with a single committee to provide clearer oversight and support a coordinated approach to waste minimisation and management across Taranaki.

Preparing for future elections: Elected members reviewed options for the electoral system that will be used for the 2028 & 2031 local elections, including whether to continue with the current First Past the Post (FPP) system or move to Single Transferable Vote (STV). They recommended retaining the existing FPP system. This decision will be confirmed at the Ordinary Council meeting on 8 September, after which more information will be shared online.

Delegations: The committee also considered updated delegations for council officers, helping to ensure decisions can continue to be made efficiently and in line with legislative requirements. You can view the delegations register on our website.

Monthly updates: Every month Elected Members receive reports that provide updates on services, facilities and projects. You can view these reports in the Agendas and Minutes for the Policy & Services Committee meetings. Visit Stratford.govt.nz/Agenda

This photo shows work underway on the wastewater ponds dredging project:



Stratford Youth Council gains first-hand insight into government

Stratford District Youth Councillors travelled to Wellington in July alongside Mayor Neil Volzke, Councillor Jaimie Bertie and Community Development team members, for a three-day leadership and learning experience focused on government, democracy and civic participation.

The trip gave the group opportunities to experience Parliament, meet government representatives, and gain a better understanding of how decisions are made at both local and national levels. One of the highlights was taking part in a mock parliamentary debate inside Parliament's debating chamber. Youth Councillors stepped into the roles of MPs, developing their public speaking, critical thinking and teamwork skills.

"This trip taught me a lot, but the thing I took out of it the most was debating. It helped me with public speaking and being clear and direct with what I'm saying," says Thiemo.

The Youth Councillors also met with representatives from the Ministry of Youth Development and the Ministry of Social Development, learning about how government departments work with ministers, communities and iwi to achieve positive outcomes.

A guided tour of Parliament gave them an insight into New Zealand's democratic history and institutions, and included a stop by the painting of Chunuk Bair.

Francis-Leon described the tour as one of the most memorable experiences of the trip. He said, "the parliament tour was one of the most fun and educational things on the Wellington trip and to me the best part. It's one of those once-in-a-lifetime sort of things that I will never forget."

The group also visited Te Papa, where they explored the history of protest in Aotearoa New Zealand and took part in an interactive workshop.

Beyond the educational programme, the trip helped strengthen relationships within the Youth Council. Spending time together outside formal meetings allowed the youth councillors to create new connections and develop a stronger sense of teamwork. Jessie said, "one of the best parts of the trip was the balance between learning opportunities and social activities. It helped us build stronger connections as a group and get to know each other outside of meetings and council chambers."

SDC Community Development and Engagement Lead, Anna-Louise said, "Two Youth Councillors have since indicated an interest in entering politics in some form, which we think is a positive indication of the impact of the trip!"

"We're also very grateful to receive a grant from the Taranaki Electricity Trust to help make this trip happen. It's something we aim to do every two years with the Youth Council and hope to see it continue," says Anna-Louise.

Applications for 12-24 year olds to become a youth councillor for 2027 will be opening soon - keep an eye out on their Instagram page, or for more information visit Stratford.govt.nz/Youth



Are your lids closed?

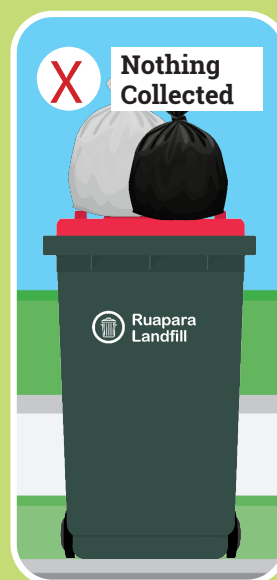
When put out on the kerbside, the lid of your bins must be closed and level. If the lids aren't closed - your bin won't be collected.

This is to stop rubbish and recycling falling out of the bins causing litter on the berms and roads. An overfull bin has the risk of more mess and time and resources wasted cleaning up.

Recycling as much as possible will help clear room in your red-lid bin for the real rubbish.

If you have rubbish that can't wait until the next collection day, extra rubbish can go to the Stratford Transfer Station on Cordelia Street - a fee will apply for general waste, but all recycling is free.

If you'd like to speak with our waste minimisation team about ways to reduce your waste, email WasteMinimisation@Stratford.govt.nz



Library & Visitor Information Centre
Phone 06 765 5403

Monday - Friday: 8.30am - 5pm
Saturday: 9am - 1pm
Sunday & Public Holidays: Closed

Stratford Transfer Station
Phone 06 765 8500

Monday: 12pm - 5pm
Thursday: 10am - 1pm
Friday - Sunday: 12pm - 5pm

Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre
Phone 06 765 6275

Monday - Friday: 6am - 6.30pm
Saturday: 7am - 5pm
Sunday & Public Holidays:
10am - 5pm

Glockenspiel

Performs daily at 10am, 1pm, 3pm, and 7pm

2 September 2026