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

King's Birthday public holiday hours

On Monday 1 June, we celebrate the birthday of King Charles III. To help you plan ahead, here are our facility hours for the day:

- **Rubbish and recycling collection:** as per usual
- **Stratford Library & Visitor Information Centre:** Closed
- **Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre:** 10am - 5pm
- **Transfer Station:** 12pm - 5pm
- **Council Service Centre:** Closed.
- **Phone:** 06 765 6099 for urgent enquiries

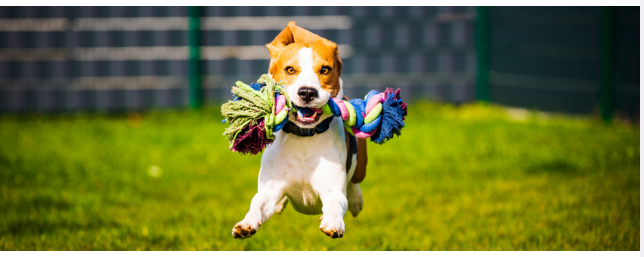
Last chance to nominate your local legend for a 2026 Citizen Award

Stratford district's Citizens Awards are a celebration of the people who go above and beyond for their community.

Nominations close this Friday 29 May.

You can find forms for both the 2026 Citizen Award and Youth Citizen Award (recognising our 12-24 year old champions) online at Stratford.govt.nz/Citizen Awards or printed copies can be picked up at Council's Service Centre, the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre and Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre.

If you need help with the nomination process please contact us on 06 765 6099.



2026/27 dog registration fees due by 1 July

Our dog registration fees have been set for the new financial year, 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027, and dog owners will soon receive their renewal notice in the post or by email.

From 1 July 2026, all dogs will need to wear their snazzy new **green** registration tags.

Make sure you pay for your renewal by 31 July to receive a discount on your registration fees!

To see the fees, visit Stratford.govt.nz/DogFees

Annual Plan 2026/27

Council has adopted its Annual Plan 2026/27, confirming the budget, work programme and rates for the coming financial year.

The plan shows an average increase in rates of 3.5% across activities, except water and wastewater services which increase by 15.95%. The resulting overall increase is 5.9%.

Chief Executive Sven Hanne says this plan reflects a continued focus on core services while remaining mindful of affordability. "Annual Plans are about staying the course, they take what we set out in the Long Term Plan and adjust where needed, but largely they're about delivering on what we've already committed to for our community."

"The higher increase for water and wastewater reflects the investment required to meet new and increasing regulatory standards and ensure long-term sustainability," he says.

The Annual Plan continues the direction set through the Long Term Plan 2024–2034, with a strong focus on maintaining existing infrastructure and replacing assets at the end of their life to ensure ongoing service delivery. Progressing government reform programmes will also remain a key focus.

"It's about being realistic and prioritising what matters most, keeping our core infrastructure running well and continuing to invest where it's needed," says Sven.

"The Brecon Road extension has been removed from the annual plan due to a lack of NZTA co-funding, meaning its future will be up for debate at a later time. However, we're excited to progress the Prospero Place upgrade and the extension of Council's residential subdivision."

"We're also continuing to look for efficiencies across our operations, reducing costs where we can while still delivering the services our community relies on," says Sven.

"A good example of this is Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre, where we've reduced operating costs through improved energy management and by bringing some services in-house. To build on this, we're also continuing to look for external funding opportunities to maximise the value of our investment," he says.

The actual change for individual ratepayers will vary depending on factors such as property type, value, and which services the property receives, including water supply, wastewater, and solid waste collection. A range of sample rates is available on pages 15 and 16 of the Annual Plan.

As part of the Annual Plan adoption, Council has also carefully reviewed its Fees and Charges. While savings have been found where possible, rising delivery costs mean some increases are necessary to ensure services can continue at current levels. These adjustments are across venue hire, solid waste, and other user-pays activities like the aquatic centre. The full fees and charges schedule for 2026/27 can be viewed online at Stratford.govt.nz/Fees

Mayor Neil Volzke says this annual plan reflects a balanced and practical approach. "We're here to make decisions that support the long-term wellbeing of our district while being firm on what's achievable today," says Neil.

"That means making careful financial decisions and ensuring we're delivering value for our ratepayers."

Following adoption of the Annual Plan, Council also confirmed the setting of rates, along with the due dates and penalties regime for the 2026/27 financial year, enabling rates to be struck and invoiced when the Annual Plan comes into effect, from 1 July 2026.

View the full plan online at Stratford.govt.nz

Save the date for Puanga celebration

You're invited to embrace curiosity and connection when celebrating Puanga, the Māori New Year, in the Stratford district.

Puanga gives us the opportunity to celebrate our achievements, remember loved ones, and look forward to the future. It's a great time to connect with whānau, friends and the wider community.

Save the date for **Puanganui-o-te-Rangi**, an evening for all ages inspired by the stars, **Thursday 9 July,** and keep an eye out for other activities to get involved in.

Visit Stratford.govt.nz/Puanga for details.

Are you recycling right? Your kerbside recycling bins can take:

Paper and cardboard bigger than an A4 sheet of paper, including pizza boxes cleaned of food scraps.

Washed aluminium and steel tins and cans with lids inside the can.

Washed plastic bottles and containers with recycling symbols 1, 2, or 5 (lids removed - these can be put in your red lid rubbish bin or recycled through local schools)

Check out our online "what can I recycle?" search if you're unsure of which bin to use: Stratford.govt.nz/Recycle

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

27 May 2026