

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

Raw water delivery line upgrade into its final stage

To future-proof Stratford's water supply, Council committed funds to replacing the approximately 100-year-old raw water delivery line to the Stratford Water Treatment Plant as part of our Long Term Plan 2024-34.

This work includes laying 350m of new pipe and installing a new grit tank. It started in January and is being undertaken in three stages.

While originally planned to be completed in July, delays in equipment supplies and responding to poor weather, has meant we're tracking a couple months later than anticipated, but we're now on the home stretch and into the final stage of construction.



What's a grit tank?

The grit tank provides the first stage of treatment for Stratford's water supply after it's drawn from the river. In the same way that sand or grit would irritate skin when rubbed on it, the same friction can damage the pipes and more sensitive filters in the water treatment plant. The grit tank allows sand, sediment, and other debris to settle before the water enters the plant for final processing.

Upgrading our grit tank and raw water delivery line ensures safe and reliable drinking water for Stratford for another 100 years, compliance with Taumata Arowai, and improved monitoring to respond to changing river levels.

We're excited to be nearing completion on this important project.

To see more construction photos and learn about the project visit YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz

Creative Communities Scheme funding round closes 14 August

Don't miss out on your opportunity to receive funding for your next creative project. Applications for the Stratford District Creative Communities Scheme close on 14 August.

To learn more about the funding criteria and download an application form visit Stratford.govt.nz/CCS

If you have any questions about the fund or need help with your application contact the team on:

- Funding@stratford.govt.nz
- 06 765 6099



Stratford marking 111 years since Chunuk Bair

Stratford District Council invites community members of all ages to gather at the Malone Memorial Gates on Saturday 8 August 2026, from 8am, for a wreath laying ceremony marking the WWI battle of Chunuk Bair.

Light refreshments follow in the Centennial Rest Rooms, where the birthday of the 5th/7th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (5/7 RNZIR) will also be recognised.

Stratford's Malone Gates were opened on 8 August 1923, eight years to the day after Stratford's Lieutenant-Colonel William George Malone was killed at Chunuk Bair. They remain the largest war memorial to an individual soldier in New Zealand.

Malone led the Wellington Infantry Battalion up the Sari Bair range before dawn on 8 August 1915, taking the high point at Chunuk Bair and holding it through wave after wave of counter attacks.

When the Wellingtons were finally relieved that night, 70 of the battalion's 760 men were still standing. Malone was not among them. Ottoman forces retook the position from British reinforcements soon after.

District Mayor Neil Volzke says the commemoration isn't just a history lesson in Stratford. "Most towns remember Gallipoli. We remember a man who walked these streets, and a family who stayed here after he didn't come home," Neil says. "That's why people keep turning up at the gates, 103 years after they opened."

"The eighth of August matters to the 5/7 RNZIR too, so it's fitting we mark their birthday straight afterwards. Everyone is welcome to stay for light refreshments."

Did you know?

- The New Zealand Army's "Lemon Squeezer" hat was Malone's idea. He shaped the crown to echo Taranaki Maunga and to shed rain off the brim.
- Malone was 56 when he died at Chunuk Bair, well past the age most would have been in the field.

UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM



Stratford backs two- council proposal for Taranaki's future

Stratford and South Taranaki District Councillors recently voted to support a proposal for two unitary councils covering Taranaki as part of the Government's Head Start pathway for simplifying local government.

Stratford District Mayor Neil Volzke says the two Councils' preferred model is a balanced approach.

"It would simplify local government in Taranaki, while keeping decision-making closer to the communities most affected by those decisions. We believe a Stratford and South Taranaki unitary council would better reflect the needs of our rural and smaller-town communities, while still allowing regional functions to be managed in a coordinated way where that makes sense. As we develop our proposal we want to continue to work collaboratively with New Plymouth District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council to ensure that existing regional functions that need to continue being delivered regionally, will be."

The Government's Head Start pathway gives councils

until 9 August 2026 to submit outline proposals for new unitary councils. Unitary councils combine the responsibilities currently carried out by district or city councils and regional councils.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon and Mayor Volzke stressed that this decision does not make any immediate changes to services, rates, representation, or staffing. This is about confirming our preferred option so we can continue to work together to develop an outline proposal that we will submit to Government by 9 August. Any proposal would still need to be considered by Government, and there would be a great deal of further work, analysis and engagement before any final decisions are made.

"We recognise that New Plymouth District Council has been considering its own position in relation to local government reform and we remain committed to maintaining a constructive regional dialogue and to working collaboratively on matters where a regional approach will deliver the best outcomes for the people of Taranaki," says Mayor Volzke.

As this paper was going to print, Stratford District councillors were reviewing and approving what the outline proposal will include.

To view the proposal and stay up to date on this process visit YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz

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Stratford Transfer Station
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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

5 August 2026