

# Te Hononga Pokapū

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

24 Hour Phone 06 765 6099 | stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz | stratford.govt.nz



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O  
WHAKAAHURANGI  
**STRATFORD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Kia kaha te Reo Māori

Join us in celebrating Te Wiki o te Reo Māori! Give te Reo Māori a go at work, school and at home.

During this week, locals and visitors to Stratford can listen to the Glockenspiel's Romeo and Juliet scene in te Reo Māori four times a day. Playing at 10am, 1pm, 3pm and 7pm until 19 September 2021.

You can pick up a free printed copy of the translation from the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre in Prospero Place.

This week is about giving te Reo Māori a go.

Whether you listen to our glockenspiel, use a te Reo Māori greeting with others or do waiata with your tamāriki, every little bit supports this important kaupapa.

Visit [reomāori.co.nz](http://reomāori.co.nz) for resources and ideas to help you and your whānau give te Reo Māori a go. Kia ora!

## Kia ora! Thank you!

A huge thanks to our community for being supportive and patient when visiting our facilities during Alert Level 2

Our kaimahi/staff appreciate you following the golden rules to keep everyone safe and well.

Ka mau te wehi! Awesome effort everyone - keep it up.



## Public Notices

### Meeting Schedule - Mahuru/September

#### Farm & Aerodrome Committee

Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 12noon

#### Audit and Risk Committee

Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 2.00pm

#### Policy & Services Committee

Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 3.00pm

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers, Miranda Street, Stratford. Meetings will be held by audio visual link if required due to COVID-19 Alert Levels.

S Hanne  
Chief Executive

Submissions on the  
Representation Review  
close this Sunday.



Visit [stratford.govt.nz](http://stratford.govt.nz) for information and to submit.

## A reminder of Council services at Alert Level 2

### Rubbish and Recycling

- Normal kerbside collection. Please put your bins out before 7.30am.
- A reminder to not overfill your blue glass recycling crate. If you've stockpiled glass during Level 4, please put these items out over time if you can't fit them all safely into your blue glass recycling crate.

### Transfer Station

- Normal operating hours continue for the Stratford Transfer Station. To continue to keep our staff and community safe some restrictions will be in place during Level 2: Visitors must:
  - be wearing a face covering
  - record their visit by scanning in using the NZ COVID Tracer App or by completing the paper based form available
  - maintain 2m distance from others.
- Please be patient when accessing the Transfer Station during these restrictions.
- Opening hours and costs can be found on Council's website [stratford.govt.nz](http://stratford.govt.nz)

### Public Toilets

- Our public toilets are open.
- Please use the NZ COVID Tracer App to record your visit.
- Public toilets will continue to be cleaned by Council contractors (using all necessary precautions & PPE gear).

### Building, Planning and Resource consents

- Building, planning and resource consents will be processed as normal.
- Building inspections will be carried out following COVID-19 protocols. To book an inspection phone Council's Service Centre on 06 765 6099.

### Animal Services

For any animal service needs, such as wandering dogs, please call us on 06 765 6099.

### Library and Visitor Information Centre

- Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre is open. Visitors must:
  - be wearing a face covering
  - record their visit by scanning in using the NZ COVID Tracer App or by completing the paper based form available
  - maintain 2m distance from others.
- We'll be limiting the number of people into the facility to maintain appropriate spacing.
- Contact us for the latest updates on Library programmes and events.
- You can stay up to date with the Library and Visitor Information Centre by following them on Facebook.

### TSB Pool Complex

- TSB Pool Complex is open for structured swimming only.
- Pool users must:
  - record their visit by scanning in using the NZ COVID Tracer App or by completing the paper based form available
  - maintain 2m distance from others.
- Face coverings are encouraged when not in the pool.
- We'll be limiting the number of people into the facility to maintain appropriate spacing.
- Leisure swimming is not allowed during level 2.
- Bookings are essential for lane swimming and group fitness.
- View the full list of operational changes to TSB Pool Complex on Council's website [stratford.govt.nz](http://stratford.govt.nz)

You can stay up to date with the TSB Pool Complex by following them on Facebook.

### Water, Wastewater and Stormwater

- Services operating as normal.
- As schools and businesses prepare for reopening, it is important to ensure the safety of your building water systems. Please flush your taps for 5 minutes before using for consumption.

If you have any concerns about your water supply please phone us on 06 765 6099.

### Facility bookings

- Bookings for the Centennial Restrooms and War Memorial Centre are open for bookings of up to 50 people only.
- Booking attendees must wear a face covering and record their visit record by scanning in using the NZ COVID Tracer App or by completing the paper based form available.
- If you can't meet these requirements you can reschedule or organise a refund through our Service Centre.

### Open spaces

- Parks, playgrounds and the skate park are open.
- When leaving your home please remember to keep a safe distance from others and wear a face covering.

### Council Service Centre

- Our service centre on Miranda Street is open. Visitors must:
  - be wearing a face covering
  - record their visit by scanning in using the NZ COVID Tracer App or by completing the paper based form available
  - maintain 2m distance from others.
- We'll be limiting the number of people into the facility to maintain appropriate spacing.
- You can still get in touch through our contactless service by phone 06 765 6099 and email [stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz](mailto:stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz)

### Payments

- Contactless payments are encouraged, but you can make payments in person at our Service Centre if necessary.
- Restrictions are in place to keep staff and community members safe. See details under Service Centre above.
- This is a difficult time for many, if you find yourself struggling to meet your rates or any other council bills, please contact us and we will explain the options we have available to help.

For the latest information on COVID-19, including what to do at Alert Level 2, please visit [covid19.govt.nz](http://covid19.govt.nz)

Library and Visitor Information  
Phone 06 765 5403  
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm  
Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm  
Sundays & Public Holidays Closed

Transfer Station  
Phone 06 765 8500  
Monday – Friday 2.00pm – 5.00pm  
Wednesday 10.00am – 1.00pm  
Saturday & Sunday 1.00pm – 5.00pm

TSB Pool Complex  
Phone 06 765 6275  
Weekdays 6.00am – 7.30pm  
Wednesday 6.00am – 6.30pm  
Saturdays 7.00am – 5.30 pm  
Sunday 11.00am – 5.30 pm

Glockenspiel  
Performs Daily at 10.00am, 1.00pm,  
3.00pm and 7.00pm  
15 September 2021

# Three Waters Reform

## What you need to know



### Message from Mayor Neil Volzke

**Central Government is reviewing the regulation and supply of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater (the three waters) for all New Zealand.**

This is to give New Zealanders confidence that drinking water is safe to use, sources of drinking water are adequately protected, and wastewater and stormwater are managed in environmentally sustainable ways.

In July 2020, the Government launched the Three Waters Reform Programme – a three-year programme to reform local government three waters service delivery arrangements.

In July 2021, the Government shared more detail on what the outcome of the reform will be.

It's clear that the reform will have a huge impact on councils, both big and small. Water infrastructure makes up a large portion of the balance sheets of many councils.

The Government's position is that councils will have the choice to opt in or out of the reform proposals. That will be the key decision for us later this year.

We strongly believe our community should have a say about our participation in the reforms and are committed to advocate for this right. We are waiting for the Government to finalise proposals and consider consultation processes and timelines.

When this information becomes available we will make sure that we enable you to engage in an informed way.



### What's Council doing now?

**The Government has asked us to examine the facts and figures in front of us, to determine the impact the reforms would on service delivery and our community.**

Staff and elected members have been reviewing the large volume of information provided to determine what is being proposed and why.

At this stage Council is yet to form a collective view on the reforms, but is asking questions and raising concerns alongside fellow Entity B councils.

Some concerns and questions raised across Entity B include:

- Effectiveness of governance representation
- Loss of community influence
- Will ratepayers actually be better off financially?
- What will the impact be on the rest of Council services?

Council is expected to provide feedback to the Government by the end of September 2021.

There is clear commitment from all stakeholders for the need to spend more time working through some issues that are important to all of us. These are:

- Ensuring all communities have both a voice in the system and influence over local decisions. This means being sure the water entities understand and act on communities' needs and wants.
- Effective representation on the new water entities' oversight boards so that there is strong accountability to the communities they serve. This includes effective assurance that entities remain in public ownership and cannot be privatised in future.
- Making sure councils' plans for growth are appropriately integrated with water services planning.

### What's being proposed?

**Local councils currently own and operate the three waters infrastructure and provide the services for their districts. The Government believes this service delivery model needs to change.**

They are proposing to establish four large publicly owned water service delivery entities.

These entities would own and manage the drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure for local communities, instead of councils.

Along with transferring the water assets to Entity B, all of Council's associated water services debt and reserves would also be passed to Entity B.

In June 2021 the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) released a map showing the proposed boundaries of these entities.

Stratford District Council (SDC) is part of Entity B with 21 other councils in the wider Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Taranaki regions which would service approximately 800,000 people.

The government proposes that the new water entities will be operational from 1 July 2024, and it's expected that councils will continue to deliver water services until then.



### What does it mean for Stratford?

#### Change to the status quo

The Three Waters Reform Programme has the potential to significantly change the way critical water infrastructure and services are delivered in our district.

For example, Council would no longer be responsible for delivering drinking water supplies to households. It may also mean changes to how much our ratepayers pay for water and wastewater services, and who they pay for these services, in the future.

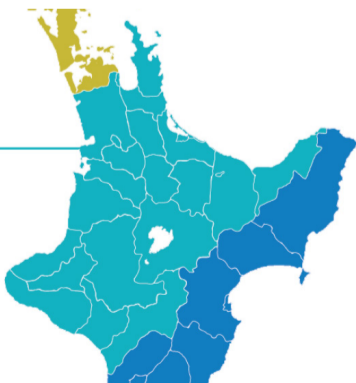
#### Financial support

As part of the reform proposal the Government is promising to deliver a financial support package to all councils. This is to ensure that no council is left worse off after the reforms.

If the reforms go ahead, SDC would receive \$10 million in financial support as part of this package.

This is on top of \$2.34 million which SDC accessed as part of stage one in 2020. All councils agreed to this stage, which didn't commit us to the reform programme. This money is being used to provide an additional water trunk main for the Stratford water supply, a project which started earlier this year.

#### Entity B



### Next steps?

**From October 2021, the Government will consider next steps, including the process and revised timing for consultation and decision-making.**

**We'll continue to provide updates on the reform as more information is made available to us.**

**i For more information visit [dia.govt.nz](http://dia.govt.nz), [lgnz.govt.nz](http://lgnz.govt.nz) or [stratford.govt.nz](http://stratford.govt.nz)**



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