

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

Public Notices

Upcoming meetings

Workshop - Tuesday 23 May at 2pm

Policy & Services Committee - Tuesday 23 May at 3pm

Meetings and Workshops will be held in the Council Chambers on Miranda Street.

Workshop start times might change at short notice depending on the workshop content. Visit Stratford.govt.nz for updates.

S Hanne
Chief Executive

Draft Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy and Draft TAB Venue Policy

The Gambling Act 2003 and Racing Industry Act 2022 require local councils to review their gambling policies and make them available for community submissions every three years. The objective of both policies is to minimise the harm caused by gambling in the Stratford District.

The Class 4 Gambling Venue policy proposes a sinking lid until the total number of gaming machines that may be operated in Class 4 Venues is reduced to 27. When no more than 27 gaming machines are operating in the district, the maximum number that may be operated will be capped at 27. No TAB venues may be established or consented in the Stratford district.

Submissions should be received by Council no later than Monday 12 June 2023 at 4.00pm. Council will then convene a hearing, which it intends to hold on Tuesday 25 July 2023, at which time any party who wishes to do so can present their submission in person. Equal weight will be given to written and oral submissions.

Submissions can be completed by:

- Online at Stratford.govt.nz/HaveYourSay
- Mailing to the Stratford District Council, PO Box 320, Stratford 4352
- Emailing Submissions@stratford.govt.nz

Submissions should be addressed to:

Director – Environmental Services
Stratford District Council
P O Box 320
Stratford 4352

B Sutherland
Director - Environmental Services

Draft Annual Plan 2023/24 open for feedback

Last week Council adopted the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 for public feedback.

You're invited to have a say on the Plan before 28 May 2023, and can do so by completing an online survey.

While there are no significant changes to the Annual Plan as set out for year 3 of the Long Term Plan 2021-31, SDC has needed to adjust areas of expenditure and revenue in order to keep rates as low as feasible in today's economic climate.

The two main changes to the Plan being increases and new fees added to the Fees and Charges Schedule, and a proposed increase to the Forestry Differential Roding Rate.

District Mayor Neil Volzke says Council has worked hard to reduce the rates increase to 8.91%, after starting with a rise of 16.5% earlier in the year. "We've spent a long time closely inspecting budget lines and user fees with Council staff to see where savings can be made and additional revenue gained."

"We're very aware of the cost-of-living burden on our community. Much like the increases we all see at the supermarket checkout, Council is seeing this inflation pressure in our day-to-day service delivery as well," he says.

"Unfortunately, a significant portion of this is out of our control. It's our role to make changes where possible without sacrificing the work needed to create a district that people want to live, work, play and invest in."

"We're now asking the community to review the changes we've made. I encourage everyone to jump online and complete the short survey," says Mayor Volzke.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2023/24

FEES & CHARGES SCHEDULE

We've reviewed several areas of our fees and charges, to best reflect the current cost of delivering these services. Key areas with change include:

- Dog registrations and licensing
- Building control services
- Cemeteries
- Health licenses
- Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre

STRATFORD
HAVE
YOUR
SAY



SCAN ME

FORESTRY DIFFERENTIAL RODING RATE

In 2022 Council adopted a new roading targeted rate differential which meant that a fixed portion (\$100,000) of the total roading rate requirement was collected from ratepayers who own property primarily used for the purpose of forestry, excluding indigenous or protected forestry uses.

For the 2023/24 rating year, Council is proposing to increase the fixed portion to \$250,000 per annum.

The suggested increase is because of the growing costs associated with fixing rural roads damaged by the forestry industry. This year SDC has had to reallocate a significant amount of the roading budget to remediation of rural roads damaged by forestry harvesting. For the year to date, approximately \$975,225 has been spent directly on reinstating roads due to forestry damage, which is part funded by Waka Kotahi. There may still be further costs incurred for the year to 30 June 2023.

Reallocating a higher amount of the roading targeted rate to be collected from forestry properties is considered to be a fairer approach for all Stratford district ratepayers.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 closes on Sunday 28 May 2023.

Visit Stratford.govt.nz/HaveYourSay for details and to complete the feedback survey. You can also email Feedback@stratford.govt.nz or request a hard copy survey from Council.

Feedback will be considered by Council in June prior to adopting the final Annual Plan 2023/24 before 30 June 2023.

Stratford's flag competition asks - "what does Puanga mean to you?"



We're excited to announce the start of our Design a Flag competition for tamariki and rangatahi, in the lead-up to Puanga festivities!

Come July, the winning flags will fly down the town's main street to celebrate the start of the Māori New Year.

Chade Julie, SDC Acting Director – Community Services, says flag designs should reflect what Puanga means to the person creating it.

"We're always amazed at what our talented young people create. So much thought and creativity go into the designs and the results are a wonderful celebration of our community and te ao Māori," says Chade.

"It's been a great way for our kura to engage with kids around Puanga in a fun and creative way."

Visit Stratford.govt.nz/Puanga or the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre for entry forms. The competition is open to young people aged from 5 to 18 years of age and they'll have until 4.30pm on Friday 9 June 2023 to submit their design.

Puanga is Taranaki's celebration of the Māori New Year, known as Matariki across much of the motu. Festivities in Whakaahurangi will conclude with a free community event in Prospero Place on Thursday 13 July.

"Puanga is a time to reflect on the past, acknowledge those who have come before, and then look out to the future. We hope to be celebrating Puanga together as a community for years to come," says Chade.

"Might be a good flag design in that!"

Library and Visitor Information

Phone 06 765 5403

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm

Sunday & 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

Wai O Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre

Phone 06 765 6275

Monday – Friday 6.00am – 6.30pm

Saturday 7.00am – 5.00pm

Sunday and Public Holidays

10.00am – 5.00pm

Glockenspiel

Performs Daily at 10.00am, 1.00pm, 3.00pm and 7.00pm

17 May 2023