# **Newsline Issue 594 – 16 May 2025**

# Let’s talk about the Plan for 2025/2026

We are consulting on our 2025/2026 draft Annual Plan from 12 May until 25 May, notable for a rates revenue rise of 8.8% and changes made to a number of initiatives to limit further impact on ratepayers.

The proposed rise in rates revenue has been set within a challenging financial landscape where we saw changes in costs that would drive an increase of 13.5% unless action was taken.

Since that rise was forecast in October last year, Elected Members have been working with staff to identify further savings. A number of initiatives, changes and efficiencies were identified enabling a proposed 8.8% revenue rise.

The 10-Year Plan 2024 – 2034 established the plans and costs for 10 years from 2024/2025. For the 2025/2026 year, it anticipated an overall rates revenue increase of 7% with a net debt of $290m.

Since then, the increased costs for 2025/2026 have become apparent, including the Government-directed water-related costs as late as last month which have added a further $0.8 million. Other higher than anticipated costs include interest rates, funding future renewals of our assets (due to increased asset valuations), electricity costs, and maintenance costs.

To limit the impact on the rates increase for the 2025/2026 year, we have proposed increasing most fees and charges by 10%, as well as reducing staff costs by $1.4 million.

In addition, we conducted a business review process to identify other opportunities to reduce costs and/or increase revenue across the Council which have amounted to further savings of $3.75 million.

Have your say at shape.tasman.govt.nz/annual-plan.

# Cost-cutting refined

We have reviewed and revised some of the cost-cutting measures agreed to by Elected Members in March and decided to wind some back.

Areas of our operations have been under the microscope as we look at ways of reducing expenditure, and at the March meeting, Councillors voted eight to six in favour of recommendations to make changes in some service areas.

Following feedback from many sectors of our community, it’s been decided that some suggested savings now won’t be included in the operational cost-saving programme.

This means rubbish bins will remain in reserves in the meantime, but we will be rationalising their placement over the next year or two. Doggy doo bag dispensers will also remain as they are at this time.

The frequency of public toilet cleaning will remain unchanged but will be adjusted based on seasonal demand. Public toilets will remain open, with local sports clubs taking over responsibility for them at Wakefield Domain and for one in Jubilee Park.

Our Facilities and Reserves team will continue to evaluate potential cost savings across their activities as part of standard operational management.

Some areas that will change include the frequency of street sweeping to be reduced; for example, fortnightly town centre sweeping will become monthly, and sweeping of other urban areas will generally be twice per year rather than three times.

Rural roadside mowing will be paused except for safety/critical sightlines, and urban landscape mowing will be reduced.

Longer-term changes in levels of service where potential savings can be made are being considered as part of the Annual Plan 2025/2026 deliberations.

# Paid parking proposed for Richmond

Investigations are underway into the potential introduction of paid all-day parking in central Richmond.

Most of our parking will remain free and this includes all our time-restricted short-term spaces which play an important role in encouraging visits to local businesses and services, supporting retailers, and keeping the town centre active.

We are looking to introduce paid parking for our off-street, all-day parks in Richmond. Currently, there are 165 all-day spaces in the Harkness-Petrie, Papps and Warring Carparks, which is about 20% of the Council-owned parking in Richmond.

The proposed change is about creating a fairer system – one that better supports our local economy and ensures the cost of maintaining our carparks is shared more evenly.

Each year, we spend around $150,000 maintaining off-street carparks across Tasman. This includes resurfacing, cleaning, lighting, signage, line marking, and general repairs. Up until now, these costs have been covered by rates.

A user-pays approach for our all-day parking spaces will help cover those maintenance costs and may free up some of those spaces, which are often occupied all day by commuters, for short-term visitors and shoppers – the people who help drive economic activity and vibrancy in our town centre.

Payment would likely be made by plate meter machines and/or a smartphone app. We are trying to keep costs low, so we are looking at charging $1 an hour up to a maximum of $4 a day.

The first hour would be free with no charges on Saturday, Sunday, or public holidays.

Share your thoughts at shape.tasman.govt.nz/richmond-parking-review until Sunday 25 May.

# Wensley Road done and dusted

A significant milestone has been reached in Richmond, with the completion of a major upgrade to one of the town’s most important transport links. After a period of intensive work, Wensley Road is now fully reopened, stronger, safer, and better equipped to meet the needs of our growing community.

Built more than 50 years ago, Wensley Road was never designed to handle the 8,500 vehicle movements it now sees daily.

Years of wear and increased demand meant urgent action was required.

The scale of the project was substantial, involving the removal of old coal tar layers, protection and shifting of underground fibre and power services, structural road strengthening, and precision work to widen key sections. Despite the challenges, collaboration with residents ensured the smooth delivery of a complex job.

So, what have we got?

Parts of the road have been widened to include dedicated cycle lanes, improving safety and encouraging this cheap and healthy form of transport.

With a stronger wider road, the need for speed cushions has been eliminated. The speed limit has now returned to 50km/h for the entire length.

Key sections of Wensley Road have been strengthened, reducing the frequency of ongoing maintenance in the future and a durable, smooth asphalt surface ensures a better driving experience for all users, and reduced road noise for residents.

This upgrade marks a major step forward for Richmond’s transport infrastructure and reflects our commitment to building safer, smarter roads.

Wensley Road is now truly fit for the future – done and dusted.

# Bypass for Lower Queen Street bridge build

Lower Queen Street will remain open during the major construction project for a new bridge near the intersection of Headingly Lane.

The bridge is required to provide additional channel capacity for Borck Creek to cater for future stormwater flows.

In February, Elected Members discussed the two options for traffic management during the construction.

The first option was for the construction of a temporary bypass road around the construction site, while the second option was for a total closure of that section of Lower Queen Street for the full duration of the bridge construction.

A Traffic Impact Assessment and an Economic Impact Assessment report were completed to assist with decision making on the ‘full closure’ or ‘bypass’ options, which showed unfavourable outcomes of a full closure.

The views of residents, businesses and commuters were canvased in a special poll with overwhelming support of the temporary bypass of close to 75% of respondents.

Even though a decision to build the temporary bypass has been made, there will still be a need to close the road two or three short times during the construction project.

Work on the new bypass road is expected to begin within the next two months, followed by the start of bridge construction.

# Let’s talk Richmond parks and reserves

Our parks, reserves, and open spaces are at the heart of what makes the Tasman community such a great place to live, work, and play. They support our health, wellbeing, and connection to nature – and we want to make sure they’re looked after for years to come.

We’ve put together a draft Reserve Management Plan for the Richmond Ward to guide how these spaces will be cared for and improved over the next 10 years. Now, we’d love to hear your thoughts. It features questions about things like building bicycle pump tracks, additional parking in some areas, and even the potential relocation of a skatepark.

The draft Plan includes proposals for 133 reserves and 13 park areas across Richmond Ward. These include places that are officially designated as reserves, as well as other important community green spaces. You’ll find a summary of the key changes and some other specific questions about a dozen reserves online.

This draft Plan has been shaped in partnership with Te Tauihu iwi and the Hope Reserve Management Committee. Over summer 2023/2024, we also invited the wider community to share their ideas, and that feedback helped inform the draft Plan.

You can view the draft Plan online at shape.tasman.govt.nz/rmp-reviews or see a printed version at our Richmond Library or Service Centre. We’d love to hear from you – please share your feedback by Wednesday 16 July.

# Disc golf coming to Aranui Park

Be on the lookout for flying objects hovering across Māpua this King’s Birthday weekend – we’re expecting a close encounter of the fun kind.

The Nelson Tasman Disc Golf Club will be hosting a pop-up disc golf day at Aranui Park on Sunday 1 June.

The event will double as the club’s monthly Cup Competition Day and is an opportunity for the community to experience a sport growing in popularity, while also testing the appetite for a potential permanent course installation at the park.

Club members will bring their own temporary baskets and tee pads to create the proposed course. Once the club event is complete (around 11.00 am), the course will remain set up till 2.00 pm so you can come down, borrow a disc, have a chat with members of the club for some tips and tricks and try out the proposed course for yourselves.

Disc golf is a relatively inexpensive sport to get into, and most courses are free to play. It’s also a sport for all ages and abilities and is a great way to get outside and be active while having fun.

Discussions have been taking place with our Reserves team with a view to consider permanently installing an inclusive, nine-hole, beginner-friendly disc golf course.

Aranui Park is already well-known as a great spot for all-ages recreation, and the club believes this would be a valuable community asset and fits well with the Councils view of multi-use spaces.

More information can be found at nelsontasmandiscgolf.co.nz.

# What’s your plan for Waimea River Park?

The Waimea River Park is made up of over 409 hectares of land along the margins of the Waimea River and lower reaches of the Wai-iti and Wairoa Rivers.

The area’s potential for a variety of uses has been an ongoing discussion point amongst the community and in response to this, we recognised the area as a park in 2010, subsequently creating a management and development plan.

The plan identified a range of policies and actions to progress additional outcomes such as nature conservation, historic resource protection and public recreational use. It also continued to provide for commercial activities including gravel extraction, processing, and grazing.

A review of the plan was endorsed by the Council in May 2024, with a view of incorporating increased engagement with Te Tauihu iwi, as well as significant legislative, environmental, recreational and economic changes that have occurred in the area since 2010.

Following initial engagement in late 2024, a draft Waimea River Park Management Plan has been created and is now out for feedback from 14 May to 11 June 2025, with hearings and deliberations expected soon after.

You can share your thoughts and learn more about the plan’s progress at shape.tasman.govt.nz/waimea-river-park.

# Chorus cabinet art coming to an end

With changes to budgets, the Chorus Cabinet Art initiative that we have been involved in for several years is now ending.

The telecommunications company has decided to focus its sponsorship efforts in other areas. However, that hasn’t stopped the latest round of artistic works being completed for our community to enjoy.

1: Between Motueka and Tasman Village on SH60/The Coastal Highway, you’ll find a cabinet decorated by Julina Ismail with the title ‘Love’. Malaysian-born Julina says art has been a passion since she was young. She says this painting is about love, in a way it’s a grieving painting. “As sad as it sounds, love is portrayed in this painting because no matter how difficult life can be, love will keep you together and strong. Love endures through sadness and happiness. However, I’m more than happy for people to interpret this painting in their own way.”

2: In Wakefield, there’s a nosey cow worth checking out. Artist Darren Richardson has created a close-up amusing cow sticking its nose through the fence. ‘Nosey’ is situated near 3 Genia Drive, Wakefield. Darren says he took a photo of a cow sticking his nose through a fence years ago and had always planned to paint it one day. “This Chorus communications box was the perfect opportunity for that.”

3: Waimea College student Emma Egan used the cabinet on Tait Street in Ruby Bay as her canvas to showcase little blue penguins with a work called ‘Love Our Little Blues’. She says we have a little blue penguin (kororā) sanctuary in our region. The purpose of this sanctuary is to preserve, protect and enhance our local population of little blue penguins. “My artwork will help spread awareness of the sanctuary’s work and bring some life and colour to the local community.”

4: Outside 51 Pitfure Road in Wakefield, you’ll find a piece of cabinet artwork by Goothbug. Goothbug says his work titled ‘Rākaunui’ reflects a day of the Māori lunar calendar (Maramataka) when the moon is full. “It’s a day of energy and clarity, a good day for planting and planning, but not so great for hunting eels and fishing.”

5: ... and for a bit of bliss, you’ll find it on Alexander Bluff Road near Ngātīmoti.Thijs de Koning created ‘Blissfull Bluff’. The artwork depicts a little community of travellers congregating along the Motueka riverbank at Alexander Bluff Reserve. Tents are pitched and camper vans are carefully parked, doors are opened, dinners cooked, guitars are played, and books read. “Ahhh, bliss at the bluff. Where are you at?” Thijs offers an invitation, “Come and join us!”

# Shine a light on Tasman’s quiet champions

Every community has them – dedicated locals who roll up their sleeves and pitch in without ever seeking the spotlight. They coach our kids’ sports teams, plant trees in local reserves, or ensure community groups run like clockwork.

They don’t do it for praise – but we think they deserve some. Our Outstanding Community Service Awards are our way of saying thank you to the volunteers who’ve made a real difference over the years.

If you know someone who’s been giving back for 20 years or more – without fanfare or fuss – why not nominate them for this special honour? Let’s celebrate the people who help make Tasman such a great place to live!

Nominees must live in the Tasman District and have a long-standing record of voluntary service across one or more community activities.

Nominations close on Sunday 31 August, and the awards will be presented at a ceremony later in the year.

Nomination forms are available at any of our service centres or online at tasman.govt.nz/community-awards.

# Worth a dam look

There’s a lot of work to be done behind the scenes, but if all goes well there’s a chance people may be able to experience the sheer scale of the Waimea Community Dam first-hand. A potential open day could be on the cards if the logistics can be worked through.

Those who have been privileged enough to visit the site commonly comment on the incredible scale of the structure and it’s difficult for other people to imagine what the dam looks like without public access.

Of the land surrounding the reservoir, 9.9 hectares of Mt Richmond Forest Park is managed by the Department of Conservation, which includes an easement granted to the Tasman District Council. The rest of the surrounding land is owned by five different parties including three individuals, iwi authority Ngāti Koata Trust and Tasman Pine Forests Ltd.

Challenges that need to be overcome before opening the area up to the public include improving cellphone coverage, providing toilet facilities, and getting permission from landowners for access.

With the dam in action this summer, it was the first time in many years we were able to stave off implementing water restrictions on our urban supplies.

Mayor Tim King says there was a commitment for the Council to consider the future of public access as part of the land process, so we will try and follow through on that commitment. If all the logistics can be sorted, people may be able to visit the Waimea Community Dam in mid to late 2026.

# Pipe project provides resilience

New water storage tanks at the top of Totara View Road have provided added resilience to the water supply in that part of Wakefield.

The Wakefield Watermain Renewals Project was completed in four stages. Over the past few months, a new pipeline has been laid connecting the new tanks with the main supply in Wakefield Village. Four additional tanks have been added to the four existing supply tanks.

The job included installing more than one and a half kilometres of new pipes, including a challenging section up a steep bank and through a cemetery. Additionally, 51 house connections and nine connections to side streets were completed during the project.

But sometimes we get queries from residents who aren’t sure whether they’re on the Eighty-Eight Valley scheme or the Wakefield Urban scheme.

The easiest way to know is if you are on a restrictor or trickle feed and don’t get a six-monthly water bill, then you’re connected to the Eighty-Eight Valley system.

If you don’t have a restrictor or trickle feed and do get a six-monthly water bill, you’re part of the Wakefield Urban scheme.

# Help guide the design of Māpua

We agree that Māpua’s character and identity should be maintained and carefully considered for new development within it.

Those who live and breathe Māpua know it better than anyone else, so we are now inviting feedback to help us define the essence and character of Māpua. We are progressing work on a Design Guide to inform new development within the urban area of Māpua.

To assist with this, we have prepared a questionnaire, with topics intended to help us determine what policy mechanisms might be best suited to respond to identified issues and opportunities.

You can answer the questionnaire online at shape.tasman.govt.nz/mapua-masterplan, as well as in person at our Richmond and Motueka Service Centres. You can also email it back to environmentplan@tasman.govt.nz. Feedback is open until Friday 30 May.

To help with your understanding, there will be a public meeting on Monday 19 May from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm at the Māpua Community Hall at 72 Aranui Road.

This meeting will involve a presentation of what feedback we’ve heard to date and invite additional comments or clarifications to make sure we’ve heard and understood.

The overall Māpua Masterplan process is still rolling on – deliberations are scheduled to take place on 5 June, while the adoption of the Masterplan will happen as planned later this year.

# Tradescantia: a pest plant under attack

There have been some promising results from recent biocontrol work taking place in our region, where some fast-moving fungi and hungry beetles have combined to snuff out a pest named ‘wandering willie’.

Tradescantia, also known as wandering willie, is an invasive weed from Brazil and northern Argentina that has become a significant ecological threat in New Zealand. It spreads aggressively, forming dense mats on the forest floor that smother native vegetation and prevent the germination of native seeds.

Unlike in its native habitat, all Tradescantia plants in New Zealand are male and do not produce seeds. However, they readily propagate vegetatively – that is each node along a stem can take root, allowing the plant to establish new growth with ease.

Recognising the threat posed by this invasive species, we launched a biocontrol program in 2015 to introduce natural enemies that specifically target Tradescantia. Three species of host-specific beetles – each feeding exclusively on Tradescantia – were released at infestation sites across Tasman and Nelson to curb its spread.

Building on this effort, another biocontrol agent was introduced in 2019. Initially released in a Nelson reserve, the fungus has since been introduced to sites in Richmond, Golden Bay, and Māpua. The results have been very promising, as the fungus has been detected on Tradescantia plants several kilometres away from the original release sites, demonstrating its strong natural dispersal capability.

Although Tradescantia is a fast-growing pest plant, the combined efforts of the beetles and the fungus are significantly weakening its vitality in sites where all four agents have been released.

As these biocontrol agents take hold, they reduce the plant’s dominance, creating light gaps where native seedlings can begin to establish once more. This marks a hopeful step toward restoring balance in affected ecosystems.

# Motueka Community Board

It has been an exciting yet challenging term for our enthusiastic Board, navigating cumbersome bureaucracy, hopeful for positive change only to be confronted by layers and detours.

Regardless of hiccups and hindrances along the way, we are proud of the resilience and tenacity of our Board (which also includes the three Motueka Ward Councillors). We have remained steadfast in our commitment and contribution to community outcomes through advocacy, projects, enquiry and representation.

One such initiative the Board have focused on is community wellbeing solutions. Keep an eye out in the Motueka Paper Plus store window for our homelessness awareness campaign with drop boxes at Community House and Motueka Library for the opportunity to ‘ask for or offer help’ with the aim of supporting a conscious, connected, and caring community.

With elections coming up, we encourage anyone considering standing for the Community Board to attend our Board meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at 4.00 pm at the Motueka Library. You can also contact an Elected Member via email at mcb@tasman.govt.nz.

Some considerations of being an Elected Member:

* There’s lots to learn and lots of information to digest.
* Availability – it requires more time than you may expect.
* Impartiality – representing a diverse community.

# What’s On In Tasman

### It’s on in Nelson Tasman

To keep up with events happening across the region, visit nelsontasman.nz/events.

### Motueka Repair Café

Saturday 17 May, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, Ānwaniwa Room at Parklands School.

Offering free repairs to reduce waste and help the environment. Bring your broken items to be assessed and hopefully repaired by a friendly team of volunteers.

### Second Hand Sunday

Sunday 18 May, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm.

Second Hand Sunday is a fun way for Nelson and Tasman residents to declutter and re-home unwanted household goods for free. If you have items you want to give away, simply register online before 10.00 am Friday 16 May to be included on the list of participating addresses. Print off a poster to put on your mailbox and put your items on your driveway at 9.00 am on the day. A list and map of participating addresses will be available to download from 12.00 pm Friday 16 May. Check out the map to plan your fossicking route and pick up some free second-hand items! For more information and to sign up, go to tasman.govt.nz/shs.

### Wellby Talking Café

Wednesday 21 May, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Motueka Library Te Noninga Kumu.

Come along for a relaxed cuppa to start your journey connecting with others who enjoy the same things. You can pop in for a quick chat or stay for a longer conversation with friendly people.

### Age positive series

Monday 26 May – Thursday 29 May, Motueka Library Te Noninga Kumu.

Motueka Library is holding six events focusing on staying well through small achievable changes, including respiratory and dietary specialists, advance care, and green prescription facilitators. Please visit tasmanlibraries.govt.nz or contact Motueka Library for further details.

### Community quilt project

Monday 24 March – Monday 30 June, all Tasman District Libraries.

All ages, all sewing abilities, all welcome. Pop into your local library to pick up an entry form and take part in this creative community project. Our theme for this quilt is threading connections/tuia te hononga, a celebration of the connection you feel with Te Tauihu/Top of the South.

# Newsline Notices

### Keep Richmond Beautiful AGM

The Keep Richmond Beautiful Annual General Meeting will be held at 3.00 pm on Friday 23 May in the Tasman District Council Chamber. All welcome.

### Moturoa / Rabbit Island upland game bird hunts

Public access to the eastern half of Moturoa / Rabbit Island will be closed for three days this winter while an organised game bird hunt takes place. Please note that the closure will include all the beachfront at the eastern end. There will be no hunting on the beach or within 100 metres of the high tide mark.

Fish & Game organise the hunts, which are permitted under the Moturoa / Rabbit Island Reserve Management Plan. For more details contact Jacob Lucas at Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game on jlucas@fishandgame.org.nz.

The hunts will take place between 7.00 am – 2.00 pm on Saturday 31 May (rain day Sunday 1 June), Saturday 21 June (rain day Sunday 22 June), and Saturday 19 July (rain day Sunday 20 July).

### Alcohol applications

Visit tasman.govt.nz/alcohol-notices to see the latest alcohol licence applications.

### Rating information available

Our rating information database includes information such as the property location, valuation number, capital and land value as of 1 July 2024, and current year’s rates – remember the names of property owners and ratepayers are not listed in the database. Rating information is available for you to view at any Council Service Centre during office hours. You can also view this information online at tasman.govt.nz/rates-search.

Notice given under section 28, Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

### Consultation corner

We have a number of topics currently open for feedback. Visit shape.tasman.govt.nz to have your say on:

* Local Water Done Well
* Residents Survey
* Annual Plan 2025/2026
* Waimea River Park
* Māpua Design Guide
* Richmond paid parking
* Reserve Management Plans – Richmond and Murchison

### Council hui

Meetings will take place in person and via Zoom. For details, the Zoom link and recordings of previous meetings visit tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Motueka Community Board  
Tuesday 20 May, 4.00 pm. Motueka Library, Wallace Street.

Enterprise Committee  
Wednesday 21 May, 1.30 pm.

Golden Bay Rec Park Management Committee (Annual Plan Hearing/Deliberations)  
Thursday 22 May, 9.30 am. Rec Park Centre, 2032 Tākaka Valley Highway.

Regional Accessibility Forum   
Monday 26 May, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm.

Tasman District Council (Fees and Charges and Development Contributions Policy)  
Tuesday 27 May, 9.30 am.

Animal Control Subcommittee  
Tuesday 27 May, 1.30 pm. No public forum.

Nelson-Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit  
Wednesday 28 May, 9.30 am. Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.

Operations Committee  
Thursday 29 May, 9.30 am.