# **Newsline Issue 597 – 27 June 2025**

# In-house option for Tasman’s Local Water Done Well implementation

Tasman’s future management of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services has taken a step forward, with our Council unanimously opting for an in-house business unit structure to implement requirements of the Government’s Local Water Done Well programme.

This unit would be managed separately from other Council operations in a ringfenced capacity. While still part of the Council, it would be independently monitored to ensure high environmental and customer standards.

The Council has also agreed in principle to establish an internal advisory committee with the option of external members to help provide operational oversight of the three waters activities and provide advice to the Council.

A report will be provided to the Council that includes options for membership, terms of reference and associated costs.

Elected Members have expressed a desire for staff to continue discussions with other councils regarding options for greater alignment of services, information, and procurement, to increase efficiency savings across our water, wastewater and stormwater functions.

Two options involving setting up a Water Council Controlled Organisation, each governed by an independent board, were also considered. However, it was acknowledged that an in-house unit operating within its agreed parameters allowed better opportunities for community involvement.

The next steps in the process require a Water Service Delivery Plan to be completed and submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025. It will then be shared with the Commerce Commission, with a view towards the Plan being approved and ready for implementation by November 2025.

It is intended that the internal business unit will formally function from 1 July 2027 to align with our next 10-Year Plan.

# Community input helps shape final Māpua Masterplan

After nearly two years of extensive community engagement, the Strategy and Policy Committee has approved the Māpua Masterplan and Māpua Catchment Management Plan for formal adoption.

Elected Members voted 12–1 in favour at the deliberations hearing earlier this month. Formal adoption by the full Council is expected on 31 July 2025.

This approval marks a major milestone and reflects the valuable contributions made by the Māpua and Ruby Bay communities throughout the process. Community feedback played a key role in shaping the final plan – from public meetings and surveys to written submissions, a wide range of ideas and perspectives were considered.

While we recognise the plan may not satisfy everyone, we believe it represents a balanced approach that meets future growth needs while honouring community aspirations.

Key outcomes in the Masterplan include:

* Securing Kite Park’s future as a recreational area
* Preserving the cultural heritage of Grossi Point
* Supporting diverse housing options to accommodate future residents
* Enhancing recreational linkages while protecting natural habitats

Community support for housing diversity was especially clear in feedback and is reflected in the final plan.

Although the Masterplan is a long-term guide, we are preparing to implement key actions, including initiating a change to the Tasman Resource Management Plan in August 2025. This will involve collaboration with landowners and completing a heritage assessment of Grossi Point.

We will continue to provide regular updates as implementation progresses. Thank you to everyone in the Māpua and Ruby Bay communities for your engagement, patience, and ideas – your input has helped shape a plan that reflects both community values and future needs.

# Kingsland winter planting underway

For the past three years, we’ve carried out a heap of work to make Kingsland Forest Park one of the best places to visit in Tasman, particularly if you enjoy a bit of exercise and exploration.

Kingsland Forest Park, which is on the flanks of the Barnicoat Range and forms the backdrop to Richmond, has undergone a major transformation as part of our plan to redevelop the area.

Our plantation forestry block is progressively being retired. The forest has been partially harvested, and the harvested areas replanted with a mix of species.

To help move closer to this transition, the Kingsland winter planting programme is underway for another season. Between now and the end of August, there will be 34,500 natives planted, which will see all areas harvested since 2020 planted.

The planting programme complements the wider work that we’re carrying out to improve the Kingsland hillside and its surrounds.

There have also been enhancements and upgrades to the walking and cycling tracks on the hill, the installation of three new park benches, 10 new way-finding signs as well as putting in a toilet facility.

The panoramic views of Tasman Bay that you can experience from the hillside tracks and vantage points don’t need much maintenance – they tend to take care of themselves. However, getting Kingsland Forest to its present state has required many hours of effort from our staff, contractors, plant nurseries, and volunteers. Thanks to everyone who has supported the work so far.

# New reservoir on track to secure Richmond’s water supply

Work is well underway on Richmond’s newest reservoir, with construction progressing quickly at the Hill Street South site near Sunview Heights.

Once complete, the new 2,500 cubic metre water storage tank will be a key part of our growing water supply network. It will connect to the existing Champion Road reservoir and help ensure a reliable supply for one of Richmond’s fastest-growing areas.

This $4.9 million project, which got underway in February, is all about future-proofing our water infrastructure. The additional storage will improve the network’s resilience and support the needs of our expanding community.

Construction is expected to wrap up early next year, and there’s more to look forward to – plans are in place to develop a shared walking and cycling path alongside the nearby Borck Creek, eventually linking through to Paton Road.

This is just one of the ways we’re investing in essential infrastructure to keep up with growth and make Richmond an even better place to live.

# New tank for Motueka treatment plant

We are in the early stages of a new project at the Motueka Water Treatment Plant. We are planning to replace the eight existing water storage tanks on this site in Parker Street with a single, modern storage tank.

The 3.5-million-dollar treatment plant was commissioned three years ago. It uses multiple water treatment barriers and follows the NZ Drinking Water Standards and Water Services Act requirements for the treatment/removal of protozoa and bacteria. It includes UV treatment, cartridge filtration, and residual chlorine disinfection.

The proposed new tank will hold around 1,000 cubic metres of water and will be approximately 8 metres wide and 8 metres high, with a 2-metre antenna on top. This upgrade will help future-proof Motueka’s water supply and improve the overall resilience of the system.

This site provides water storage for much of Motueka, and the current capacity is lower than what is recommended for a town of this size. The new tank will also improve how the plant operates by maintaining more consistent pressure.

It will increase emergency storage in case of temporary disruptions like earthquakes, power outages, or water quality issues, and provide additional supply to meet high water demand, especially during events such as firefighting.

We’re expecting construction to begin early next year.

# Transport Choices wraps up in Motueka

The final projects from the Motueka Transport Choices funding have been completed.

In 2022, the Labour-led government made funding available to councils for transport enhancements in various areas.

Their vision was to make it easier for people to use alternative transport options like cycling and walking instead of relying solely on vehicles.

The money was used in Motueka for crossings and intersection upgrades, as well as the construction of new footpaths outside Te Āwhina Marae.

Now the last items of work for the Motueka Transport Choices project are done. A bike stand has been installed at Decks Reserve and a bike shelter has been installed at the Motueka Recreation Centre, with the existing recreation centre bike stand being relocated to the netball courts at the back of the centre.

# Firewood cheques presented

Thanks to the success of our recent charity firewood day, two local organisations have each received a $10,000 boost to support their important work in our community.

With 200 tickets sold, the proceeds have been shared between Nelson Tasman Hospice – who provide specialist palliative care to patients and their whānau – and Nelson Women’s Refuge, who support women and tamariki affected by domestic and family violence.

Mayor Tim King and Chief Executive Leonie Rae presented the symbolic cheques earlier this month. In keeping with the theme, they were mounted on pieces of firewood!

A huge thank you goes to everyone who made the day possible – especially PF Olsen for their on-site support, Steve Thompson Ltd for providing two machines and operators to help load trailers, and Downer for managing traffic like pros.

It was a real team effort, and the result was a win-win for the community.

# Let us show you the money

Looking for money for your community group or organisation but not sure where to start? What does it take to apply for grants? Who do you speak to? What’s the process?

Together with the Department of Internal Affairs and Rata Foundation, we’re running a series of drop-in sessions so you can learn what funds are available, how to apply, and find out about other resources that may be available.

You’ll be able to speak to staff from these organisations about your projects to find out how funding may help you and your group make a difference in your community.

If you want tips about making a good funding application or help with your application form, then this session could also be useful to you. The sessions are:

* Tākaka: Wednesday 2 July 10.00 am –12.00 pm, 88 Commercial Street.
* Motueka: Wednesday 2 July, 2.30 pm –4.30 pm, Motueka Recreation Centre, Old Wharf Road.
* Richmond: Wednesday 9 July, 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street.

These sessions are free, open to everyone, and you don’t need to register.

# Money matters and online safety

Next month, we’re holding a couple of special events focused on our senior community members.

Our Positive Ageing forum in Richmond is going to look at financial wellbeing. Money matters aren’t always easy to talk about, but conversations are important.

We’re hosting a friendly session with people who truly understand the challenges many seniors face. We’ll have speakers from Aurora Trust – formerly Budget Advice, Ministry of Social Development and other service providers, who will guide you through the support that’s available to you and your whānau.

You can feel free to ask any questions – this is a safe and respectful space for you to feel heard and supported.

Come along and bring a friend to our Richmond Service Centre at 189 Queen Street at 1.00 pm on Monday 14 July.

Then, if you’re worried about online scams or unsure what apps are safe, we can also help at our Forum in Motueka. Join us for a friendly and informative session about online safety for older adults.

You’ll hear easy-to-understand presentations on common scams and how to spot them and get one-on-one support with your phone or tablet – like removing unwanted apps or fixing tech issues.

Bring your questions, bring your device, and bring a friend! Whether you’re curious, confused, or just want to feel more confident online, this event is for you – morning tea’s provided too! See you at the Motueka Over 50s Social Hub, Tuesday 29 July at 10.00 am.

# What a lot of wonderful wetland work

The Tasman Wetlands project continues to make pleasing progress with all aspects of our work exceeding or on track to meet our targets.

With most works ahead of schedule and the overall project moving towards its wind-down phase, we’re now able to look back with some satisfaction on what we have achieved since we started in 2022.

The most notable achievement of completing all eight of our scheduled constructed wetlands in Motueka, Golden Bay, and Nelson Lakes.

Each wetland has been approached with a long-term vision – but in some cases, we’ve already seen some amazing short-term gains – case in point, the improvements we’ve seen at Mangatāwhai/ Black Valley within the last 18 months.

As of May 2025, the key stats over the last three years make for impressive reading:

* The total number of plants in the ground is 124,267 – well on track to meet our target of 150,885.
* We’ve more than exceeded our target for pest plant control hectares, with the 358ha more than doubling our 150ha goal.
* We’ve put in a total of 31,044 hours towards our target of 41,144 hours – which we aim to reach by the project’s end in 2026.

We have also achieved a massive jump in pest animal control, with the 2,149ha completed well above our initial target of 3.5ha. This is due in part to successful magpie control in St Arnaud and Matakitaki.

There’s still plenty of work on the boil over the next few months – we will be sure to keep you up to date with our progress.

Tasman Wetlands projects are made possible through the Ministry for the Environment’s Freshwater Improvement Fund with in-kind contributions from Tasman District Council.

# Fish Passage in finishing chute

Our Fish Passage Remediation project is trickling to a close, with some outstanding results across all parts of the Tasman District – from the valleys of Murchison to Golden Bay’s western wilderness.

In fact, we have met most of our outcomes a year ahead of schedule. As of May 2025:

6,480 assessments have been completed – exceeding our target of 4,350

956 structures remediated to support fish movement

We’ve also been able to train up 14 people, including two rangatahi

This was due to the incredible efforts of our field team from Kūmānu Environmental who not only identified and remediated barriers but played a key role in educating landowners about fish ecology.

This collaborative approach – welcomed by landowners – has helped reconnect habitats and foster long-term community awareness and stewardship. While some sites have shown immediate ecological benefits, the true value of this work will unfold over time.

By remediating in-stream barriers like perched culverts, the work has improved fish passage and supported biodiversity in freshwater ecosystems – bridging the gap until full structure replacements can occur.

As the project enters its final phase, the focus has shifted to collating data and insights gathered over the past few years from assessments and remediation monitoring.

This information will play a crucial role in guiding future decision-making and shaping a regional Fish Passage Action Plan. The legacy of this work will extend well beyond the physical structures remediated – laying the groundwork for long-term freshwater ecosystem restoration across the Tasman District.

# Keep Tasman free from phragmites

Phragmites is an aggressive, fast-growing waterway and wetland pest. It’s one of nine harmful weeds on MPI’s National Interest Pest Response list because it can have devastating impacts on our wetland and estuary environment.

Phragmites is an aquatic perennial grass that grows up to 3m tall with bluish-green leaves which taper to a point.

It looks similar to bamboo, but there are some key differences. While bamboo has woody ringed stems and each bamboo leaf has its own stalk. Phragmites has softer, slim stems and each leaf attaches directly to the stem without a leaf stalk.

Phragmites thrives in damp ground alongside waterways, on estuary edges, and in wetlands. It quickly forms dense stands, and once established is very hard to eradicate.

Phragmites is an exclusion pest in our Regional Pest Management Plan. It is not known to exist in Tasman, but it could sneak in at any time. In 2023, shipping containers brought into Nelson from China were found to contain phragmites seeds. Several locations were exposed when the containers were distributed and opened at different sites.

Fortunately on discovery, quick action was taken to minimise the chance of the seeds spreading into the environment. Regular biosecurity surveillance at each site has so far yielded no germinated phragmites plants, so we are counting our lucky stars.

If you think you have seen phragmites in our region, please contact our Biosecurity team at biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz or give us a call on 03 543 8400. Let’s keep this highly damaging pest out of Tasman!

# Stay warm this winter with an insulation grant

With winter in full swing, it’s this time of year when insulation can make a huge difference to your daily comfort and health.

The Warmer Healthier Homes Te Tauihu Charitable Trust, supported by Council funding, is helping homeowners across Tasman District access insulation grants. Working alongside the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority’s Warmer Kiwi Homes grant scheme, the Trust has helped insulate hundreds of Tasman homes in recent years, with funding still available.

Homeowners who meet the criteria can access 80-100% subsidies for insulation if you own and live in your own home, the home was built before 2008, you live in an approved area OR have a Community Services Card or Gold Card with a CSC endorsement.

To find out if you qualify, contact Absolute Energy on 0800 423 454 or visit absoluteenergy.co.nz.

They will let you know if you are eligible for a subsidy, so ring and book now – their home insulation assessment is free!

Homeowners may also be eligible for a heating grant if they meet the above criteria and don’t already have an existing operational efficient heating appliance in the main living area.

You may have seen our staff out and about giving free advice for warmer homes, if you missed us then check out our website for tips on better woodburning practices and lighting an ‘upside-down’ fire. You’ll find you not only burn cleaner with less smoke, but you’ll have a hotter fire that uses less wood. Visit tasman.govt.nz/good-wood.

# Tasman’s Resource Management Plan is now at your fingertips

After 27 years in paper form, Tasman’s Resource Management Plan (TRMP) has gone digital. Whether at home, in the office, or out in the field, you can now access the plan anytime from anywhere.

The TRMP is Tasman’s roadmap for managing our unique environment – from protecting our freshwater and coastal areas to balancing development with conservation. It is the go-to resource for anyone planning building work, agricultural projects, or coastal developments.

The new online platform makes everything simpler. Smart search functions and filters help you quickly find what you need to know, while integrated linking connects policies with practical requirements. Planning to extend your home or develop a property? The information you need is now just a click away.

This upgrade benefits everyone – planners, developers, real estate professionals, contractors, and everyday residents tackling home projects. It’s the same comprehensive plan, just easier to navigate.

### Need help getting started?

Our Environmental Policy team is running drop-in sessions between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm at our libraries:

* Richmond: Monday 7 July
* Motueka: Tuesday 8 July
* Tākaka: Wednesday 9 July
* Murchison: Thursday 10 July

Questions? Email environmentalplan@tasman.govt.nz.

# Golden Bay Community Board

Local elections are coming up in October, with nominations opening Friday 4 July.

If you are passionate about Mohua and your community, and want to create positive change, you should consider standing for the Council or your local community board. By taking on this role, you’ll have the opportunity to shape local decision-making, advocate for important issues, and represent your community’s needs.

As a council or community board member, you’ll have the opportunity to contribute to developing local policies and strategies, allocating resources and funding, supporting community initiatives and projects, and holding local government accountable.

Sometimes it’s not an easy role, but it is rewarding. You’ll learn many valuable skills, and you get to work with like-minded people and help improve our community.

If you’re committed to creating positive change and want to have a say in your community’s future, you really should consider standing for local government. Your voice matters, and your community needs you. Take the first step and make a difference – stand for the Council or a community board in Tasman.

The nomination process is easy, head to tasman.govt.nz/elections for more information.

# What’s On In Tasman

### Star gazing and sausage sizzle Matariki celebration

Saturday 28 June, 6.00 pm, Wai-iti Dark Sky Reserve, Wakefield.

Enjoy a sausage sizzle and explore the wonders of the night sky with expert astronomers guiding you through the Matariki stars. BBQ at 6.00 pm and stargazing from 7.00 pm. Everyone is welcome, bring your whānau and be part of something special.

### STEAM into winter these school holidays

Tuesday 1 July – Friday 11 July, all Tasman District Libraries.

Escape the winter cold with children’s programmes at your local library. These school holidays, children will discover and learn about winter animals and winter sports, and explore a variety of crafts. There are also special events happening across the District including a ‘soft toy sleepover’ at Tākaka Library. Please visit tasmanlibraries.govt.nz to find the times and details for your local library.

### It’s on in Nelson Tasman

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

### Digi drop-in sessions

* Every Tuesday, 11.00 am – 11.30 am, Motueka Library.
* Every Friday, 11.00 am – 12.00 pm, Tākaka Library.
* Second Tuesday each month, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm, Tapawera Community Library.

Need help with your digital devices? Frustrated with software? Join us for a digi drop-in at your local library. We also host regular pop-up libraries in the community. Find out more at tasmanlibraries.govt.nz/digi-drop-in.

### Community planting days

* Sunday 29 June, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm, Stringer Reserve on Stringer Road.
* Sunday 6 July, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm, Bell Island. Access from Best Island Road.

Join us and the Battle for the Banded Rail at a community planting day – everyone is invited! Please bring gloves, a spade and drinking water. Wear solid footwear and clothes suitable for the weather conditions. Morning tea is provided. For more information, email Kathryn at bandedrail@gmail.com.

# Newsline Notices

### Arts funding closing soon

Our Creative Communities Scheme has funding available to help groups and individuals with arts projects in Tasman – anything from music, theatre, festivals, mural painting, outdoor sculptures, art in public spaces, kapa haka, singing, art workshops and more.

Funded by Creative New Zealand, the Creative Communities Scheme is designed to support opportunities for communities to participate in the arts. Visit tasman.govt.nz/creative-communities to find out more and apply by Thursday 10 July.

### Don’t forget your dog rego

All dogs in Tasman need to be registered every year. Registration fees are $90 for a dog on a property under 1 hectare (urban), $70 if your property is over
1 hectare (rural), and $50 for working dogs kept solely for herding and stock droving. Any dogs that are still unregistered and unpaid on 1 August will incur a 50% penalty fee.

These fees help cover the cost of all dog-related services in Tasman. It’s largely a user-pays system which is only 5% funded from general rates. We have sent out registration forms to currently registered dogs, or you can download
a registration form from our website. Visit tasman.govt.nz/dog-registration.

### Consultation corner

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

* Speed management
* Alcohol in public places
* Responsible camping
* Wakefield Community Hub
* Richmond Reserves Management Plan

### Calling Tasman’s unsung heroes!

If you know someone who works tirelessly in our Tasman communities with little recognition or reward, please get in touch and nominate them for one of our Outstanding Community Service Awards.

Nominees must be residents of Tasman District and have been involved in a range of voluntary activities for 20 years or more. Head to our website – tasman.govt.nz/community-awards – or one of our service centres to fill out a nomination form by 31 August.

### Alcohol applications

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

### 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.

Animal Control Subcommittee
Tuesday 1 July, 1.30 pm. No public forum.

Nelson Tasman CDEM Coordinating Executive Group
Wednesday 2 July, 2.00 pm. Emergency Operations Centre, 28 Oxford Street, Richmond.

Submissions Hearing – Reserve Management Plan Hearing and Deliberations
Thursday 3 July, 9.30 am.

Submissions Hearing – River Park Management Plan Deliberations
Wednesday 9 July, 9.30 am.

Operations Committee
Thursday 10 July, 9.30 am.