# **Newsline Issue 598 – 11 July 2025**

# Responding to weather damage and restoring our communities

It’s been a rough time for the top of the south and Tasman in particular as recent weather has taken a major toll on people, property and infrastructure.

We’re now in the recovery phase and while this is not expected to be a short or simple process, we are committed to providing the necessary support and resources to manage the aftermath.

Council staff and contractors, as well as the Emergency Management personnel across the region, have been working tirelessly since the initial heavy rain on Friday 27 June.

The damage has been extensive and has significantly affected residents and businesses who are now in the process of cleaning up and restoring their properties.

Our local roading network has also been seriously impacted by flooding and landslips, with at least 65 closures reported in the days after the initial rainfall and damage to seven bridges. Sections of state highways were also affected, cutting off the Nelson Tasman region and requiring long detours for some journeys.

As we continue to clear, assess and repair these sites, we ask that everyone exercise patience and care while travelling.

On Friday 27 June, most of our rain gauge sites recorded more than 100mm, with data collected in the 48 hours to Sunday 29 June showing more than 300mm falling in the Tākaka and Aorere Valleys of Golden Bay.

Data from our river gauges in the lower Motueka River at both the Woodstock and Woodmans flow recorded a 1% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability). In more colloquial terms, this is known as a 100-year-flood.

The Woodstock recorder has been operating since 1969, and this is the largest flow that it has ever recorded, exceeding the previous largest in 1983.

# Mayoral Relief Fund available to help

Emergency Management and Recovery Minister Mark Mitchell, alongside Tasman Mayor Tim King, Nelson Mayor Nick Smith, and Tasman Deputy Mayor Stuart Bryant opened the Mayoral Relief Fund, with the Minister announcing an immediate $100,000 into the fund. A further almost $20,000 has been added to this fund already, thanks to donations by the community.

This fund will help residents to access funds to deal with issues in the immediate term.

If you would like to donate to the Nelson-Tasman Mayoral Relief Fund, please deposit funds into the Tasman District Council bank account: 12-3193-0002048-00. Name: Tasman District Council. Please use the reference “Mayoral Relief Fund”.

For residents who want to apply for the fund, please fill out the form at tasman.govt.nz/mayoral-relief-fund. Please do not be shy or embarrassed to apply.

The fund is open to Nelson City and Tasman District residents, ratepayers or not-for-profit organisations who have suffered financial hardship because of the flood event that began on 26 June 2025.

Financial hardship is different for everyone. This may include things such as difficulty paying for your essential living costs (such as food, medication, and accommodation), or difficulty paying for additional costs that may not be paid for by your insurer (for example clean up and disposal of goods).

The fund provides assistance on a one-off basis for extraordinary circumstances, where real need can be shown. It is a last resort measure when people have exhausted other appropriate sources.

The aim is these grants go some way towards helping alleviate the emotional and financial stress experienced by individuals and families due to the June 2025 flood event.

# Rāhui issued by Te Tauihu iwi

Te Tauihu iwi have placed a rāhui across the entire northern coastline of Te Tauihu o Te Waka-a-Māui following floodwaters rising and causing significant disruptions across the rohe.

The rāhui, which took effect on Saturday 28 June, covers the area from Te Parinui o Whiti (the White Bluffs) in the east, and west to Kahurangi Point, including Aorere and Tai Tapu. It covers all coastlines, river mouths, and floodwaters, and prevents the gathering of seafood and kai in these areas as well as swimming and entering the water.

The rāhui was implemented by the Iwi Emergency Management Rōpū, which works as part of the Nelson Tasman Emergency Operations Centre, with the support of the eight mana whenua iwi of Te Tauihu.

Iwi Emergency Management Rōpū Tikanga Pou lead Shane Graham said the rāhui would remain in place as long as te Taiao dictated.

“It has to be healthy and that could be some time off. It’s sad that we are here again, but that is Tāwhirimātea and what we must do as people of the land is work with that – work with what we are handed.”

The eight iwi have representatives working as part of Emergency Management Operations Centres in both Nelson Tasman and Wairau.

# Night closures for Lower Queen Street

Work on the new bridge over Borck Creek on Lower Queen Street is ramping up, and there will be a series of overnight road closures. Our immediate focus is on the relocation of underground services like water, wastewater, power, and telecommunications.

The new larger bridge will ensure water can flow better during heavy rain, reducing the risk of flooding.

The first road closure will be overnight on Sunday 20 July to relocate several water pipes. The closure will run from 7.00 pm that night until 6.00 am on Monday 21 July.

During this closure, the area west of the bridge as far as the Ravensdown Plant, including the industrial area of Sandeman Road, Artillery Place and Barros Place, will not have water.

Further overnight closures are planned from Monday 21 July until Thursday 24 July and again from Sunday 27 July until Thursday 31 July – each night from 7.00 pm until 6.00 am. During these closures, services will not be affected. The detour route will be via McShane Road.

Meanwhile, the intersection of Headingly Lane and Lower Queen Street is now closed and will remain so until the completion of construction of the new bridge, which is scheduled for mid-next year. Access to the Headingly Centre and Grace Church is now from Estuary Place via the new link road at Saltmarsh Lane.

# Young Driver Education Night – a wheely big success!

The second annual Young Driver Education Night was a huge success, with 58 young drivers from local schools taking part in this valuable learning experience. Four informative sessions were held, with some students also getting the chance to experience a police ride-along.

These Young Driver Nights offer learner drivers a safe and controlled environment to learn how to react to emergency vehicles and interact with emergency personnel in real-life on-road scenarios.

Participants learned how to properly pull over, stop, and check their surroundings when emergency vehicles are approaching. They also navigated a mock accident scene, designed not just for practice but to emphasise the importance of staying focused and avoiding distractions.

Emergency service teams shared valuable insights on the leading causes of serious crashes involving young drivers, such as speeding, distractions, impairment, and inexperience. They also highlighted the life-changing consequences these factors can have on drivers, passengers, and their families.

Parents and participants alike expressed their appreciation for the event, calling it an eye-opening experience that brought awareness to key road safety issues.

In addition to all the learning, the young drivers also experienced what it’s like to be stopped by the police and go through an alcohol checkpoint.

A big thank you goes out to our partners at NZ Police, Fire and Emergency NZ, and St John Ambulance, for making this event possible. We’re already looking forward to bringing this valuable experience back next year!

# Annual Plan adopted with 8.9% rates rise

We have adopted our Annual Plan for the 2025/2026 year. After a well-publicised consultation round, subsequent hearings and deliberations, we adopted the Plan for the coming year, with a rates revenue increase of 8.9%.

From a starting point late last year of 13.5%, Elected Members, with the assistance of staff, have thoroughly reviewed numerous services and fees to limit the predicted rise to the current figure.

Tasman Mayor Tim King says there are only so many levers local government has available to pull to provide the services expected by its communities and those demanded by legislation and regulation in an affordable way.

We have taken advantage of the sale of unencumbered Carbon Credits in reducing the impact of rate increases to the tune of $3 million.

“Some of those levers such as fee increases or cutting services are not popular, but then, nor are rates increases.”

He says, all in all, the Council, with the assistance of its staff, believes we have created a plan that achieves the balance required. The environment is going to get no less challenging throughout the year, but together as an organisation, we will look to provide the services that enable Tasman to grow sustainably.

Tim says the true proof will be in the pudding at the end of the financial year when we’re able to see how closely we can match the budgets and final expenditure and revenue of what’s been planned.

“We’re working on the basis that everyone will do their best to achieve these outcomes.”

# Library to close for construction

Richmond Library is to close for a month while heavy construction work is done during its renovation project.

The $1.3 million upgrade is needed after a detailed seismic assessment last year showed that one part of the building needed structural strengthening to improve its earthquake safety.

Alongside that, we’re taking the opportunity to tackle some long-standing issues like roof sagging and water tightness, so the library remains a safe, dry, and welcoming place for everyone.

Earlier, some Councillors voiced concerns about closing the library for up to four weeks, however after reviewing alternative options, it was decided that a partial opening or a pop-up service during this period would present significant health and safety risks, limit services, and potentially delay the overall programme.

So, the doors will be closed from Saturday 12 July, reopening on Monday 11 August.

But some library services will remain available. Our digital library will still be available 24/7, library Wi-Fi will still be available outside the building, and you can use your Tasman Library card at our Motueka, Tākaka and Murchison libraries.

Tasman residents are also eligible for membership at Nelson City Libraries; you’ll just need to sign up for a Nelson Library card.

Any borrowed items which are due during this time will have their due date adjusted, so you don’t need to worry about getting them back until we reopen on 11 August.

# Wine makes way for water

Old grapevines have been cleared to make way for water, in preparation for one of our largest planned infrastructure projects over the next two decades.

Last year, we bought a block of land at Appleby which formerly belonged to Waimea Estates, next to the overbridge on the Appleby Highway near Three Brothers Corner.

About 10 hectares of grapevines and their support poles have been pulled out so the land can eventually be incorporated into the Richmond South Stormwater Programme.

Once completed, the stormwater project will be one of our largest infrastructure projects, both in terms of budget and physical work. It will involve the construction of more than 10 kilometres of open environmental channels from the Richmond Foothills to Waimea Inlet.

The new stormwater corridor will eventually be developed to look like the Borck Creek area with landscaping, shared paths and plantings.

We’ll be making the vineyard timber support poles into recycled fencing posts to use in the recovery from recent floods.

# A day of connection and inspiration

Last month, 20 rangatahi from across Tasman gathered in Richmond for an inspiring Tasman Youth Council Hui.

Youth Councillors and representatives from Golden Bay, Motueka, Waimea, and Murchison, along with students from Tapawera Area School and members of Multicultural Youth Nelson Tasman, came together for a day filled with activities and discussions.

The day began with a raranga (weaving) activity themed “whiria te tāngata – weave people together,” celebrating Matariki and the importance of building relationships. They created stars using flax, shared tikanga, and connected across the District in a creative and heartfelt way.

Participants were then divided into four workshop groups to explore different areas of Council mahi: Māori Partnerships, Project Delivery, Climate Change and Natural Hazards, and Strategic Policy.

These workshops provided a fantastic opportunity for young people to engage with key Council staff and learn about their roles in supporting the wider community.

A combined workshop followed, exploring “A Day in the Life of a Councillor” and “A Day in the Life of a Youth Councillor”. Here, rangatahi unpacked the unique challenges faced by both groups in their efforts to serve their communities.

Later, Youth Councillors observed a full Council meeting, gaining valuable insight into local government. During lunch, they engaged directly with Mayor Tim King and five Councillors, fostering connections and discussions.

The hui was a wonderful opportunity for rangatahi to connect, learn, and be inspired, showcasing the strength and potential of our youth in contributing to the community.

# Teens take Tasman to the world

Three members of the Tasman Youth Council have been selected to attend the 2025 International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future (IYCPF), next month in Japan!

Molly McManus and Diksha Mahajan of the Waimea Youth Council, and Angus Forrester of the Murchison Youth Council, will represent Tasman in Hiroshima under the Mayor’s for Peace initiative.

The IYCPF brings together young people from across the globe including those from Hiroshima’s sister and friendship cities to explore ideas of global peace, strengthen cross-cultural understanding, and build lasting connections.

Through meaningful discussions and shared experiences, participants work together to promote peace for future generations.

The 10-day event will be held in Hiroshima City from 1 August. This year’s conference holds special significance as it coincides with the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Out of 48 participants selected from 16 countries, we’re incredibly proud that three are from right here in the Tasman Youth Council.

This international gathering is a life-changing opportunity for our young people to grow as global citizens and peace advocates, honouring the past to help build a more peaceful and united future.

This is made possible thanks to these sponsors: Orbit Travel, Air New Zealand, Mayors Discretionary Fund, Nayland School, Murchison Rural Women’s, Murchison Recycling Centre, Club Murchison, and the kid’s parents and grandparents.

# It’s nomination time!

The clock is ticking if you plan to stand for Tasman in this year’s local body elections.

Our Council and two Community Boards in Golden Bay and Motueka, play a critical role in supporting the resilience and prosperity of Tasman.

The role of an Elected Member is two-fold, encompassing governance and representation.

Through effective governance, our Council always acts in the best interest of our community, both for today and future generations, balancing both short and long-term responsibilities.

Representation means space for everyone to have a voice, be considered, and thrive. All ages and stages, all cultures and genders, all abilities and ambitions.

It’s hard work but extremely rewarding. You’ll be responsible for enhancing the wellbeing of the Tasman community and all that it entails – a healthy natural environment, thriving businesses, safe spaces for all, and a place that supports every individual’s sense of belonging.

We need candidates with vision, empathy and commitment – collaborators who can listen to all viewpoints before reaching a considered conclusion. People who can think strategically and make decisions for the long-term wellbeing of their entire community and not just the loudest voices.

Nominations are open until noon on Friday 1 August.

To see our candidate information guide and find out more about nominating someone to stand in Tasman, visit tasman.govt.nz/candidate-information.

# Keeping the land and air clear throughout the year

Some months burn brighter than others when it comes to addressing environmental discharges to land, air, and water in Tasman. That’s why our Compliance and Investigation staff are there to extinguish bad practices throughout the year.

Along with two staff who handle after-hours on-call duties – Kathy Richardson is the sole dedicated officer in this role for the District, a public face for the Council in responding to pollution complaints, monitoring compliance with resource consent holders, and proactively patrolling outdoor burning activities to ensure compliance with our permitted activity rules.

“I love my job, and my passion lies in liaising with a diverse range of community members, implementing the Tasman Resource Management Plan rules and Resource Management Act, and preventing pollution to safeguard our community and environment.”

Adopting a ‘here to help’ approach in her work, Kathy takes pride in collaborating with community members, horticulturists, agriculturalists, hop growers, viticulture and various industries to reduce/cease pollution (discharges) and explore alternative methods for better environmental outcomes.

One of the current engagement projects involves working with industries in Beach Road and Fittal Street in Richmond, concerning stormwater discharges that end up in the Jimmy Lee stream and estuary.

The work even extends to evening patrolling in the winter months around the Richmond Airshed area to ensure compliance with our wood burner regulations.

# Motueka Community Board

Extreme weather events may bring up feelings of our insignificance and fragility, but they also provide a good reminder for preparedness and to be mindful of others who may need support.

Checking on your neighbours, offering what you can to those in need, being extra patient and understanding, and not forgetting our four-legged friends – ensuring your animals have shelter and access to essentials.

Mr Ian Williamson is a regular public forum contributor presenting on a variety of topics to the Motueka Community Board; he sometimes speaks on behalf of concerned residents or highlights news items of interest. He has spoken about the West Coast request to NZTA to ensure three Bailey Bridges are permanently available due to regular wild weather, and that Motueka should ensure one is stationed here due to potential access issues. We found out that the Motueka Bailey Bridge was shipped up north after Cyclone Gabrielle and has not yet returned.

Another idea Mr Williamson raised in 2024 was the option for the Board to get community EPODs – emergency pods, which we investigated but would require someone to project manage additional funding, through commercial sponsorships and grants. It is still an idea the Board would like to see fulfilled as a means of building community resilience.

As a solutions-focused Board, we welcome ideas that support positive outcomes for our unique piece of paradise. Feel free to email the Board at mcb@tasman.govt.nz.

# What’s On In Tasman

### Financial wellbeing for seniors

Monday 14 July, 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm, 189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Money matters aren’t always easy to talk about, but the conversations are important. Come to this friendly Positive Ageing Forum session with people who truly understand the challenges many seniors face. We’ll have speakers from Aurora Trust, Ministry of Social Development and other service providers, who will guide you through the support that’s available and answer questions.

### Wellby Talking Café

Wednesday 16 July, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Motueka Library.

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.

### Motueka Repair Café

Saturday 19 July, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, Motueka Library.

A repair café offers 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.

### Community planting day

Sunday 20 July, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm, Best Island – Greenacres.

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.

### Book groups for adults

* Motueka Library: Babbling Books, first Thursday of the month, 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm, and Book Café, third Monday of the month, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm.
* Richmond Library: Tasman Talks Titles Book Group, third Wednesday of the month, 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm (no meeting in July).
* Tākaka Library: Silverfish Book Group, last Tuesday of the month 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm.

We all know our libraries are not only about books. That said, we do have regular book groups.

# Newsline Notices

### Moturoa / Rabbit Island upland game bird hunt

Public access to the eastern half of Moturoa / Rabbit Island will be closed between 7.00 am – 2.00 pm on Saturday 19 July (rain day Sunday 20 July) while an organised game bird hunt takes place. 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 organises the hunt, which is 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.

### Last chance to apply for a Community Grant

Do you have an exciting community project in the pipeline? Community Grants help get some of our most valuable community projects off the ground, and this round of funding closes on Thursday 31 July. These grants support organisations whose work brings real value to our communities, enhancing well-being and helping Tasman thrive.

To be considered, projects should meet a community need, have local support, and align with our community outcomes. Preference will be given to projects that also have financial backing from other sources.

Visit tasman.govt.nz/grants for more information and to apply.

### Alcohol applications

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

### Proposed temporary road closures

Applicant: Motueka Events Charitable Trust
Event: Starlight Christmas Parade
Location: High Street from Poole Street, down to Whakarewa Street and Wallace Street, from High Street end down to the Decks Reserve carpark entrance.
Date and time: Friday 12 December 2025, from 6.00 pm for High Street and 3.00 pm for Wallace Street, finish 9.00 pm.

Applicant: Richmond Unlimited
Event: Richmond Santa Parade
Location: Edward Street, Queen Street, McIndoe Place, Cambridge Street, Wensley Road, Washbourn Drive, Harkness Carpark, Salisbury Road.
Date and time: Sunday 7 December 2025, from 7.00 am Edward Street and 11.30 am all other roads, finish Edward Street at 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm all other roads.
Postponement date: Sunday 14 December 2025.

Applicant: Richmond Unlimited
Event: Richmond Market
Location: Queen Street between John Wesley Lane and McIndoe Place.
Date and time: Monday 29 December 2025, from 4.00 am – 6.30 pm.

Objections close 5.00 pm, Friday 22 August 2025. Please send any objections to tania.brown@tasman.govt.nz.

### Vegetation control – roadside spraying

#### Roadside spraying on local roads

We are responsible for the chemical and mechanical control of vegetation within the road reserve. The chemical control is split into two main activities, the control of vegetation around roading infrastructure and dealing with invasive pest plant species.

This includes the use of knock-down and residual herbicides to remove problematic vegetation growing in the road reserve and around street furniture. The active herbicides authorised under our resource consent are norflurazon, oryzalin, simazine, terbuthylazine, glyphosate, metsulfuron, haloxyfop, triclopyr and picloram/triclopyr. Methods for treatment are foliar and basal spraying.

Residents can request that their rural or peri-rural property frontage not be chemically sprayed and instead complete the vegetation control themselves. If you wish to apply for your property to be added to the ‘no spray’ list, please contact Nikki Shepherd on 03 543 7234 or
nikki.shepherd@tasman.govt.nz.

#### Roadside spraying on state highways

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi contractors have an ongoing vegetation control programme to ensure roadside vegetation does not affect the safety or operation of state highways.

This programme includes the spraying of chemical herbicides including the following active ingredients: Glyphosate, metsulfuron, terbuthylazine and triclopyr. These sprays are applied from a vehicle via a mechanical arm or boom, or a handheld device.

You can register your property as a ‘no spray’ zone, which requires a commitment to maintain a property’s highway frontage to specifications provided by NZTA, by contacting Luke Atherton on 03 903 2473 or luke.atherton@wsp.com.

### Consultation corner

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

* Speed management
* Richmond Reserves Management Plan
* Transportation Policies and Procedures Manual

### 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.

Submissions Hearing (River Park Management Plan Deliberations)
Monday 14 July, 9.30 am.

Motueka Community Board
Tuesday 15 July, 4.00 pm. Motueka Library, Wallace Street.

Environment and Regulatory Committee
Thursday 17 July, 9.30 am.

Joint Committee of Nelson City and Tasman District Councils
Wednesday 23 July, 9.30 am. Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street.