The South Taranaki District is now at Orange on the COVID-19 Traffic Light System. Find out more at www.covid19.govt.nz

Councils present plan for water reform that works



Mayor Phil Nivon

Mayors and CEs representing the 32 member councils of Communities 4 Local Democracy He hapori mō te Manapori (C4LD) have presented politicians with their plan for three waters reform that could gain wide support.

The mayors presented their 10-point plan for reform to the Minister for Local Government, Nanaia Mahuta and Department of Internal Affairs officials, as well as Green Party Co-Leaders Marama

Davidson and James Shaw, and Green MP Eugenie Sage. The group had already presented its models to the National Party and ACT.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon said that the group is keen to work with all parties to ensure any reforms have the broad base of support needed for major long-term infrastructure investment.

"The proposals we've brought to the table enable the Government to deliver on all its aims, create opportunities for strong and lasting partnerships and deliver safe, sustainable and affordable water services for all New Zealand," he said.

"They enable us build on existing partnerships with Mana Whenua at a local level that consider co-design and partnership arrangements, and they also provide for the continuation of local influence and community property rights.

"We're confident that we're in line with the majority of New Zealanders. Our community have certainly given STDC a clear message that they're not in support of the government's reform model and I regularly get called or stopped in the street to have that message reinforced. We've presented a reform framework that is directly supported by nearly half of councils in New Zealand and is aligned with the views of the majority of other councils, most notably Auckland representing 1.7 million people. "Unlike the Government's reform proposal, which has proven so unpopular that it has to be mandated, our alternative framework is something that everyone can get behind.

"We're talking about major changes to the ownership and running of long-term assets. These have been built up and paid for by generations of ratepayers, who have the reasonable expectation that they would remain in community control. "Reform of this magnitude shouldn't be rushed through Parliament in the face of massive public and sector opposition, and with the barest minimum of public engagement and scrutiny. "We should be given the opportunity to use our local knowledge to deliver better alternatives to the current proposal, which independent analysis shows has a significant number of flaws. "Just because the Government has the power to force through this reform doesn't mean that it should. We need to collaborate to ensure the legislation reflects the needs of the whole community.

"It is not too late to rescue this reform.

"We are not that far apart in our objectives, what we are offering in our 10-point plan is an approach that we believe would achieve broad support.

"The whole local government sector is eager to partner and work with the Government to turn this around and find a lasting solution that we can all support," said Mayor Nixon.

The full presentation to the minister outlining C4LD's framework for reform is now available at

www.communities4localdemocracy.co.nz/ideas



Just some of the Mayors and CE's representing the 32 member Council's at the recent visit to Parliament

Upcoming meetings

Policy and Strategy Committee Wednesday 27 April, 1pm

Audit and Risk Committee Wednesday 4 May, 11am

All meetings will be held online. If you are interested in attending, please email agendas@stdc.govt.nz or ring our Governance Team on 0800 111 323.



Are you enrolled to vote?

With Local Body Elections coming up this year - it's time to check. Simply head to www.vote.nz to find out!



ANZAC Services - Monday 25 April

ALTON

11:00 am Service at the Alton Memorial.

Potluck luncheon to follow - Please bring a plate.

ELIHAM

10:00am RSA Commemorative Service at the Services Cemetery, Anderson Road.

HAWERA

6:15am Assemble at front of the Ngati Ruanui Office, Princes Street, Hāwera.

6:30am Service - Memorial Arch, Princes Street Morning tea will be served at the RSA at the conclusion of the service.

KAPONG

10:45am Service of Remembrance at Kaponga War Memorial Hall followed by benediction and wreath laying at the memorial gates.

MANAIA

6:30am Service at the Band Rotunda.

OTAKEHO

SUNDAY 24 APRIL (note date)

6:00pm Evening service at the Otakeho Hall.

ŌPUNAKĒ

6:00am Assemble at the Ōpunakē Town Hall. 6:15am Service at the Cenotaph (weather dependant).

8:00am Prayer Service - Services Cemetery

6:15am Assemble at the LibraryPlus.6:30am Parade falls into march from the Library to

the Cenotaph (memorial).

PIHAMA

5:45pm Service at the Cenotaph.

TE KIRI

10:45am Service at the Cenotaph.

WAVERLEY

9:00am Service - Baptist Church on Weraroa Road.

WAITŌTARA

11am Wreath laying ceremony - Waitōtara. Memorial Gates, Waitōtara Domain.



www.southtaranaki.com Ph: (06) 278 0555 or 0800 111 323