

Tuia Taitonga Southlink



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He karere tā te Kaunihera o Taranaki ki te Tonga News from the South Taranaki District Council

Council to Relocate while Building Strengthened



Staff at the South Taranaki District Council will need to be relocated while the main administration building in Hāwera is earthquake strengthened, says Council chief executive Fiona Aitken.

Ms Aitken says the strengthening work is needed because the building is the district's Civil Defence emergency operations centre and as such needs to meet higher structural requirements than other buildings.

"We need to make sure that in the event of a major disaster we are able to use this building as our base of operations as well as continue to deliver our business-as-usual activities to our communities," says Ms Aitken.

"We have gone out to tender and anticipate that physical work will start early in the new year. This means we'll have to relocate staff from the main administration building for approximately 4-6 months," she says.

While there will be a degree of disruption for the public and staff, Aitken says it's nothing they can't accommodate. "Since Covid we've learnt to be very flexible with how we do things and with the pending completion of Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, the district's new library, arts and information centre, frees up space in the old LibraryPlus and i-site where most of the staff will be based. Some staff will also be based at the TSB Hub where all ordinary Council meetings will be held."

Ms Aitken says members of the public with Council related matters will be directed to Te Ramanui when it opens in November.

The biggest challenge will be how we accommodate customer enquiries with staff based in different buildings, but we've got a good amount of time to plan for that before the end of the year.

Upcoming Meetings

- Risk and Assurance Committee**
Monday 26 August, 10am
 - Te Kāhui Matauraura**
Wednesday 28 August, 10am
 - Environment and Hearings Committee**
Wednesday 28 August, 4pm
 - Extraordinary Council**
Freedom Camping Bylaw Hearing
Monday 2 September, 9am
 - Policy and Strategy Committee**
Monday 2 September, 1pm
 - Extraordinary Council**
To hear submissions on the Road Renaming at the South Taranaki Business Park
Wednesday 4 September, 1pm
 - Extraordinary Council**
Decision on Māori Wards
Wednesday 4 September, 4pm
- Unless specified, meetings are held in the Council Chambers, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.*

New Cemeteries Bylaw, Review of Livestock Control Bylaw and Underpass Policy

Consultation is now open for the Council's new Cemeteries Bylaw and the review of its Livestock Control Bylaw and Underpass Policy.

We're proposing 6 changes to the Cemeteries Bylaw:

- Burial hours – needed to match the new cemeteries maintenance contract.
- A maximum of 3 ashes burials per plot.
- Animal remains or ashes can be buried with a human body or ashes.
- Making it clear that the purchase of a burial plot expires after 60 years if the plot has not been used.
- Provision for an area for natural burials – bodies not embalmed, shallower burial depth.
- Separate religious denominational areas in existing cemeteries.

We'd like to know what you think about these changes, and whether you think any other changes are needed.

We think the Livestock Control Bylaw and the Underpass Policy work well in practice, so no changes are proposed, but we'd like to know what you think.

You can make a submission on either, or both, of the bylaws and the policy by going to www.southtaranaki.com/consultation or pick up paper copies at your nearest LibraryPlus or the Hāwera Administration Building.

Submissions close on Monday 23 September 2024.

All on track for November opening



While you might not see a lot of action from the outside, it's a hive of activity inside Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, the district's new library, arts and information centre. STDC Project coordinator Phil Waite says the new facility is on track to open at the end of November.

THE GREAT COMEDY NIGHT

Tickets available at the South Taranaki I site and Eltham LibraryPlus.

ELTHAM - FRI 23 AUG
HAWERA - SAT 24 AUG

R16 event