

# Community Link

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## Innovating Streets funding secured

The co-design process for lower Victoria Avenue has kicked off after Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's Innovating Streets funding was secured to design a temporary, vibrant streetscape in this area. Funding was initially secured for a Drews Avenue upgrade, which is also currently in the community co-design phase.

Town Centre Regeneration Project Manager, Ellen Young, says she's enjoyed engaging with the 20 lower Victoria Avenue stakeholders who recently attended the first workshop, and their response has been generally positive.

"These stakeholders know what a great opportunity we have here with central government funding now available for 90 percent of a project that was always part of our Town Centre Regeneration Plan.

"As the gateway to our central business district, lower Victoria Avenue is ripe for revitalisation. We want to create a space that catches the attention of passers-by and appeals to locals when they're looking for somewhere to socialise and spend time."

Award-winning landscape designer Craig Pocock is co-facilitating the workshops and the vision the group developed together at the first workshop was for lower Victoria Avenue to become a destination.



Stakeholder workshops are part of the co-design process for the upcoming Innovating Streets projects in Drews Avenue and lower Victoria Avenue

"We're fortunate in Whanganui because we've received Innovating Streets funding for not only lower Victoria Avenue but also for Drews Avenue as well, so we have the chance to develop two inter-related, complementary spaces that will boost Whanganui's profile and make our town centre more people-friendly," Ellen Young says.

After the second stakeholder workshop there will be an opportunity for the wider community to engage in the project. The lower Victoria Avenue project is expected to be completed in June 2021, with a community event to celebrate the upgrades.

## Rabbit control work

### Operation at Heads Road Cemetery

Whanganui District Council contractors will conduct a rabbit control operation at Heads Road Cemetery **from Sunday, 20 December 2020** and potentially through the week leading up to Christmas Day. This operation is weather dependent – the control work may not begin on this specific date and may also need to be spread across several days.

The operation will take place at night **between 10.00pm and dawn the next morning** to minimise any disruption to nearby residents and businesses. Rabbit control is necessary because the cemetery's graves and headstones are being undermined by burrowing. Other important information:

- The cemetery's entrance gates will be staffed to ensure no one enters the area during the operation. Signs will also be in place advising of the temporary closure.
- Whanganui Police have approved this operation as it involves the use of firearms in an urban area. The firearms will use 22-calibre segmented bullets and be fitted with silencers, and thermal imaging equipment will also be used.

## Exempt building work

### Changes to low-risk building projects

It should now be faster and cheaper to get your home building projects sorted this summer thanks to recent changes to building consent exemptions.

Effective Tuesday, 1 September 2020, additional building consent exemptions have been added to the Building Act for a number of low-risk building projects. The new exemptions will save building owners time and money by not having to apply to Whanganui District Council for a building consent for some building work.

Key changes include sizes of previously exempted work being increased, more authority given to licensed building practitioners and chartered professional engineers and extra exemptions added.

Anyone wishing to undertake exempt building work should check the revised guidance document from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment before starting a project or engaging tradespeople to undertake the work. They are also strongly encouraged to check the Whanganui District Plan for resource consent requirements.

A full list of the exemptions and guidance material with examples is available at: [www.building.govt.nz](http://www.building.govt.nz)

## Local tourism growth

### October visitor spend up 28%

As tourism industries in New Zealand's biggest cities struggle, Whanganui has recorded robust visitor numbers with October's visitor spend up 28 percent on 2019.

Whanganui had the second strongest year-to-year result of all of the regional tourism organisations (RTOs), reporting -1 percent growth in 2020 while other RTOs experienced up to -26 percent growth, according to numbers from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

For more information, read Whanganui & Partners' full media release at: [www.whanganuiandpartners.nz](http://www.whanganuiandpartners.nz)

## RUBBISH AND RECYCLING UPDATES

### Changes in store for rural rubbish bag stickers

Changes are happening soon to rubbish bag stickers for Whanganui's rural residents. The current Waste Management stickers expire on **Thursday, 31 December 2020** and will not be valid after this date.

New stickers for rural residents **ONLY** will be available from **Monday, 21 December 2020** at the Midtown Transfer Station, 14 Liffiton Street. For more information, please visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling)

### Use Snap Send Solve to stop illegal dumping

Councillor Rob Vinsen, head of Whanganui District Council's Waste Minimisation Advisory Group, is leading a campaign to crack down on illegal rubbish dumping in the Whanganui District.



Technology is making it harder for people to get away with illegal dumping, Cr Vinsen says. "There's a fantastic app called Snap Send Solve that lets you take a photo of the rubbish and email it to the council using your phone's GPS to show exactly where the rubbish is located. The emailed message is then logged and referred on to the relevant council team."

For information on the disposing of rubbish in Whanganui, please visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling)

### Cardboard and paper recycling to continue

The Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre at 81 Maria Place will now continue to accept cardboard and paper after **Thursday, 31 December 2020**. Collection of this fibre material had been in doubt because of the costs related to its recycling.

Whanganui District Council's Waste Advisor, Stuart Hylton, says, "We know a lot of people care about recycling and will be pleased to hear about the decision to keep collecting cardboard and paper.

"This decision was made because the costs of recycling cardboard and paper this year will be lower than expected – \$80,000 to \$100,000, rather than the predicted \$180,000. We'll also be exploring some promising alternative options to be trialled early next year – like composting and high-temperature incineration – for dealing with this material."

Changes to recyclable plastics at the Resource Recovery Centre will still take place. Plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7 will not be accepted after 31 December 2020. The centre will continue to collect plastics 1, 2 and 5 as usual.

Stuart Hylton says stopping the collection of plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7 is in line with other councils around the country and will have little effect in terms of sustainability as these account for just 6-7 percent of total plastic collected.

"There's a strong market for plastics 1, 2 and 5 and the centre is known as a source of quality recycling product."

For an A-Z directory of recyclable items at the Resource Recovery Centre, go to: [www.resourcwhanganui.org.nz](http://www.resourcwhanganui.org.nz)

## Community heroes time!

If you know someone who's made an outstanding contribution to the community this year, make sure you nominate them for a 2020 Whanganui Community Award. Nominations for the 2020 awards now close at **5.00pm on Thursday, 14 January 2021**.

For more information and to make a nomination, please visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/community-awards-2020](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/community-awards-2020)



## WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Whanganui District Council invites you to have your say on these topics:

- Maxwell name change proposal
- Climate Change Strategy / Te Rautaki Huringa Āhuarangi
- Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2021

For more information, please visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say)

