

# Community Link

Whanganui District Council  
101 Guyton Street  
PO Box 637, Whanganui 4500  
06 349 0001  
yourcouncil@whanganui.govt.nz  
www.whanganui.govt.nz  
@whanganuidistrictcouncil  
@whanganuidc  
@WhanganuiDC

## Councillors vote for rates remission

Whanganui District Council's elected members have voted to make a one-off rates reduction of up to \$500 available to eligible households facing a rates rise higher than \$700.

To be eligible, ratepayers need a 2023/24 rates increase of more than \$700 and a household income from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 no more than \$90,000 gross. The property needs to be residential and the ratepayer must live in the property and not own other properties. The council will check the increase is mainly due to the October 2022 district revaluation rather than building work or property improvements.

You can apply for rates remission by visiting: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/rates](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/rates), calling 06 349 0001 or emailing: [rates@whanganui.govt.nz](mailto:rates@whanganui.govt.nz). Please note the closing date for rates remission applications is on or by 30 June 2024.

As well as rates remission, the council has a rates rebate scheme for low-income earners, along with payment options.



Setting up a direct debit payment for rates can be useful as it spreads rate payments evenly over the year. The direct debit payment can be set up to best align with your income whether it's weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly.

Information on the rates rebate scheme and direct debit payments is also available at: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/rates](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/rates)

## Wastewater options to be considered in LTP process

A report on the performance of Whanganui's wastewater network during wet weather was received by councillors at a full Whanganui District Council meeting on 3 August 2023.

Councillors heard that while Whanganui has completed close to 98 percent of a water separation project that began in the 1980s – with stormwater diverted away from the wastewater system on public and private land – a substantial amount of stormwater has been observed entering the wastewater system in wet weather. Stormwater in the system puts pressure on the wastewater network resulting in diluted wastewater spilling into the environment, particularly in low-lying areas.

This situation requires a programme of new work to be considered in the council's Long-Term Plan 2024-2034, including a capital investment of an extra \$50M over the next 30 years to strengthen the wastewater network including pipe upgrades, pump station upgrades and new wet weather storage facilities.

The council's chief executive, David Langford, says, "We want to be open and transparent with our community and be clear about what they can expect to see going into the future. Currently the network is not performing as it should in wet weather and the community should rightly expect us to come up with a proper and permanent fix."

For more information, visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/news](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/news)

## Ride the slide in Castlecliff!



The new tunnel slide at Castlecliff Domain – made by Whanganui-based playground equipment specialists Playground Centre – is now open to the community to enjoy! Whanganui District Council is also planning more improvements to the domain's playground area including a shelter, picnic tables that feature wheelchair access, and a new drinking fountain

## Construction contract signed



Following a competitive procurement process, the Whanganui Port Limited Partnership signed a construction contract with Concrete Structures (NZ) Ltd on 2 August 2023 to complete the Te Pūwaha stage one port civil construction works.

At the signing event, partnership chair, Mark Petersen, said, "Concrete Structures stood out to us for their expertise in the types of marine structures we are building, their willingness to work in a Te Awa Tupua way, and their initiative to put forward alternative design solutions to assist the project's timeline and budget. The port rebuild is a high-profile project, with challenging technical construction elements, and a strong focus on broader community outcomes, so we are pleased to sign this first contract."

Concrete Structures will carry out the entirety of the stage-one works including the construction of a heavy pavement vessel hardstand, and concrete structures over water capable of carrying Q-West Boat Builder's 380-tonne capacity mobile boat hoist (500 tonnes when fully laden). Read more about the awarding of this contract in Te Pūwaha's media release at: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/news](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/news)

### WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

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

- Community nominations for heritage places
- Māori wards feedback
- Vision for Whanganui

More details at: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say)



## Dog registrations

### Discount unaffected by invoice backlog

Whanganui District Council is currently working through a backlog of dog-related work but please be assured that any dog registration enquiry received by the council on or by last Monday, 31 July, is still eligible for a prompt payment discount. If you have missed the 31 July discount date, all dog owners who pay their registration on or by **Thursday, 31 August 2023** still go into the draw to win a \$250 canine prize pack – you can pay your dog registration at: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/pay-dog-rego](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/pay-dog-rego)

## Help to join the dots

### Horizons seeking public transport input

Horizons Regional Council's **Connect The Dots - Regional Services Review** is seeking input from the Whanganui community on what new public transport options could make it easier to travel across and beyond our region.

How people will move across the region is changing. A new highway connecting Manawātū and Taranaki is under construction, while the Capital Connection rail service upgrades will make it easier than ever to travel between Palmerston North and Wellington. These and other transport projects will give Horizons the opportunity to improve how we connect our towns, cities, districts and neighbouring regions through public transport. You can share your thoughts at: [haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz](http://haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz)

People can also email their ideas to: [transport@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:transport@horizons.govt.nz) and feedback can also be given on forms attached to information pamphlets that are available at service centres and on regional bus services. Feedback on Horizons' Regional Services Review closes on **11 September 2023**.

## Public Places Bylaw

### Sliding fee scale following review

Following a recent bylaw review, bookings for events in open spaces under Whanganui District Council's Public Places Bylaw 2023 will now be on a sliding scale system – in most cases, no fees will be charged for community and not-for-profit groups, and small fees will be charged for commercial operators at events. An online form to make the booking process easier will be available shortly on the council's website.

## Council meetings

### Upcoming meetings

Operations and Performance Committee	9.30am Thursday 10 August	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton St
Council-Controlled Organisations Committee	9.30am Tuesday 15 August	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton St
Whanganui Rural Community Board	2.00pm Wednesday 16 August	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton St

Agendas: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas)  
Livestreamed council meetings: [www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil)  
[www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings)