

Te Hononga a Hapori Community Link

Whanganui District Council

101 Guyton Street

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06 349 0001

yourcouncil@whanganui.govt.nz

www.whanganui.govt.nz

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FOCUS ON: Council resource consents

With summer around the corner, you may have decided to do some work around the home. If you're thinking of building a new garden shed, fence, carport or other structure, moving a cabin onto your property or pruning a tree overhanging your boundary, Whanganui District Council has this advice before you get started.

Accessory buildings

Cabins, containers and carports are classified as accessory buildings or temporary relocated buildings under the Whanganui District Plan (see the online link in the red box below).

Accessory buildings located in front of the principal building – such as your house – can affect the look of the street.

Accessory buildings can dominate property frontages, negatively impact the appearance of the property from the street and obscure views of the house.



Cabins

If you're thinking of placing a cabin on your property as a short or long-term solution for accommodation, ask the supplier to place it behind or to the side of your main residence.

If it is placed in front of your house, you may be in breach of the District Plan and you may be asked by the council to move it (and the supplier may charge extra to remove or relocate it). If in doubt, call the council and ask to speak with the planning team.

Shipping containers

The council does not allow long-term placement of shipping containers on the front of your property.

However, in some instances short-term placement of up to seven days may be permitted for the loading or unloading of goods.

You can find the rules around this in more detail in the District Plan under **Temporary Activities**.

Again, if you have any doubts, please call the council and ask to speak with the planning team.

Carports, garages and garden sheds

If you want to construct a carport, garage or garden shed in front of your residence, you need to apply for a resource consent. These structures are assessed on an individual basis.

Fences

In general, the council does not intervene in disputes between neighbours over fencing issues unless a height restriction has been breached.

There are rules in the District Plan that give height restrictions for fences.

In most cases, any fence erected along a **front boundary shall not exceed 1.6 metres in height** and any **side or rear boundary fence shall not exceed 1.8m in height**.

You can apply to the council for an exception to this rule, and this will require a resource consent application.

For more information about fences and boundaries, visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/fences – if you're still unsure, call the council before you start.

Natural hazards

Land stability areas

Most residents are unaware of what a land stability area is or where they may be located. Mostly, these are areas in parts of Whanganui where there are cliffs or areas of subsidence.

There are rules about what you can do in these areas to ensure that activities do not worsen stability or accelerate subsidence on the site or surrounding areas. They are found in the District Plan under **Natural Hazards**.

To complete any excavation, trenching or construction of any structure or retaining wall such as creating paths, removing vegetation of more than five-square metres (5m²), or making a building platform, you must first apply for a resource consent.

The consent must be accompanied by a geotechnical report from a suitably qualified geotechnical engineer. You can search online for a geotechnical engineer or visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/geotech-search

If you think you live in an area that might be classified as a land stability area, refer to the District Plan or call the council's planning team for advice.

Trees and property boundaries

If your tree's branches are hanging over the boundary between your property and your neighbour's, and the tree is not a protected tree, the neighbour is entitled to trim the overhanging branches **up to the boundary line**.

They have to take care not to kill your tree or remove parts of the tree that are on your side of the boundary, and the trimmings are to be placed back on your property without incurring any damage – you can find more information at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/trees

DISTRICT PLAN & CONTACT DETAILS

Access the Whanganui District Plan online at: eplan.whanganui.govt.nz/eplan

For planning advice, call Whanganui District Council on **06 349 0001** and ask to speak with a duty planner, or visit council customer services at 101 Guyton Street on **weekdays between 8.30am and 3.00pm**.

Heads Road

Overnight road closure

Heads Road between Rogers Street and Gilbert Street will close to all through traffic overnight **on Thursday, 23 November ONLY** so that Downer can safely make road repairs, including patch repairs and stabilising the existing road surface.

The overnight closure will begin at 6.00pm with Heads Road reopening at 6.00am on Friday, 24 November.

Traffic management will be onsite at all times during the closure and all traffic will be required to detour via Gilbert Street to bypass the worksite.

Temporary speed limits will be in place, along with signs asking road users to be aware of loose chip.

Previously advertised overnight road closures for Friday, 24 November and for next week have been **CANCELLED**.

More information at:

www.whanganui.govt.nz/public-notice

Summer water safety

Community event this Sunday

Whanganui District Council and Safer Whanganui are promoting water safety through a family fun day and a video competition for local students.

The free community event will be held **this Sunday, 26 November, from 12 noon to 3.00pm** at Castlecliff Beach, with a free barbecue and other fun activities.

Whanganui school age students are also invited to participate in a video competition by creating and submitting videos about safe swimming practices, with the chance to win prizes. More information at:

www.whanganui.govt.nz/news

Council meetings

Meetings next week

Strategy and Policy Committee	9.30am Tuesday 28 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Whanganui Rural Community Board	2.00pm Wednesday 29 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Meetings in December

Operations and Performance Committee	9.00am Thursday 7 December	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Risk and Assurance Committee	1.00pm Thursday 7 December	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Council Meeting	1.00pm Wednesday 13 December	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Agendas: www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas
Livestreamed council meetings:
www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil
www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings