

# NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Submissions to the **Long-Term Plan** numbered around 760 with 60 submitters being heard during three days of hearings this month. In the Consultation Document residents were asked to choose one of four options on how we manage our water, wastewater and storm water. We adopted Option 4 - *a professional Council appointed Waters Governance Board*. On the option for re-balancing ratepayer contributions to the General Rate we adopted Option 2 - *to reduce the Uniform Annual General Charge from \$482.85 to \$351.96 which will rebalance ratepayer contributions to general rates to ease the rates burden on lower value properties*. I will report further on the Long-Term Plan when the Auditors have ticked it off and it is passed in its entirety in June.

Projects approved included \$1.5m over three years for footpaths and \$2.5m towards the Te Awa River ride extension – i.e. the section from Hamilton City, through Tamahere to the Avantidrome in Cambridge.



The Te Awa River ride continues to attract visitors and locals. Since the Perry Bridge at Ngaruawahia was opened in November 2017 the average weekly usage by cyclists has increased 435% from 133 to 711 and by walkers 12% from 348 to 391. This is great news for the local community and businesses in and around Ngaruawahia.

<<<**River ride at Ngaruawahia with Perry Bridge in the background**

Waikato District has teamed up with Hamilton City Council to organise an event (**Dirty Dog Challenge**) on **Saturday 16 June** where dogs and their owners can navigate their way through a dog-friendly obstacle course. There is a 2.5km or 6km option with lots of mud, sliding and fun! To be held on **Saturday 16 June at 10am at Ngaruawahia Christian Youth Camp, 148 Waingarō Road, Ngaruawahia** Cost: \$30 per dog. Money from the event will be used to help animals in our communities. Register and pay on line at <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/animal-control/dirty-dog-challenge>

Work is to be undertaken on **boat ramps** at Mercer, Narrows (Tamahere) and Elbow Reserve. The Narrows work is for minor physical work and the timing will be dependent on weather and river level control as the works can only occur at low river levels.

A judging panel at a recent Water Industry Operation Group conference named WDC as the winner of the annual NZ Water Taste Test with the **best tasting tap water coming from Raglan**. They factored in look and smell when choosing Raglan water from 15 other Council entries. This award is an indication of the hard work put in by our Water Teams. Council is also working to deal with issues in other parts of the District but all our district water does comply with NZ drinking water standards.

Do you know that **library membership is free** to everyone who lives in the Waikato district? This allows you to use WDC libraries but also free use of libraries in Hamilton City, Waipa District, Matamata-Piako District and Hauraki District. I suggest you take a proof of residency when you visit any out-of-district libraries to join up. (e.g. a rates or utility bill)

A new library management system was launched in our district libraries this month which will mean you can access an integrated system for our collections from home.

Read how you can access our digital collection and data bases on:-

<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/libraries/collections/digital-collection>

Eureka, Matangi, Puketaha and Tauwhare have ordered **little libraries** for their district. 33 districts have ordered a little library with art work themes including historic and, local landmarks, farming and Maori designs. The art work on these has now been completed and the scheme will be launched at Springhill Prison on 6<sup>th</sup> June. I will be travelling up to Hampton Downs with other Councillors for the launch. After the launch the libraries will be installed in the areas designated by each local community.

**Contact me anytime - Rob McGuire: Councillor Eureka Ward**

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