



Welcome to the final Waikato District Council Link of 2019. I hope you and your families are able to wind down and have a break in the next few weeks. This year has been another huge one for your Council.

Most recently, we had an election in October which saw two new Councillors join the team. A warm welcome to Councillors Carolyn Eyre and Chris Woolerton. Another positive was the increase in our voter turnout. It was great to see you take up the opportunity to have your say.

An important moment for me personally and for my team was when Watercare Services Ltd joined forces with us to deliver safe drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services to the Waikato district on 1 October. Our agreement has a focus on better environmental outcomes and affordable water services for you all. We consider this agreement to be a big step for local government water management in New Zealand.

2019 has seen a strong focus on our part of the country by central government. The Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan has brought central government together with local government and iwi to help plan for the big growth issues facing our district and further afield. This work is also about cross-boundary (different council areas) planning to support growth of all our communities into the future.

2019 also saw a massive effort go into reviewing our District Plan, which is the planning rule book for what development (housing, industry, sub-division, etc) can happen, and where. We are forced by law to review this every 10 years, but in a district that is as fast growing as ours, it's all the more important.

We received over 23,000 submission points just on Stage 1 of our Proposed District Plan. This shows how much interest there is from our community, from developers and others that we get this right. The District Plan review process and hearings (including on Stage 2, which covers natural hazards and climate change) will continue into 2020.

I am really looking forward to a break in the next few weeks, as my family gathers in Whitianga for some well-earned down time. If you're heading away to the beach, stay safe and relax. If you're staying home, perhaps check out one of our Top 4 suggested BBQ spots around the District!

Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Mayor Allan Sanson

With the warmer months just around the corner, check out the top 4 public spots to have a BBQ.

- **Papahua Domain, Raglan**
- The Point, **Ngaruawahia**
- Te Kauwhata **Village Green**
- Maraetai Bay, **Port Waikato**









Anei taku Mahi

The Economic and Community Development team are new to Council, so let's find out what they do...





Made up of Economic & Community Development Officer Mitch King, Community Development Advisor Lianne Van Den Bemd, Youth Engagement Advisor Joe Wilson and Manager Julie Dolan, the team are all about supporting our communities – they have a youth, community-led development and business focus.

"As a team, we're here to support our communities to help them grow in confidence and skills and to connect the dots," Julie says.

As facilitators, the team's purpose is to help our communities thrive, whether it's the business community, the young people in our community, community groups or individuals.

"We're a one stop shop to making things happen. Together, we each bring an element of expertise to the big picture," Joe adds.

As a team they work collectively towards the one goal - supporting our communities with their own aspirations.

"Our passion and commitment is around skills and community aspirations. We want to support them in upskilling and to build on their aspirations so they can lead and partner with us to create great initiatives across the Waikato district," Lianne says.

Just one of the tools used in the past year to capture our community's aspirations is the Blueprint programme. This piece of work set out to pinpoint what our communities want for themselves and will be able to identify what avenues they need to take to turn these aspirations into reality.

Mitch says the team want you to reach out. "We want to hear from people in the community who want to do something for themselves, businesses wanting to explore the Waikato district as an option or young people looking to make an impact. We're here and ready."

The team can be contacted by phoning 0800 492 452. For Economic Development ask for Mitch, for Youth ask for Joe and for Community Development ask for Lianne.



Our Economic and Community Development team are, from left, Economic & Community Development Officer Mitch King, Community Development Advisor Lianne Van Den Bemd, Economic & Community Development Manager Julie Dolan and Youth Engagement Advisor Joe Wilson.

THIS IS WHO I AM

Ko wai au

Carolyn Eyre

This is who I am is a feature that tells us a little bit more about our elected members.



Carolyn Eyre is the Councillor for Onewhero-Te Akau

Ward:

Onewhero/Te Akau.

Family:

Married to Stuart with three teenage children. William 19yrs, Alice 17yrs, Lucy 16yrs.

Favourite thing about Waikato District:

The people and their willingness to engage with all.

Biggest issue facing Waikato District in 2019/20:

Planning for the rapid growth without compromising quality living and standards for our current residents.

Three words to describe the Waikato District:

Welcoming, diverse and rugged.

Waikato's best kept secret:

Our west coast beaches.

Favourite holiday destination and why?

Samoa, simply because it forces a slower pace of life.

Worst holiday you've ever been on and why?

Family campervan trip around the South Island. In theory sounds fab but 3 broken down campers in as many weeks now results in shivers down the spine when reduced to small confined spaces.

If you could go to one place you've never been, where would it be and why?

Wales, because I would love to trace my ancestry.

Worst job you've ever had and why?

Washing house windows as a uni student holiday job, although it was fantastic fitness in hindsight!

What annoys you the most?

Single mindedness and inability to see other viewpoints.

Favourite album of all time:

Cat Stevens "Tea for the Tillerman."

Best film:

The imitation game.

Best thing on TV: Country Calendar.

What radio station do you listen to?

The Breeze.

Worst thing on TV:

Reality TV of any description.

Favourite meal:

Slow cooked leg of lamb flavoured with hearty amounts of garlic and rosemary, with all the trimmings on the side.

If you could meet any celebrity who would it be and why?

Angelina Jolie, due to her ability to reinvent herself and crusade as an advocate for the vulnerable.

Favourite sports team and why?

NZ Equestrian team - because I have so much appreciation for horses and the synergy displayed between rider and mount.

You've got a day off so you...

Pack a picnic, load up the family and spend the day on the boat exploring unpopulated beaches and reaping enough produce from the ocean to feed a group of friends and family later that night.







Christmas and New Year hours

District-wide kerbside collection

Kerbside collection days change over the Christmas and New Year period, please see the below tables for any changes to your service. By Monday 6 January 2020 services will return to normal.

Normal collection		Date to be collected
Monday 23 December		No change
Tuesday 24 December		No change
Wednesday 25 December	Changes to	Thursday 26 December
Thursday 26 December	Changes to	Friday 27 December
Friday 27 December	Changes to	Saturday 28 December
Sunday 29 December		Port Waikato*
Monday 30 December		No change
Tuesday 31 December		No change
Wednesday 1 January	Changes to	Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	Changes to	Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	Changes to	Saturday 4 January
Monday 6 January	Services return to normal	

^{*}Port Waikato has no change and will be collected on Sunday 29 December and Sunday 5 January

Raglan kerbside collection

Your usual collection		Date to be collected
Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25 December	Is collected	Tuesday 24 December
Thursday 26 & Friday 27 December	Is collected	Friday 27 December
Tuesday 31 December & Wednesday 1 January	Is collected	Tuesday 31 December
Thursday 2 & Friday 3 January	Is collected	Friday 3 January
Monday 6 January	Usual collection resumes	

Refuse and recycling

Refuse and recycling transfer stations and resource recovery centre hours are as follows:

Date	Huntly Transfer Station 07 828 9719	Te Kauwhata Transfer Station 07 826 3456	Xtreme Zero Waste, Raglan 07 825 6509
Tuesday 24 December	7.30am-3pm	Closed	12.30pm-3pm
Wednesday 25 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday 26 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday 27 December	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	12.30pm-5pm
Saturday 28 December	10am-4pm	Closed	10am-5pm
Sunday 29 December	10am-4pm	11am-4pm	10am-5pm
Monday 30 December	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	12.30pm-5pm
Tuesday 31 December	7.30am-3pm	Closed	12.30pm-3pm

Refuse & Recycling continued			
Wednesday 1 January	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday 2 January	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday 3 January	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	12.30pm-5pm
Saturday 4 January	10am-4pm	Closed	10am-5pm
Sunday 5 January	10am-4pm	11am-4pm	10am-5pm
Monday 6 January	7.30am-4pm	Closed	12.30pm-5pm

Libraries

Between Christmas and New Year we are operating a library service only.

	Waikato District Libraries
Tuesday 24 December	All sites close at 3pm
Wednesday 25 December	Closed (public holiday)
Thursday 26 December	Closed (public holiday)
Friday 27 December	Closed
Saturday 28 December	Closed
Sunday 29 December	Closed
Monday 30 December	9am-5pm
Tuesday 31 December	9am - 3pm
Wednesday 1 January	Closed (public holiday)
Thursday 2 January	Closed (public holiday)
Friday 3 January	Closed
Saturday 4 January	Closed
Sunday 5 January	Closed
Monday 6 January	Normal business hours resume

Library late nights will not run during the holiday period.

Swimming pools opening dates

We operate swimming pools in Ngaruawahia, Tuakau and Huntly. Over the Christmas New Year holidays, the pools are open the following times:

Tuesday 24 December	6.30am – 5pm
Wednesday 25 December	Closed
Thursday 26 December - Tuesday 31 December	9am – 5pm
Wednesday 1 January	Closed
Thursday 2 January - Sunday 5 January	9am – 5pm
Monday 6 January	Normal operating hours resume

Entry fees for each of the pools are available on our website.

Council offices

Waikato District Council offices will be closed from 3pm Tuesday 24 December. Normal hours will resume on Monday 6 January, 2019.

Emergency calls (all hours)

For all emergency calls regarding Council services, free phone 0800 492 452.

^{**}Te Uku and Te Mata remain the same over the Christmas New Year period.

 $^{^{\}star\star\star}$ Glen Murray rural recycling collection will be on 11 January 2020.

CONNECTING WITH COUNCIL

Got an idea or an issue you want to discuss?

Contact your local Councillor or Community Board/Committee member. They're elected to represent you and are always happy to discuss any questions or issues you may have.

Mayor and Councillors



Allan Sanson (Mayor) P: 07 824 5847 E: mayor@waidc.govt.nz



Aksel Bech (Deputy Mayor) Tamahere Ward Councillor M: 021 884 828 E: aksel.bech@waidc.govt.nz



Jacqui Church Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward Councillor P: 09 232 9998 M: 021 869 976 E: jacqui.church@waidc.govt.nz



Stephanie Henderson Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward Councillor M: 027 446 6058 E: stephanie.henderson@waidc.govt.nz



Rob McGuire Eureka Ward Councillor P: 07 824 3696 M: 027 497 0966 E: rob.mcguire@waidc.govt.nz



Shelley Lynch Huntly Ward Councillor P: 07 828 9682 M: 027 334 7352 E: shelley.lynch@waidc.govt.nz



Frank McInally Huntly Ward Councillor M: 027 475 2403 E: frank.mcinally@waidc.govt.nz



Noel Smith Newcastle Ward Councillor P: 07 824 8300 M: 027 594 3895 E: noel.smith@waidc.govt.nz



Janet Gibb Ngaruawahia Ward Councillor P: 07 824 6737 M: 027 475 3397 E: janet.gibb@waidc.govt.nz



Eugene Patterson Ngaruawahia Ward Councillor P: 07 824 5310 M: 027 448 8488 E: eugene.patterson@waidc.govt.nz



Carolyn Eyre Onewhero-Te Akau Ward Councillor M: 021 594 747 E: carolyn.eyre@waidc.govt.nz



Lisa Thomson Raglan Ward Councillor P: 07 825 8451 M: 021 179 8256 E: lisa.thomson@waidc.govt.nz



Chris Woolerton Hukanui-Waerenga Ward Councillor M: 027 494 2890 E: chris.woolerton@waidc.govt.nz



Jan Sedgwick Whangamarino Ward Councillor M: 021 804 749 E: jan.sedgwick@waidc.govt.nz

Community Boards

Huntly

Chair: David Whyte M: 027 558 4448 E: david.whyte.5th@gmail.com

Ngaruawahia

Chair: Greg Weichern M: 027 348 6529 E: greg_weichern@hotmail.com

Onewhero-Tuakau

Chair: Shaun Jackson M: 021 733 059 E: shaun@jpgroup.co.nz

Raglan

Chair: Gabrielle Parson M: 021 844 785 E: gparsonraglancommunityboard@gmail.com

Taupiri

Chair: Dorothy Lovell M: 027 450 7454 E: dlynlovell@gmail.com

Community Committees

Meremere

Chair: Jim Katu P: 09 232 6724 E: car2@xtra.co.nz

Pokeno

Chair: Ric Odom M: 027 481 1300 E: ricodom@xtra.co.nz

Tamahere

Chair: Sue Robertson M: 027 490 9369 E: sue@parklea.co.nz

Te Kauwhata

Chair: Toni Grace M: 021 393 073 E: tonz@actrix.co.nz



HOW TO BE SMART WITH YOUR WATER USE THIS SUMMER AND SAVE

Summer is here which means water use increases – however, it doesn't have to if you follow these handy water saving tips.

Bathroom:

- If you have an old toilet, collect your free flush limiter weight from any of our offices.
 - 1. Take the cover off the cistern.
 - Hang your weight on the inside of the upright plastic pipe or arm of your flush mechanism.
 - 3. Hold your finger on the flush button for as long as you need.
 - 4. As soon as you lift your finger, the flush will stop.

You will be save up to 12 litres every flush, that's 48 litres per day per person or 192 litres a day for a family of four!

Kitchen:

 Wash your fruit & veg in a tub of water instead of running water from the tap.

Laundry:

- Only wash full loads of laundry.
- Re-use your towels hang them out to dry in the Sunday.

Garden:

 Water your garden early in the morning – it's cooler and winds tend to be calmer, so water can soak into the soil and be absorbed by the roots before it can evaporate.

Outdoors:

- Wash your car and your pets on an area of lawn that needs watering.
- Use a broom instead of your hose when cleaning areas like patios and driveways.

For more water saving tips visit **www.smartwater.org.nz** Play your part – we value water in the Waikato.

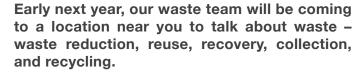




If you have an old toilet, collect your free flush limiter weight from any of our offices.

IT'S TIME TO TALK **ABOUT WASTE**





We're reviewing our waste services because contracts are coming up for renewal, and there have been big changes in the waste industry over the past few years that are having significant impacts on how we deal with waste.

The challenge we're facing in New Zealand

Waste is increasing and overseas markets are signaling no real desire to continue importing contaminated (dirty) and co-mingled (all mixed together) recycling.

China imports half the world's recyclable exports. So in 2017, when China announced there was going to be changes to how and what they would accept, no one was really prepared.

The challenge for us now is how do we reduce our increasing waste, maximise our recoverable waste, and ensure maximum value for the recyclable material we are throwing away.

As Minister Eugenie Sage said at this year's WasteMINZ Conference: "It is abundantly clear we can no longer wish our waste away, out of sight and out of mind to foreign destinations, or even domestic ones for that matter, as the Fox River landfill showed."

Here is what we can all do better

Reduce

The best thing we can do is be mindful of the waste we generate in the first place - basically throw away less rubbish.

Let's take food as an example. At this time of year, there is an increased amount of food waste, so maybe give some more thought to planning meals and only buy what is going to get eaten especially those short dated items - there are a lot of food items that can be frozen and reused again if you can't use them in the appropriate time.

Refuse

Try refusing to use or buy products with packaging that can't be recycled or composted.

Exchange out some of those plastic produce bags with your own produce bag, or just allow those tangelos to flow freely around your basket until they make their way into your shopping bag.

Recycle

Do it right, rinse it clean and only put it in the crate if our contractors accept it for collection (Plastic with the recycle symbol and numbers 1, 2 or 5 on it)





Changes in the pipeline

Container deposit scheme

Right now Central government is working on a design solution for container deposits. It's still a couple of years off but the government announced that plastic, glass and aluminium drink containers would carry a refundable deposit, potentially between 5-20 cents each. The aim of this would be to reduce litter, reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill and increase container recycling quality.

Product stewardship

The Government has also announced mandatory product stewardship to be introduced for products like tyres, electronic waste, farm plastics, agrichemicals and refridgerants.

This would mean the costs of proper waste management are paid by producers and consumers, not communities and the environment.

So products will likely be accepted back to the place of purchase or a designated drop-off for these types of products without an extra charge and a plan for their next life.

See you next year

That's just a few things you can think about before we come out for a chat next year.

We won't just be talking about how the rubbish that you put out on the kerb every week should be collected. That's part of it, but it'll be a much wider conversation than that.

We'll let you know the details of where we'll be, and when, early next year.

So watch out for those dates for your area and come and talk to us about how, together, we can achieve our vision that's set out in our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan - Zero waste and resource recovery are an integral part of our community.

Riro taonga mai, hoki taonga atu We receive valuable resources from Papatuanuku, we return valuable resources to her

Promoting responsible camping

We've got extra staff to help manage freedom camping over the summer months, thanks to funding from the government.

"The Waikato district is a great place to visit and we know it attracts a large number of freedom campers, particularly over the summer months," says Funding and Partnership Manager Nick Johnston.

"We want visitors to come to our towns because it's good for local businesses, but we're also aware of the negative impact it can have on our environment and residents. We want campers to enjoy their stay and discover the wonderful things that make Waikato great, but they also need to be respectful."

The funding has also been used for extra signage and material to promote responsible camping, our expectations and requirements.

"Over the years we've had issues with litter, toileting and noise. We've listened to feedback from our residents about the issues they have experienced. The material we have created will make it clear where people can – and can't – camp and what is

expected of them while they are guests in our towns. Our staff will also be out and about talking to campers about the freedom camping rules in our district and they will have the ability to take enforcement action if necessary."

"We've also listened to campers who said they couldn't find the information they needed and that we didn't have sufficient signage. So we've updated the information on our website and created some easy-to-read maps. We have put more signs around our district to let people know where they can't camp and we've also added reflective signage to some of our hot-spot areas so that it will be seen by people arriving at night."

Over the summer months our staff will be collecting data to help us improve the camping experiences in the future and we hope that by being proactive we will reduce the negative impacts.

In the meantime, if you have any suggestions about how to improve the camping experience please contact us on 0800 492 452.

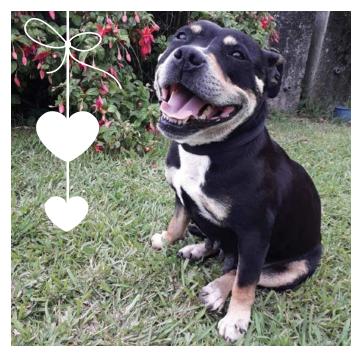
We're in this together so we want to work with our communities.

www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/camping

"We want campers to enjoy their stay and discover the wonderful things that make Waikato great, but they also need to be respectful."



Finding loving homes for our Pound Pups



Salty was adopted by one of our Animal Control Officers and is now one of the dogs we use for our Dogs in Libraries programme.

Have you met Salty? Salty was a Pound Pup. She was adopted by one of our Animal Control Officers and is now one of the dogs we use for our Dogs in Libraries programme. Salty's favourite book is 'Guinea dog' but she's happy to be read any book. And to be given dog treats!



"Aggie was found by a truckie on the side of a road in Huntly with a badly fractured leg, which needed to be amputated. Look at her now! Living her hest life in her new home."

Ernest, now called Wilbur, spends his days hanging out with two goats and some sheep. He runs to our call and loves to be scratched. He sits with me and lies down for a belly rub. Best pig ever!" - Wilbur's new family



Every year our Animal Control team rehome dogs that are unclaimed or surrendered to give them a second chance with responsible dog owners. We work closely with Animal Rescue organisations throughout the country.

If you're looking for a new family member please check out the album of dogs available on the Pound Pups Facebook page: @WaikatoPoundPups.

Tell us what you think about our growth plans

In releasing a draft of its Growth & Economic Development Strategy, Waikato District Council is demonstrating its commitment to growth and prosperity in the Waikato district.

Titled Waikato 2070, the purpose of the strategy is to guide the growth in the district over the next 50 years. Consultation opened on November 13 and will close on 17 January 2020.

General Manager Community Growth Clive Morgan says Waikato 2070 will help to identify suitable and cost-effective areas for future growth in the district as well as protecting highly productive soils. "It will help to enable and support job creation in sectors aligned to the district's strengths and will outline a growth pattern that will help preserve our stunning natural environment and our resources.



"The draft strategy will help inform our communities about the likely way our towns will develop and sets out the steps we will take to manage this growth," Mr Morgan says.

After consultation closes on 17 January 2020, a hearing is scheduled for March 2020 where submitters will have the opportunity to speak to their feedback. A final version of the document with feedback included is then expected to be adopted by Council in April 2020.

For more information on the Draft Waikato 2070 and to have your say, visit our website at www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz.

Driving the Legend message home

Stop a mate driving drunk. Legend.

Drive sober. Legend.

Plan before you party.

All familiar messages for many of us, but it seems they're not getting through to some people in the Waikato district. This is according to crash statistics over the past five months.

Since 1 July 2019 there have been 4 fatal and 15 serious crashes on our roads in the Waikato district. Of those 19 crashes, alcohol was suspected in being a factor in 16 of them. That's a whopping 84%.

While you let that stat sink in, bear in mind that from 2014 to 2018 alcohol/drugs contributed to around 30 percent of New Zealand's fatal road crashes.

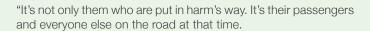
So Council's road safety team is rolling out that old favourite again – the Legend campaign – for the summer.

We're coming up to the festive season so that means more social gatherings, Christmas parties and New Year's celebrations.

The messages around drink driving are applicable all the time but summer is a good time to drive them home. It really is simple. The risk of crashing goes up with every alcoholic drink consumed.

We've got to look after our mates and make sure if they're having a drink that they're not driving.

"This is specially the case if we know someone who might think it's ok to drive after a few drinks. For them, it's generally much easier to brush it off with an "I'll be alright". They need their friends to tell them there's a problem there and that they've got to stop," says Council's Road Safety Co-ordinator Megan Jolly.



"You've also got to remember that if you have been drinking heavily the night before and you have done the right thing by not driving, you can still be over the limit the next day."

And if we're holding a party we've got to be responsible hosts. It's ok to have a few drinks at a party but there are a few things you can do to make sure your guests are looked after when it comes to alcohol.

- Plan to have sober drivers at your party who can escort folks home.
- Have a phone number for a taxi company handy.
- Always have soft drinks or juice available.
- If you're hosting, plan to be sober.
- Don't give alcoholic drinks to minors.
- Always have food available.
- Don't be afraid of telling a mate they've had enough.

So, if you're having a break, make the most of it and enjoy your time with friends and family, but do it safely.

Happy holidays, and remember.....

Stop a mate driving drunk. Legend.



Know your limit

Alcohol limit for drivers 20 years and over

You must not drive if the amount of alcohol:

- in your breath is more than 250mcg of alcohol per litre of breath
- in your blood is more than 50mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood.

Drivers under 20 years

The alcohol limit for drivers aged under 20 is zero.

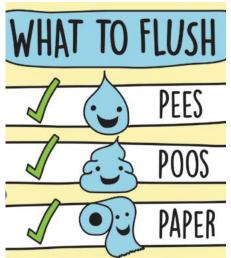
JUST BRIEFLY He Paanui Whakapoto

Restricted fire season

This time of year traditionally means we're in a restricted fire season. In the past Council has handled issuing permits during a restricted fire season, but this is now looked after by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). Instead of moving to a restricted fire season in early December, FENZ is being guided by the weather. This means before you light a fire, you should check out the FENZ website at checkitsalright.nz to see if you need a permit or not.



Remember the 3Ps this summer



This summer don't forget the 3 P's – only pee, poo and paper down the loo. With visitor numbers increasing in our towns over the warmer months, everyone needs to be reminded. Please do your bit to keep our networks free from anything that could clog them.

Join our team!

Looking for a new job or even a change in career? Check out our new careers website **www.joinourteam.co.nz** and see what job vacancies are available here and at other Waikato councils. If there isn't a job currently listed that interests you, then you can register your interest online and we will alert you when there is a vacancy that you might be interested in.

Report dodgy dumpers

Our illegal dumping team have responded to 625 reports of illegal dumping this year (between January and November). On average that's about two dumpings every day!

Unfortunately we can't issue infringements unless we have sufficient evidence so we need your help. Please report any dumping you see by phoning 0800 492 452 any time, via the Council's website: **www.waikatodistrict.govt/dumpers** or on our Facebook Group **@dodgydumpers**. If you can, please record any details of the vehicle involved (including the registration plate, colour, make and model of the vehicle) and the time of day so that we can take further action.

Just a note for our greenfingered Friends: Please don't throw green waste over banks – even though its organic, it can cause lots of problems. Please don't put grass clippings around the roots of street trees. We've found it is killing some of the trees. Thanks for all your support. Together we can keep our district clean and beautiful!



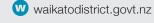


One of the more unusual cases of dodgy dumping!

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT COUNCIL BUSINESS?







Postal Address Waikato District Council Private Bag 544 Ngaruawahia Huntly Office 142 Main Street Huntly Ngaruawahia Office 15 Galileo Street Ngaruawahia Raglan Office 7 Bow Street Raglan Te Kauwhata Office

1 Main Road
Te Kauwhata

Tuakau Office 2 Dominion Road Tuakau