

Toituu Paanui

Te Putanga Tuawhaa



Kaimahi learning their local history

Featuring

**Executive Insights
IAWAI-Flowing Waters
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Council Connect**

Waikato

District Council
Te Kaunihera aa Takiwaa o Waikato



EXECUTIVE INSIGHTS

*E ngaa mana, e ngaa reo, e ngaa karangaranga maha.
Teenei te mihi ki a koutou i roto i ngaa ahuatanga o te waa.
Ka nui te whakamiha ki a koutou katoa.*



**Tumu Whakarae,
Craig Hobbs**

What a moment for our rohe!

Last week in Raglan, we celebrated the opening of our new, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant. Built over 18 months of partnership with hapuu, iwi, and the wider community,

It now delivers near drinking-quality water, protecting both our moana and whenua—and future-proofing Raglan through to 2070 with the latest kaitiaki technology. Acknowledging the koorero tuku iho shared by Angeline Greensill, powerfully reminds us of the enduring responsibility of kaitiakitanga.

But our work isn't just about infrastructure—it's about inclusion, representation, and remembering why every voice matters.

The 2025 local elections are fast approaching, and they're offering us a significant opportunity. Voting opens 9 September, closes 11 October, and includes a binding poll on Māori wards—a decision that will shape our district's governance for years to come.

With most seats up for grabs, your voice can and will make a difference.
We urge whaanau to get out and vote.

This brings us to another moment of cultural significance on the horizon—Koroneihana 2025, our first coronation under Te Arikinui Kūini Ngawai hono i te po. Many kaimahi having intergenerational responsibilities to ensuring the Koroneihana is well catered, serviced and celebrated.

Waikato District Council is proud to be located in the heart of the Kīngitanga and we look forward to celebrating the values that unite us.

Ngaa manaakitanga,
Craig Hobbs and Maehe Paki



**Pou Whakahaere
Maataamua,
Maehe Paki**



Tim Manukau

Kevin Lavery

Dave Chambers

IAWAI

Flowing Waters

Ko te ingoa he tohu. Names carry power — they speak to where we've been, where we stand, and where we're heading.

That's exactly the case with IAWAI, the new water services organisation formed by Hamilton City Council and Waikato District Council, in partnership with Waikato-Tainui.

Shared by our own Lloyd Whiu, the name IAWAI holds layered meaning. It's more than "flowing waters." It carries "IA" – he/she, the individual. "Awa" – the river, our life source, flows through our district. And "wai" – water, strong and ever-present, anchors it all.

IAWAI is a commitment to uphold the mana of wai, to protect its mauri, and to ensure that decisions made about our water reflect our tikanga, our values, and our vision.

What is IAWAI?

IAWAI is a new Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) that will take over drinking water and wastewater services in our rohe from 1 July 2025.

- It will manage services for over 90,000 connections across both councils.
- It is expected to invest \$3.3–\$3.6 billion in water infrastructure over 10 years.
- Stormwater will be transitioned to IAWAI in coming years.
- It replaces the previous "Three Waters" model with a locally-led, Treaty-based partnership.

But what sets IAWAI apart is the voice of mana whenua at the table. It aligns with Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato, our vision for the health and wellbeing of the river — not just today, but for generations to come.

IAWAI Board Appointments: Guardians of Wai, People, and Purpose

Selected on the basis of leadership, governance experience, deep understanding of local government and water services, and strong connection to wai maaori and our takiwaa;

Board of Directors:

Kevin Lavery, Executive Chair

- A seasoned chief executive with a talent for establishing new organisations and a deep knowledge of water reform. He will oversee the company's launch until a permanent CEO is appointed.

Tim Manukau (Tainui Waka), Director

- From the Waikato region, a respected Waikato River kaitiaki with a strong background in science and governance. His whakapapa enriches the board with the wisdom of our awa.

Dave Chambers, Director

- Former Chief Executive of Watercare, bringing expertise in water service leadership during a critical transition period.

Find out more [HERE](#)



IAWAI Board, Hamilton City Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato-Tainui



Tangata Tiriti

Your Voice, Your Mana, Your Vote

Do it for your mokopuna. Do it for your marae. Do it for your mana.

Local elections are just around the corner in the Waikato District and across Aotearoa.

It's easy to think voting is for someone else, but let's be honest—decisions are being made about our whenua, our wai, and our whaanau, with or without our input.

Whether it's funding for marae roads, rates on our whenua, or representation on council committees—we need Maaori voices at every table.

If you've ever sat in a hui and said "Why didn't they consult us?", here's your chance to make sure they do.

Our next local election and a binding poll on Maaori wards is on Saturday 11 October 2025.

Ballot boxes will be available in locations across the district including some of our Maaori Hauora Providers, keep an eye out on the link below.

Find out more [HERE](#)



Councillors go live - Tainui Live

TOO REO. TOO MANA. TOO POOTI

Everything you need to know about the 2025 Local Elections

Voting papers start being delivered. Once you receive your paper, you can vote!



**Not enrolled yet?
No worries, you can still vote!**

Remember, you won't get your voting papers in the mail if you enrol after 1 August.

You'll need to cast a **special vote**, which is easy:

Visit your local Council office
(Ngaaruawaahia, Huntly, Raglan, Tamahere,
Te Kauwhata, or Tuakau)
Or call 0800 36 76 56 for help



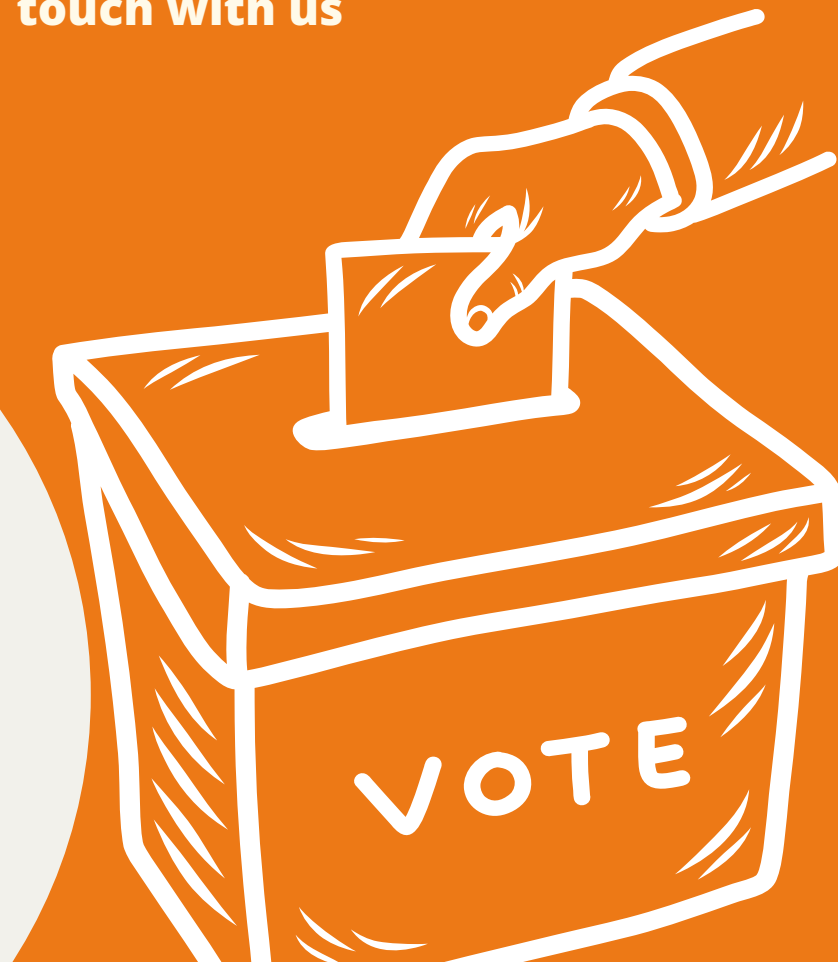
If you don't receive your papers by 22 September, get in touch with us

you'll be voting for

- Mayor
- Councillors
- Community Boards
- Maaori ward referendum

You'll be asked to vote on whether you support keeping or removing Maaori wards in the Waikato District.

If the poll results in Maaori wards being removed, there will not be Maaori wards from, 2028. If the poll results in keeping Maaori wards, they'll be a part of Council in 2028 and 2031.





Tilly Turner

From the frontline

With your Maaori Ward Councillor

E tuku ana i ngaa mihi aroha ki a koutou ngaa marae, ngaa maataawaka, koutou ko te whaanau Pacifica i roto ngaa hapori maha o te rohe o Waikato.

Nominations have been accepted by our Council and two of us standing Councillors have come through unopposed. I will be your Maaori Ward Councillor for the Tai Runga Takiwaa. It doesn't stop here though, we still need to get out and VOTE.

I entered Council knowing lots about my Maaori Community and paying my rates was my experience, of Council. My first triennium has been a huge learning curve, hard work has lead to confidence that the foundation for the Maaori Wards in the Waikato is strong and will grow into a valuable asset for all our communities.

Marae are self-sustaining, multi-functional, and easily accessible and our wider communities will become confident in our tribal spaces, but this will take a bit of time.

Our Kiingitanga values will encourage this engagement "what's good for Maaori is good for everybody – we treat everybody like we treat our ourselves – when there's need, and we have, then share - Manaakitanga"

I have been shaped by the understanding of the intergenerational historical knowledge RAUPATU - Confiscation has had on my people. I understood the historical distrust within my Maaori communities, so I've used this knowledge to bring understanding to our chambers, which is my (mokopuna decision) mission.

Clearly illustrated is the number of Maaori participating in the consultation and submission process. So don't be dissuaded by Council engagement fatigue, use this process to let Council know what works for you, your whaanau and your community, become engaged, to benefit our communities.

In the coming triennium, I will continue to serve you we must get everybody to vote.

I encourage you to talk and build confidence in your communities and amongst your neighbours about what we can bring to our communities – Manaakitanga.

To finish on a positive note, we have celebrated 30 years of Settlement and Waikato Tainui, Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council welcomed IAWAI – Flowing Water.

So, there is much to celebrate where we acknowledge what is happening with our people and our local Councils.

Noo reira, ko Kiingi Tuheitia ki te rangi, Kuiini Nga wai hono i te po ki te whenua, ko te Koroneihana e haere mai ana, paimaarire ki a taatou katoa.

Toituu Marae

The Journey Ahead

Our Maaori Ward Councillors identified a key need to connect council with our local marae and Maaori communities in a meaningful, enduring way.

In response, the Maaori Partnerships team has been moving with pace and purpose, reaching out across the rohe to host hui and engage with marae.

Since then, a collective energy has been rising.

A major milestone was reached recently when Council unanimously supported the draft Kii Tapu Terms of Reference—a co-designed foundation between marae and council.

Kokirangi Te Koi - Tuurangawaewae me Te Awamarahi ngaa marae



"Do it for us whaanau"



"Do it for our marae"

Kawe Jones - Oomaero Marae

This agreement marks the beginning of a robust, respectful partnership model, built on shared decision-making, open dialogue, and a deep recognition of the role marae play in the wellbeing of our communities.

40 Marae: One Kaupapa

Across the district, 40 marae have signalled their interest in participating in Toituu Marae—united by a shared desire to enhance relationships with Council, support local development, and create thriving, liveable communities for all.

This momentum speaks volumes about the power of collective voice and vision.

As a next step, we are now preparing a whakawhanaungatanga event to bring marae and Council together—to noho, to koorero, to listen, and to plan together for a shared future.

The korowai of partnership is still being woven, but each thread—each hui, each koorero, each commitment—brings us closer to a relationship grounded in tikanga, trust, and transformation.

Councillor Profile

Newcastle-Ngāruawāhia General Ward

Eugene Patterson



I am Ngaaruawaahia born and raised, married a local girl and have two children in their 20's. I spend the majority of my time working in and for the community, whether it's as a Councillor, involved with sports clubs and other groups within our wider community.

My wife and I have had businesses in Ngaaruawaahia for most of the last 30 years, with a big part of that running our family business 'Madison Coffee Lounge'. Madison's, at that time, was a hub for locals to gather and catch up. Such good times.

I grew up in a household where our parents were very community orientated. They always believed that good communities raised good children, so they contributed in any way they could.

This is where I grew an interest in first becoming a Community Board member. Some years later I stood for Council to represent the area and people that I grew up with and loved so much.

Always my proudest times as a Councillor is getting outcomes for residents that often may not get heard. With having many connections right across the community, I believe that I have a broad and clear understanding of what our community wants, and I need to be that conduit to get those outcomes to fruition.

The role is challenging and time consuming. I try to support and meet the needs of a more diverse community – it certainly keeps me on my toes!

Over the years I have been fortunate to travel. My wife and I, along with our daughter, have recently returned from a trip to the United States and Canada.

This was mainly to visit our son who originally left for Canada to play rugby. We sort of had two holidays in one. The US was spent visiting some cities (ironically the US part was a very similar trip to what Councillor Ngataki had taken earlier in the year). Canada was spent with our son and his partner travelling all over Nova Scotia.

I enjoy staying and camping in National parks and reservations, sitting around campfires, cooking and sharing a few beers, canoeing in lakes and rivers, so cool.

Very hard to pick a favourite place but having the opportunity to spend quality time all together as a family is hard to beat.

When it comes to favourite kai, that's a tough one because I just like food – from bacon and eggs, boil up, or a nice steak. Not so much a dessert person, but if it's there I'll eat it though.

I would like to finish off by encouraging you, your whanau and your friends to get registered to vote (if you haven't already).

Maaori wards have been such a positive addition around the Council table. I have very much enjoyed working alongside positive energetic people that do their best everyday for the people and communities that we all represent.

Your Voice Matters

Waikato District Rural Strategy

Kim is our Community and Business Sustainability Manager leading the Rural Strategy Project.

Jodi is our Kaiwhakamaahere Rautaki from our Strategy team, tasked with including iwi and mana whenua aspirations in the strategy.

The proposed purpose of the Rural Strategy will be to provide aims and aspirations for the district's rural spaces - including economy, community, and environment; for both this and future generations.

Approximately 30 of the marae in the Waikato district are rural. Through the Toituu Marae forum, aspirations relating to rural spaces have been identified including infrastructure, roading, water, energy, biodiversity/environmental gains, marae business development such as solar energy, farming, nursery, and maara kai.

How you can participate

We **want to hear your voices** and **understand what matters most** to you, as this will help inform the strategy.

Tell us what you think should be **included in the rural strategy** (within scope)

Tell us about your **aspirations for the rural spaces around your whenua/marae**.

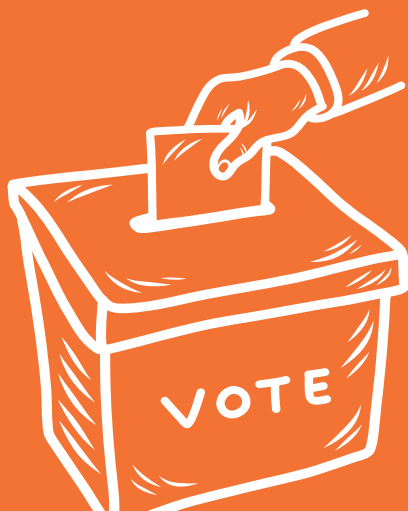
If you wish to be involved, contact jodi.bell@waikatodc.govt.nz



Ko Kim Parker tooku ingoa
Noo Ingarangi, Kootirana, Weera me
Uuropi ki te Raki ooku tuupuna
Ko Kirikiriroa te whenua tupu
Ko teenei taku mihi ki ngaa taangata
whenua o te rohe nei



Ko Taupiri, ko Ramaroa ngaa maunga
Ko Waikato, ko Whirinaki ngaa awa
Ko Tainui, ko Ngaatokimatawhaorua
ngaa waka
Ko Ngaati Mahuta, ko Ngaati Maahanga,
ko Te Hikutuu ngaa hapuu
Ko Waikato, ko Ngaapuhi ngaa iwi
Ko Tuurangawaewae, ko Te Papa-o-Rotu, ko
Moria ngaa marae



*Your voice matters! Local
government decisions impact our
whenua, our awa, our roads, water,
housing, parks, and whaanau
wellbeing.*

Your Voice Matters

Reserves & Beaches Bylaw Review

The Reserves and Beaches Bylaw helps manage how public spaces such as parks, reserves, and beaches are used in the Waikato district. It guides activities to ensure these spaces are safe, accessible, and reflect community values.

A bylaw may include rules for topics such as:

- Vehicles on beaches or reserves.
- Motor or dirt bikes on beaches or reserves.
- Horses or other animals on our reserves and beaches (excluding dogs – these are covered by our Dog Control Bylaw).
- Other issues raised through engagement or consultation.

We are seeking feedback from our Te Puuaha o Waikato whaanau.

If you wish to be involved, contact consult@waidc.govt.nz



Noo Te Papaioea ahau
Ko Kirikiriroa tooku kaainga
noho inaaiane
Ko Hannah Beaven tooku ingoa
He Principal Corporate Planner ahau
ki te Kaunihera.
Ko teenei taku mihi ki ngaa
taangata whenua o te rohe nei
Ka mihi hoki au ki ngaa tohu o te
rohe nei



Ko Matopo te maunga
Ko Zambezi te awa
Ko Ndebele te iwi
Kei Te Kauwhata au e noho ana
Ko Privinn Mwene tooku ingoa
He Kaiwhakawhanake Hanganga ahau

Pookeno, Tuakau Wastewater Constraints

The Pookeno and Tuakau area is currently experiencing constraints in the wastewater network.

The system is reaching its maximum capacity, which means new housing developments cannot connect until additional capacity is made available.

We are investigating long-term solutions to remove these constraints.

We are seeking early engagement with marae, hapuu, iwi to:

- Build understanding and transparency around the wastewater servicing constraints.
- Secure input and feedback on potential solutions.
- Establish long-term partnership pathways.
- Identify risks, opportunities, and feasibility considerations early.

To whaanau, marae and hapuu across **Pookeno and Tuakau** please connect with the team to ensure your voices are heard.

privinn.mwene@waidc.govt.nz

Find out more [HERE](#)



Raukawa Trust
Te Nehenehenui
Waikato-Tainui
Hauraki Maaori Trust Board
Department of Internal Affairs
Trust Waikato
Maaori Land Court
Waikato District Council

Marae Development Agency Hui

Out and About

Serving our communities

This past quarter, the Maaori Partnerships team has continued to work with focus, driving progress across the district.

From engaging with whaanau on District Plans, to facilitating robust waananga with councillors in chambers, supporting local kaupapa, strengthening cultural capability across the organisation, and ensuring our legislative obligations to Maaori are upheld.

At the heart of it all we're here to serve. Our mahi is about helping to create thriving, liveable, and connected communities.



Waikato-Tainui Hui aa-tau
Cr Turner and CE Donna
Flavell



Raglan Wastewater Treatment
Plant Opening



Festival Way Opening

Council Connect



Neighbourhood Park & Sports Park Reserve Management Plan (RMP) Review Update

Consultation for RMPs was undertaken with face-to-face meetings, through social media channels, targeted contact and newsletters. We helped support local Community Boards to engage their communities.

Through this consultation we have received **110 submissions relating to over 50 reserves** across the district. Feedback is varied depending on the reserve, ranging from shade and fencing for playgrounds to improved field lighting for sports fields.

Consultation closed on 14 July. Hearings and deliberations for submissions were held on August 5-6.

Councillors will make recommendations for amendments to the draft plans. Staff will finalise the draft plans with the recommendations for adoption in September.

Following adoption, action plans will be developed to scope out improvements or investigate issues relating to the reserves in the plan.

Any ideas or issues related to neighbourhood parks or sports parks can still be sent through to Council. These will be held for consideration for future development/improvements.

Have your say with Matt H on:
Reserve.planning@waidc.govt.nz

Community Pools Strategy Review Update

Feedback via an online form was open for two months and included social media channels, targeted contact, and through Community Boards who engaged with their community.

The feedback period closed on the 14 July with **49 submissions received** which were given to the aquatic steering group to review.

Minor changes have been recommended, but the majority of submitters showed great support for the strategy with key themes relating to accessible spaces, learn to swim, creating a welcoming community space, and low entry costs.

Following changes made to the strategy, the Community Pools Strategy will be taken to the Infrastructure Committee seeking a resolution for adoption.

Following adoption council will look to implement the goals within the strategy. This will involve future planning of upgrades, maintenance and infrastructure.

The pool users can always share their feedback on how we can achieve the pools fit for purpose goals.

Have your say with Matt V on:
Reserve.planning@waidc.govt.nz

Roadies Paanui

Our roading teams are currently heavily inundated with responsive maintenance requests across the district.



Please be mindful that they are doing their best and we ask for patience as they work through the service requests.

Council Connect

Earthworks and Renewable Energy Engagement Update

The Government has announced changes to council planning processes, including a pause on some activities under the Resource Management Act. These changes are still being worked through, and we're taking time to understand what they mean for our local planning kaupapa.

Council has been actively engaging with Maaori communities on topics like earthworks and renewable energy. We are grateful for the whakaaro shared so far and remain committed to inclusive planning and meaningful and authentic engagement.



There are some exemption pathways offered, so some planning work may continue. We are currently exploring whether the exemptions apply to our Kaupapa.

Bessie and Jamahl will provide an update once there is more certainty about how we are moving forward with this work.

Raahui Pookeka Socio-Economic Master Plan Progress

As part of developing the Waikato District Council's Socio-Economic Master Plan, Julian Williams (Te Huia Ltd) and Norm Hill (Te Hira Ltd) invite representatives of Raahui Pookeka marae to a hui to share koorero, review insights to date, and help shape the direction of this important kaupapa.

This hui is an opportunity for mana whenua to collectively review the progress of this project and ensure marae aspirations are accurately reflected in the final Tangata Whenua Statement and Engagement Report, which will inform the development of the Socio-Economic Master Plan.

Wednesday 27 August
5:00pm
Te Oohaaki Marae



RSVP to Julian on: julian@te-huia.co.nz



CREATING
LIVEABLE, THRIVING
+ CONNECTED
COMMUNITIES