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For Nelson City Council services at COVID-19 Protection Framework Red go to [our.nelson.govt.nz](https://our.nelson.govt.nz)

## Flexible and fast: Reducing COVID-19 impacts on Council budgets and projects

Nelson City Council voted unanimously on Thursday 17 February to create a dedicated COVID-19 fund to ensure planned capital projects can be delivered over the next few years, in response to increased prices from ever-changing and unpredictable global supply issues caused by COVID-19.

Interruptions to supply chains and scarcity of materials have left organisations and businesses throughout the world facing rapidly increasing costs. This inevitably places pressure on budgets, which were set prior to the disruption being felt, despite including industry-standard allowances for contingencies.

To ensure tenders for planned projects can be awarded, started on time, and completed successfully, Council will create a COVID-19 fund worth \$2.8 million, that will be used to cover any increased costs as a result of the pandemic. This decision comes alongside a decision to grant the Tenders Subcommittee the ability to approve the award of tenders, saving potentially 10 weeks compared to normal approval processes.

Group Manager Infrastructure Alec Louverdis says creating the fund will ensure funding is easily accessible at short notice when needed, but it is designed to only be drawn on when absolutely necessary.

"This streamlined process will ultimately save money for ratepayers in the longer term as materials can be secured quickly and will allow contractors to plan their work programmes with greater certainty.

"Council's projects will continue to face a lot of strain due to the economic situation created by COVID-19.

## New table at Codgers Hub

The Codgers Hub is home to a brand-new handmade family-sized picnic table thanks to Nelson City Council.

The bespoke redwood table is handcrafted by local woodworker, Matt Holland, who took inspiration from the Dun Mountain railway heritage of the site.

The table takes pride of place near the car park for a convenient lunch spot or pre or post-ride catch up with friends.



To secure the best possible prices for Nelson, and ensure we can complete planned projects, it's vital we have this money on hand so we can act fast when required."

Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese says COVID-19 is causing disruption to the supply chain and price stability for the businesses that undertake Council's work.

"It's important that we adjust our processes to achieve the best prices possible while we continue with infrastructure investment in the city.

"These changes will provide a framework for timely decision-making while maintaining budgetary discipline. They are a temporary change and will be reviewed regularly throughout the remainder of the year."

Civil Contractors New Zealand (CCNZ) Nelson Marlborough Chairman Brendon Dodd says:

"In addition to the current streamlined procurement and early contractor involvement process used successfully by Nelson City Council in close collaboration and partnership with the Nelson Marlborough CCNZ, we wish to state our support for the continued innovation by Council in thinking of ways to deal with the challenges COVID-19 is posing the industry.

"Further streamlining of Council's internal contract award processes will ensure greater certainty for all contractors and will further allow all contractors to manage pricing, workloads and programming – delivering better outcomes for all during these very tough times for the industry."

The COVID-19 fund will be reassessed by Council in 12 months' time, giving elected members the chance to evaluate the success of the fund and whether it should continue or stop.



## Grants up to \$10,000 available to reduce waste

Have you got a great idea about how to reduce or avoid waste going to our landfill, but could do with some financial help to make it happen?

Nelson City Council's waste minimisation grants are now open and offer up to \$10,000 for businesses, community groups, iwi and schools to turn waste saving ideas into reality.

In last year's trial of waste minimisation grants, Chia Sisters used a waste minimisation grant from Council to replace their plastic pallet wrap with reusable covers, saving four cubic metres of plastic wrap per year and improving efficiency on the warehouse floor.

Council also funded Bridge Valley Camp to purchase reusable lunch boxes for school lunches and supported Mutu, an app for sharing items like camping gear with others, to expand in our region.

This year, there is a particular focus on grants that can help support a reduction in demolition waste and food waste, but Council is open to any project which avoids or reduces waste.

"Projects can be educational, research, or practical

solutions to reduce or avoid waste," says Group Manager of Infrastructure Alec Louverdis.

"As a Council, we are committed to achieving the goal of a 10% reduction in waste to landfill for the region by 2030, but we know that we need the community's ideas to help make this happen.

"Our community is already very active and innovative around waste reduction. These grants are a way of helping people move their ideas into action," says Alec.

Council will give grants of between \$2000 and \$10,000 to successful projects. There is a total of \$40,000 available this year.

Applications for funding close on Thursday 31 March 2022.

To learn more and check the conditions for applying, email [rethinkwaste@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:rethinkwaste@ncc.govt.nz) or visit:

[nelson.govt.nz/wastegrant2022](https://nelson.govt.nz/wastegrant2022)



Chia Sisters received a grant from Nelson City Council's Rethink Waste waste minimisation grant last year and used it to replace all the plastic pallet wrap in their Nelson warehouse with reusable covers.



The Sheer Gown and the Lavender Dress from the Broadgreen House 'Secret Lives of Dresses' exhibition are the subjects of a short story competition.

## Call for writers to engage with fashion, history and mystery

A new short story competition has launched, inviting authors to 'write the story' of two mysterious dresses currently on display in Broadgreen Historic House.

Partly inspired by Erin McKean's 2011 novel, *The Secret Lives of Dresses*, Nelson City Council heritage facilities curator Māhina Marshall selected two 1950s ball gowns as the inspiration for the writing competition because their history is completely unknown.

Anne Kennedy and Rachael King, two of New Zealand's most acclaimed authors, will judge the new short story competition, which is open to all writers based in Aotearoa. There are more than \$3,000 in prizes to be won thanks to competition sponsors Page & Blackmore, Grand Arden Monaco and Wilsons Abel Tasman.

To learn more about the competition and view the dresses in detail, visit:

[secretlivesshortstorycomp.nz](https://secretlivesshortstorycomp.nz)

## Virtual space adventure brings Fandorama to your living room

Community Programmes Librarian Sharmaine Ford has built an online escape room, allowing Nelson's space enthusiasts to go on an interactive adventure.

The escape room sees players choose their own adventure, solve riddles and visit new worlds in a sci-fi universe.

"When we went into lockdown in August last year, we were asked to look at upcoming events, including all the Fandom events, and what we could do online or virtually," says Sharmaine.

"Our team had already talked about doing an escape room for Fandorama, and I decided to start working on an online escape room that we could share regardless of the COVID-19 situation."

The library's "Fandom" events are mini comic conventions, helping fans nerd-out with cosplay (costume play) and activities to celebrate comics, science fiction, anime and other genres. The 2022 Fandorama in-person events were cancelled due to COVID-19, but Sharmaine's space adventure was still able to lift off.

"It is inspired by 'Star Wars,' and the space opera genre of science fiction – travelling between planets, exploring and facing danger. But a player shouldn't need any knowledge of science fiction to make their way through and have some fun.

"In some instances, wrong answers can add to the story. For instance, the player might find themselves fleeing from a space battle or paralysing themselves and their side-kick."

Play the Interplanetary Bounty Hunter escape room game for free:

[bit.ly/3uMWkaN](https://bit.ly/3uMWkaN)

## Look out for poisonous karaka berries

Dog owners should be aware that the kernels inside karaka berries are highly toxic, and consumption can be fatal.

Karaka trees are native to New Zealand and are abundant in public places throughout Nelson, including the back beach at Tāhunanui, Monaco Reserve and Melrose Gardens.

If you suspect your dog has ingested karaka berries, contact a vet immediately.

For further info go to:

[poisons.co.nz](https://poisons.co.nz)



## MEETINGS

The following meetings of the Nelson City Council have been scheduled.

Infrastructure Committee – via Zoom	9am	24 Feb
Community and Recreation Committee	9am	3 Mar
Joint Committee of Tasman District and Nelson City Councils	9.30am	8 Mar
Urban Development Subcommittee	1pm	8 Mar
Council meeting	9am	10 Mar
Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit	9.30am	11 Mar
Civil Defence Emergency Management Group	8.30am	22 Mar
Joint Committee of Tasman District and Nelson City Councils	9.30am	22 Mar
Forestry Subcommittee	1pm	22 Mar
Hearings Panel – Other	11.30am	23 Mar
Strategic Development and Property Subcommittee	9am	24 Mar
Environment and Climate Committee – to deliberate on submissions to Urban Environment Bylaw 2015 (No. 225) Review	1pm	24 Mar
Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit	9.30am	25 Mar
Regional Transport Committee	1.30pm	29 Mar
Infrastructure Committee	9am	31 Mar

For a full list of Council meetings go to:

[nelson.govt.nz/meetings](https://nelson.govt.nz/meetings)

To read the latest updates or sign up for Our Nelson by email go to: [our.nelson.govt.nz](https://our.nelson.govt.nz)

