

# OUR NELSON



## TŌ TĀTOU WHAKATŪ



Issue 92 • 27 March 2020

Keep up to date with the latest news from Nelson City Council

Unite  
against  
COVID-19



## COVID-19: What Nelson City Council is doing to protect our community

On Thursday 26 March, the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern raised the COVID-19 alert level to stage four. This means the country has shut down for at least four weeks.

We have all been directed to stay at home, schools and businesses are closed and travel is severely limited.

Essential services such as supermarkets and pharmacies will remain open.

During this period, Nelson City Council is working alongside the Nelson and Marlborough District Health Board (NMDHB) to help protect the health and well-being of our local community.

Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese says Nelsonians must work together to stop the spread of the virus.

"Coronavirus is a potentially serious disease for everyone, but especially older adults and people with underlying health issues.

"That is why it's important for everyone to listen to the Ministry of Health advice. The actions that young, healthy people take now could protect some of our most vulnerable residents.

"This shutdown is the best chance we have of containing the virus in New Zealand."

This is what Council is doing to protect our community.

### Essential services

One of Council's responsibilities is ensuring essential services such as water, waste water, crematorium and cemetery and waste management operate effectively.

Group Manager Infrastructure Alec Louverdis

says Council has contingency plans for all core services, and Council officers have worked to ensure these are operational.

"Key staff who work at facilities such as the water treatment plant, wastewater treatment facilities and landfill sites have already been physically distancing themselves. Work has been undertaken to ensure an adequate supply of chemicals to run these facilities.

"Some key infrastructure teams are split in two and work in separate buildings to reduce the risk of staff becoming sick at the same time.

"With respect to refuse collection, staff are working with all the local companies who collect waste to ensure rubbish will still be collected."

All of Nelson's community facilities – including libraries, pools, community centres and venues are now closed. This includes our Customer Service Centre on Trafalgar Street.

Libraries have made it easier to join as a digital member, so users can access thousands of online resources. Find out more on page 3.

### Public health

Council plays a supporting role to the NMDHB, who work with the Ministry of Health to plan our region's response.

Community Based Assessment Centres (CBAC) are set up for COVID-19 testing throughout the region:

**Nelson:** The former Suburban Club building, 168 Tahunanui Drive

**Motueka:** Bridge club room on Tudor Street.

Nelsonians with Coronavirus symptoms should phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453 or their GP, and will be told whether they require COVID-19 testing. Please do not approach a CBAC directly.

### The local economy

Mayor Reese says Council is aware local businesses will come under pressure during the shutdown. She says businesses should not be afraid to access stimulus packages announced by Central Government.

"I know many Nelson businesses are not accustomed to seeking Government assistance, but circumstances are different. This money is yours to claim to help your business navigate these difficult times."

During times of crisis, the work Council continues to undertake can provide reassurance to local businesses.

To help local contractors, who employ large numbers of Nelsonians, Council will make weekly invoice payments. Plans are in place to ensure payment for work completed continues throughout the shutdown.

Council is also aware people in our region may face financial hardship over the coming months.

Ratepayers worried about rates bills can contact Council via our Customer Service Centre (03-546 0200) to work out a manageable payment plan.

### Working together to unite against COVID-19

With Nelson heading into uncertain times, Mayor Reese says we must look out for one another as we unite against COVID-19.

"We are all connected in one way or another, even if we are being asked to be physically distant

"Phone older or unwell neighbours, find out if you can help them with food or other supplies. Talk to friends and whānau to see if they need support. Kindness is an incredibly powerful way to get through this difficult time."

4 From the Nelson  
Marlborough District  
Health Board

6 From the National  
Regional Development  
Agency



For the latest on Nelson City Council's work to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our community go to:  
[facebook.com/nelsoncitycouncil](https://facebook.com/nelsoncitycouncil)

Nelson The Smart Little City  
He tāone tōrire a Whakatū



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



546 0200



[twitter.com/nelsoncitynz](https://twitter.com/nelsoncitynz)



[facebook.com/nelsoncitycouncil](https://facebook.com/nelsoncitycouncil)



[youtube.com/nelsoncouncil](https://youtube.com/nelsoncouncil)





# How COVID-19 is affecting Council services

With New Zealand now on COVID-19 shutdown, we understand many people want to know about Nelson City Council’s key services. Here we’ve answered some of the more frequently asked questions.

## Will the buses still be running?

**Yes.** The Saturday timetable will be running, with an additional early morning service on the Richmond/Nelson Route. The Sunday timetable will run as usual. All buses will be free and this will be the case until 30 June, unless the alert level is lowered before that. The service is to enable essential workers to get to and from work and for others who are well to make essential trips only. It is important to try and stay at least one metre away from other passengers where possible, and to follow this essential advice:

- Maintain hygiene – wash hands before and after bus use if possible (or use hand sanitizer).
- Sit away from the driver - seating near the front of the bus has been restricted for the driver’s protection – we need to keep our drivers well to keep the buses running.
- All passengers are to enter and leave the bus from the rear door. The front door will open for people using wheelchairs
- The bus driver will not pick up passengers if doing so will mean physical distancing on the bus can’t be maintained



## Will my rubbish and recycling still get collected?

**Yes.** Nelson City Council will endeavour to ensure kerbside collections continue throughout the shutdown. We ask that medical waste or tissues be put in a bag before they go in the rubbish, and that rubbish bins or bags only go outside your home on the day of collection. Kerbside recycling collections will continue, but materials picked up in yellow bins will go to landfill. This is because Central Government is only allowing fully automated sorting facilities to remain open to protect staff and communities from COVID-19. There is no refuse or greenwaste disposal at Pascoe Street at this time. Glass, which is approximately 50% of recycling by weight, will continue to be collected and dispatched for recycling in Auckland, unless Auckland stops recycling glass itself.



## Can I still use public toilets?

**Yes.** Most of Council’s public toilets are still open at this stage. However, if it becomes difficult for staff to keep toilets cleaned to a high standard, or if they pose a risk to cleaning staff, public toilets will close. For hygiene purposes we ask the public, where possible, to use your home toilet, and only use public toilets in an emergency.



## Can I take my children to the playground if I stay away from other families?

**No.** Following a Government directive, Council’s community playgrounds and exercising equipment have been closed. Keeping equipment sanitised is simply not possible and the risk of passing on the virus is too high. Signage will be in place and we ask you to respect these closures to keep us all safe.

## Can I still get books out from the library?

In hard copy form – no. Nelson’s libraries - Elma Turner Library, Stoke Library and Nightingale Library Memorial - are all closed. Items checked out from any of the libraries cannot be returned until they reopen. You will not incur any overdue charges in the closure period, and if an overdue notice is received during this time, please disregard it. Items requested prior to the closures will be held until the libraries reopen. There is a great selection of online material and resources, which can still be accessed by library members. New members can now sign up without having to present their ID in person. To join, head to the library website and select Digital Only Membership when filling out the online form. Take note of your temporary membership number and four-digit PIN.



## Will our water systems be maintained?

**Yes.** You shouldn’t notice any change in the quality of your drinking water. A lot of planning has gone into ensuring we maintain this essential service. You will also be able to flush your toilets normally, considerable work has gone in to making sure our wastewater treatment plant continues to operate.



## Can I still contact the Customer Service Centre with my questions?

**Yes.** Although Nelson City Council’s Customer Service Centre is closed, you will still be able to contact Council via phone on 03 546 0200 or email us at [enquiry@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:enquiry@ncc.govt.nz).

## Will the roads be affected?

For the duration of the shutdown, construction on major roading projects will be paused and the sites made safe (e.g. Waimea Road / Tahunanui cycle path). Temporary traffic management will be monitored to ensure the sites remain safe and key personnel will still patrol the network. Pedestrians will notice most crossing phases have been automated so there is no need to touch the call button. Any hazards on the network (e.g. slips or results of a flooding event) will be dealt with as normal with our contractors having plans in place to address urgent work.

## Will Council meetings still be held?

**No.** All council and committee meetings have been put on hold. An emergency committee has been set up to meet via Zoom on an as-required basis, to ensure key council decision-making can continue. If, and when, the emergency committee is required to meet, we will ensure the agenda and meeting minutes are kept regularly updated on the NCC website:

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

See page 8 for more details.





## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

My Mum is in her eighties and I'm immensely proud of how resilient she is, and always have been.

Perhaps because she came from humble beginnings and knows how to make the best of very little. Or maybe training as a nurse in the 1950s embedded the best of caring and survival skills in her approach to life. Mum took the over-70s Go Home – Stay Home message seriously and she got herself ready for the long haul. She'd read enough international news to know that New Zealand needed to take a big step to get ahead of the impacts of COVID-19.

But even people as resilient and pragmatic as my Mum know that Level 4 is tough. When Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern made the announcement that New Zealand would move swiftly to Level 3 and then Level 4 earlier this week it came as shocking news. I do want us, even amid the heartache of the impacts this is having on businesses, jobs, education, events, outdoor activities, and family connections – almost every aspect of our lives, to remember why we are doing this. We are staying home to save lives, the lives of people in our own community, and Level 4 is our best chance of achieving success right now.

This is the biggest collective effort we have undertaken as a country and it certainly feels pretty surreal as we start our first week of staying home. We are learning how to work well from home, to exercise and eat differently, and managing either separation from family members or spending a lot more time with them. Please be patient with each other as we adjust and remember we will all make mistakes from time to time. Forgiving is as important as saying sorry.

My sincere and health-felt thanks to all the people who are working to keep our country going. To our supermarket and dairy staff, food producers, nurses, doctors, pharmacists, police, council staff and contractors, port workers, truck drivers, MSD staff, and many more, you are doing a great job. And if you're not working remember Jacinda's message – your job is to stay home.

This edition of Our Nelson sets out plenty of information to help you get through. Please don't hesitate to make contact with us if you still have unanswered questions or need help. We're in this together, it will be tough, but we will get through by taking care of each other.



## Nelson City Libraries in your living room

Nelson City Libraries is now offering digital-only membership without the need to show an ID to connect Nelsonians to thousands of online resources.

Nelson's three libraries - Elma Turner Library, Stoke Memorial Library and Nightingale Library Memorial closed on Sunday.

Existing library card holders have access to thousands of e-books, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines and movies, television shows, documentaries and courses offered as part of the library's extensive online services.

Now, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, those who had not yet joined the library can do so without having to show their identification in person, allowing them immediate access.

The library's online catalogue includes more than 13,000 eBooks and audiobooks, 2400 newspapers and 3900 magazines via PressReader and more than 30,000 movies, television shows, courses and documentaries with Kanopy.

Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese said libraries had always provided support for the community and that wouldn't stop just because the doors had closed.

"Council wants to help residents through this difficult period. We hope being able to freely access the library's online services, from anywhere, will help people pass the time."

Physical items checked out from any of the libraries cannot be returned until they reopen.

Library users will not incur any overdue charges in the closure period, and if an overdue notice is received during this time, it can be disregarded. Items requested prior to the closures will be held until they reopen.

To join the library, head to the library website and select Digital Only Membership when filling out the online form. Take note of your temporary membership number and

four-digit PIN.

To access online content you need to login with your Library card and four digit PIN. If you've forgotten your PIN, you can reset your PIN online, or give us a call on (03) 546 8100.

**Here are just some of the library's online services:**

- The Libby and Borrow Box apps allow you to download ebooks and audiobooks directly to your device. You can download these apps here or by searching your app store.
- Kanopy is a free streaming service just like Netflix that allows you to watch award winning movies, TV shows, documentaries and courses. Stream up to 10 items per month at [nelson.kanopy.com](https://nelson.kanopy.com).
- If you are stuck on what to read next, get a suggestion from our librarians. Just tell us a bit about yourself and we will be in touch with new authors or books you might enjoy.
- Lynda.com is an online collection of courses and video tutorials on topics from making music to graphic design.
- PressReader delivers over 2500 newspapers and magazines from over 100 countries in 60 languages, to your computer, mobile device or tablet.

**And for children:**

- Kanopy Kids allows you to watch films and TV series that inspire and inform, helping children develop social emotional skills and reinforce valuable learning topics, such as history, science, and new languages.
- Stock up on crafting and cookbooks! You can browse a range of children's non-fiction through our ebook apps.

## Please put your wet wipes in the bin

The Covid-19 situation will likely mean an increased use of wet wipes as people increase their hygiene routines.

While this is understandable, please make sure wet wipes are thrown in the bin and not flushed down the toilet.

Wet wipes building up in our wastewater

system can cause pipes to block and sewers to overflow onto our properties and streets and into our streams. Blocked pipes can cause inconvenience and can be very expensive to fix.





Unite  
against  
COVID-19

For updates and more information on  
keeping yourself safe, visit **Covid19.govt.nz**

New Zealand Government

# Self-isolation

## Unite against COVID-19 and slow the spread of the virus in New Zealand

### Why should I self-isolate?

Self-isolation is the safest, most sensible thing you can do to protect those you live with, friends, whānau and all New Zealanders.

For any assistance or advice regarding self-isolation contact Healthline on 0800 358 5453

### Basic Rules of self-isolation

Stay at home, and take simple, common-sense steps to avoid close contact with other people as much as possible, like you would with the flu.

Keep yourself out of any situation where you come into face-to-face contact with others closer than 1 metre away, for more than 15 minutes.

Take particular care around the elderly and other vulnerable people.

New Zealand Police are carrying out spot checks on those who are self-isolating, to check on people's welfare and needs.

Visa holders who do not comply with instructions from a Health Officer can be detained and deported.

If you know of anyone who should be in isolation but isn't, contact [nhccselfisolation@health.govt.nz](mailto:nhccselfisolation@health.govt.nz).

### What does this mean for people living with me?

Everyone in your household should regularly wash their hands, avoid touching their face and clean frequently touched surfaces.

If you take all the correct steps to self-isolate, others you live with will not need to self-isolate.

#### These include:

- don't share a bed or common sleeping area
- stay in a well-ventilated room and keep the window open as much as possible to keep clean air moving through your room
- minimise the time you spend in shared spaces such as bathrooms, kitchens and sitting rooms
- keep shared spaces clean
- Clean surfaces such as kitchen benches and sinktops with disinfectant after you use them
- keep your towels separate from the towels of other people in your house and use your own toothbrushes, washcloths and bed linen
- use a designated bathroom or if you use a shared toilet or bathroom, clean them after you have used them every time
- take your meals back to your room to eat
- don't share dishes, drinking glasses,
- cups or utensils with other people in your home

- do not share food and drinks. Someone in your home can prepare your food, but you should not prepare food for others
- wash your clothing and dishes separately to others in your home.

### What can I do while self-isolating?

You can go outside, do gardening, hang out washing etc., but you need to limit your contact with others.

You can go for a walk, run or ride your bike, as long as you avoid other people.

### Getting food and supplies

Where possible, get a friend, family member or delivery service to leave supplies on your doorstep, to avoid contact.

### What about camping or campervans?

You cannot self-isolate in a tent at a camping ground because it means you are using shared facilities such as bathrooms and campgrounds.

You can self-isolate in a campervan if it has a fully self-contained shower and toilet, and a kitchen. That means a shower you can stand up in, and toilet you can flush. Stay away from shared spaces where you might come into

contact with other people (like public toilets or campgrounds).

### If you become unwell while self-isolating

Contact Healthline for free on **0800 358 5453** if you begin to feel unwell.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are **cough, fever, and shortness of breath**.

If you need to call emergency services, please let them know you are in self-isolation first.

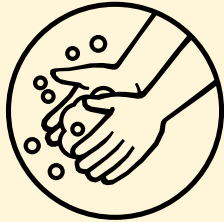
### Mental wellbeing

It is normal to feel stressed or anxious in these situations. For support with grief, anxiety, distress or mental wellbeing, call or text the free 'Need to talk?' service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on **1737** and talk things through with a trained counsellor.

More information and assistance This website has everything you need to know about COVID-19. Visit **Covid19.govt.nz**

If you're not sure what assistance may be available, don't know who to contact for help or would like more information, call the Government Helpline on **0800 779 997**.

## Protect yourself and others from COVID-19



Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds) Then dry.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.



Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.



Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.



Stay home if you feel unwell.



# Unite against COVID-19

For updates and more information on keeping yourself safe, visit **Covid19.govt.nz**  
New Zealand Government

## Feeling unwell? Stay home and use the phone.

Phone the free Coronavirus helpline for advice before you visit a GP, pharmacy or hospital.  
**0800 358 5453**

### What is a community based assessment centre? (CBAC)

- People who have travelled, had contact with a person with Coronavirus or have symptoms consistent with Coronavirus should phone Healthline (0800 358 5453) or their GP first.
  - The Healthline advisor or GP will confirm if someone needs to attend a CBAC for assessment and testing.
  - At a CBAC you will be triaged, assessed and if needed, tested for Coronavirus.
- Nelson Community Based Assessment Centre is located at the former Suburban Club, 168 Tahunanui Drive Phone: **0800 358 4636** Open 7 days, 9am – 6pm.



### How to Hand Wash

Wash hands when visibly soiled, after contact with patients who have diarrhoea or vomiting, or when advised to do so. Alcohol-based hand rub can be used at all other times.



1

Wet hands with water and apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces

2

Rub hands palm to palm, up to and including wrists

3

Right palm over back of left with linked fingers and vice versa

4

Palm to palm with fingers linked

5

Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked

6

Rotational rubbing of left thumb held in right palm and vice versa

7

Rotational rubbing firmly, with closed fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa

8

Rinse your hands with water

9

Dry hands thoroughly with a paper towel

## Coronavirus

Managing uncertainty and fear around COVID-19

**KEEP UP TO DATE**  
but stick to credible information sources, such as [www.covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

**FOCUS ON THINGS YOU CAN CONTROL**  
Wash your hands, get your flu vaccine and practice physical distancing

**KEEP CONNECTED**  
to friends and family and support each other. Phone, text, talk over the fence or visit (keep 2m apart)

**HEAD OUTSIDE IF YOU CAN**  
Physical activity and natural surroundings makes you feel better

**KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE**  
For most people, COVID-19 will be flu-like symptoms

**KEEP DOING THE THINGS YOU ENJOY**  
to make you feel happy and calm

**TAKE A BREAK**  
from social media and be selective about what you follow

**INVOLVE YOUR KIDS**  
Make a plan, teach kids how they can help, follow routines and be available to them

**CONSIDER ASKING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT,**  
if you're finding the COVID-19 conversation overwhelming

- SUPPORT OPTIONS:**
- **COVID-19 Health Advice.** If you are worried you (or your whānau) have symptoms of Coronavirus, phone 0800 358 5453. Other medical advice 0800 611 116
  - **1737 - National Telephone Counselling Service.** Available 24/7. Text or call
  - **Travel enquiries:** [www.safetravel.govt.nz](https://www.safetravel.govt.nz)
  - **Up-to-date info:** [www.covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)
  - **Check out some mindfulness apps such as:** Headspace, Calm, Insight Timer







# COVID-19 Business Support

As our world, our country, our community and our people navigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to take a moment to remind you that you are not in this alone, and to inform you of the support services that are available locally.

The team here at the Nelson Regional Development Agency, Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce and Nelson Tasman Business Trust have been working hard behind the scenes to put resources where they are needed most to support you through these tough, unprecedented times.

As a community, we have been challenged year on year with cyclones, floods and bushfires, but the compassion, strength and resilience we have shown in times of adversity is a humbling reminder that we are all in this together. This is no different. We have faith that the agility, resilience and clever thinking of the Nelson Tasman business community, combined with the range of government and business support available will enable us to pave the way for a proactive and successful recovery when the time comes.

In the meantime, here's how we can help.

## Business Continuity Support Service

As the Regional Business Partner for Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough, we are working alongside the Government to ensure you are receiving practical, relevant and timely advice as the pandemic evolves.

Our services include:

- Support and guidance to understand the Government business support package including wage subsidies and leave payments.
- One-on-one advisory support covering topics such as business continuity and resilience, finance and cashflow management, HR advice, supply chain management, and wellbeing/ stress.
- Access to additional fully funded business mentoring support and one-on-one professional advisory support.

- A range of free digital information sessions, online resources and webinars covering topics such as working from home, cashflow management, HR advice and wellbeing.
  - Connecting businesses experiencing worker shortages and those with excess workers to the appropriate channels to ensure that resources can be redeployed locally
  - Collecting regional information on the impacts of COVID-19 to understand the changing needs of our business community so that we can feed this information to Government and appropriate authorities
- To contact our dedicated Business Support Team, fill out the form at:

[nelsontasman.nz/covid-19](https://nelsontasman.nz/covid-19)

## Keep Informed

Our priority is to connect you with the advice, support and guidance that you need to navigate the challenges posed to your business, livelihood and staff through the course of this pandemic. As such, we will be acting as a central source of localised business information and will put in place additional support services as the situation evolves.

You can stay informed of these developments by:

- [nelsontasman.nz/covid-19](https://nelsontasman.nz/covid-19)
- NRDA on LinkedIn
- Chamber of Commerce e-news ([commerce.org.nz](https://commerce.org.nz))
- Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce
- Pick up the phone or send us an email



Nelson Regional Development Agency  
03 546 6228  
[info@nelsontasman.nz](mailto:info@nelsontasman.nz)



Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce  
03 548 1363  
[info@commerce.org.nz](mailto:info@commerce.org.nz)



Nelson Tasman Business Trust  
03 539 0824  
[info@ntbt.co.nz](mailto:info@ntbt.co.nz)





# Council hotlines for urgent Nelson and Tasman welfare needs

Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management Group has been working with Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council to provide a hotline for people with urgent welfare needs.

Anyone with an urgent need for food or essential supplies can call Nelson City Council on 03 546 0200 or Tasman District Council on 03 543 8400, where they will be directed to a service that can assist.

The service is for people who do not have friends, family or neighbours who can help.

Trips to the supermarket are allowed during the shutdown, and it is okay to do this for someone else – an older person who can't go themselves, for instance.

If you are doing this, please make sure you maintain a 2-metre physical distance, wash your hands, and do not offer assistance if you are unwell.

If people have an urgent need for accommodation, they can call the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Temporary

Accommodation Service on 0508 754 163.

If financial assistance is required to pay for accommodation, New Zealanders can call the Ministry of Social Development on 0800 559 009. Visitors should contact their local embassy or consulate.

Other important phone numbers include:

The free Government helpline 0800 779 997 or on 0800 22 66 57 (8am–1am, 7 days a week).

Call or text 1737 – free, anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – to talk with a trained counsellor Healthline 0800 358 5453

If you have concerns for other people struggling to follow the requirements of self-isolation, contact nhccselfisolation@health.govt.nz.

# NCC closes trails to mountain bikes during COVID-19 shutdown

Nelson City Council has closed its trails to mountain biking during the COVID-19 shutdown.

There may not be signage up on all the trails to indicate this, but they are to be treated as closed.

Tasman District Council has also taken the same action in closing all of its mountain bike trails.

In many places vehicle access to parks and reserves will be restricted.

Both councils consulted with relevant authorities, including Health and the Police before reaching this decision and there was broad support for closure.

Following the Government's announcement of the National State of Emergency this week, the advice is for people to stay home and not take part in activities that could result in an emergency services callout or personal injury requiring hospitalisation stretching their resources even further.

Mayor Rachel Reese says that

people's safety, and reducing the risk of an emergency callout, are paramount at this time.

"We encourage people to continue to get the exercise they need within the constraints of the shutdown, and to remember that we must prioritise safety and protecting our health system."

Nelsonians are reminded to stick to their local neighbourhood for physical exercise, and to maintain a physical distance of two metres between themselves and other people.

Whatever exercise you choose, touching gates and other infrastructure should be avoided, and strict handwashing protocols followed upon returning home.



# Digging in at home

Turning an event like the COVID-19 shutdown into a productive experience – with long-term benefits – could be as simple as spending a bit of time setting up your own veggie garden.

If you're keen to get some greens growing at home during your enforced working from home period, you'll find some excellent resources to help you get going on Council's website. Setting up a garden and growing your own food will help you stay fit and healthy, provide you and your family with delicious, cheap, fresh vegetables, and be part of a drive to be more resilient at home.

## Grow it guide for Nelson

This handy guide [nelson.govt.nz/environment/sustainability/sustainability-at-home/growing-food-at-home](https://nelson.govt.nz/environment/sustainability/sustainability-at-home/growing-food-at-home) was written specifically for Nelson conditions and has a very local seasonal calendar which will tell you what you can plant at this time of year.

It covers everything you need to know for setting up your home veggie patch – site and location, soils, tools, construction, worm farms, composting and bokashi, cultivation, watering, planting, weed and pest control, natural fertilisers and much more.

## Buy less, eat more

Love Food Hate Waste offers a great range of tips and ideas on making sure you use all the food you buy rather than wasting any, which is something we all need to think about during the shutdown period.

As well as tasty recipes and easy meal planners, their advice on storing food properly so it lasts longer is particularly useful if it's challenging to get out to the shops: [lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/storage-tips](https://lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/storage-tips)

## Composting

Composting provides many benefits, and if you are looking for a more resilient lifestyle it's a good place to start.

You'll reduce your food waste going to landfill, save money on rubbish disposal and produce a great natural fertiliser and soil conditioner for your garden. For a great how-to video plus lots of advice, Check out:

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







COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

Let this bring us closer together

By Matt Lawrey

Fifteen years ago my father said something that I will never forget.

He was in hospital having suffered a stroke and looked terrible. When I arrived at his bedside, I hugged him, kissed him, and told him I loved him. I was visibly upset. Dad was calm. He looked me in the eye and said:

“This is bad but good will come from it as well.”

“Really? What good could possibly come from this?” I replied.

Dad smiled and said: “This will bring us closer together.”

He was right. It did unite our family in a way that we wouldn’t have, had he not been through that terrible ordeal. I was reminded of Dad when the Prime Minister announced that we are going into shutdown as we battle COVID-19. I think the crisis has already brought us closer together and given us a better understanding of each other. It has given us a reason to connect with neighbours that we may never have spoken to before. It has made us think about the consequences of our actions when it comes to keeping ourselves and others safe. It has made us think about the people in our community who are vulnerable.

The crisis has brought home to all of us how much our lives and fortunes are linked and intertwined in ways that we may never have thought about before. It is dramatically demonstrating how dependent we are on each other and how much we rely on each other for our emotional, physical and

economic wellbeing. This week I’m feeling grateful to all the people on the frontline of this fight, including the dedicated staff at Nelson City Council who are working hard to help keep people safe and keep our town going. Things aren’t great right now but imagine just how much worse they’d be if we didn’t have clean drinking water, our sewage system didn’t work, and no one was coming to collect the rubbish.

There is no question that the days, weeks and months ahead are going to be tough. There is no doubt that we are going to be tested and, at times, some of us will not be our best versions of ourselves. For all the trials we face, though, I believe that we’re going to come out of this closer to each other than when we went in and that, in the end, we will be stronger for it.



How Council will conduct Emergency Meetings during shutdown

An Emergency Committee has been set up to ensure Nelson City Council’s decision-making ability is not adversely affected by the Government shutdown. All scheduled council and committee meetings have been put on hold.

During the shutdown, Emergency Committee Meetings will be held remotely using video-conferencing website Zoom. Council staff are working with Zoom to find a way to continue live streams of meetings on YouTube.

Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese says Council is now bound by the COVID-19 Emergency Management Measures Bill, which states that Councillors do not have to be physically present to reach quorum.

“We have plans in place now to make sure members of the public who want to speak to Council can do so via video link, or even a simple phone call. We obviously want to keep hearing from the community and keep lines of communications open but we have to do this safely at this time.”

The quickly evolving situation regarding the COVID-19 virus has prompted Council to consider changing established practices to enable urgent decisions to still be made.

For example, Council will set up processes to make decisions about any urgent response to COVID-19 and the associated steps which might need to be put in place for the continued operation of Council services.

If, and when, an Emergency Committee Meeting is called, the meeting will be publicly notified, Councillors will be notified of the details by email and information will be made available on the Council website.

Agendas and minutes of the Emergency Committee Meeting will be made publicly available on our website in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

After the event for which the Emergency Committee Meeting has been called, Council will receive a report summarising the Committee’s activity at the earliest possible Council meeting.

A full list of Council meetings can be found at:

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

ROAD CLOSURES

Approved closures

**Applicant:** Light Nelson Trust  
**Event:** Light Nelson  
**Location:** Trafalgar Square (Selwyn Place)  
**Closure:** Trafalgar Square (between Trafalgar Square East and West)  
**Date and time:** Friday 3rd July 2020 – Tuesday 7th July 2020, 5pm – 10pm daily

**Feedback date for proposed closures:**  
Wednesday 15th April 2020  
**Email:** [enquiries@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@ncc.govt.nz)  
**Post:** Nelson City Council, PO Box 645, Nelson, 7040. Attn: Gillian Dancy  
For all road closure information visit:

[nelson.govt.nz/road-closures](https://nelson.govt.nz/road-closures)

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