

OUR NELSON

TŌ TĀTOU WHAKATŪ

Issue 99 • 8 July 2020

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the latest news from
Nelson City Council

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RECOVERY



A far-reaching plan for COVID-19 recovery

A message from Mayor Rachel Reese.

Kia ora koutou Whakatū

During lockdown it quickly became clear the impact to our region's economy would require a robust and forward thinking recovery, drawing on the skills and expertise, not just of local government, but also our wider business community, Iwi and central government agencies.

This resulted in the formation of Project Kōkiri, a seven-point action plan to regenerate our region's economy over the next 12 months. It includes projects that would provide employment for more than 2,500 people.

Council moved quickly to make decisions to protect Nelson from the worst of the economic impact. Our 2020/21 Annual Plan was reworked to account for revenue losses and changes to work programmes disrupted by COVID-19 restrictions. Council staff agreed to a wage freeze to help achieve net zero rate rises, which will provide financial relief to struggling households and businesses.

But in the longer term our approach must work for young people, who are

disproportionately affected by the pandemic. There is an immediate need for us to help create new employment opportunities, but also to create a resilient economy that places young people at the centre of our recovery. That means higher value jobs that enable young people to stay and thrive in Nelson.

Last week, Employment Minister Willie Jackson announced the establishment of Interim Regional Skills Leadership Groups to respond to the impact on our labour market. I will be an active and enthusiastic member of the Nelson Tasman Group, chaired by Meg Matthews.

The next year will be challenging but it is our opportunity to rebuild stronger, and we will do best if we work together as a Council and a community.

He waka eke noa – we are all in this together.



Maitai / Mahitahi River receives funding boost

Nelson City Council receives funding of **\$1.7 million** to restore the Maitai / Mahitahi River catchment ecosystem.

The Maitai River Ecological Restoration Plan is one of 23 council projects announced on Sunday, by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, to receive funding under the Jobs for Nature programme.

The Ecological Restoration Plan will see 125,000 plants go in the ground, 24 hectares of land managed for weed control and eight kilometres of riparian planting, as well as the development of wetlands and further improvement to habitats.

Council has been working in partnership for many years now with Te Tau Ihu iwi, the community and key agencies in the region to continually improve the health of the Maitai / Mahitahi River.

As a tūpuna awa, a sacred river, for generations the Maitai / Mahitahi has been an enviable source of water, food and wellbeing for iwi of this region.

The river is of immense spiritual, traditional and historical significance to mana whenua.

The overarching aim is to create a river this is safe to swim in and take kai from, and is a place that everyone can enjoy and feel proud of.

The intended outcomes of the Restoration Plan include:

- enhanced water quality
- a reduction in weeds
- habitat improvement
- the preservation of indigenous tree and plant species,
- the development of a food corridor that will support movement of native bird species across the Nelson region.

Mayor Rachel Reese says the funding will support the continued restoration of the treasured river, at the same time as creating 30 jobs in the conservation/restoration sector over 5 years.

"What could be better than the people of Nelson working on a project to give this beautiful river even greater care and attention.

I know these jobs will be highly valued and those working will also have the satisfaction of mahi that will make a real difference to the environment."

Mayor Reese says this funding injection will provide a huge opportunity to accelerate work that the Council already had planned and progresses the objectives of National Policy Statements for Freshwater Management and Indigenous Biodiversity.



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Nelson – Smart Little City
He Tāone Tōire a Whakatū



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Council venues ready for action

Nelson City Council's venues are open and ready to help revitalise Nelson's formerly thriving events scene.

To help Nelson's community groups get back on track, Council has halved the hireage cost of the Trafalgar Centre – for six months from 1 July to the end of December 2020.

The discount, for community and cultural groups, and sporting activities, was approved at a Sports and Recreation Committee meeting in June.

Sport and Recreation Committee Chair Tim Skinner said: "Nelson is usually bustling with a range of activities and events, and that was severely impacted by the COVID-19 shutdown. Many of our community groups had to cancel plans for the foreseeable future. We're hoping this discount will provide an opportunity for new events that may not have been possible before."

A price list can be found on the Facility Hire page at nelson.govt.nz. To enquire about availability or make a booking contact our Venue Manager at TrafalgarVenues@ncc.govt.nz. Terms and conditions apply. All of Council's venues have returned to regular opening hours.

Melrose House

Gardens and Café are [open during Café Hours](#) 9am - 4pm.

Wander the gardens, explore the House and enjoy a treat or a meal at the café. Be sure to book for High Tea. Melrose House hosts events and is available for hire, see melrosehouse.co.nz for details.

Broadgreen Historic House & Rose Gardens

[Open winter hours 11am to 3pm.](#)

A school holiday programme is available. See the Broadgreen Historic House Facebook page for details. Visit Nelson's iconic cob cottage and historic home, outfitted with beautiful colonial furnishings, art and costume. See what life was like 150 years ago, try on the period clothes or walk through the spectacular Samuels Rose Garden.

Fairfield Heritage House and Woodland

This community venue is available for weddings, parties, conferences and training sessions, with stunning spaces to create your special event. Fairfield hosts regular concerts and theatre, see fairfieldnelson.org.nz for event details.

Founders Park and Railway

[Open 10am to 4.30pm.](#)

Take a walk through the historic village and experience Nelson life in the 1880s to 1930s. Founders Park also contains venues for hire for functions or events. School holiday activities are on, see the Founders Heritage Park Facebook page.

Recovery: what Nelson City Council has done so far?

Zero Percent Rates Revenue Increase

In recognition of the financial pressures caused by COVID-19, Council sought public input on a zero per cent rates increase for the 2020-21 year. Council is also considering a reduction of the penalty charge for unpaid rates and water charges from 10% to 5%.

Council Leases and Licence Holders

Businesses faced significant and immediate cashflow issues during lockdown. Council put in place a three month waiver of rent and outgoings until 30 June 2020 for some of Council's lease and licence holders and further assistance on a case-by-case basis.

More Frequent Payments to Creditors

Council moved to help businesses maintain cash flow and adjusted payment systems in order to make weekly payments to creditors instead of monthly.

Emergency Fund

Council set up a \$200,000 Emergency Fund for community organisations, to support their continued operation during recovery. Organisations that support the cultural heart of Nelson bring residents and visitors into the city, who in turn support businesses through their spending.

Inner City Parking

Nelson City Council suspended inner city parking charges until 1 July 2020 in order to encourage the

public to visit and spend time in Nelson shops and hospitality businesses.

Procurement Processes

Council streamlined its procurement processes and extended delegations in order to award work to local contractors and fast track design work.

Capital Work Programme 2020/2021

Committed to delivering a \$54 million capital works programme for 2020/21, \$7m higher than the forecast in the Long Term Plan 2018 - 2028.

Government Funding Applications

Council's applications to the Provincial Growth Fund resulted in \$1.23m for five roading projects and supported 29 employment opportunities. Two projects sit with Council (\$780,000), two with the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit (\$350,000), and one with the Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit (\$100,000).

Applications have also been made to central government for employment funding to assist with several environmental projects. These include forestry, wetland and riparian management (\$150,000), ecological restoration of key native ecosystems (\$2.7 million); restoration of significant natural areas (SNAs) and key biodiversity corridors (\$1.5 million) and Taiwan cherry eradication (\$190,000).

Nelson's cultural scene emerges from shutdown

The curtain is up on Nelson's cultural scene, as the city recovers from months of cancelled and postponed performances.

Last month saw the reopening of the Nelson Centre of Musical Arts and the Theatre Royal.

The NCMA's Emerge concert, featuring Nelson performers volunteering their time, played to a sold-out crowd in the refurbished auditorium.

Their much-loved Thursday lunchtime concert series has restarted, and a variety of events are lined up for the rest of the year. For more information, check out ncma.nz



One of New Zealand's oldest theatres, the Theatre Royal, reopened last month with Mark Hadlow's *Middle-Aged Man in Lycra* show.

This month sees Nelson Youth Theatre returning with productions of *Mamma Mia* and *Shrek the Musical Jr.*, followed by a touring production of Dr. Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat*. August sees Nelson Repertory Theatre returning to the stage with the Kiwi comedy *The Pink Hammer*. For tickets and more details, go to: theatreroyalnelson.co.nz

The Suter Theatre is also busy preparing for its reopening on 12th August with the 2020 Italian Film Festival. Check here for details: suter.statecinemas.co.nz

Mayor to play role on Regional Skills Leadership Group

A Regional Skills Leadership Group has been established to help support the changing labour market in the Nelson-Tasman region.

The group is one of 15 set up by the Government to identify and support better ways of meeting future skills and workforce needs in our region.

Mayor Rachel Reese, who is a member of the group alongside regional industry leaders, economic

development agencies, and iwi, worker and government representatives, said the focus will be on reemployment in the region.

"I'm having conversations every day with families where one - or maybe more than one - person in the household is now unemployed. In many cases these are young, very talented members of our community who are having to have a complete re-think about their careers. We must try to retain those young people in our region, if we lose them the impact will be quite dramatic."

The Nelson-Tasman group will be chaired by

Meg Matthews, who is also the Chair of the Nelson Regional Development Agency and Cawthron Institute.

"Each region in New Zealand is facing its own unique set of challenges and I am pleased that Government is keen to work with us as partners in Nelson Tasman.

"As we transition from emergency management to longer-term recovery efforts, this group will be ideally placed to get our region the best support possible."



Innovating Streets for People fund success – up to \$1 million to transform our central city

Nelson City Council's City Centre Streets for People project has received a funding opportunity from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.



Council's City Centre Streets for People project is part of an investigation into how to improve pedestrian safety, visitor experience, consumer spending and activity in Nelson's city centre.

As part of the project, the public were recently asked for their feedback on potential options to widen Trafalgar, Hardy and Bridge Streets in the central city using semi-permanent, removable and adaptable measures, and a fourth option to make no change.

The feedback survey, which closed on Friday, 26 June, received more than 600 submissions, which will now be collated and reviewed before going to a full Council meeting on 12 August 2020 for consideration.

Innovating Streets provides 90% funding assistance up to \$1 million in support of projects designed in partnership with local communities

to make streets safer, with more space for people, and which test temporary or semi-permanent layouts, materials and designs that could be used in permanent upgrades.

The funding offered for the project will be considered along with the responses to the survey.

Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese said the investment from Central Government was a welcome step forward in Nelson's post-COVID-19 recovery.

"Waka Kotahi has recognised the value of the city centre project and given us the potential to turn it into something that could benefit our community now, and in years to come, but any final decision has to be what's right for our people and our city.

"Projects that receive funding must be planned, designed and delivered by the end of June 2021 so we have some time to put real thought into this."

Councillor Pete Rainey, Chair of the City Centre Working Group said Nelsonians had a choice to make.

"We have been gifted this resource, but how, or if, we use it is up to our community. We have yet to find out which of the four options are most preferred, but this money could go toward any of the three options for change included in the survey."

Kathryn King, Waka Kotahi's Portfolio Manager Developing Regions says: "The programme aims to use the pilot fund to grow our national capability in the 'tactical urbanism' approach so we can scale up the pace of change as we transition to safer, cleaner, healthier and more equitable towns and cities. Pilots, pop-ups and interim treatments help us try out street changes and gain valuable on-the-ground feedback from communities."

Have your say on Nelson's Transport Future

Nelson residents are being asked to help plan a vibrant future for their city.

Three long-term transport packages are being presented side-by-side, and the community has four weeks to help decide which package or combination of packages they think will work best.

The exercise is part of an investigation called Nelson Future Access, aimed at identifying the best 30-year transport plan for the city.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, Nelson City Council and iwi want to provide for Nelson's current and future transport needs. NZTA has spent many months building on previous work to address changing land use, climate change, economic efficiency, safety and resilience issues on the transport network to develop the three proposals now up for consideration.

"We are now ready to hear from local people, and we are presenting three long-term options, each of which have an ability to allow more journeys by people into and out of Nelson, whether that's for those driving, walking or using public transport," says Jim Harland, Waka Kotahi Director Regional Relationships.

"In weighing up these packages it will be important for people to think about the type of city they want, and how important issues like climate change, resilience and healthy living are to planning future

transport infrastructure and services."

Mayor of Nelson, Rachel Reese says while COVID-19 delayed the launch of public consultation, work has continued behind the scenes on the improvement packages.

"This project has a long history in our region, and it's good to see progress and clarity around three potential solutions from Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency. This is Nelson's future, I urge everyone who lives in our Smart Little City and also those that work or travel here frequently, to get involved with the consultation and let Waka Kotahi know what they think about the options presented."

From Friday 26 June to Friday 24 July, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency wants to hear from the community on the improvement packages. There are three long-term packages being presented.

They include:

- Adding priority lanes to SH6/Rocks Road and Waimea/Rutherford;
- Widening of the coastal State Highway corridor for general traffic;
- Or, building a new inland route.

People are encouraged to check out further information on the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's website:

Drop-in sessions

Come and find out more about the project at drop-in sessions:
Saturday 11 July

**Nelson Market,
Montgomery Square,
Nelson**

8am–1pm,
Wednesday 15 July

**Victory Community Centre,
Totara Street, Nelson**

Drop in anytime between
3pm–7pm,
Thursday 16 July

**Beachside Conference
and Events Centre at the
Tahunanui Beach Holiday
Park, 70 Beach Road,
Tahunanui**

Drop in anytime between
3pm–7pm

nzta.govt.nz/projects/nelson-future-access-project

Via Livestream
Saturday, 18 July 2020



Simple swaps to reduce the plastic in your life

This year, Plastic Free July NZ is focusing on simple swaps, to build on many of the things we all learned during the recent lockdown.

During the month, Council's social media channels will be sharing tips, bright ideas and competitions to help you find ways of swapping out plastic for more sustainable alternatives.

Whether it's committing to use a reusable coffee cup, or finding alternatives to cling film for storing food, whatever change you decide to make, large or small, helps everyone be part of reducing plastic

in our lives. With the recent changes to kerbside recycling this is also a great opportunity to work out how you can reduce the amount of plastic you need to recycle.

Plastic Free July NZ is coordinated by Wasteminz, and supported by local government across New Zealand. For more information check out the Plastic Free July Aotearoa Facebook page:



facebook.com/PlasticFreeJulyAotearoa

Second Hand Sunday a chance to declutter after lockdown

Did you have a big clean out during lockdown? If so, this is your chance to let others get some use out of your unwanted items.

If you have pre-loved goods you want to get rid of, mark Sunday 26 July in your calendar and register on Council's website to make sure you get on the list of addresses on the day.

For those of you wanting to fossick – the address list of participants will be published at midday on Friday 24 July on our website or you can pick a copy up from our Customer Service Centre. Please respect the 10am start time.

Remember that items should be put out on your property and not on the footpath, and if anything is left, it should be brought back in at the end of the day. Make sure you don't include anything that could be a hazard such as faulty electrical equipment or chemicals.

To find out more about Second Hand Sunday, go to:

nelson.govt.nz/second-hand-sunday



ROAD CLOSURES

Applicant: Safe Traffic.

Event: The closure is for the repair of a sewer manhole.

Location: Washington Terrace.

Date and time: Monday 31 August 7:00am – Friday 4 September 5:00pm 2020, Closed all day.

Wet weather date: Monday 7 September – Friday 11 September 2020.

All vehicle access will be unavailable during this time.

Feedback for proposed closures to be given by: Wednesday 22 July 2020.

Email: enquiries@ncc.govt.nz

Post: Nelson City Council, PO Box 645, Nelson 7040, Attention: Gillian Dancey

For all road closure information visit:

nelson.govt.nz/road-closures



MEETINGS

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

Chief Executive Employment Committee - Rūma Whakatū

2pm 21 Jul

Environment Committee

10am 23 Jul

Community Services Committee

10am 30 Jul

Changes to meetings

Governance and Finance Committee meeting, previously advertised to take place on Thursday, 9 July 2020, commencing at 10am, has been cancelled due to insufficient business.

For a full list of meetings go to:

nelson.govt.nz/meetings

To sign up for Our Nelson by email go to:



facebook.com/nelsoncitycouncil

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Go to thesuter.org.nz for more information

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