

OUR NELSON

Issue 74 • 10 July 2019

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

New team on our roads

Nelson City Council's road maintenance work is now being carried out by a different company. Higgins took over the contract on 1 July, so you'll see different vehicles and uniforms out and about.

As always, if you have any concerns about road maintenance, you can report them directly to Council by calling 546 0200 anytime.

Environmental Alliance launched

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and Strategy was launched at a dawn ceremony in Nelson on Friday 28 June, noting that Matariki marks a new season and a good time to launch a new collaborative approach to conservation.

The Alliance brings together Top of the South Councils, iwi and the Department of Conservation (DOC) to work together towards restoring natural landscapes.

Nelson City Council joins Buller, Tasman, Marlborough and Kaikōura Councils, the West Coast Regional Council, a number of iwi and DOC as members of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance.

Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese said the Alliance will offer great gains for environmental health.

"A sustainable, healthy environment is key to Nelson's vision for The Smart Little City – a City that is connected to, and caring for, its wildlife and native habitats. Through the Alliance we'll be able to work on a much wider scale towards our shared outcomes. I can see great gains for our biodiversity and for the future of our environment."



Council confirms projects for the next 12 months

Nelson City Council has adopted its 2019/2020 Annual Plan, confirming the projects to be funded for the financial year ahead.

This Annual Plan has an overall increase in rates of 4.2 per cent, after allowing for growth, which is consistent with the Draft Annual Plan and remains within the rates cap. Net debt is forecast to be \$91.7 million, which is \$29.8 million less than projected in the Long Term Plan 2018–28.

Developing the Annual Plan has involved a significant level of engagement with the community. The Annual Plan set a framework for Council's four priorities of future-proofing core infrastructure, protecting and enhancing our natural environment, developing our city centre, and lifting Council performance. In addition to these priorities, the key issue of climate change was also highlighted.

The Annual Plan Consultation Document was released at the end of March, and written submissions from the public were made through to the beginning of May. The submitters had the opportunity to speak to Council over three days in May. Council then deliberated in early June before recently confirming the areas that will receive funding.

Mayor Rachel Reese expressed her thanks to those that took the time to submit.

"We received a significant number of submissions, which were of very high quality. We are extremely grateful for those that took the time to let us know what they wanted through our Annual Plan.

"So many submissions were supportive of Council's approach, which is encouraging as we build The Smart Little City."

The major additions that were included in the Annual Plan after hearing to public submissions were:

- An additional \$35,000 funding for the Nelson Centre for Musical Arts for six months, while an external review is undertaken of the Centre's business model.
 - Working with potential partners to apply for inclusion in MBIE's Welcoming Communities programme to support new migrants.
 - Developing policies that align with central government's Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 objectives with support from Nelson Marlborough Health.
 - Changes to the 2019/20 capital expenditure budget to account for projects that have been rephrased since the Long Term Plan 2018–28 was prepared.
 - Establishing a Council facilities event hire fund of \$30,000 through which community groups can apply for reduced venue hire (following a report to determine the appropriate criteria to administer and access the fund).
- Council also confirmed the current level of funding for key external projects including:
- Natureland Trust – funding of \$174,000 per annum (plus inflation) as per the Long Term Plan for a total \$1.964 million over the 10 years (with a request for the Trust to investigate strengthening its business model).
 - Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Trust – \$150,000 per annum (plus inflation), totalling over \$1.7 million of operational funding as outlined in the Long Term Plan.

Story continues on page 2.



Council confirms projects for the next 12 months (continued from front page)

Some significant savings were also highlighted in the deliberations including:

- Residential water meter renewal replacements budget reduces from \$1,124,000 in the Long Term Plan to \$700,000 in the Annual Plan.
- Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant desludging budget reduces from \$565,000 in the Long Term Plan to nil in the Annual Plan, as the project will be completed in 2018/19 ahead of time and budget.

Overall there is a proposed Capital Works programme for 2019/20 of \$46.7 million. The operational and capital expenditure in each Council activity area is described in the graphs below.

Community Housing

During the Annual Plan deliberations, Council agreed to investigate divesting its 142 community housing units.

Mayor Reese reinforced the need to boost community housing supply.

"We have looked at how we can enable more social housing and wellbeing in our community, and believe that the best option is to work with organisations that bring specialist housing expertise and have

opportunities to access government and other funding sources, not available to Council."

Tenants' wellbeing was reiterated as a top priority. "We received many very thoughtful submissions from tenants, and we understand their concerns.

"I can reassure tenants that their wellbeing will be at the centre of our discussion with interested parties. We will be keeping tenants informed throughout the process," says Mayor Reese.



Climate Change

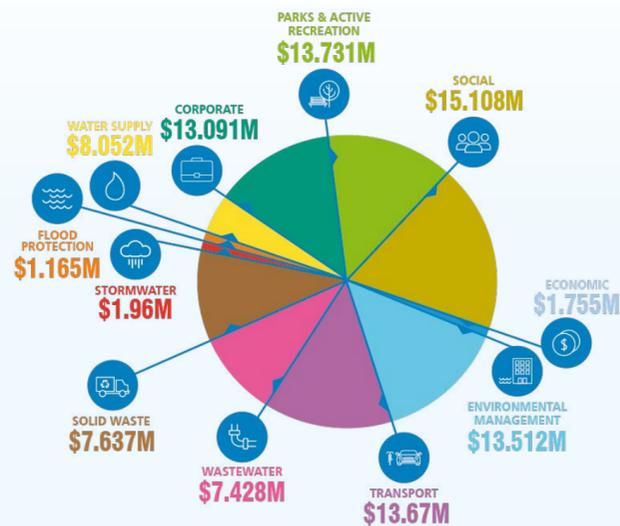
Council also allocated \$254,500 for climate change initiatives and created a reserve fund of \$500,000 (from the Port Nelson special dividend) for possible climate change initiatives. The \$254,500 will be dedicated to a climate change work programme including staff resources, participating in the Certified Emissions Measurement And Reduction Scheme (CEMARS) programme, establishing a Climate Forum and Taskforce and ongoing work with the community.

Mayor Reese says, "In this Annual Plan, Council has remained committed to its four priorities of infrastructure, environment, city centre development and lifting Council performance, with an additional focus on considering climate change and the impact that will have on our future planning.

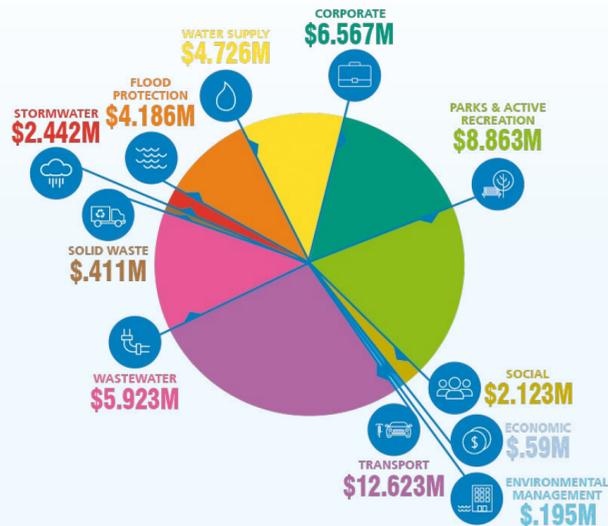
"In each of these focus areas, we have looked for opportunities to work with partners to deliver more to the community than Council could achieve alone.

"Although we would always like to do more, we have to be particularly mindful of keeping within the rates and debt cap that we set during our Long Term Plan. Being The Smart Little City is also about the careful management of our expenditure, and this Annual Plan remains within those limits, while delivering the projects and investment in our City."

Proposed operational expenditure for 2019/20



Proposed capital expenditure for 2019/20



We're breathing easier in Nelson

The latest air quality monitoring results show that Nelson city's air quality continues to improve.

Council's monitoring has shown a steady and significant reduction in PM10 emissions since 2001.

There have been no exceedances of the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality so far this winter (2019); three recent summertime exceedances in the Tahunanui Airshed (February and March 2019) were the result of dry, dusty summer conditions. By comparison, in 2001, there were 81 exceedances recorded in Airshed A.

Clare Barton, Group Manager Environmental Management, says the improvements are the result

of hard work by Council and the community to take on board best practice for woodburners, through monitoring, information, education and regulation.

"We know that woodburners are a significant contributor to PM10 emissions over the winter, and it is satisfying to see the improvements achieved over the last 15 years."

"We have our Nelson Air Quality Plan (NAQP) regulatory responsibility, which we carry out through smoke patrols. But a big part of it is education and working with the community – and they have been great at grasping the issues and doing their bit to make sure they are not the smoky chimney in their street."

Key issues for smoky chimneys are burning wet wood, filling the wood burner up too much and shutting it down too soon after putting fresh wood on.

"We've got the Good Wood scheme," says Ms Barton, "which gives people confidence that they are getting wood fit for purpose from approved suppliers."

"We encourage proper wood storage through our Best Little Woodshed competition every year, and then we run a series of Burn Bright articles, which help educate people on the key points of using their wood burner effectively – so they get the most warmth without making a lot of smoke."

More information about our air quality monitoring results can be found in the State of the Environment report 2018 (pg. 90–95) which is available on nelson.govt.nz and on lawa.org.nz

Regular monitoring results are also available on the Tasman District Council website.

Further info at nelson.govt.nz/burn-bright

Mako Street Reserve ready for play

Nelson City Council has made some big changes at the Mako Street Reserve, which is just off Champion Road, within an expanding subdivision between Nelson and Richmond.

The aim of developing the reserve was to create a local neighbourhood park – a safe, relaxed and flexible space within walking distance for the local community.

The design features two connected spaces. The green space is a simple open grass circle intersected by a circular children's natural play space, both surrounded by lush planting extending out onto the street berms.

The light green areas on the ground shown in the photo is a trial of a winter germinating grass which has been hydro-seeded. Further seeding may be required in spring, depending on the success of the trial.

A picnic table and two seats will be installed soon.



Atawhai speed limit review happening soon

Mayor Rachel Reese is relieved at the news that the New Zealand Transport Agency has taken on board her repeated requests to review the speed limit on State Highway 6 at Atawhai.

"The recent announcement that NZTA's review of the speed limit on this section of road has moved up its work programme is fantastic news for our community.

"I have written to the Agency Board, strongly advocating for this speed limit review. This has been backed up by a submission from the Regional Transport Committee in April, when we heard the timeframe for the review was moved out. It's reassuring that our pleas for action now have been heard and this review is now a priority," Mayor Reese says.

At the recent Regional Transport Committee meeting, NZTA staff reported that work on the speed reduction is already underway. They will carry out a technical assessment, and an internal approval process follows that. Staff say they expect a consultation with the public about the change to happen within the next two months.

Mayor Reese says, "This is a key road safety concern for our city and I'm pleased that we are now seeing some action that will help to make it safer for Atawhai residents and all road users."

It's ramping up for skaters at Tahunanui

Nelson City Council has built a brand new skate ramp at the Tahunanui Reserve, just by the basketball area at the Youth Park.

Council staff have worked in partnership with an enthusiastic team of skaters, who have volunteered to be involved in the design process. Representatives from their group, Skate Nelson Bays, approached Council with the idea of creating a new skate ramp. Tahunanui was agreed as the venue and the members of the group have been involved in every aspect, including design and construction. The result promises to be a massive hit with Nelson's passionate skate community.

Chair of the Sport and Recreation Committee, Tim Skinner says, "We really appreciate the efforts of the skaters who have volunteered many hours on this project. By working so closely with them, we know we've invested in a facility that really hits the mark for skaters. It's another great addition to all the activities already on offer at Tahunanui."

It's a pretty special ramp as it's a move away from the usual concrete skate structures, to a timber construction with a composite deck that is specially designed for skating.

An old skate ramp was removed in 2010 due to the high maintenance costs of repairing splintered plywood.

New technology in skate ramp construction means we can now get the traditional feeling of

a wooden skate ramp without the splintering. The surface material is made from a paper-composite material which doesn't splinter.

Benefits of this product include:

- Naturally smooth and fast for less ramp rash and more speed
- Incredibly durable even for outdoor use
- Maintains a safe temperature, even in the blazing sun
- Fire-resistant and easy to clean, even from stubborn graffiti, pad scuffs and wax
- Environmentally friendly and sustainable



Go op shopping – retail therapy on the cheap



Are you having a good wardrobe clean out, or looking for some new winter outfits on these chillier mornings? Check out the new Nelson Op Shop Map and Guide and make the most of the pre-loved treasures on your doorstep.

There are thirteen Nelson Op Shops – also known as charity or thrift shops – in the guide. These shops are well-stocked and offer lots of good quality clothing, NZ designer labels and even a few Nelson designers. As well as clothes, they often have shoes, bags, and homewares. There are also six privately-owned shops selling second-hand clothes in Nelson, also included in the guide.

Council encourages reducing textile consumption as a way to reduce waste going to landfill – at the moment about six per cent of the waste going to our landfill is textile-based. Op shopping for your wardrobe and home is a good way of reducing your own environmental footprint.

Whether you're after wardrobe staples or designer outfits, there is no doubt that the next addition to your closet is currently living in one of the stores in our Nelson Op Shop Map and Guide. Set yourself a challenge to make a conscious effort to reduce textile consumption.

Council has produced this guide to help you make an informed choice when shopping. The guide will be available at all Op Shops, and at Council's libraries and Customer Service Centre, or go online and download a copy at nelson.govt.nz/reducing-textile-waste

New Building Unit fees and charges

Council's fees for building consents have been revised to cover increases in line with the CPI. Nelson Building Unit fees and charges are comparatively low in some areas compared to other Councils.

Council has agreed to a 5.1% increase in the hourly charge out rate for staff time. This brings the charge for Building Consent Admin up from \$95 to \$100 per hour, and the cost for Building Control Officers from \$123 to \$133 per hour. For more information on the new pricing structure, go to:

nelson.govt.nz/building-fees-and-charges

Please pick up after your dogs!

We live in a beautiful city, let's keep it that way! Please pick up after your dogs. Places like the Boulder Bank and Maitai River are sensitive areas and dog poop washes into waterways and the sea causing contamination of water.

Dog poop left on the pavement, pathway or grassy areas is both unpleasant and hazardous for other walkers too.

You can do your bit to keep our rivers, footpaths and sports fields clean – and comply with regulations – by carrying a dog poop bag when in a public place and removing the faeces immediately. Failure to do so can result in a \$300 fine.

Thanks for helping to keep our pathways, environment and rivers clean.



Waimea Inlet receives Billion Trees Funding

Waimea inlet wildlife has a brighter, safer future thanks to \$1 Million in funding from the One Billion Trees fund.

The Te Uru Rākau/Billion Trees Funding was announced by Forestry Minister Shane Jones and West-Coast Tasman Minister Damian O'Connor on 3 July.

The Waimea Inlet restoration funding is for re-vegetation of estuarine margins of the Waimea Inlet across Nelson and Tasman.

Nelson City Council recently adopted the Waimea Inlet Action Plan, and the funding is the result of a collaborative bid from Nelson City Council, Tasman Environmental Trust, the Department of Conservation and Tasman District Council.

The funding will be coordinated by the Tasman Environmental Trust. Nelson City Council sites likely to benefit from the funding include Saxton Delta and Oyster Island.

Oil spill exercise in Nelson Harbour

There was more than the usual action at the main wharf of Port Nelson and the Sealord Marine Rescue Centre recently. Pollution response staff from Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council, Port Nelson, the oil industry, as well as emergency response vessels and personnel from other agencies, took part in a five-hour marine oil spill response exercise.

"While we hope never to need to deal with a real oil spill, there is a chance of a spill on our region's waters, so we need to ensure our training and response capability is up-to-date," Nelson City Council Group Manager Environmental Management Clare Barton said.

"These annual exercises, required by Maritime New Zealand, help us confirm we have the resources and necessary skills to respond swiftly and effectively to any real oil spill event."

"In a real-life incident there is a potential for sensitive marine areas to be impacted by oil. That's where public reporting of such incidents is so important, enabling the Council to respond in a timely way."

If you see a pollution threat or incident call 0800 NO POLLUTE (24 hours).



ROAD CLOSURES

Proposed closures

Applicant: Nelmac
Event: Resurfacing of Halifax/Halstead intersection
Location: Halstead Street
Date and time: Thursday 25 July 2019 7.30am–5pm
Feedback date: Friday 19 July 2019

Applicant: Neptune Entertainment
Event: Bay Dreams 2020
Times and locations: 9am Thursday 2 January–10pm Sunday 5 January, Hathaway Carpark. 9am Friday 3 January–3pm Sunday 5 January, Paru Paru Road (from bollards North of the Salvation Army Family Store). 9am Saturday 4 January–1am Sunday 5 January, Trafalgar Street (Bridge Street to SH6), Wainui Street, Elliott Street, Hathaway Terrace Grove Street (Trafalgar St to Collingwood St). 5.30pm Saturday 4 January–1am Sunday 5 January, Achilles Ave, Wakatu Lane
Feedback date: Friday 2 August 2019

Email: enquiries@ncc.govt.nz
 Post: Nelson City Council, PO Box 645, Nelson, 7040. Attn: 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.

Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit – Tasman District Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond	9.30am	16 Jul
Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit – Tasman District Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond	1pm	16 Jul
Governance Committee	9am	25 Jul
Forestry Advisory Group – Ruma Mārama	3pm	30 Jul

Changes to meetings

Joint Committee of Tasman District and Nelson City Councils – previously advertised to take place at 9.30am on 26 July

	10am	26 Jul
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Cancelled meetings

Community Services Committee – previously advertised to take place at 9am on Thursday 11 July, has been cancelled due to insufficient business.

For a full list of Council meetings go to:

nelson.govt.nz/meetings

WHAT'S ON... www.itson.co.nz

at a Council venue near you?

For a full list of Nelson events go to:

itson.co.nz

Go Plastic-Free this July

It's Plastic Free July and we've got some great hints and tips for going plastic free.

From 1 July 2019, the Government has banned single use plastic bags. This is just a 'drop in the ocean' towards dealing with the plastic problem, but it is a start and we all need to build on this initiative.

The average New Zealander uses on average 31 kilos of plastic packaging every year. Collectively we throw away 309 million single-use coffee cups, 541 million straws and 105 million single-use bottles per year.

Plastic Free July is your chance to say no to single use plastics and once you've got in the swing, you'll probably never go back. It just takes a little pre-planning to get into the habit of taking a reusable shopping bag, coffee cup or water bottle with you.

There are some other great ideas to go a little bit further. Make or buy your own produce bags to use for fresh fruit and vegetables at the supermarket. Re-usable lunchboxes and beeswax wraps can make lunchtime plastic free. Say no to the plastic straw, and look for unpackaged groceries where you can.

There are some great ideas and resources on the Plastic Free July website – like how to make your own cleaning products, how to make a beeswax wrap or a produce bag and many more – just go to plasticfreejuly.org and go plastic free now!



plasticfreejuly.org