



KEEPING IT CENTRAL

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ALEX WALKER

Kia ora!

Water, water, water – whether it's our central government election debate, HBRC, CHBDC, or chat around our kitchen tables, water is THE topic of conversation at the moment!

I had the honour of judging the Porangahau Primary School speech competition recently. The topic "Why we should protect our water" had every child eloquently tying together health, culture and commerce in their messages. So inspiring to see our tamariki taking such a strong interest in the challenges facing water in our communities. A huge congratulations to them all!

Access to water, and in particular the upcoming changes to river flows with Plan Change 6 in mid-2018 are forefront in my mind at the moment. I am currently working closely with local water-users and Regional Council – understanding the impacts, what the potential solutions are, and how to bridge the gaps in our knowledge. Large-scale water storage is an obvious part to the solution that has large community support, but with the



Mayor Alex Walker

changing direction at HBRC this is no longer a short-term option. We need to look at innovation and resilience to get us through the quickly approaching changes under Plan Change 6. I have no doubt that we as a community can work through this together. Assistance from HBRC will be important and it is very frustrating that issues on the Heretaunga Plains appear to be taking a front-seat when it comes to their water management in the region. I see it is an important part of my job, as your mayor, to work alongside them and strongly advocate for our community.

I would love to hear from anyone who has specific information about the financial impacts of these new PC6 water requirements on their farm or business. Just give me a call via the council office.



WATER HIGHLIGHTS

■ Takapau Water Treatment Plant

On Monday 11 September the ultra filtration (UF) filters were replaced at the Takapau Water Treatment Plant to improve water quality.

■ Replacement Programme

To protect the Council town water supplies from contamination, we have commenced a programme to replace all ball valve tobies with upgraded acuflow tobies which incorporate a backflow prevention device.

■ Water Meters

Water meter reading is underway in the Waipukurau and Takapau areas. Readings should be completed by the end of September.



HARKER ST OVERBRIDGE

Repair work was recently carried out to the damaged bridge beam on Harker St in Waipawa and temporary concrete blocks were put in place to restrict access and prevent future damage.

The Harker St Rail Overbridge is a Kiwi Rail owned and operated structure. KiwiRail has granted access to Council for the Harker St Road alignment which passes under the rail line. From Victoria St, through to the rail corridor, the road is designated as a public road reserve, whereas from the rail corridor through to its intersection with SH2, the road is designated as Council Reserve. Under the

KiwiRail access agreement, Council are deemed liable for any damage which may arise as a result of the public access.

At a recent Council workshop a long term solution was agreed to provide access to light vehicles, cars, pedestrians and cyclists. The work will involve reducing the width within the underpass and placing a height restriction in advance of the rail structure on both sides.

Council are now looking at various designs and options and anticipate the works to the accessway on Harker St will be completed by the end of June 2018.



For more information go to:

www.chbdc.govt.nz

