

COMMUNITY UPDATE

30 April 2020

Level 3 – Let's Stay Safe

Moving to Level 3 this week has seen businesses re-opening and people getting back to work which is great for our Kawerau community.

But, we still need to be vigilant about COVID-19. At Level 3, there are still restrictions in place for Councils, businesses and residents. The key message is for people to stay home if they are not at work, school, exercising or getting essentials.

Council staff continue providing a safe and healthy environment with essential services. The re-opening of the Transfer Station this Tuesday has been welcomed by many residents. Thanks to people for their patience due to the Level 3 measures in place and the high demand of the Transfer Station.

On Tuesday, we held our first 'virtual' Council Meeting which was live-streamed. We were pleased to progress capital works such as the Tarawera Boreholes Development and the Stormwater Detention Basins for flood protection in the Beattie Road area. These capital projects are important for our district and also provide much-needed work for local contracting companies and their employees.

During the lockdown, elected members and myself have had twice-weekly workshops by zoom with Council staff and these are continuing while the pandemic is in place.

The Council offices remain closed at Level 3, but our Customer Services team are available by phone **07 306 9009** and email during business hours.

The team are ready to answer questions about the fourth rates instalment which was posted this week. Due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 lockdown, ratepayers have the option of setting up a payment plan to spread this instalment across the coming months, if they cannot meet the due date of 22 May.

We trust this will assist people who have been impacted.

- Mayor Malcolm Campbell

Council Meetings

The Council's Regulatory and Services Meeting will be livestreamed via Zoom on Tuesday, 12 May at 2.00pm on the Council's Facebook page and website.

The Council's Audit and Risk Meeting Friday, 15 May via Zoom at 2.45pm.

Important COVID-19 Contacts

www.covid19.govt.nz

- ▶ Healthline **0800 611 611** or your Doctor
- ▶ Need help with food or essential items
0800 884 222 (7am-7pm, 7 days)
- ▶ Financial support **0800 559 009**
- ▶ Seniors 65+ **0800 552 002**
- ▶ Students **0800 88 99 00**
- ▶ Mental Health Phone or Text **1737**

Rates instalment four

Council is legally required to charge rates and they are essential for Council to continue to provide services and activities. Council appreciates some ratepayers may have suffered financial hardship as a result of the lockdown. Please phone us on **07 306 9009** to set up a payment plan to spread the payments across the next four instalments. In Level 3 the Council Offices are closed but you can pay:

- Online www.kaweraudc.govt.nz
- Credit card by phone **07 306 9009**
- Cheque Drop Box in Islington Street (open business hours)
- 📞 Queries Phone **07 306 9009**
- ✉ Email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz

New Zealand is at Alert LEVEL 3

Policing during Alert Level



- When the Government announced a full nationwide lockdown Police wrote a long list of 'what if' questions, along with preparing what needs to be done to ensure we continue to provide continuous Policing services to keep our communities safe during this health pandemic. At the same time Police were about to have a change of Commissioner with Andy Coster taking over from Mike Bush.
- Just like you within your homes, businesses and workplaces we had to come to terms with the 'bubble' concept, social distancing, wearing PPE, managing offenders, the Court process, followed with compliance checks and educating people on what they can and can't do during the lockdown.
- For the most part the community has done what has been asked of them - Thank You.
- Did this affect crime? Yes, in the Kawerau there was a drop in all crime, some weeks there was more than a 30% reduction on the previous week. Currently, year to date, crime is down 4%.
- Was there an increase in Family Harm? No, Kawerau didn't see any increase over the COVID-19 Level 4 lockdown. Very few attended family-harm episodes could be attributed to COVID-19.
- With Alert Level 3 more people will be back on the roads so your vigilance around securing your vehicles and property needs to be high.
- As Kiwi's we need to be proud of what we have achieved so far in reducing the impact of Covid-19 as we watch other countries deal with massive infection and death rates. Now is not the time for complacency or the 'it will never happen to me' mentality.
- Stay Home. Save Lives.
 - Sergeant Shane Tailby, Officer in Charge Kawerau

Council Services that remain closed at Level 3

- Council Offices and Council Depot
- Maurie Kjar Memorial Swimming Pool Complex
- Kawerau District Library and Sir James Fletcher Museum
- Kawerau Visitor Information i-SITE
- All Council-owned facilities including Firmin Lodge, halls, sports pavilions and clubrooms
- Playgrounds remain closed
- Public toilets (except one in Ranfurly Court for the convenience of Kawerau New World customers)

COUNCIL SERVICES IN LEVEL 3

The Level 3 status is in place until Monday, 11 May when the Government will review it. In COVID-19 Level 3 the Council continues to provide essential services to keep people healthy and safe and will be operating under strict COVID-19 Level 3 guidelines:

RUBBISH

The kerbside rubbish collection remains unchanged in Level 3. One bin for collection each week. No recycling crates will be emptied.

TRANSFER STATION

The Transfer Station re-opened this week under strict Level 3 guidelines.

It will open daily from 12noon until 4pm.

Usual charges apply. Paywave and Eftpos accepted.

No recycling services available at the Transfer Station. All recycling will go to general waste (as there are no recycling plants open in New Zealand).

Green waste accepted.

People will be asked their name and a contact phone number for contact tracing.

PARKS AND RESERVES

Parks and Reserves open for people to exercise. People should maintain their bubble and 2 metre distancing.

This week Council resumed essential maintenance of parks, reserves, street clearing and cleaning, mowing of berms and tree/branch removal.

Staff must keep 2 metres away from anybody not in their bubble.

CEMETERY SERVICES

Grounds open. Please maintain your 'bubble' and 2 metre distancing.

Tangihana / funerals up to 10 people.

Funeral Homes will provide further guidance.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Essential animal control services available.

Kawerau Businesses Open in Level 3

Check our Facebook page and website www.kaweraudc.govt.nz for lists of businesses and services that are open in Level 3.

