

Steam bore issues impact Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre

There are ongoing issues from the geothermal steam bore that provides hot water to heat the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre.

This is disappointing as the current steam bore was drilled in November 2021, with the funding support of Trust Horizon, which was greatly appreciated by Council and the community.

At a depth of 79 metres, the bore accesses naturally hot geothermal water at approximately 145 °C that flows under pressure (called artesian).

Problems with the heating in 2023 prompted a clean-out of the bore in September 2023, to remove silica buildup. Another major workover was completed in January 2026, which cleaned out calcite down to a depth of 60.5 metres.

Expert advice has been sought since issues began in 2023 from highly experienced geothermal contractors, expert operations staff at local geothermal power stations, and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

With the assistance of those experts it was found that the bore has not been performing reliably due to:

- Heavy calcite scaling inside the bore (which blocks the flow of the hot water)
- Possible cold water leaking into the bore casing (cooling the hot water and stopping natural flow)
- Insufficient depth (mapping of the geothermal field shows the hot zone starts deeper than the bore reaches, limiting reliable output)
- Weakness in the bore casing below the 60 metre depth (as shown in 2025 pressure tests)

One of the potential solutions to mitigate the build of the calcite and silica build-ups has been chemical treatments and high-pressure air treatments. In February, Council engaged contractors to install a chemical line which can also be used to inject air via a compressor into the bore.

The long-term solutions to restore heat to the pools at the optimum temperatures are still being investigated and costed. Council appreciates it is frustrating for pool users not to have temperatures in the pools and especially the spa pool, up to the usual heat.

Staff are working with external partners and contractors to provide various solutions for the heating of the pools and potential funding avenues with the aim of keeping costs to a minimum for the community.

Lastly, a reminder to be kind to our team at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre. The issues with the geothermal bore are structural issues with the bore itself – they have not been caused by lack of maintenance or operational issues.

We will keep you posted, and thank you all for your support, as we work through this challenging situation with mother nature!

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan approved

In February, Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan was approved by the Ministry for the Environment and will be in place until 2031.

Thank you again to the 79 people who made a submission on the plan during the formal consultation period. We appreciate your honesty and feedback. Now that the plan has been approved, Council will be replying to submitters.

A key aim of the plan is to divert waste away from landfill to either be reused or recycled into another product. Kawerau District Council is currently diverting 30 to 40% of the total waste away from landfill.

We would like to thank the community for your support of waste reduction initiatives and our solid waste team who have been working hard to achieve that goal.

There were some great suggestions from the community, including more education and communication and Council will be working to improve these areas in 2026.

Below: Another load of glass being diverted from landfill to be sold to Visy.



Stoneham Park Residential Development Update



This project is a key strand of the growth strategy of the district, as identified in the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan and the Regional Economic Development Strategy, both adopted in 2025.

The development has taken time to get to this stage where we are about to head into on-the-ground works approx mid-year. The reason for the time has been that Council wanted to step through the consultation and engagement process thoroughly from 2021 to 2023 with the

community, the land has gone from reserve to freehold, and the pre-development testing and planning has been mostly completed.

The process of completing the necessary work to obtain resource consents has also taken a considerable amount of time. In particular, the requirements to satisfy the earthworks consent required detailed stormwater modelling to allow for the extreme weather events particularly, a 1 in 100-year storm event (or 1%AED event).

The first stage of the development is funded using \$4.16 million from the 'Better Off' funding Council secured in December 2022. The project will be self-funded with sales from each stage to fund the next stage of the development.

An upcoming community day is planned and then the trees will be removed from the site. Keep an eye out in coming issues of the pānui, as Council will be gifting the firewood to the community.

Any queries, please contact Council on 073069009.



LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Council received 107 responses from the community consultation held from 11 April to 23 May 2025. Of the 107 submissions received, 103 were in support of the in-house business unit delivery model.

Following this consultation, Council adopted the in-house business unit water service delivery model as the preferred option. Council also resolved to continue exploring collaboration opportunities with Rotorua Lakes, Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki District Council.

All four councils have their own individual Water Services Delivery Plans approved. Each plan outlines a staged approach to future service delivery, which will see councils

providing services in-house and making decisions in 2026/27 on the longer-term delivery of these services. This approach enables the Regional Joint Waters Working Group to investigate the potential establishment of a multi-council water services council-controlled organisation (WSCCO) for long-term delivery. The group will meet monthly, with programme progress reported quarterly to the Department of Internal Affairs.

Across the Bay of Plenty, we all want the same outcome, delivering the best future water services for our districts in a way that meets the needs and values of our individual communities, while also meeting Government requirements.

Vandalism

Vandalism and graffiti continue to be an ongoing issue and an increasing cost for Council. There were multiple incidences of vandalism around the Kawerau district in December and January, costing the community \$11,000 in repairs.

Vandalism and graffiti around the district include:

- Eight newly laid concrete sections along Cobham Drive, were damaged, costing the community \$5,000.
- Two windows were broken at the Museum, costing the community \$4,815
- Graffiti at the Skatepark and on Fenton Street, costing the community \$2,052

Please be aware that any vandalism or graffiti on Council owned properties and throughout the district, comes at a cost to the ratepayers.

We need your help to ensure that our community's assets are protected - please contact the Police on 105 in the first instance, if you witness any vandalism or graffiti happening around your district.

Plea for Dog Owners to share spaces responsibly

There has been a significant increase in service requests logged for dogs (barking, roaming, and attacking).

Over December and January, the animal control team has responded to 161 service requests. 111 were attended by Council staff and related to barking (29), roaming (66), rushes (10), attacks on dogs and cats (6); the rest were general complaints and lost dogs. Six of the attacks on dogs and cats that were reported in December and January were roaming dogs that killed other animals or required vet attention.

If you're a dog owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your dog can share spaces safely with other animals and humans. Dogs must always be under control but particularly when they are in shared public spaces. Your dog may be friendly, but not all other dogs appreciate being approached by unfamiliar dogs. Please keep dogs on a leash where required or around other animals.

When the dog is on your property, ensure they are safely contained. Please check if your property is secure and that gates are properly latched, especially when visitors are coming and going.



Swimming Pool Fences

It is important to remember the regulations around pools and safety barriers.

There are responsibilities for pool owners, even if your pool is only a temporary one that you put up each summer season. This is for the safety of everyone.

These are the New Zealand requirements for pools:

Do I need a barrier?

A safety barrier is required if your pool has a water depth of 400mm or more.

Fence Rules

- Height 1.2m or above
- No gaps greater than 100mm
- Non-climbable design (i.e., vertical palings, not horizontal)

Gate Rules

- Opens away from pool
- Self-closing and self-latching
- Latch 1.5m or above high

If a Building is your Barriers, you need:

- Doors with a lock and/or alarm
- Windows with that can only open to 100mm or less

Spa Pools are required to have:

- Lockable child-resistant cover
- Safety signage

Exemptions may apply for:

- Above-ground pools with no climbable objects nearby (e.g., remove the ladder after use)
- Spa pools with a lockable, child-resistant cover

If you have queries, please contact Council's building team for more information.

Streetlights

Council is very proactive at reporting issues around the community. In the last two months, Council received 38 service requests for broken streetlights; 37 of these were reported by Council staff.

Repairs are carried out by Horizon Energy, albeit Council passes on all requests for services immediately. 24 of the 38 service requests have been completed, so far. Horizon Energy completed 22 within the 14-day target timeframe. The other two were completed within a 28-day period. All other streetlight service requests are in progress and will be completed within 14 days.

Most issues are resolved quickly; however, lights with cable faults may take longer to repair due to the complexity of the work.

The set target is to complete 90% of faults within 14 days and the remaining 10% of faults within 28 days.

We welcome a heads up about any street lights that are not working within the district. Report a streetlight outage:



Antenna app, please attach a photo (this will give the exact gps position)



Take a note of the exact location or number on the streetlight base



Email info@kaweraudc.govt.nz



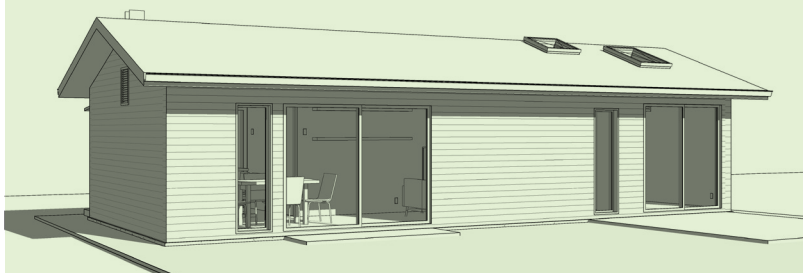
Phone 07 306 9009

Thanks for your support to keep our community well lit.

New building rules for granny flats

- New regulations on 15 January 2026 mean property owners can now build a single level, self-contained dwelling up to 70sqm
- Although a building consent is not required, prior to commencing your building project, property owners must apply to Council for Project Information Memorandum.
- Once the Project Information Memorandum is granted, owners have two years to complete the work
- Once the building is finished, owners need to lodge the certification for plumbing, electrical work and plans within 20 days which ensures a record is kept with the property file
- Please note: work must be carried out by licenced practitioners (qualified electricians and plumbers for example). Council does not complete inspections or issue code of compliance certificates.

If you have any questions, please contact Council on 07 306 9009 or visit our website kaweraudc.govt.nz



Thinking of putting items out for collection?

Summer is a great time for a clean-up around the home and yard.

You're welcome to place furniture or similar items on your berm for others to take.

However, if they aren't collected, you are responsible for disposing of them.

Sometimes, what we don't need can be snapped up by others when left on the roadside. But if not snapped up, and it's left there, usually people get in touch with Council to do something about it! If Council can identify the owner, they will be charged and invoiced for its removal. Otherwise, sadly, the cost falls onto the community.

The Transfer Station is open daily (except Christmas day) for sorted recycling (which is free) and for any other items (bar asbestos and other hazardous materials).

Please help us keep the community clean and free of rubbish dumping!

When people dump rubbish illegally, it impacts your friends, family, and neighbours, as the costs fall onto the community. Kawerau residents can report illegal dumping to Council by phone, email, or through Antenno. Our Transfer Station team also keeps an eye out during their daily work.

Annual Plan Consultation Dates

Nau mai haere mai | All welcome

- **Monday 13 April, 1pm - 2pm**
Public Meeting KADAP, Concert Chamber
- **Friday 17 April**
Annual Plan submissions open
- **Wednesday 22 April, 11am - 12noon**
Public Meeting, Rautahi Marae
- **Tuesday 28 April, 11am – 12noon**
Public Drop-in session, Rangī Delamere Centre
- **Thursday 30 April, 10am – 12noon**
Drop-In Session, Kawerau Community Markets
- **Wednesday 6 May, 5:15pm – 6:15pm**
Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
- **Sunday 17 May**
Annual Plan submissions close



Important dates and meetings

Friday 6 March

Applications for Creative Communities Scheme Round Two closes

Monday 9 March 4pm – 6pm

Have your say at the Sport BOP workshop for Play, Active Recreation and Sports Strategy, Concert Chamber, Kawerau

Wednesday 11 March, 9am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday 25 March, 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting

Monday 13 April, 9am

Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting