

Community

Pānui Update

7 MAY 2026



ANZAC Day

On 25 April, Council, in conjunction with the Returned Servicemen's Association (RSA), Kawerau Ex-Royal Navalmen's Association, Veteran's Affairs and Rautahi Marae held the annual ANZAC 2026 remembrance ceremony.

The dawn ceremony began with residents and distinguished guests gathering outside the Kawerau Ex-Royal Navalmen's Club and marching to Rautahi Marae for the memorial service.

Royal New Zealand Navy Marine Technician Petty Officer Kristen Kotuhi was the guest speaker at the Kawerau ANZAC Day Service.

Having grown up in Tokoroa and Kawerau, her speech acknowledged those who fought for our country in situations no one could possibly imagine. "We gather here in the stillness of dawn, as generations have done before us, to remember. Not just to recall names etched in stone, but to honour lives lived in service, courage shown in adversity, and sacrifice given without certainty of return.

"But ANZAC Day is not only about those who served in uniform. It is also about those who waited. Families who carried on at home. Communities that bore loss and rebuilt. The strength of a nation is not measured solely on the battlefield, but in the unity and compassion shown in its aftermath.

"We cannot change the past, but we can honour it—by remembering, by learning, and by living in a way that reflects the sacrifices made for us. That is how we

ensure that those who served did not do so in vain." Petty Officer Kotuhi said.

The ceremony closed with the Ode of Remembrance, the laying of wreaths and poppies, and breakfast at Rautahi Marae.

The Kawerau ANZAC Day Committee represented by community members and Council staff, would like to thank those who helped and plan and deliver the ANZAC Dawn Parade and Ceremony, and the community members who attended.

Lest we forget.



2025 Royal New Zealand Sailor of the Year and New Zealand Defence Person of the Year Petty Officer Kristen Kotuhi.

Do you support
what is being
proposed?

**Council is
consulting on
our Annual Plan
2026-2027**

Do you support what is being proposed? If not, please take the opportunity to tell us what you propose. Submission close 4pm on Monday 18 May 2026.

We are consulting on two topics:

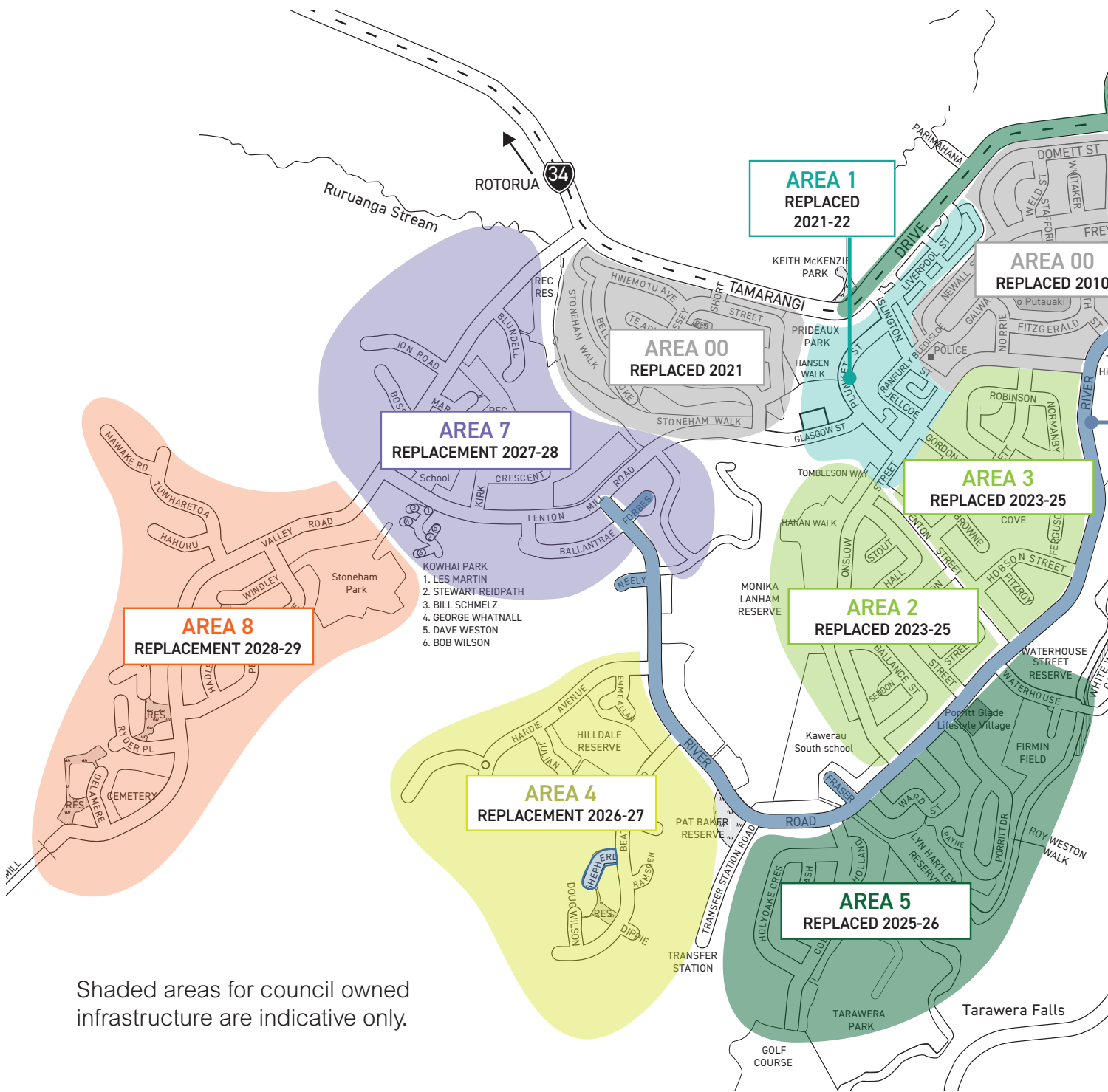
1. Overall rates increase of 5.8% that maintains our current levels of service.
2. Whether to keep the Uniform Annual General Charge at \$900 or reduce it to \$850 per property, due to the impact of the increased targeted water and wastewater rates.

Submission forms are available online, or pick up a hard copy form from the library, isite or Council Offices.

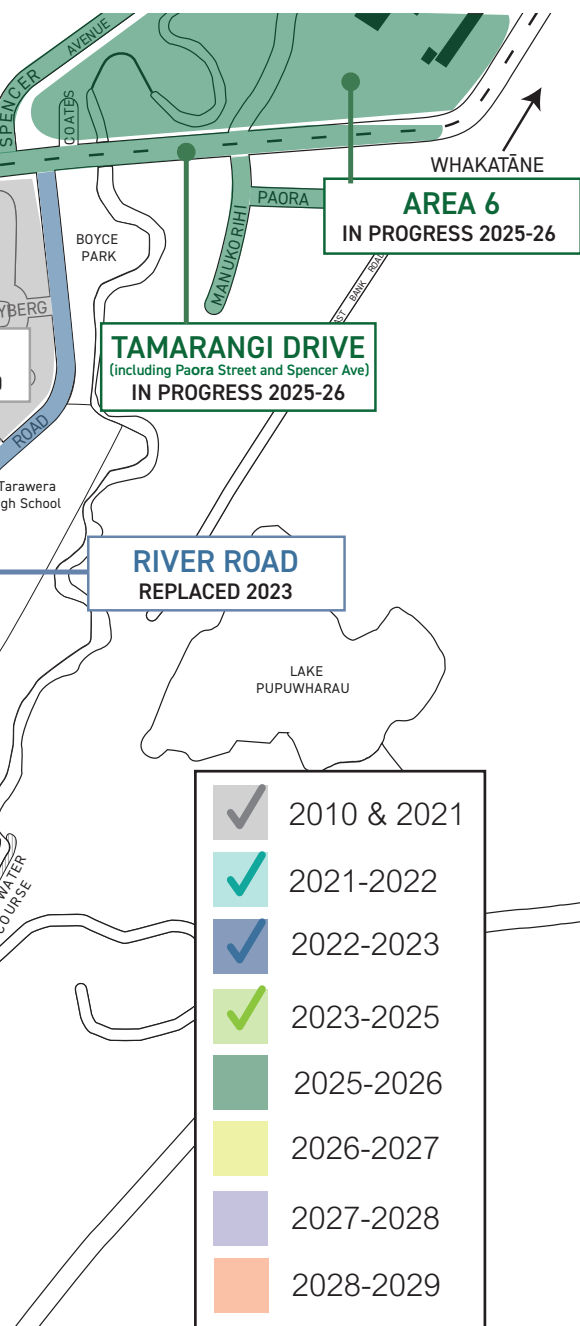
You can present your submission in person to the Mayor and elected members at the Hearing on Wednesday, 3 June 2026 from 9am. Contact Council to book a time.



Drinking Water Pipe Replacement Plan



Shaded areas for council owned infrastructure are indicative only.



Our Three Waters team and contractors have made significant progress in renewing Kawerau’s drinking water infrastructure with more than 60% of the network completed.

This \$12 million renewal programme represents a significant investment in the district’s core infrastructure. The long-term benefits for Kawerau include reduced leaks, enhanced water safety, and a future-proof network supporting the district’s growing community, business and industrial base.

Though the upgrades are mostly out of sight, the impact will benefit our community for generations to come.

The polyethylene piping chosen is tailored to Kawerau’s challenging ground and water conditions and has a projected lifespan up to 100 years.

Funded by low-interest loans from the Local Government Funding Agency of which Council is a member, the loans enable the project to be completed with current and future residents contributing to the cost.

As the map shows, the first portion of Area 00 was completed in 2010. Following consultation in the Long Term Plan in 2021, the project restarted with pipe renewals in the Bell Street area, River Road, Area 1 (Town Centre), 2, 3 and most recently Area 5 (from Holyoake Crescent to Waterhouse Street).

The team is now working on Area 6 (Tamarangi Drive, Paora Street and Spencer Avenue). Approximately 12km of aging pipes need to be replaced in Area 5 and 6—9.3km of drilling is now complete.

Looking ahead, Council plans to renew the remaining 20kms of drinking water pipes in Area 4, 7 and 8 from 2026 through to 2029.

With any large project that requires underground drilling, issues and breaks can occur. Kawerau District Council extends its sincere thanks to residents and businesses for their patience and support throughout the pipe replacement process.

In total, Council plans to invest \$32.3 million into water infrastructure between 2025 and 2034.

For future updates, please visit our website.

Kawerau District Council Triennial Customer Survey is underway

How would you rate Council's services?

Every three years, Council asks residents to rate all our services from kerbside recycling and greenwaste collection through to facilities, parks and reserves, community safety and more.

The results from our community are compared to previous surveys and to other councils across Aotearoa.

SIL Research are conducting the survey and use a variety of methods to obtain feedback from the community, including: Postal surveys, Social media and website links on Council's channels, Phone calls and Surveys delivered to some schools, community agencies and organisations.

The feedback from the Triennial Resident Survey lets council know if we are on the right track, shows how we stack up against other councils in New Zealand and the results allow us to measure our performance against targets set in our Long Term Plan.

The results will be shared with our community and are outlined in the annual report.



Keep an eye out for the survey - or scan this QR code and answer the short survey now.



Dog Fees

Dog registration fees are increasing from July 1, 2026, by 3.1%.

The decision to increase the fees by 3.1% (the rate of inflation) was made at a Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

Dog registration fees contribute 13% of the total dog control activity costs, which total \$563,850.

The new fees will be:

- Neutered (de-sexed) dog \$44 (\$1 increase)
- Entire (unneutered) dog \$89 (\$3 increase)

Dog registration fees are due for payment by 5pm, 31 July 2026.

Check the Council website for a full list of 2026-2027 dog fees.

Slow down, during school pick up and drop off

Please slow down around schools is the message from school communities.

From the start of term two a few weeks ago, new variable 30km/h speed limits are in place around all four schools in Kawerau.

The variable 30km/h speeds limits have been introduced during school's drop-off and pick-up hours.

This means you must reduce your speed to 30km/h when driving past Kawerau schools during the following times:

School	When the 30km/h speed limit is applicable
Tarawera High School and Kawerau Preschool River Rd, Kawerau	8.00am - 9.00am and 2.00pm - 3.00pm
Kawerau Putauaki School Fenton Mill Rd, Kawerau	8.40am - 9.20am and 2.20pm - 3.00pm
Te Whata Tau o Putauaki Galway Street, Kawerau	8.10am - 8.50am and 2.20pm - 3.00pm
Kawerau South School Onslow Street, Kawerau	8.30am - 9.30am and 2.10pm - 3.10pm

Outside of these times, the speed limit will remain 50km/h. These changes are in response to the Government's new speed limit rules and have been put in place after consulting with the local school principals. New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi has funded 75% of the cost of this project, in line with the roading subsidy provided to the Kawerau district.

New speed limit signs have been installed to notify drivers of the changes.



Important dates and meetings

Friday 8 May, 2pm - 3pm
Annual Plan Public Meeting Grey Power, Concert Chamber

Wednesday 13 May, 9am
Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Monday 18 May
Annual Plan submissions close

Friday 22 May, 5pm
Rates instalment 4 is due

Wednesday 27 May, 9am
Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday 3 June, 9am
Hearing for Annual Plan Submitters and Deliberations

Monday 8 June, 9am
Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting

Wednesday 10 June, 9am
Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday 24 June
Council adopts Annual Plan 2026-2027