

COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

3 OCTOBER 2023

Residents' Satisfaction Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Residents Survey earlier this year.

The Triennial Residents' Survey enables Council to measure its performance across all the activities and report against these in the Annual Report.

Overall, you rated satisfaction with Council at 70% (NZ benchmark 58%). Council hit the target with 14 of the 19 services rated at 70% or higher.

Our 10 top-rated services with 80% or higher:

- Kawerau Cemetery
- District Library
- Rubbish Collection
- isite visitor information centre
- District Safety
- Community Attractiveness
- Public Halls
- Parks and Reserves
- Wastewater, and Recycling

The areas of service that rated the lowest were no surprise.

The water service rated low with comments linking this rating to the brown water issue that was caused by manganese in Te Wai o Marukaa | Pumphouse Spring during the higher summer rainfalls. Council appreciates this was a tough time for residents and this service of course was rated low at 40%. Thankfully, our Three Waters Team found the cause, although we know this took some time.

Dog Control was another area that rated low with 34%. Our rohe has a high number of dogs for the population and roaming dogs was raised as an issue. Roaming dogs is a difficult area for Council to greatly improve as it relies heavily on owner responsibility.

The full report is available on the Council website kaweraudc.govt.nz and in the Council Offices.

Survey Re-set with SIL Research

- This year, Council engaged SIL Research from the Hawkes Bay to complete the survey
- SIL Research provides services to other Councils including Ōpōtiki and Whakatāne, and to organisations such as Trust Horizon
- The survey has seen a 'reset' with improved collection methodologies to reach a better range of our community
- The scale of answers was changed to a best-practice 10-scale

Annual Shut of Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre



A reminder to patrons that the annual maintenance shut at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre will take place from October 9 to 27.

The closure will enable the following work to be carried out:

- Fibre glass the spa pool after our temporary fix completed earlier in the year;
- Redoing the bathroom floors, as well as the floor outside of the bathrooms;
- Resurfacing the car park and repainting the car traffic flow and parking lines;
- Refurbishing the heat exchangers for the spa and main pool;
- Maintenance work on the circulation pipes (non-return valve to improve flow) in the pump shed for the main pool;
- Cleaning work, replacing sand in sand filter, scrubbing the overflow channels along the main pool which involves draining all the pools; and giving all the pools a good scrub!

Creative NZ Communities Grants Open

Applications are now open for the Creative New Zealand Communities' grants.

For more information, phone Council on 07 306 9009 or email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz Applications close at 5.00pm, Tuesday 31 October 2023. Visit councils website www.kaweraudc.govt.nz.

Kōrero mai
Let's get
talking

Māori wards for Kawerau District Council?

Council is keen to hear your thoughts on whether Kawerau District Council should establish Māori wards in addition to the current general ward in future council elections.

In 2020, Council made a decision not to introduce Māori Wards. Council subsequently heard from submitters in 2021, during our Representation Arrangements Review, that people wanted to have their say on Māori Wards for our rohe.

Council wants to carry out a more robust review and hear the views of our community this time.

We are engaging with our community now to build knowledge of what Māori wards will mean for Kawerau District Council so people are in a good position to give their feedback before a decision is made. Council has engaged Election Services' Electoral Officer Dale Ofsoske to present the facts about Māori wards. There are a number of community hui for Tangata Whenua Iwi and the community to attend (see overleaf).

There will be an opportunity for everyone to share their views via an online survey, and/or a feedback form that Council will deliver to all residents with the Community Update newsletter. The feedback from this engagement and the survey will assist elected members in making a decision on Māori wards.

Feedback form overleaf

kaweraudc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

What are wards?

Wards are areas of a city or a district identified for electoral purposes. They work in the same way as seats in a general election. In Kawerau, we have one 'at large' area for the entire district. Everyone who stands for Council represents the 'at large' area.

Currently, electors (people who are enrolled) can vote for any of the candidates who are standing. And, everyone gets to vote for who they want as Mayor.

What about Māori wards?

Māori wards sit alongside general wards in a district. They allow voters on the Māori roll to elect a representative or representatives to their local council.

Māori wards work in a similar way to Māori seats in Parliament. The aim of Māori wards is to make sure Māori are represented in local government decision-making.

How many Māori wards for us?

If Māori wards are established, the number of Māori ward Councillors is determined by a legislative formula based on the Māori and General electoral populations of the Kawerau district.

If Māori wards are established in Kawerau, its likely there would be four Māori ward Councillors and four general 'at large' ward Councillors based on this formula.

When would the change happen?

The decision must be made by 23 November 2023. If Council decides to have Māori wards this will be included in the Representation Review in 2024 and will be in place for the 2025 and 2028 Local Elections.

Council has resolved to carry out a representation review in 2024 which will go through a formal consultation process with the Kawerau community in the first quarter of 2024. It must be completed by 31 July 2024 and will be in place for the 2025 elections.



Who can vote in the Māori wards?

People enrolled on the Māori electoral roll for the area can vote for candidates standing in their Māori ward.

People on the Māori electoral roll can only vote for candidates in a Māori ward – plus the Mayor.

People on the general electoral roll can only vote for candidates from a general ward – plus the Mayor.

People are able to move to the Māori roll during the next Māori Electoral Option in 2024. This is in time for the local elections in 2025.

Council's current engagement with Māori

Māori wards may be a pathway to increase Māori participation in decision-making, however Council recognise that there are other opportunities where Council can enable this to occur.

There are other representation models in place in other Councils, such as Te Mana Whenua Forum Committee. However, these other models are not formalised and Tangata Whenua Iwi representatives do not have voting rights.

Standing for election in a Māori ward

To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be:

- A New Zealand citizen (by birth or citizenship ceremony)
- Enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand); and
- Nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the ward a candidate is standing for. (i.e., nominated by two people on the Māori roll).

Engagement Hui | Meetings

Council will be engaging with Tangata Whenua and the community as follows:

Who	Venue	Time
Tangata Whenua Iwi Hui	Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora	Fri, 22 September
Community	Rautahi Marae, Kawerau	1:00pm Mon, 25 September
Community	Concert Chamber, Kawerau	5:30pm Mon, 25 September
Tauria Students and Staff	Tarawera High School	1:00pm Mon, 9 October
Kura Whānau, Community	Tarawera High School	5:15pm Mon, 9 October

Things to consider

- All elected members must make decisions in the best interests of the whole of the Kawerau District, not just for their own ward.
- In the 2018 census, approximately 63.3% of people in the Kawerau district affiliated as Māori.
- About half of the district is on the General electoral roll and about half is on the Māori electoral roll.
- Māori wards could provide more effective, direct representation for Māori in Council decision-making processes as required by law.
- Kawerau district voter turnout is a little above the national average, but at 42% it's still very low. Māori wards may encourage more people to participate in local government, by standing for office and/or voting at local elections.
- Māori ward representatives could better relate to the needs of Māori communities and provide the Council with a greater understanding of Māori issues and concerns.
- Candidates would not be able to stand for both a General ward and a Māori ward at the same time.

7,760

Kawerau population

(Infometrics Estimated Population)

63.3%

Māori descent

(2018 Census Data)

How would Māori wards look for Kawerau?*

1

Mayor

4

Māori Ward
Councillors

4

General 'At Large'
Ward Councillors

*Using our current representation arrangements

Kōrero mai
Let's get
talking



For more information visit our website www.kaweraudc.govt.nz or call 07 306 9009





Spring into Reading
KAWERAU DISTRICT LIBRARY
 Monday 25 September to Friday 6 October

Wednesday 4 Oct – 10.30am to 12noon
Rescued Pencil Pots
 Turn a plastic cup or yoghurt pot into a colourful pencil holder with used fabric, plastic or string.

Friday, 6 Oct – 10.30am to 12noon
Spring Painting
 Come down and join in with us as we celebrate Spring with painting.

The school holiday programme is running until friday see you all there!

Citizenship Ceremony

Tūwharetoa Ki Kawerau Kaumātua Te Haukākawa Te Rire is seated with our newest citizens (from left) Sean Armstrong, Muhammad-Jamaal James and Gurkirpal Singh.

Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika officiated the Ceremony and was supported by Councillors Warwick Godfery, Berice Julian, Rex Savage and CEO Russell George.

Each candidate received a Certificate of Citizenship, a Native Plant to represent their new journey as a citizen and a congratulations letter from the Mayor, which Aaron read at the Ceremony. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed some lovely afternoon tea.

Thank you to the whānau members for coming in to support the event.



Cut here or take the survey online www.kaweraudc.govt.nz

Kōrero māi Let's Get Talking about Māori wards for Kawerau District Council?

Have your say here - Please drop to Council offices, Library or isite by 16 October 2023

1. Name (optional)

2. Email (optional)

3. Address (preferred)

4. Age

<input type="radio"/> Under 18	<input type="radio"/> 45-54
<input type="radio"/> 18-24	<input type="radio"/> 55-64
<input type="radio"/> 25-34	<input type="radio"/> 65+
<input type="radio"/> 35-44	

5. Gender

Female

Male

Non Binary

Prefer not to say

6. Ethnicity

Māori

European

Pacific Peoples

Asian

Middle Eastern/Latin American/African

Other (please specify)

7. Do you support establishing Māori wards for the Kawerau District?

Support

Neither Support nor Oppose

Oppose

8. Why do you feel that way?

9. Please outline any other comments

