

Community

Pānui Update



KAWERAU
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau

7 OCTOBER 2025

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025



LAST CHANCE TO VOTE

**VOTING CLOSSES: 12NOON
SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2025**

ON ELECTION DAY, BALLOT BOXES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT

- Kawerau Council Offices 8am - 12noon
- Kawerau District Library 10am - 12noon
- New World Kawerau 7:30am - 12noon
- Kawerau isite 9am – 12noon

If you are not enrolled, please enrol before Friday 10 October, to make a special vote. Special votes can be completed, at the Council Office, up until 12 noon Saturday 11 October. If you are planning to make a special vote on election day, please allow adequate time to do so.

Thank you to the 32.9% of eligible voters in Kawerau, who have already voted. Make sure you get your vote in before 12noon Saturday 11 October.

Let's get to 50% voter returns whānau.

KEEP KAWERAU BEAUTIFUL BIG CLEAN UP



Keep Kawerau Beautiful held its annual Big Clean Up on Sunday, 21 September with fantastic support from local businesses and organisations including Essity, Rotary Club of Kawerau, Gravity Sport, New World Kawerau, Bunnings Whakatāne, Jones and Cole, The Echo and Tidy Taupō.

Some 60 volunteers came together to make a difference. The volunteers worked hard clearing rubbish and overgrown weeds, like privet, from the forest track at Waterhouse Street steps.

Over the course of the day, an impressive 800kgs of rubbish was collected and responsibly disposed of at the Kawerau Transfer Station.

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to help keep Kawerau beautiful.

Council also extends its appreciation to the district cleaners and the parks and reserves team for their valuable contribution on the day, helping to clear rubbish and support the clean-up efforts across the district.



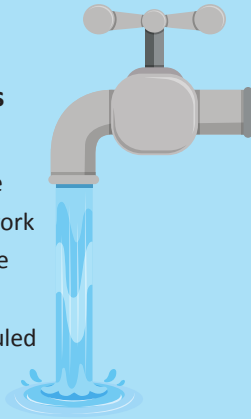
Terrence, Aaria and Libby Peri-Woods working hard to clear litter from our community

Drinking Water Pipe Renewal Plan

There are approximately 77km of drinking water pipes supplying properties throughout Kawerau.

Since 2010, around 60% of the total drinking water pipe network has already been replaced. The project will cost \$12 million, funded by loans, and is scheduled to be completed in the 2029 financial year.

This year, Council is renewing Areas 5 and 6 of the Drinking Water Pipe Replacement Plan. So far, 2km of pipe has been replaced throughout Waterhouse Street, Porritt Drive, Payne Crescent and Ward Street. An additional 4.5km is scheduled for completion in Area 5, along with 4.2km in Area 6, which includes Tamarangi Drive, Paora Street, and Spencer Avenue. Council recently approved a \$2 million loan from the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) to fund drinking water pipe replacements in Areas 4 and 7. Work in these areas is set to begin in October 2026, with completion expected in the 2026-2027 financial year.



Water Service Delivery Plan

An internal business unit is the preferred delivery option of three waters services to community, as adopted and submitted in our Water Service Delivery Plan on 3 September 2025 to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA).

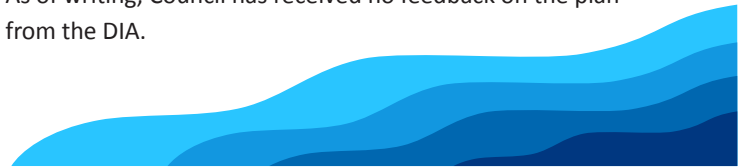
The Water Service Delivery Plan outlines how Kawerau District Council will continue to deliver drinking, waste and storm water services under the Local Water Done Well framework. It confirms Council's commitment to retaining ownership and control of water services by keeping them in-house, ensuring compliance with regulatory, environmental and financial standards.

Mayor Faylene Tunui said, "Kawerau has done water well, with 60% of the drinking reticulation already renewed since 2021. The remainder of the drinking water pipes will be replaced in the next four years.

"Kawerau will also replace the majority of the wastewater pipe network in the coming 10 years, funded from depreciation reserves."

Earlier in 2025, during April to May, Kawerau District Council received considerable feedback from the community and community partners supporting the plan for keeping an internal business unit. The formal submission process gathered 107 submissions, of which 92% supported the internal business unit.

As of writing, Council has received no feedback on the plan from the DIA.



Paralympic Athlete John Morgan swims across New Zealand

Thirteen-time gold medalist at two Paralympic games, John Morgan came to the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre, last month, fresh from competing in the World Masters' Swimming Championship in Singapore. Born in California, John found early success as a competitive swimmer and continued with the sport even after an accident at 15 left him without sight. John still today holds world records, and in 2008 was inducted into the American Olympic Hall of Fame.

John and his wife were in town to visit an old friend, as one of the final stops on their first-ever trip to New Zealand. After visiting Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Wellington, and Tauranga, they arrived in Kawerau for a few days before heading to Rotorua, Auckland, and then on to Fiji.

A highlight of their journey was swimming in the local pools in every town they visited. John gave the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre high praise, saying it is beautifully open and welcoming. Later this year, John Morgan will be competing again in the Scandinavian Swimming Championship.

**SWIMMING
POOL
CLOSED FOR
MAINTENANCE**



Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre annual maintenance closure

A reminder to patrons, that the annual maintenance shut at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre will be taking place from Monday 6 October to Saturday 25 October (spa pool) or Thursday 30 October (main pool), the closure will enable the following work to be carried out:

- Repaint main pool
- Repaint learner's pool
- Place anti-slip on spa pool stairs
- Repair footings of clubroom
- Relevel cobble stones
- Relevel slot drains
- Replace main pool circulation pipe
- Main pool scum channels relined
- Locate leak in spa pool underground pipework
- Jet clean shade canopies
- Clean BBQ area ceiling, walls, floors
- General annual maintenance
– servicing pumps, dosing units,
service disability chair lifts, service
sand traps etc.

Please note, the opening dates are weather dependant.

Shake Out 2025

**16TH
OCTOBER
9.30AM**



**OCTOBER 16, 2025 IS THE
NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE DRILL
TAKING PLACE AT 9:30AM.**

The aim of the drill is to ensure that we all remember to protect ourselves and loved ones if a large earthquake does occur.

HOW DO I TAKE PART?

New Zealand ShakeOut is a self-run earthquake drill.

DROP down on your hands and knees. This protects you from falling but lets you move if you need to.

COVER your head and neck (or your entire body if possible) under a sturdy table or desk (if it is within a few steps of you). If there is no shelter nearby, cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.

HOLD on to your shelter (or your position to protect your head and neck) until the shaking stops. If the shaking shifts your shelter around, move with it.

While you are doing the drill, take note of what might be happening around you.

Think about what you might need to do to prepare for a real earthquake.

Remember, as we don't have any risk of a tsunami, in Kawerau we don't need to evacuate.

The best and safest place is to stay at home, stay off the roads... be aware of where the safest place is in your whare/home or property.

OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND PLAN FOR:

What may need securing at your home (hot water cylinder, bookshelves, for example)

What supplies do you have at home of wai and kai (water and food)?

How will you contact loved ones?

Do you have a plan for meeting up with loved ones?

What is the plan of the kura/school where your children go?

For more information, check out getready.govt.nz



CEO Morgan Godfery invites our whānau and community to the Pōwhiri and Inauguration 'Swearing In' Ceremony of the Kawerau District Council Mayor and Councillors

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER AT RAUTAHİ MARAE

9:00am Assembly

9:30am Pōwhiri

10:00am Inauguration ('Swearing In') Ceremony

12 noon (approx.) Refreshments in the Wharekai.

2:00pm Inaugural meeting of the Kawerau District Council will be held in the Wharenui

Nau mai, Haere mai, All Welcome

Morgan Godfery

Tumu Whakarae | CEO

**Times are indicative*



Important dates and meetings

Tuesday 7 October

Last day to send your voting papers by post

Saturday 11 October

Voting closes 12noon

District Office, 2 Ranfurly Court

8:00am - noon

District Library, Jellicoe Court

10:00am - noon

New World Kawerau, Tarawera

Court 7:30am - noon

Kawerau isite, 1 Plunket Street

9:00am - noon

16 – 19 October

Final results announced

Saturday 25 October, 8am

Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre spa pool reopening

Wednesday 29 October, 9am

Council inauguration at Rautahi Marae

Thursday 30 October, 8am

Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre main pool reopening

Wednesday 12 November, 9am

November Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday 26 November, 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting

Monday 1 December, 1pm

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Saturday 6 December

Christmas in the Park 2025



Thank you to our outgoing councillors for 2022 – 2025

The final Council Meeting of the current Council occurred on Wednesday, 24 September 2025. A special thank you to Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika, Councillors Rex Savage, Rowena Andrews and Warwick Godfery (absent from photo) who stepped down and are not seeking re-election for a variety of reasons including family and other commitments. They all acknowledged their fellow councillors, staff and the community for the support and wished the incoming council all the best.

Above: The 2022 – 2025 Council is pictured here with staff and Pastor Mark Kingi

Great turnout at meet the candidate events

The turnout from the community at the recent 'meet the candidate' events has shown great interest in the Local Elections 2025.

Events to give members of the community an opportunity to meet and hear from candidates have been run by Rotary Club of Kawerau, Grey Power Kawerau and Districts, Radio 1XX and the Kawerau Māori Women's Welfare League. Council wishes to thank these organisations for their support with the Local Elections 2025. Also thank you to all the candidates who have stood up for the Kawerau community.