



Whangārei Takiwā

Our District

JULY 2023

Recovering from Gabrielle

It's going to take time to fully recover from Northland's largest emergency event in a generation. We are focused on working through the clean up and repairs, and thank everyone for your support and patience.

Our tracks and trails, playgrounds, parks and community sportsfields are open again for people to walk and cycle, picnic, play sport and enjoy time in nature.

Access to our beaches and harbour has also been restored, ready for winter walks along the seashore, fishing, surfing and other water activities.

Our roading teams are making huge progress bringing the roads back up to standard but there is still more to be done. We can expect things to continue to look messy for a while yet and, while a large portion of repairs will be completed in the drier months of summer, it will likely take several years to fully clear the backlog of substantial repairs needed on our roads.

Beyond cyclone repair work, we are also making future-proofing improvements to slip-prone roads, shared paths and cycleways, and continuing road safety initiatives.

Read the Cyclone Gabrielle Regional Recovery Plan at www.wdc.govt.nz/CivilDefence

Matapōuri composting loos

Te Whānau ā Rangiwihakaahu hapū, local community and Council have been working together for several years to address the challenges caused by the summer influx of visitors to Matapōuri. When it came to installing new toilets there were several issues with using a traditional septic tank system and we were asked to research more environmentally friendly wastewater options. The result is our district's first ever composting loos, opening soon for use at the popular seaside village.





Community members attending a drop-in session for the new Raumanga Playground.



An artist's impression of how the new playground will look when complete.



New playground for Raumanga Scenic Reserve

After talking with the local community about what facilities they wanted, we are building a new playground, toilets, and a drinking fountain at Raumanga Scenic Reserve.

The playground will feature slides, climbing frames, balance challenges, and a see-saw which is compatible with most wheelchairs.

We will also improve the park's paths, which link to the Raumanga Falls track and the Raumanga Shared Path.

Walking and cycling

We're completing the final stages of the Raumanga Shared Path and Kamo Shared Path. New shared path connections are being planned for the central city, Tikipunga, Otangarei, Kensington, and the AH Reed Memorial Park. We are also working with the Waipu Cycle and Walkway Trust to finish the path connecting Waipu to Waipu Cove.

A new Learn to Ride bike skills area is now open at the Pohe Island Bike Hub for our youngest cyclists.

Lake Waro skatepark

Hikurangi skaters will soon have a new skatepark to practise their tricks and turns. The design is based on consultation with local skaters and will be built later this year in the same location as the old skatepark, which has reached the end of its life.

Parua Bay skatepark

The skateboarding community in Parua Bay came to Council with an application to fund a new skatepark. We are now meeting with local skaters and working on the designs for this with construction planned to begin in February 2024.

New fields for sport and recreation

We are developing two new community sportsfields at Ruakākā this year. We are also putting the finishing touches on a new community sports field at Parua Bay School and providing further support to the Tikipunga Football Hub, Onerahi football fields, and the Takahiwai Rugby League Club.



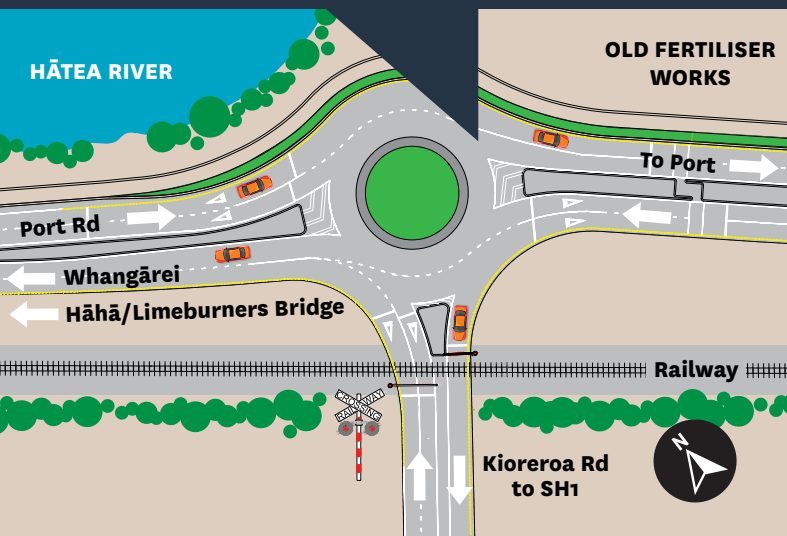
Your rates at a glance

Following consultation with the public Council voted for a 7.9% rates increase (as opposed to a proposed increase of 10.9%) to balance rising inflation costs with the need to keep rates affordable for our community.

New two-lane roundabout for Port Rd and Kioreroa Rd

We're putting in a two-lane roundabout at the intersection of Port Road and Kioreroa Road. This will improve traffic flow and make it easier for vehicles turning in and out of Kioreroa Road. It will also improve safety, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. This project is currently under construction and should be completed in December 2023.

There will be some disruption as we work through the final stages of the improvements later this year. We'll share more on this closer to the time.



Rates help

If you are having problems paying your rates, or meeting the payment deadlines please call us on 0800 932 463.

Rates rebates

Rates rebates of up to \$750 are available for low-income ratepayers who own the home they are living in on 1 July.

If you received a rebate last year we will send you an application for the 2023-24 year. All you need to do is complete and sign it, and return it to us by mail, email or dropping in to one of our service centres. Our friendly team are here to help with this: call us on 0800 932 463, email rebates@wdc.govt.nz or go to www.wdc.govt.nz/RatesRebates



Use blue bins for clean, unbroken glass with lids removed.

Red bins for plastics numbered 1, 2, and 5, metal food and drink cans.

Paper and cardboard – flatten into a small pile in a bag or box.

New bins can be collected from:

- Tarewa i-SITE
- Whangārei Central Library
- Tikipunga Library
- Ruakākā Service Centre

Your Mayor and Councillors

Contact us to discuss ideas, feedback or local issues.

09 430 4200 or www.wdc.govt.nz/ElectedMembers



How to pay your rates

You can pay your rates online by direct debit, internet banking, or pay in person.

DIRECT DEBIT

A direct debit can be set up to be paid from your bank account, weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or annually and is calculated to make sure your rates are paid in full each year.

INTERNET BANKING OR BILL PAYMENT

Search for “Whangarei District Council” in your bank’s payee

list and make sure you use the details below so we know what the payment is for:

Payment type: Rates Only

Code type: Property ID (this can be found on the top left of your rates bill)

Reference type: Account holder’s name

You will need to make a separate bill payment for each property you pay for.



Top tips from our rates team

- When you get your rates assessment check we have the correct information for you and your property. Remember we base our rating assessments on property valuations as at 1 July 2021. Properties will be revalued next in 2024-25 (used for rating from 1 July 2025).
- Banks are now processing payments seven days a week. If you have automatic payments falling on a weekend or statutory holiday, the payment will be made on that day. We will continue to deduct direct debits on the next working day if the payment day falls on a weekend or statutory holiday.

Contact us

Online: Report issues and outages to us online at:

www.wdc.govt.nz/ReportIt

Phone: 24 hours a day 09 430 4200 or 0800 932 463

Email: mailroom@wdc.govt.nz

In person: Te Iwitihi, next to the central library on Rust Ave or Ruakākā Service Centre, Takutai Place, Ruakākā

Go paperless

Sign up online at www.wdc.govt.nz/EmailRates to receive your rates notices by email.