

COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE



4 FEBRUARY 2025

Welcome to the Council's first panui for 2025.

Wishing all our residents and community a safe, happy and fulfilling year ahead.

Along with the ongoing provision of services such as rubbish, three waters, footpath and roading maintenance, parks and reserve maintenance, facilities, dog registration and services, building control services, and the amazing Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre (and all the other great venues available) - there are a number of workstreams that we will be seeking your feedback. This includes checking in for the nine-year Long Term Plan we are working on and also finalising the water service delivery plan for Local Water Done Well. There's also the District Plan review, and a number of policies. Our pānui, website and social media will have more details to come in coming months.

Long Term Plan 2025–2034

This year, Council will complete a nine-year Long Term Plan for 2025 to 2034, as we produced an enhanced Annual Plan last year.

Thank you to the residents and ratepayers who completed the early engagement survey in 2023. This has helped inform some areas of the plan which we are working on along with the budget that sets the rates.

We will be talking with the community about the plan at public and stakeholder meetings during the consultation period of 4 April to 5 May and will be encouraging the community to share your thoughts and let us know what you think we should continue doing and where we can improve.



Important dates and meetings

Monday 3 February, 9am

Applications for Creative Communities Scheme 2024/5 Round Two opens

Monday 10 February, 1pm

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Wednesday 12 February, 9am

Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting | Extraordinary meeting

Friday 21 February, 5pm

Rates Installment Three is due

Friday 21 February, 5pm

Kawerau Youth Council applications close

Wednesday 26 February, 9am

Ordinary Council Meeting

Friday 28 February, 3pm

Applications for Creative Communities Scheme Round Two closes

Friday 4 April

Consultation Period and Submissions Open for the Long Term Plan 2025-2034 and Local Water Done Well



Calling our Creative Community Champions

Your Creative Communities Scheme Committee are committed to growing participation, visibility and presence of the Arts for Kawerau whānau | families and warmly welcomes project applications for Round 2 of the 2024/5 scheme, from Monday 3 February to Friday 28 February, closing at 3pm. Your committee have been working closely with the Creative NZ national and regional team to secure resourcing for Kawerau and we need you.

Be it Matariki, kapa haka, community choirs, hip-hop groups, musical performances or events, poetry recitals, printmaking, script-writing, crafts, clay and/or knitting, photography and/or

film, classic, modern or traditional dance, tukutuku, whakairo or kowhaiwhai for marae, weaving, pottery, carving, wearable arts or public artworks through wananga, workshops, performances or exhibitions – the Creative Communities Scheme is here for you.

Project applications are invited by groups or individuals to help your Creative Communities Committee support those within our hāpori | community keen to share their gifts and talents with others as a celebration of our creative, artistic, cultural diversity, to capture and convey Kawerau Yesterday, Kawerau Today and Kawerau Tomorrow.

If you have any questions or need help or pointers to fill out an application contact our Economic and Community Development Manager, Lee Barton on (07) 306 9009



Exciting opportunity alert for Kawerau rangatahi

Kawerau Youth Council is an initiative being driven ‘for youth by youth’ – and applications are now open for 2025.

Since 2008, Kawerau Youth Council has helped give rangatahi skills, knowledge, and opportunities to better themselves and develop the community through the lens of a younger generation.

Kawerau Youth Council provides pathways for youth to learn and grow environmentally, socially, and culturally. With the support and guidance of Kawerau District Council’s Youth Projects Officer JJ Rika, youth can expand their thinking and explore new opportunities.

If you or someone you know is 12- 24 years old and wants to give back to their community, build meaningful friendships and enhance their skills of working with others and advocating for youth in the Kawerau District - the Kawerau Youth Council might be for them.

Applications to become part of the 2025 Kawerau Youth Council are now open. Apply online by 21 February 2025: <https://form.jotform.com/250187626315861>

Local Water Done Well

In parallel with the Long Term Plan, Council will also be consulting on its Water Service Delivery Plan as part of Local Water Done Well, a government initiative aimed at improving water services and infrastructure across New Zealand.

Local Water Done Well is the legislation passed by the current coalition government, after it repealed the former government’s Three Waters Reform Bill. This legislation encourages Councils to assess the financial sustainability of their water service delivery, and where appropriate to form partnerships (synergies) with neighbouring councils where appropriate. Last year, all the Bay of Plenty Councils (including Kawerau) have been working on the viability of a Bay of Plenty

model. This does not commit Kawerau District Council in any way, but the model helps form a useful comparison for the community with our current in-house water service delivery. We will be consulting with you, our community, on the best options to deliver water services in the coming months. Please check our website, social media platforms and our newsletter here for more details, as they are available.

Council Elections 2025



This year are the local government elections, when people aged 18 and over can stand and vote for who represents them on the Kawerau District Council.

After establishing a Māori ward in 2023 and completing a representation review in 2024, the Kawerau District Council will comprise:

The Mayor, two councillors elected ‘at-large’ (district wide), three general ward councillors, and three Māori ward councillors.

This election will also hold a poll asking voters if you want to keep or remove Māori wards.

If you are interested in serving your community and standing for election, two candidate information sessions will be held in the lead-up to the elections.

Please keep an eye on our newsletter, social media pages, and website for more details.

Information for candidates and those interested in learning more about Local Government is also available on the website lgnz.co.nz

Vote 2025 Timetable:

Anytime - check vote.nz or call 0800 3676 56 so you are enrolled to vote or stand in the elections

28 May 2025 Candidate Information Evening

4 July 2025 Candidate nominations open and roll opens for public inspection

11 July 2025 Māori Roll changes pause (deadline to change rolls)

1 August 2025 at 12 noon Candidate nominations close

9-22 September 2025 Voting documents delivered by post

7 October 2025 Last day for posting vote by mail. After this date votes must be returned to council’s secure ballot boxes

11 October 2025 Election Day – voting closes midday 12 noon

17 October 2025 Declaration of results

29 October 2025 Elected members’ Inauguration Ceremony (swearing in)