



WORD FROM OUR MAYOR

Kirsten Wise

Kia ora koutou.

The past six weeks have been challenging for all of us, and the pandemic will continue to affect us all for some time to come.

Council staff have been working hard to respond to the needs of the community, ensure public safety and communicate, through various means, how the alert levels affect us and how we should be behaving.

Besides dealing with the current situation, we have also been working on recovery initiatives, alongside business as usual activities, some of which we are legally required to do.

This includes working on the Annual Plan for 2020/21, and setting rates.

At last week's meeting Council proposed increasing rates by an average of 4.8%.

COVID-19's impact has had a significant effect on Council finances, meaning we're facing a funding gap of several million dollars.

Much of the forecasted lost revenue is due to closed tourism facilities, community facilities, halls, sportsgrounds and pools that are not being used, as well as reduced regulatory income.

Postponements and cancellations of tours and events including sporting events is also affecting our city.

We have identified operational savings of \$3.7 million, and propose covering the shortfall using \$6.74 million from Council reserves.

Council did consider but rejected a rates freeze, because that wouldn't help those most in need, and would also place a heavy burden on future ratepayers.

Rates relief packages which complement those announced by the Government, are part of the recovery initiatives I mentioned earlier.

The Annual Plan, which was almost ready to go out for consultation, has had to be revised because of the pandemic, so consultation will not begin until mid-June.

You will have the chance to provide feedback on the rates rise, how the deficit could be covered, and these packages during consultation. I will be able to share more details with you in the weeks to come.

Kia kaha Napier.



RECOVERY OF NAPIER

Council has unveiled its support initiatives for businesses and individuals as the city recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Council's Response to Recovery Plan: Alert Level 3 describes how Napier workplaces, clubs, facilities and households can function under Alert Level 3.

The plan encourages locals to identify the opportunities and roadblocks to successfully functioning in Alert Level 3. It also outlines what information and support is available from us and other organisations as the city recovers from the pandemic.

A range of actions to support businesses and individuals facing hardship include:

- Tailored advice to enable various industries to operate safely in Alert Level 3 such as hospitality and construction.
- Rapid supplier payments with seven-day terms.
- Suspension of leased parking payments until Alert Level 2.
- Deferring payments for different licence types such as food, liquor.
- Support Local campaign – regional and Napier-specific.
- Prompt building and resource consent processing at all Alert Levels.
- Requesting government funding for infrastructure projects that support local employment.

Council is also proposing various rates relief options, residents will have the chance to provide feedback on in the draft Annual Plan 2020/21. These include:

- A residential and commercial rates relief fund has been established in 2020/21 for those in serious hardship.
- Rates remission and postponement options.
- Removing rates penalties for last quarter this financial year 2019/20.
- Reducing our rates penalty charges during the first two quarters in 2020/21.
- Providing rent and lease relief for commercial customers.

For more information on Napier's recovery plan visit www.napier.govt.nz, keyword search #recoveryplan

PROPOSED RATES INCREASE

Council is proposing an average 4.8% rates increase for 2020/21. The impact of COVID-19 on Council finances has been significant, with an anticipated rates deficit of around \$3.1 million for the rest of 2019/20 and lost revenue of \$7.5 million in 2020/21. The overall impact of the pandemic means that Council is facing a funding gap for 2020/21.

Much of the forecasted lost revenue is due to closed tourism facilities, community facilities, halls, sportsgrounds and pools that are not being used, as well as reduced regulatory income.

The preferred option is a rates rise of 4.8% with the recommendation to fund the operating gap of \$6.74m from Council reserves, \$4m from the Parking Reserve, and \$2.74m from the Suburban and Urban Growth Fund.

The proposed increase strikes the right balance between supporting those in need now and stimulating the local economy.” says Napier Mayor Kirsten Wise

Our overarching aim is to be as fair and equitable as possible and ensure nobody falls through the gaps. A blanket rates freeze was rejected by Council because it does not help those who are most in need. It would also place undue burden on our future ratepayers.

We have identified operational savings of \$3.7 million, which helped reduce rates by 6%. We will endeavour to identify more efficiencies and further savings for the year ahead.

Ratepayers and residents will have the chance to provide feedback on the rates rise and how the deficit could be covered during the Annual Plan 2020/21 consultation. The consultation start date has been delayed until mid-June. Council needs time to revise the draft Annual Plan before consultation. We will provide an updated timeline shortly.

For more info visit www.napier.govt.nz keyword search #annualplan

Virtual BOOK CLUB

Napier Libraries have created a virtual book club to replace their 'Read n Chat' sessions due to COVID-19 restrictions. Using the platform Zoom, the club is held every Thursday at 7.30pm and is a great way to catch-up with fellow book lovers and share what you've been reading.

How to Join

There is no cost to join, just email info@napierlibrary.co.nz or phone the team **06 834 4180** and they will get you all set up.

The library team have also set up a special "Lockdown" book group on the online platform 'Good Reads'. This is the world's largest community of book lovers and is a great way to share what you've been reading, look at reviews and more. Creating an account is free and easy to set up by visiting www.goodreads.com



NAPIER LIBRARIES
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri



Rapid Response Fund for community organisations!

A new \$50,000 fund has been setup to help non-profit social service and community organisations who are supporting the response to COVID-19 in Napier.

Organisations may apply if they have incurred additional costs or have provided a new service since the start of Alert Level 4.

The fund is now open for applications and will be assessed on a first come first basis.

Apply at www.napier.govt.nz keyword search **#COVIDresponsefund** or contact the Community Services team csgrants@napier.govt.nz

Applications close 31 May 2020, or earlier if all fund is allocated.



Redclyffe Transfer Station is open!



Monday to Friday, 7.45am to 5pm, for general waste only. You must book online at www.napier.govt.nz or you will be turned away. If you don't have internet access contact our Customer Service Centre on 06 835 7579, Monday to Friday.

- Usual rates apply. Contactless payment (Paywave) will be the only method of payment.
- Only one person is allowed in each vehicle, and they must be the registered owner of the vehicle.
- Council is unable to accept recycling or green waste at the transfer station at this time.
- There will be traffic management so we ask people to be patient and mindful of other road users as there is likely to be a queue.
- Existing account holders are already able to use the transfer station, provided they can make contactless payment or have registered accounts.
- The limited opening hours is to allow enough time over the weekend for the waste to be transported to the landfill.

Free public parking

People returning to work within the Napier CBD and Taradale, are welcome to use the public carparks (on-street and off-street) as there is no charge for paid parking during Alert Level 3.



love your neighbourhood competition

Win up to \$5000 for your community project to do something good for your neighbourhood!

Our 'Love your Neighbourhood' competition gives you the chance to win up to \$5000 to make your community project happen. Tell us about your project and how much you need. Our panel will choose the freshest, most exciting projects to win!

Get all the details at napier.govt.nz
#loveyourneighbourhood



Have you been getting some extra putting practice in at home over the last few weeks and want to show off your putting prowess? Set your tricky shot up in your bubble at home, give it a go and share!

Post your video on Facebook and tag @Par2MiniGolf before Thursday, 14 May 2020 to go into the draw for a family pass to Par2 Minigolf, along with a one night stay at Kennedy Park Resort Napier!

Drop a message to let us know you've entered so we can make sure you're in the draw.

T&C's apply - www.facebook.com/Par2MiniGolf

Your Council



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