



Clare St Pierre: grounded in community

Proud Pirongia local and environmental enthusiast Clare St Pierre has spent over 12 years around the Council table as a Waipā District Councillor. While there have been many high points and many challenges along the way, Clare says the recent severe weather impacts in parts of the district have been like nothing she's ever seen before.

"While the devastation has been shocking, the way people have come together to support each other has been humbling and inspiring," she said. "We've still got a long way to go, and there's a commitment to continuing that journey together."

For Clare, the best part of being a councillor is the people. "Hearing their stories, understanding what they care about, and helping enable great local initiatives is incredibly rewarding." She also enjoys the future-focused nature of the role and helping shape the district Waipā is becoming.

Clare continues to be inspired by the quiet dedication of the Waipā community. "The heart of our district comes from volunteers, local groups, and everyday residents who give so much of themselves."

Clare is enjoying the energy this term, with a mix of new and returning councillors bringing diverse experience and perspectives. She also values Mayor Mike's strong emphasis on teamwork.

Clare's focus now turns to Central Government reforms to ensure the Waipā voice is heard, and tackling rates affordability. "I want to really understand what's driving projected rate increases - especially how growth, new assets, and ongoing costs affect ratepayers, and whether that's sustainable long term."

As Chair of the Service Delivery Committee, she's focused on performance. "Our community deserves confidence that projects are delivered on time, on or under budget, and with risks well managed."

Clare previously worked at ANZ Bank and holds a Management degree, along with Chartered Membership of the New Zealand Institute of Directors.

Community service and environmental stewardship have long shaped her work, including projects around Mt Pirongia and Taiea te Taiao, service on the Waikato Conservation Board, and developing a Pirongia food forest.

Clare and her husband Tony are proud parents to five grown children and an adopted daughter from Korea. Outside Council, Clare enjoys walking on Mt Pirongia, cycling, singing in her church choir, home brewing, and sharing her love of gardening on Instagram.



Road to recovery

Recovery work across Waipā is continuing to make steady progress following February's severe weather, with most roads, bridges and public spaces now reopened.

At the time of writing, only Corcoran Road in Te Pahu and Whatauri Road in Wharepapa South remain under restriction, along with the Whatauri and Mangauika bridges. Meanwhile, parts of Pirongia Forest have reopened while clean-up and repair work continues on other recreational spaces.

To keep this momentum going, the recovery transition period has been extended through until Wednesday, April 22. This will allow Council and partner agencies to stay focused on the remaining issues, including land stability and safe access to affected sites, while continuing to support those in the community still dealing with the impacts. The Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund also remains available for residents who need immediate assistance.

Across the district, the focus remains on restoring affected areas, supporting the community, and building resilience for the future.

Easter weekend is coming

Please note that our Council offices will be closed over the Easter weekend (Friday, April 3 to Monday, April 6).

If you're looking for things to do, our libraries and museum are open for parts of the long weekend. Take a chance to grab a new read or explore the latest exhibition!

Cambridge and Te Awamutu Libraries: Open 9.30am-1pm Saturday, April 4, and closed for the rest of the long weekend.

Te Whare Taonga o Te Awamutu Museum: Open 10am-2pm on Saturday, April 4 and Monday, April 6, and closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Recycling reminder:

Recycling collections will still run as usual, so don't forget to have your bins out by 7am. Remember, we don't collect rubbish - please check with your service provider to confirm their collections on public holidays.

A big thank you to our awesome staff who will be working through the long weekend to keep things running smoothly!



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