



In for an eighth term and Marcus Gower is not done yet

Marcus Gower has clocked up more Council meetings than most at Waipā District Council and continues to pull up a chair.

Nearly two decades after first stepping into the role, Marcus is a familiar face at the table, now serving his eighth term and holding the title of current longest-serving elected member in Waipā.

His journey started in 2007 on the Te Awamutu Community Board, and what began as a way to get involved has grown into a long-standing role shaped by experience, relationships, and drive to support the community he calls home.

When asked what has kept him in the game so long, Marcus said it is the people. “I really enjoy working with my fellow councillors, Council staff and local groups and being able to help have a meaningful impact.”

That sense of purpose has been there from day one. He first ran to bring fresh ideas, contribute, and play a part in guiding Waipā’s future. But like many who step into local government, he quickly learned things don’t move at lightning speed.

“The wheels move slowly - and intentionally,” he says. “It’s great to come in with dreams and ideas, but you need to play the long game and set expectations.”

And that long game is exactly how Council operates, with big decisions and projects carefully mapped out through long-term planning.

Marcus is the chair of the Regulatory Committee and the District Promotions Sub-Committee.

Over the years, he has had a hand in some major projects across the district. He’s particularly proud of helping get developments like the Cambridge Velodrome, Te Awamutu Library, Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Te Awamutu Skatepark across the line - along with supporting the work at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari.

But it hasn’t all been smooth sailing. Marcus says each term brings its own challenges, and the current one is no exception.

“We have some big adjustments coming with waters moving out of Council – things will look very different.”

He remains optimistic about what’s ahead, particularly when it comes to shaping the district’s next long-term plan.

A proud Kihikihi local, Marcus has lived in the town for nearly 30 years. He grew up in Te Awamutu and attended Te Awamutu College.

His day job running an IT business gives him the flexibility to juggle Council duties. When he’s off the clock, you’ll likely find him firing up the smoker, or out on the water with friends and family at Lakes Arapuni or Karāpiro.

After all these years, some things haven’t changed - Marcus Gower continues to bring his positive attitude and sense of humour to the Council table.



Road to Recovery

Waipā is now in the official recovery phase, as the Transition Period ended through the Group State of Emergency declaration for Cyclone Vaianu.

Highlights over the last fortnight include the opening of Corcoran Road in Te Pahu with onsite karakia led by mana whenua.

We also held a successful community connection event at Te Pahu.

The Mayoral Relief Fund has now granted nearly \$100,000 to applicants in the affected communities. For more information on the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund visit: waipadc.govt.nz/relief-fund.

Western Waipā water supply update

We’re managing ongoing water supply constraints in the western part of the district following damage to the Te Tahi water treatment plant in the February severe weather event.

We’ve been working on a dedicated communications programme to ensure partners and key stakeholders are informed well-ahead of the summer months when the supply reaches peak demand. We’re also liaising with mana whenua and iwi partners, Waikato Waters Ltd and developers.

A new dedicated page has been set up for our community to access up to date information: letstalk.waipadc.govt.nz/water-supply-constraints.

Kihikihi Cemetery fence replacement

We’ll soon be replacing the boundary fence between Kihikihi Cemetery and the neighbouring properties with work starting on Monday, May 4. Residents affected by this work have been informed.

This work sits within our asset maintenance programme and is expected to take around two weeks to complete.

The new fence will be 1.8 metres high and built to meet District Plan requirements.

Your Elected Members Get in touch: waipadc.govt.nz/our-council/our-team/mayor-and-councillors

											
Mike Pettit Mayor	Jo Davies-Colley Deputy Mayor	Dale-Maree Morgan	Mike Montgomerie	Clare St Pierre	Marcus Gower	Aidhean Camson	Roger Gordon	Dean Taylor	Shane Walsh	Pip Kempthorne	Les Bennett