



Young kaitiaki impress at council meeting

Tamariki from two of Waipā's EnviroSchools stole the show at August's Service Delivery Committee meeting, presenting their environmental projects to elected members, including Mayor Mike Pettit.

Students Ana, Rhea, Rodnel, Aria, Mia and Leroy from Wharepapa South School pictured above (l-r) talked the committee through their work as kaitiaki [guardians] of their local environment. Their Trees for Survival programme sees them grow native trees from seedlings and plant them on local farms, while they've also adopted a stretch of the Pūniu River, planting along the banks and testing water quality.

The students say they've already noticed more native birds including kererū, pīwakawaka, tūi and kōtare around their school, along with fewer pests like stoats and rats. And having seen the impact of flooding firsthand after the February storm event, they say it's brought home just how important protecting and restoring waterways really is.

Karāpiro School students (pictured right) Zoë, Amelia and Jake shared how their school motto, "Whakatupu tahi tātou: Together we grow," shapes their own environmental programme. The students mapped and explored their own school grounds, collecting data on birds and butterflies, before setting to work building skink gardens, weta boxes and bat boxes, along with a vege garden, worm farm and butterfly and bee garden.

Mayor Mike Pettit says the students' passion was obvious.

"These children were absolutely awesome, so switched on and so proud of what they've achieved. It just goes to show what young people can do when they're given the opportunity."

The presentations were a great example of how a relatively small amount of funding can go a long way when matched with energy from students and schools.

EnviroSchools is an environmental education programme delivered by Waikato Regional Council, with 25 of Waipā's schools taking part. Waipā District Council contributes \$24,000 a year to the programme, which helps schools weave sustainability and environmental care into everyday school life.



Council updates three committee names

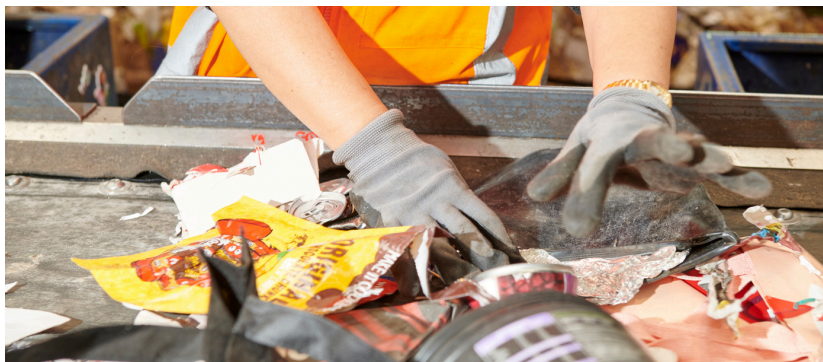
Three of Waipā District Council's committees have new names and refined purposes from this week, matching its new organisational structure which came into effect in July.

What's new?

- The **Growth, Strategy and Planning Committee** replaces the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee
- The **Finance and Organisational Performance Committee** replaces the Finance and Corporate Committee
- The **Community Delivery Committee** replaces the Service Delivery Committee.

"A lean, well organised council is better placed to deliver for our community," Mayor Mike Pettit says. "These changes make sure our committees are set up to do exactly that."

Chairs, deputy chairs and existing delegations remain unchanged.



Practical next step for proposed recovery centre

Planning is continuing for a proposed new resource recovery centre at Matos Segedin Drive in Leamington, with community needs firmly at the heart of the conversation. Waipā District Councillors discussed the proposals at the latest Service Delivery Committee meeting, looking at how a future facility could better support Cambridge and the wider communities who would use it.

The ideas will now be worked up in more detail, including clearer costings, possible funding options and the likely financial impact for ratepayers. The aim is to take a practical approach that balances what the community needs with what is affordable, while planning for a facility that is useful, accessible and fit for the future.

Your Elected Members

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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