

# Mayor's Message

Tasman District is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Over the past couple of years we have been hit by cyclones, storm surges, drought and fire.

This has really hit home to me personally as our family has been significantly impacted by the fire that started in Pigeon Valley. An increase in the severity and frequency of extreme weather is one of the effects we can expect to continue seeing in future.

The people of Tasman District are justifiably proud of our green landscapes, healthy environment and unique identity. We need to work together to conserve the elements of our way of life that we value the most.

Climate change represents a huge challenge for all of us, and there are few easy solutions. The Council has a large body of work underway to assess the likely effects on our communities and to formulate strategies for how we can best prepare and adapt for the future. This work will allow us to have conversations with our communities about how rising sea levels and more unsettled weather patterns will affect us all. Some of those conversations will be hard. We know it's essential that we have them.

I am heartened by the direction this work is taking. We have just approved a new Land Development Manual that anticipates climate change through more resilient infrastructure design, as well as encouraging urban design that creates a lighter load on the environment – such as better walking and cycling networks.


Through the Future Development Strategy we have been consulting the community about how we should manage growth with an awareness of rising sea levels. In July, a Council team will travel around the District presenting our coastal hazard mapping work, which will help us all understand how rising seas and coastal erosion may affect Tasman.

In addition, we are working on a climate response strategy/action plan for Tasman. The strategy could steer the Council towards reducing its emissions, support us in providing community leadership and provide direction for future planning for climate change adaptation. Working together with Zero Carbon Nelson Tasman and EnviroSchools leaders from local high schools, we've workshopped some initial ideas for inclusion in the strategy and we plan to continue working with these groups. One of the exciting ideas arising from these discussions is the proposed Nelson Tasman Climate Forum – this would help us take a broad regional approach to climate change.

While the Council can do a certain amount, as individuals we need to take meaningful action now to reduce emissions and make a difference for the place we call home.

This is a very important issue for us in the short and long term. We need to think of the impacts that our children and grandchildren will face in years ahead and commit to doing what we can to limit those.



 **Richard Kempthorne**  
Mayor

## In case you missed it

A summary of recent Council meetings and the decisions made.

### Engineering Services Committee - 23 May 2019

- Approved the construction of new footpaths in Lower Moutere (from the village to the Rec Centre), Mapua (from Dominion Flats to the existing path at Mapua Drive), on Lower Queen Street, Richmond and in Brooklyn (from Old Mill Road to Mickell Road).
- We have been successful in our application for Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) funding towards improvements to Tasman's Great Taste Trail. MBIE will fund

up to \$55,742 for facilities and coastal protection works. The improvements include shade sail, bike stands, tables and seating at the ferry landing on the northern end of Rabbit Island; rock protection around a 500m section of trail around the Waimea Inlet; and an information sign, bike stands, seating and a toilet at Kohatu.

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