

STAY HOME SAVE LIVES Waitaki

UPDATES *from* WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Hello WAITAKI!

We've been super proud to be a part of our community's response during this difficult time and especially loved the way people have, for the most part, stuck to the rules and kept us all safe. Crossing the road to avoid each other has never been so sweet.

While some restrictions on businesses have been lifted under Alert Level 3, it's more important than ever that we stay in our bubbles and stay home as much as possible.

Life at Waitaki District Council under Level 3 won't be a huge change from Level 4 in many ways with the bulk of our staff still working remotely or redeployed to help out in the community, but there are welcome signs of a return to normal. Our offices and most facilities will remain closed to the public, but you can still reach us by phone or email and access many services online. Note: if you don't see a service or facility listed here it is because there has been no change from Level 4. Any questions, give us a call on 03 433 0300.

We asked our departments to give you a quick update on some council services under Alert Level 3. Visit our website for more info.

From the CUSTOMER LIAISON TEAM

Hi everyone. We miss seeing your faces, but we're still working!

As well as our business as usual, the team have also helped the Ministry of Social Development with outbound calling to ensure that contact is made with high priority vulnerable people aged 70+, to check on their wellbeing and make sure that they are connected with any help that they might need.

We know that some older New Zealanders may not have internet access and won't be aware of the help available to them at this time. Let them know they can also call the **1737 need to talk** helpline from their landlines too.

Give us a call on 03 433 0300 for anything council-related, or if you just feel like a chat. Be kind, stay safe and take care.

From the BUILDING TEAM

First signs of a return to normal: a visit from the Building Inspector!

Is that a tape measure in your pocket? Yes! With safe construction allowed to go ahead, Waitaki's Building Services will be the first outside. We're pleased to report that while in lockdown we have been able to maintain our service levels well within the statutory time frames for Building Consent processing, LIMs, PIMS and Code Compliance Certification. Level 3 will be a return to semi-normal operations, including site inspections, albeit with strict distancing and health and safety rules in place.

THE ROADING TEAM SAYS *Stay safe!*

There has been a great reduction in the number of road crashes with families safe at home in lockdown and we want to encourage safe behaviour on our roads when we venture out a little further.

We've all got used to walking around our car-less neighbourhoods, sometimes straying to the middle of roads to ensure social distancing. Be mindful that there will be more cars once Alert Level 3 begins. And if you're getting into your car for the first time in weeks there are some things you should check: are tyres pumped up and do they have good tread depth? Are all lights and brakes working? Don't be too surprised if your battery's flat from lack of use.

After weeks of lockdown, perhaps in the happy freedom of venturing out behind the wheel of your large automobile, you might forget the vital necessity of checking all around you for distracted pedestrians and other drivers. You may ask yourself: What am I doing? What could go wrong? How could I do it safer? Is this my beautiful wife? ☺



For the latest information and advice go to the national response website:

covid19.govt.nz 🔍

Unite
against
COVID-19

Some important contact details:

For all council related services call us on **03 433 0300** or email service@waitaki.govt.nz

If you feel unwell call the Covid-19 Healthline on **0800 358 5453** or call your GP

If you need help accessing essential supplies or other support call the Otago COVID-19 Help Centre on **0800 322 4000** or email help@otagocdem.govt.nz

The website www.covid19.govt.nz has all the information on the NZ government pandemic response including what financial assistance may be available to you, or call the free COVID-19 helpline on **0800 779 997**

For support with grief, anxiety, distress or mental wellbeing, you can call or text **1737** to speak to a trained counsellor.

NEED TO TALK?

1737

free call or text
any time

3 WATERS & WASTE

Water supply, wastewater and stormwater

Among other things, the team have been concentrating on safely operating and maintaining our water supply and wastewater facilities and networks. We'd like to thank our contractor, SouthRoads, for doing an excellent job keeping our essential services working and dealing with any water supply interruptions quickly and safely under these challenging circumstances.

Rubbish and Recycling

The Waitaki Resource Recovery Park and Waihemo Wastebusters will remain closed for Alert Level 3, like similar facilities throughout New Zealand.

At this stage, Waste Management's Ōamaru transfer station will reopen to the general public at Alert Level 3. However, strict measures will be in place - including numbers of people permitted in the building at one time. Waste Management will confirm this and the details through their website and other channels.

Council's rural recovery parks and Palmerston Landfill will continue on reduced hours throughout Alert Level 3. From 1 May, normal rubbish and greenwaste services will resume, including disposal charges. Payment will be by Eftpos only, and contactless payment is preferred. Recycling will not be accepted until the Waitaki Resource Recovery Park reopens.

From the PLANNING TEAM

The team are continuing to process Resource Consents and certificates remotely with priority given to those relating to Essential Services. Under Level 3 it is possible to carry out physical site visits where needed, provided safety precautions are taken. The Government expects that any work that applicants are required to do, to address immediate health or life safety risks, or prevent serious environmental harm, must continue to be carried out. This includes the maintenance of control devices on mining, forestry sites, and urban and rural earthworks.

Food businesses:

Contactless takeaways are allowed under Level 3 (thank goodness, living on our own cooking is near doing us in) so if your business wishes to make a change to normal operations check the MPI guidelines for Food Premises transitioning from Level 4 to Level 3: www.mpi.govt.nz.

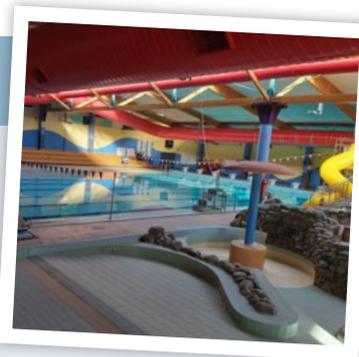
Then please contact Council and advise what you intend to change. There is no one size fits all here, but we'll make it work the best we can.



HELLO *from the* AQUATIC CENTRE!

Not-so good news: our togs are crispy from being dry so long and sadly the doors will continue to stay shut.

Good news: we can have contractors and some of our team back on site taking the facility from its current 'mothballed' state to operational again. We're taking this opportunity to try and move our scheduled June close-down for upgrades forward. We've been discussing with our contractors the possibility of re-juggling their workloads and accessing the equipment and supplies they need to complete the maintenance work. At this stage it is still very much a work-in-progress but things are looking promising.



From the PARKS & RECREATION TEAM

On Tuesday 28 April, Downer staff will be back at work again in our Parks & Reserves throughout the district. When you are out using our public spaces please respect the 'bubbles' they have and do not approach them to have a chat. If you do see anything that needs attention, please contact council on 03 433 0300 or report it through the Snap Send Solve App (find it on our website).

We are working on bringing our green spaces back to the standards expected, but this will not happen overnight. We are expecting that the entire district will have its first mowing cut within 7-8 working days. These initial cuts likely won't bring the reserves all the way back to standards expected, but this approach is being undertaken to ensure that there's no damage to turf.

Our gardens will not be forgotten - the team will be working in these areas as they can, prioritising work required. The Ōamaru Public Gardens is still open but the Display House will remain closed. Please remember that our playgrounds, drinking fountains, picnic tables and BBQs are still closed throughout Level 3.

If you really need to go, some of our public toilet facilities are still open, mainly for the use of Essential Services workers - check our website for which ones are open.

Waitaki Lakes Camping Grounds

Under Alert Level 3, travel is still restricted and is only allowed for permitted movement in your local area - e.g. for going to work or school, shopping, or getting exercise. This means that people may not travel to collect their caravans or pack down their campsites. Each camp is still being monitored regularly and this will continue for as long as needed. As soon as we have information about Level 2 and/or the ability for people to travel to collect caravans, we will update our website and the Waitaki Lakes Camps Facebook page.

For further queries, contact Lucianne White, Recreation Officer on lwhite@waitaki.govt.nz



From the OPERA HOUSE



Things will be a bit quieter than usual at the Ōamaru Opera House for a while. We're preparing new procedures and room layouts so our clients can host socially-distanced meetings and workshops in our conference rooms. The Opera House team are taking this moment to work behind the scenes on deferred maintenance projects. We're also improving our digital administration to make running the café, catering and venue hire side of things more efficient.

A lot of shows and performances were unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic, while the following shows have been postponed until later this year or until 2021:

The Ten Tenors, The Big Bike Film Night, The Matariki Glow Show and Herman's Hermits Farewell Tour.

If you have tickets to these postponed shows, keep checking in to our website and Facebook for updates. If you need a refund for cancelled tickets, all the information is on our website: Oamaruoperahouse.co.nz

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wish us luck! You'll be pleased to hear that we're making further forays into the digital age and will be trying out live-streaming of Council Meetings.

The Council Meeting at 9am, Tuesday 12 May and the Additional Council Meeting at 9am on Tuesday 26 May will be held online via Zoom meeting and live-streamed to the public.

Details will be posted on the Council's 'Meetings' website page. We will do our best to ensure all Councillors are appropriately dressed from the waist up.

From WAITAKI DISTRICT LIBRARIES



All our library facilities will remain closed at Alert Level 3. You can still get in touch with us by calling 03 433 0850 or by email: library@waitaki.govt.nz. You can also follow us on Facebook for latest updates and information: @WaitakiDistrictLibraries.

APNK - free public WiFi continues to remain off at the Ōamaru, Palmerston & Kurow library sites, but may be switched back on at Alert Level 3. When it does go back on, it is important to be safe while using it: no gathering in groups please - continue to follow social distancing rules. If you can remain in your car whilst using the public WiFi please do so.

You can still access our e-services: Beamafilm (latest documentaries and movies), PressReader (digital magazines), e-books and e-audio, as well as Storybox and Tumble resources (for children and young adults, teachers and parents). If you don't have a library card, ring us or email us and we will get you joined up. Alternatively, an adult can register online for a digital membership - please go to: <https://library.waitaki.govt.nz/> to find out more.

All items issued before 20 March 2020 are now due on 28 May 2020. If Alert Level 3 is extended, we will also extend your books. Please continue to keep a hold of all your library items. Remember, you will not be charged fines. All After Hour Bins are closed. Please keep all library items at your home until we are open again.

Waitaki
STANDS AT DAWN
ANZAC DAY
#StandAtDawn



This ANZAC Day we encourage you to make a poppy and hang it in your window or on your letterbox and if you live near some of Waitaki's memorial oaks, perhaps place a poppy on one of the crosses beneath, as long as you can do this without breaking your bubble.

Covid-19 has cancelled the usual ANZAC commemorations but the RSA and New Zealand Defence Force are inviting people to join in the national Stand at Dawn at 6am on Saturday 25 April. People can stand at their gate, their front door, in their lounge or in their driveway to take a moment to remember the nation's fallen.

Radio NZ National will broadcast the official dawn service at 6am. People are encouraged to tune in on their radio, listen live online or on their phone through the free app.

Here in Waitaki, after the National Service, from 7am we will be broadcasting a special video on Council's Facebook and Youtube to commemorate ANZAC Day in our district.

People are reminded we're still at Alert Level 4 so you must remain in your lockdown 'bubbles' for the commemorations.



www.waitaki.govt.nz



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI