

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Sustainable living, carbon footprints, reducing waste, reusing and recycling. The responsibility is on all of us to do our bit to help protect our environment.

For starters, the government is proposing to increase the waste levy – what does this mean for us? What is the waste levy? The levy is collected through landfill charges. It is proposing to develop and implement a staged approach to applying the levy across additional classes of landfills. In other words it could result in higher landfill costs. That money is then put into the waste levy fund that can be allocated to councils for supporting waste minimisation activities. In simple terms – if landfill costs are increased, less waste will go to landfill.

To reduce waste, we need to increase what we recycle (the blue box to the right has some information and more can be found at waimatedc.govt.nz). We have reviewed our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and are proposing new solutions including a multi-bin kerbside recycling service and e-waste dismantling. Have your say on these matters, the consultation ends on Monday 8 July.

We can also live more sustainably. There's a wealth of information out there – sustainableliving.org.nz is a treasure trove offering advice, information and resources.



FLYING HIGH



In light of recent reports about people expressing concerns about witnessing drones being flown over private property and sometimes at night, now is a good time to set out the 'dos' and 'do nots'.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) sets the rules for all unmanned aircraft (UA), including drones. Within those rules Council has

specific rules for UA being flown over Council-controlled land, including:

- ✗ They cannot be flown over other people or adjoining private property without their consent
- ✗ They cannot film anybody with an on-board camera without their permission
- ✗ They cannot be operated within 50 metres of any playground, paddling or swimming pool
- ✗ They cannot be operated over Council cemeteries, camping grounds and sportsfields if in use by others

Under CAA rules operators must:

- ✓ Take all practicable steps to minimise hazards to persons, property, and other aircraft
- ✓ Fly only in daylight
- ✓ Be able to see the aircraft with their own eyes
- ✓ Obtain consent from anyone they wish to fly above

If you witness or believe a UA operator is not observing these rules please contact the CAA on isi@caa.govt.nz or phone 0508 472 3389. If, however, you feel unsafe or threatened in some way call the Police immediately.

Read the full policy at waimatedc.govt.nz.

RECYCLABLES

Plastic

- ◆ Plastic (1-7)
- ◆ Bottle tops (removed from plastic bottles)

Paper and Cardboard

- ◆ Flattened
- ◆ Clean eg no used pizza boxes
- ◆ Not shredded

Aluminium

- ◆ Cans and tins

Glass

- ◆ Green, brown and clear

NB: Soft plastic eg plastic bags cannot be recycled. Please ensure all recyclables are clean. Go to waimatedc.govt.nz for more information.

ELECTIONS

In October we'll be voting for our next Waimate District Council. Over the coming months you'll see ads and other publicity at both national and local levels.

Keep up-to-date with developments at waimatedc.govt.nz. In the meantime, here's some key dates:

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| 19 July | Nominations open for candidates. |
| 16 August | Nominations close at midday (12pm). |
| 20 September | Voter packs mailed to electors. Voting opens. |
| 12 October | Voting closes at midday. |
| By 17 October | Official result released. |
| From 17 October | Official result advertised. |

BRAGGING RIGHTS

We don't do this very often but we're pretty pleased with a recent announcement.

As Waimate District's Building Control Authority (BCA), we have recently been independently audited by IANZ (International Accreditation New Zealand) and we're pleased to say we can continue to be an accredited BCA.

IANZ have praised our systems and processes. Amongst other things, they meet MBIE guidelines and ensure things are done correctly.

But that's not all. We compare well against other BCAs around NZ meaning that we are pretty good in the grand scheme of things.

So what does this actually mean? We have a small but highly skilled team who work really hard to make sure houses, buildings, commercial premises (and more) meet the requirements of the building regulations across our beautiful district.

These audits are tough affairs taking place over a few days and happen once every two years. So please excuse us just for now, while we give our hard working building team a pat on the back.