

# NEWSLINE

7 NOVEMBER 2024



**Waimate**  
District Council

## MAYOR'S COLUMN



Hello and welcome to another edition of Newsline.

I would like to remind you that nominations for the 2025 Waimate Civic Awards are closing soon. As part of my job, I am fortunate to attend many events, productions, support groups and community initiatives. These are mostly organised by people who generously give up their time to make our town better.

Mayor Craig Rowley

The Civic Awards are a chance to say thank you to those people who do not ask for recognition, but certainly deserve it. Nomination forms are available from Council's website, main office, Library and Information Centre, so make sure you get it in before the deadline of **12pm on Wednesday 13 November**.

A new feature Council has been working on 'Let's Chat Waimate District', launched last week, making it easier for us to consult the public. See article below for more information.

We are currently using it to gauge the community's sentiment on the proposed waste-to-energy plant. While the decision on whether it goes ahead or not is out of our hands, we hope to be able to make a submission as one of the affected parties.

The survey is now live, and we want to get your feedback so please sign up and have your say.

Until next time, take care.

## Let's chat DO YOU SUPPORT A WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT?

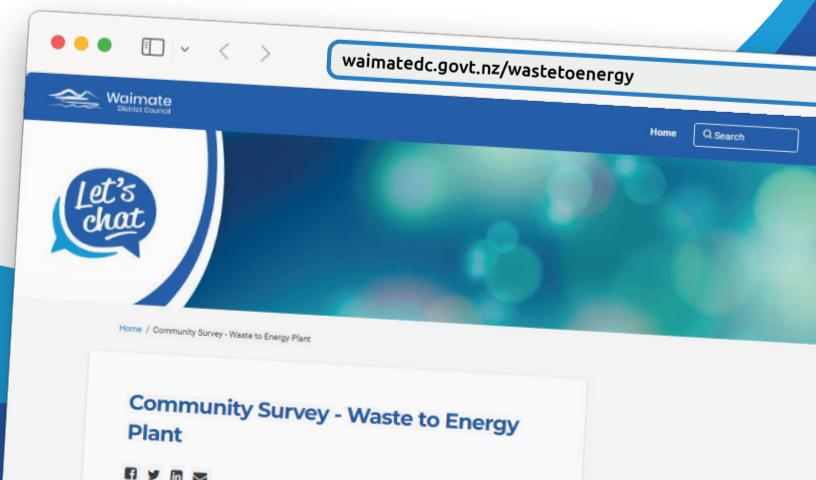
Project Kea has been included in the list of projects added to the Fast-track Approvals Bill. Once the bill is passed, the process will be managed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and an expert panel. Council may be given the opportunity to provide comments to the panel on the proposal, and would like to reflect the community's sentiment in our comments should we be provided the opportunity. Council wants to ensure that all residents, those in support and those opposed to the proposal, get to have their say on a waste-to-energy plant within our district through a community survey.

The community survey will be conducted using Council's new platform, 'Let's Chat Waimate District' which is set to change the way we engage with residents.

Over the years, we've explored multiple ways of engaging with residents and involving them in decision-making. Most consultations were constrained by having a single submission form with limited scope for capturing ideas.

The new platform provides us with a suite of tools to improve engagement and capture community input on key proposals and projects. Tools like idea boards, quick polls and discussion forums will give the community opportunities to give detailed feedback, discuss important topics and share ideas. We urge all residents to sign up, get involved and help us shape our district.

Go to [waimatedc.govt.nz/wastetoenergy](http://waimatedc.govt.nz/wastetoenergy) to have your say. Survey closes **4pm on Tuesday 19 November**.



## Give the gift of giving this Christmas

The Waimate Christmas Child initiative is back for the eighth time, aiming to ensure no child misses out on waking up to presents on Christmas morning.

A Christmas tree has been set up in the Waimate District Council reception area on Queen Street, where the public can leave gifts to be distributed by Community Link before Christmas.

While the festive season can be one of the highlights of the year, it can also put extra strain on families already struggling to make ends meet.

Mayoress Lyn Stringer, who leads the initiative, working closely with Community Link, said the capacity of the community to give is "phenomenal".

"We have had parents coming in with their children to donate gifts, and it is a valuable lesson for them. Christmas is about giving as well as getting," she said.

"They do not have to be big, expensive gifts, every little bit helps. Anyone can fall on hard times, especially at the moment with the high cost of living, and we want to ensure every child gets something on Christmas Day."

The initiative takes referrals from a wide range of social services, and it is important to note that all the gifts are given to families within the Waimate District.

Gifts need to be brand new, unwrapped, and can be dropped off at the Waimate District Council reception by **4.30pm on Friday 6 December**. Last year, 92 packages of presents were distributed.



Mayoress Lyn Stringer and her granddaughter Mya place the first gift of Christmas Child 2024

## DOG REGISTRATIONS

DID YOU KNOW

Many dog owners may not realise the importance of registering their dogs. Under the Dog Control Act 1996, all dogs over three months of age are required by law to be registered with their local Council. But why do we do this?

Firstly, dog registration plays a vital role in funding services designed to protect both the dogs and the community at large. The fees collected from dog registrations help fund the enforcement of the Dog Control Bylaw. These are rules designed to keep the community and dogs safe.

Council have trained staff who actively monitor dog behaviour and address any complaints, including incidents of barking, wandering and menacing dogs. Council's approach is to focus on education first, and enforcement if necessary.

When you register your dog, you contribute to proactive community safety initiatives. These include patrolling public spaces, parks, and walking trails, ensuring that all dogs are kept in check and any potential issues are addressed before they escalate.

Additionally, your registration fees support educational programmes that inform both dog owners and the public about responsible pet ownership and safety.

In the case your dog goes missing or becomes lost, the registration process aids in reuniting you with your pet through effective identification systems.

Registering your dog is not just a legal requirement, it's a commitment to community safety and responsible pet ownership that benefits everyone. So, if you have a furry friend at home, make sure they are registered and enjoy the peace of mind that comes with it.

For more information, and to register your dog, go to [waimatedc.govt.nz/dogs](http://waimatedc.govt.nz/dogs).

