



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Wishing you a happy and safe festive season](#)
- [Diesel leak plugged in Coromandel harbour](#)
- [Driving our future](#)
- [Information day on Graham's Creek flood works](#)
- [Having a go on the buses boosts confidence](#)
- [Group focuses on horticulture](#)
- [Your Waikato arriving in letterboxes this week](#)
- [Regional council welcomes Waikato River Authority funding](#)
- [Don't miss out - sign up now!](#)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

December 2014

[Regional Transport Committee](#)
Monday 1 December 2014 – 9.30am

[Audit and Risk Subcommittee](#)
Wednesday 3 December 2014 – 10.30am

[Lake Taupo Protection](#)

Wishing you a happy and safe festive season

*He waa manaaki, he waa harikoa
A time of caring and a time of joy*

From the staff at Waikato Regional Council, we'd like to wish you a happy and safe festive season.



Diesel leak plugged in Coromandel harbour



A commercial diver brought in by Waikato Regional Council has successfully plugged the diesel leak from a sunken boat in Coromandel Harbour.

“This is good news for nearby oyster farms and the environment generally,” said duty regional on scene commander Adam Munro.

“We decided to bring in the diver promptly this morning to help avert the risk to the farms and other parts of the marine environment.”

[Project Joint Committee](#)

Thursday 4 December
2014 – 11.00am

[Council](#)

Thursday 11 December
2014 – 10.30am

[Aka Aka Otatau Drainage
Subcommittee](#)

Friday 12 December 2014
– 9.00am

[Healthy Rivers Wai Ora
Committee](#)

Wednesday 17 December
2014 – 1.00pm

It's unclear exactly how much diesel has spilled from the 12-metre private boat's fuel tanks although there has been a relatively substantial surface slick in the harbour. It's also unclear at this stage what, if any, damage there has been to the marine environment.

As a precaution, two oyster farms have suspended harvesting due today because of the spill after being advised of the leak by the council.

However, Mr Munro said diesel is a light fuel and breaks down rapidly when exposed to the air and choppy sea conditions.

"Diesel has a lower rate of staying around in the environment than heavier fuel oils so we expect most of it to break up over the next 24-48 hours.

"We will continue working with the very co-operative owner and the oyster farm operators to manage the situation going forward. We'll also monitor what's happening in the harbour today and over the weekend."

Meanwhile, the owner's insurer has dispatched a boat from Auckland and an attempt will be made to re-float and salvage the sunken vessel this afternoon.

Earlier, the council's Coromandel harbourmaster put booms around the boat to help prevent diesel from spreading, while the council dispatched other gear and staff to the scene.

The boat sank on its mooring at an unknown time overnight in Waipapa Bay off Windy Point. The sinking was in 4.5 metres of water. The boat had approximately 400 litres of diesel on board.

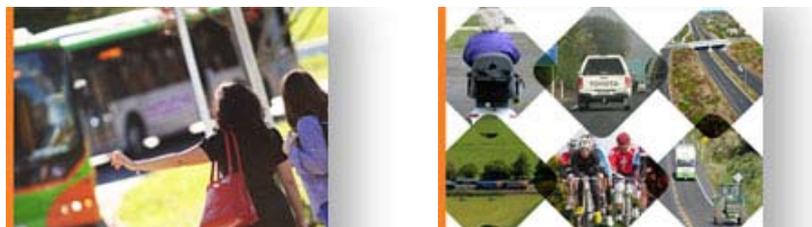
Mr Munro stressed the cause of the sinking was yet to be determined and the help that the owner had provide to the council. "However, as a general comment, any boat sinking like this is a timely reminder of the need for owners to moor their boats safely and to keep them well-maintained. This is particularly important in areas where sensitive sites such as marine farms are present."

Keep up-to-date with the response on [our Facebook page](#) or by [subscribing to receive our media releases](#).

Driving our future

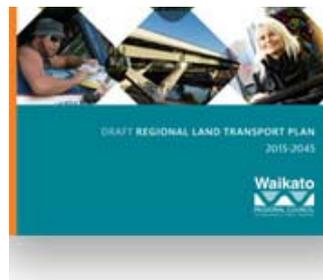
There's barely a week left for you to [have your say on two draft plans](#) out for feedback. You have until **5pm on Monday, 15 December** to make a submission on the:

- Draft Waikato Regional Public Transport Plan 2015-2025
- Draft Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan 2015-2045.





The **draft Waikato Regional Public Transport Plan** sets out what services will be delivered and how over the next 10 years. Your feedback is important to the final decisions which will be made on how public transport will be delivered in our region.



The **draft Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan** sets out how we intend to develop the region's land transport system over the next 30 years. It also identifies proposed regional transport activities for investment over the next six years.

Information day on Graham's Creek flood works

An information session is being held tomorrow to enable people to find out more about the proposed Graham's Creek flood protection works due to be carried out by Thames-Coromandel District Council and Waikato Regional Council.

Staff from the two councils will be in the Tairua Hall annex between 10am and 1pm. The regional council's Thames-Coromandel constituency councillor Clyde Graf will also be in attendance for the three hours and will stay on for an extra 30 minutes to discuss any issues people have.



Read [more about the proposed works](#).

Having a go on the buses boosts confidence

Meet Kale Hunter, a 17-year-old wheelchair user who boarded a Northern Connector bus in Huntly for the first time and headed into Hamilton for our 'have a go day' for people with disabilities.

Kale was among a number of people in wheelchairs, using



walkers and even with a mobility dog-in-training to turn up in Caro Street, Hamilton, on Wednesday morning to have a go at boarding our accessible buses.



The Huntly College year 12 student was accompanied by a teacher from his school, and they went on to travel around the Hamilton bus network. He told our public transport staff that bus travel was going to open up a world of independence for him. He said he'd be using the bus to come into town with his friends to go shopping and watch movies.

For Angela Bourke, however, the day gave her a chance to practice using the ramps to get on and off the bus in her new electric wheelchair. Angela has previously travelled on Hamilton's buses, but shoulder surgery means she is in a wheelchair and not currently able to use her "sticks". After spending time on the bus, she said she now has the confidence to again use the buses to travel with her partner to some of her favourite shopping destinations.

The 'have a go day' was organised by Waikato Regional Council and CCS Disability Action. It was timed to coincide with the International Day of Persons with Disability.

Group focuses on horticulture



A stakeholder group developing policy to help protect the Waikato and Waipa rivers has learnt more about the significant horticulture sector in the rivers' catchments.

The [Collaborative Stakeholder Group](#) (CSG), a key part of the [Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai](#) project, held their December 2014 workshop in the lower Waikato.

The CSG visited a potato and onion farm, as well as an 11ha tomato glasshouse, and heard about work to reduce impacts on fresh water.

Horticulture provides employment for many people in the lower

Waikato. The area is important for food growing both domestically and internationally, and produces the new season potatoes that many people enjoy over the summer holiday period.

The CSG workshops are hosted in different parts of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments so they hear a range of different perspectives, and experience and understand the diversity of these areas. The Collaborative Stakeholder Group's next workshop in February 2015 will hear from the tourism and recreation sector.

You can keep up to date with the Collaborative Stakeholder Group's progress by subscribing to [Healthy Rivers Wai Ora News](#).

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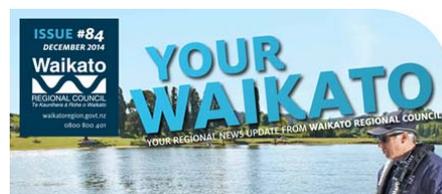


[For farmers](#) ▶▶

[We're hiring](#) ▶▶

Your Waikato arriving in letterboxes this week

We've got a bumper printed issue of *Your Waikato* that's been turning up in letterboxes around the region over the past few days.



There's plenty of stories to keep you up-to-date with work we've been doing, and liftouts with more information about two draft plans out now for your feedback.

Haven't received your copy? Head to [our website to read it online](#).



Regional council welcomes Waikato River Authority funding

Waikato Regional Council is warmly welcoming up to \$1.5 million in Waikato River Authority funding over three years for implementation of projects identified in the recently released [Waipā Catchment Plan](#).

The plan is aimed at contributing to the restoration and protection of the Waipā River.

“The announcement of this proposed funding reflects the close collaboration that exists between the council and the authority,” said Waipā catchment committee chairman Alan Livingston, a regional councillor who also sits on the authority.

“This funding – agreed to after going through authority selection criteria - will help make a real difference to water quality in the river and protecting land use in the catchment as well. It will enable us to get on with the work quicker than we otherwise could have.”

The catchment plan promotes sustainable land uses and management practices, as well as providing targeted funding and assisting landowners to develop property or farm plans.

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