

Web Version | [Update preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Like](#) [Tweet](#) [Forward](#)



IN THIS ISSUE

- [Annual plan deliberations this week](#)
- [Join the Great Persimmon Rescue](#)
- [Good Gypsy Day planning key to preventing pest plant spread](#)
- [Stand stock off green feed to help cut effluent spills on Waikato roads](#)
- [Landcare networking day success](#)
- [Green light for Waikato's Regional Policy Statement](#)
- [How to share our news](#)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

MAY 2016

[Regional Transport Committee](#)

Monday 2 May 2016 – 9.30am

[Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee](#)

Monday 2 May 2016 – 2.00pm

[Strategy and Policy Committee](#)

Annual plan deliberations this week

Councillors are due to meet over the next two days to make decisions on two annual plan proposals and an amendment to the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan.

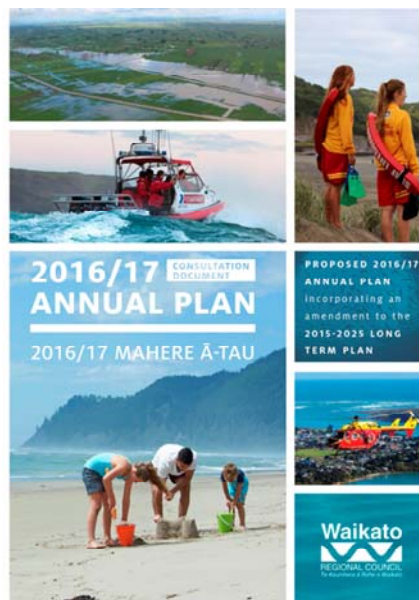
The proposals - released for comment in March - drew more than 700 submissions from individuals and organisations, with over 50 people addressing councillors during hearings in Hamilton earlier this month.

What we consulted on

- We proposed to establish a regional services fund by collecting a regional rate so we can make grants to surf life saving, Coastguard and rescue helicopter services in the Waikato.
- We sought agreement on whether we proceed with flood protection works at Tauhei, just north of Morrinsville, and how they would be funded.
- We proposed a change to the way we charge fresh water take consent holders for the state of the environment monitoring we undertake.

[Visit our website to read the submissions.](#)

Join the Great Persimmon Rescue



Tuesday 3 May 2016 –
10.00am

[Hearings Appointment Subcommittee](#)

Thursday 5 May 2016 –
9.30am

[Central Waikato Catchment Committee](#)

Thursday 5 May 2016 –
10.00am

[Lake Taupo Catchment Committee, Turangi](#)

Friday 6 May 2016 –
10.00am

[Waikato Regional Council Annual Plan hearings](#)

Tuesday 10 May
2016 to Friday 13 May
2016 (only if required) –
10.00am

[Aka Aka Otaua Drainage Subcommittee, Waiuku](#)

Friday 13 May 2016 –
9.00am

[Upper Waikato Catchment Committee, Broadlands](#)

Tuesday 17 May 2016 –
9.00am

[Waihou Piako Catchment Committee, Te Aroha](#)

Wednesday 18 May 2016
– 10.00am

[Lower Waikato Catchment Committee, Ngaruawahia](#)

Thursday 19 May 2016 –
9.30am

[Coromandel Catchment Committee, Tairua](#)

Friday 20 May 2016 –
10.00am

[Council](#)

Thursday 26 May 2016 –
10.30am

[CE Employment and Remuneration Committee](#)

Thursday 26 May 2016 –
2.00pm

[Finance Committee](#)

Friday 27 May 2016 –
10.00am



Volunteers are being sought to help save more than 20 tonnes of persimmons from rotting on a Matangi farm.

Community Fruit Harvesting – in collaboration with Love Food Hate Waste – is coordinating The Great Persimmon Rescue on Sunday 5 June. The event is supported by Waikato Regional Council and Waipa District Council.

The fruit will be distributed to food banks and other charities, as well as schools in the Waikato. Countdown has also jumped on board and will truck persimmons to Auckland for distribution to people in need.

Volunteers who join The Great Persimmon Rescue won't walk away empty-handed either – they'll be able to take home some of the fruit they've picked, along with some great recipe ideas.

People interested in helping to pick persimmons are urged to email Community Fruit Harvesting in Hamilton on pickfruithamilton@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/PickFruitHamilton.

Already community and church groups from as far away as Tokoroa have put up their hands to help out.

[Click to read more about this event.](#)

For farmers



We're hiring



Good Gypsy Day planning key to preventing pest plant spread

Farmers are being urged to protect farms from unwanted pest plants, like the invasive velvetleaf, by ensuring machinery, vehicles and



Waikato Regional Council
Annual Plan deliberations
Tuesday 31 May 2016
and 1 June 2016 (only if
required) – 10.00am

Times and dates for meetings may change. Visit our website to view the calendar of meetings and to find the agendas and minutes.

equipment has been cleaned in the lead up to Gypsy Day.



The plea is being made after recent investigations by Waikato Regional Council confirmed unclean machinery was responsible for the spread of velvetleaf infestations between some farms in the region.

“Over the past month we’ve investigated pathways to velvetleaf infestation in the Waikato region. It’s been a complex task, but we’ve been able to link the spread of velvetleaf to infested maize crops and silage, and unclean machinery,” said council biosecurity spokesman, Patrick Whaley.

“It’s clear that farmers and contractors have an important role to play in preventing the spread of pest plants and weeds through good on farm biosecurity practices,” Mr Whaley said. “Machinery hygiene is especially important with Gypsy Day coming up and the movement of stock, machines and vehicles between farms.”

Machinery hygiene must be practiced any time a machine is moved between properties. Any form of plant or soil contamination has a real potential of harbouring pests or weeds. Machinery should be cleaned so no visible soil or plant matter remains which might spread pests or weeds

Ideally, machinery wash-down should occur on the property prior to movement, thereby containing any problems at source. Alternatively, machinery may be cleaned in a built-for-purpose wash-down facility, but care should be taken to ensure there is not a risk of pest spread during transport to that facility.

[Read more on how to keep it clean.](#)

Stand stock off green feed to help cut effluent spills on Waikato roads

Waikato Regional Council is reminding farmers to stand stock off green feed before they’re transported to help keep the region’s roads clear of effluent and safe for users.



The reminder comes ahead of Gypsy Day on 1 June. It involves the mass transporting of cows and machinery around the country’s roads as farm contractors relocate themselves and their stock in time for the new season.

“Farmers have a vital role to play in cutting the amount of effluent spilt onto Waikato roads,” said the council’s stock truck effluent coordinator, Isy Kennedy.

“A cow’s daily combined effluent is approximately 52 litres, and a truck effluent tank’s capacity is just 200 litres. It means the spillage of effluent onto roads is a real risk unless farmers in particular take some simple steps ahead of time,” Ms Kennedy said.

The regional council recommends that farmers:

- confirm stock pick-up times in advance to eliminate confusion
- move stock close to the loading ramp the day before, when possible
- stand stock off green feed for a minimum of four hours (with water)
- use dry feed before transport because it results in less effluent.

“Generally farmers and livestock carriers do a good job of moving stock cleanly. But stock truck effluent spillage does still occur on Waikato roads – it’s smelly and unsightly, and has the potential to reach waterways and degrade water quality,” she said.

Landcare networking day success



More than 60 people from a cross section of community groups attended a recent landcare networking field day in Te Pahu.

The event enabled representatives from other landcare and environmental community groups to discuss current issues affecting their areas. The get-together allowed volunteers to learn about the programmes and strategies of other groups.

Bala Tikkisitty, the council's sustainable agricultural advisor, said: “The feedback was very positive, both in terms of participation and discussions throughout the day.

“What’s even more exciting is that we had lots of people from around the region with a keen environmental interest wanting to establish their own groups,” he said.

Commonly, landcare groups undertake planting, pest animal and plant control, and fencing for livestock exclusion, while also encouraging the legal protection of habitat through covenants.

Waikato Regional Council recognises that community involvement is a key element in successful environmental management. Caring for the land, the environment and our natural resources involves us all.

For further details, email Bala Tikkisetty or freephone 0800 800 401.

Stock wintering and effluent field days

April was a busy month for field days, with another two events held elsewhere in the region.

More than 50 attendees turned out over two days for an effluent field day in Aka Aka and a stock wintering and soil health field day in Piopio.



Many enjoying the discussions at Aka Aka.



Checking out the view over Piopio.

Green light for Waikato's Regional Policy Statement

Six years after it was first notified for public consultation, the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS) has been signed off to become fully operative.

This extremely important milestone means the full provisions of the RPS became operative on Friday, 20 May.

The document, a long term planning tool, sets the overall direction for the integrated management and protection of the region's natural and physical resources. In line with the council's priorities, it promotes a collaborative and holistic approach to resource management.

The ability for the RPS to become fully operative follows the resolution of 37 appeals to the Environment Court against the provisions of a "decisions" version released in 2012.

[Read the Waikato Regional Policy Statement online here.](#)



How to share our news

Know someone who might be interested in this newsletter? Sharing it with others is easy. You can:



[Forward to a friend](#)

To receive this newsletter direct to your inbox each month, [follow the link on this page to subscribe](#).

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240

Freephone 0800 800 401