

A warm welcome to Hauraki District

Tips for our country customers

If it weren't for our drains, where would we be?

Most Hauraki Plains farmers would agree with Fred Dagg that they'd be lost without their gum boots. But if it weren't for its drains, the Plains would also be in deep water.

Thanks to an innovative land drainage network that includes drains, floodgates, pumps and stop banks, around 64,000 hectares of peat wetland and kahikatea forest is now farmland.

There are a few rules about urban and rural drainage that you need to know about, especially if you have our drains, stopbanks, floodgates or pumps on your property.

Here's a brief snapshot:

- We need access to inspect, clean or spray our drains on your land, but we'll give you at least 24 hours' notice.
- You can ask to have a drain or watercourse on your property placed on our 'no spray' register, which means no herbicides will be used for maintenance. If you choose this option, there'll be an additional cost to you as we'll need to use machinery for the clearing of drains instead. With our permission you could also engage a contractor to maintain our drains.
- Please don't dump anything in or near our drains – they need to be kept clear to work properly.
- Roads and races need to be at least 15 metres away from a drain or river. The tops of our stopbanks are not suitable for roads or races.
- Unless you have permission from us we ask that you please keep stock away from our stopbanks, flood gates, pumps and drains.
- Shrubs, hedges or trees must be at least 15 metres from our drains. You can plant crops up to five metres from our drains.

To read the full bylaw go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/bylaws

Rates relief for farmers

Covid 19 related rates payment extensions and holidays are also available for drought-stricken farmers.

Apply for a rates payment extension or holiday at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/#paymentholiday

Paeroa and Waihi Refuse Transfer Station

There's no kerbside collection in our rural areas, but you can take your rubbish and recycling, including plastics 1 and 2; paper; cardboard; aluminium and tin cans; glass, garden waste and scrap metal, to our refuse transfer stations in Paeroa (weigh station available) and Waihi.

For locations, opening hours, disposal fees and more information about recycling go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/refuse

Ways to Save Water on the farm

It's easy to lose lots of water - about 14 cubic metres a day, for example, through a hole the size of a small nail.

For water saving tips on the farm, check out www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/swu-farm



Drought relief for farmers

They say the pen is mightier than the sword, and they're right.

After receiving a letter from our three local Mayors (Hauraki, Matamata-Piako and Thames Coromandel) and local MP Scott Simpson, the government has announced relief funding for drought stricken farmers in north Waikato and Northland to the tune of \$500,000.

The money will go to local mayoral drought relief funds to hand out for the delivery of feed supplies. Hauraki District Council will also add \$10,000 towards the fund.

Mayor Toby Adams said the effects of the drought had been bubbling away in the shadow of Covid 19 for some time.

"There's been a lot of emphasis on Covid, but we're forgetting we're in one of the worst droughts ever in recorded history, particularly in Eastern Waikato," he said.

How to apply

We're currently working through the details of how the money will be distributed.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information on how to apply.

A shoulder to lean on

We know farming's not always sunshine and buttercups. Please remember if you're ever finding it hard to pull your gumboots on in the morning, the Waikato-Hauraki-Coromandel Rural Support Trust offers an amazing shoulder to lean on.

Whether concerned for yourself, or for someone else, contact them on **0800Ruralhelp** anytime, or visit their website for more information.

New to our district?
Make sure your hooman gets you registered by 31 July.



Dog registrations due 31 July

Hey, good news, there's no increase to the 2020/2021 dog registration fees. And with proof of desexing, it'll cost even less.

More than three farm dogs?

You pay the usual fee for the first three, then there's a discount for the rest. Puppies need to be registered when they are 3 months old.

Dog registration must be renewed annually by 31 July to avoid penalties.

Find out everything about dog registrations and microchipping requirements at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/services/dogs

Thanks for choosing us

It's great to have you here. Whether you're into hunting, fishing, exercising, eating out or shopping, we know you're going to love living in our little corner of the paddock. Exploring the stunning Karangahake Gorge is a must-do, along with venturing out on the Hauraki Rail Trail. Visit the Shorebird Centre at Pūkorokoro-Miranda, have fish and chips on the beach, or try your luck fishing for a snapper or two while the sun goes down.

We really do have it all right here in Hauraki, whatever floats your boat there's no need to go anywhere but your new backyard.

Need to get hold of us?

If your enquiry is urgent and requires immediate attention, e.g. a water pipe break, flooding, roaming dogs, excessive noise, stock on the road, a safety issue etc...

Phone 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 now! 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For less urgent enquiries log a request for service on our website, Facebook message, email or phone us.

 Phone: **0800 734 834 or 07 862 8609**

 Email: **info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz**

 Web: **<https://forms.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/fixit-service-request-online>**

 Facebook: **www.facebook.com/haurakidistrictcouncil**