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Streets ahead in Ngatea - work begins

Ngatea open for business
State Highway 2 at Ngatea's CBD is closed until 3pm Friday 24 January but the town is still very much open for business.

Two separate projects
The road closure, which extends from the Piako Bridge to just past Dent Street, marks the start of two separate projects to upgrade the town's main street.

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams says Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is renewing the main highway and it's important the Council upgrades the kerb and channel at the same time.

"We need to fit in alongside NZ Transport Agency timeframes to minimise disruption and the cost to our ratepayers. The two projects must be done in alignment," he said.

Stage one underway
For safety reasons the road needs to be closed for stage one of the project from the Piako River

Bridge to just past Dent Street. This is because the road in this area is too narrow to allow work as well as one lane of traffic. Work includes removing the existing kerb, digging up the existing road, putting in the basecourse layer of the new road, and installing the new kerb.

This work is expected to be finished by 3pm Friday 24 January, and the road will be reopened to one lane, in time for Auckland Anniversary traffic.

The final asphalt surface won't be laid until near the end of the overall project.

Ngatea is still accessible
Ngatea can still be accessed via Pipiroa Road, off State Highway 25, and from Mangatarata on State Highway 2.

Next stage
It's expected the next part of the construction work, which includes the highway renewal and kerb and channel will take about 14 weeks,

dependent on weather. The road will be re-opened to one lane while this stage takes place, and motorists heading from Auckland to Bay of Plenty will continue to be detoured, while traffic going from Bay of Plenty to Auckland will travel through the town.

Expect delays
NZ Transport Agency says motorists can expect some delays. Please be patient and allow extra time for the detour.

More information
Real time information about the road closure, detour routes and travel times is available from the Transport Agency's Journey Planner website www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz Information and project updates are also available at <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz>

*slow down...
and enjoy our village*



“ While there will undoubtedly be disruption, Ngatea is still very much open for business and visitors are very welcome to stop and enjoy the town's boutique shopping, award winning cafes, and recreational areas. NZ Transport Agency and contractor, Higgins, have assured us customers will have easy and safe access into all businesses while work is underway. ”
Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams



Total watering ban Waihi and Waikino

A total watering ban is now in place in Waihi and Waikino. River levels in Waihi and Waikino are low and we need to save water now.

The ban includes all use of water outside the house such as watering lawns and gardens, washing cars, houses and decks, filling paddling pools or playing under sprinklers.

Other parts of the district...
All other parts of the district are asked to please continue to save water where you can. Check out some great water saving tips at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/smartwateruse Please remember to let us know if you spot a puddle, patch of green or geyser where they shouldn't be.

We appreciate your help to conserve water as this dry weather continues.



Restricted fire season

Fire permits required in Hauraki District

Fire Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) is the agency now responsible for setting fire seasons and issuing fire permits, but we like to keep you in the loop. You'll now need a permit to light a fire in open air in Hauraki District; Waikato District; Matamata Piako District and Hamilton city.

Always go to www.checkitsalright.nz to check on the fire season status and for fire permit applications.

Council responsibilities

Council no longer sets fire seasons or issues fire permits, but we're still responsible for following up complaints about residential smoke nuisance caused by fires.

Air pollution caused by burning tyres, plastics and such, is managed by Waikato Regional Council.

Find everything you need to know about Council responsibilities at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/fire