

OUR PLACE

# Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council  
Community update - February 2026



**Stop right now,  
thank you very much**

**Whakatāne only has one set of red lights, but they're an important one!**

Situated outside of the Whakatāne Fire Station, on the intersection of Domain Road and Commerce Street, the red lights, called emergency vehicle flashing signals, allow fire trucks to safely leave the station during emergencies, but they're often ignored.

When cars run these lights, it puts firefighters and drivers at risk and causes delays when seconds matter most.

Let this be your reminder: stop at the red lights and let our emergency workers do their thing!

To watch the lights in action, scan the QR code.



## Herepuru Road now open

Good news e te whānau, Herepuru Road is open.

Roading teams have been working hard, and a geotechnical inspection on **Tuesday 24 February**, has confirmed that slip risks on Herepuru Road are now safely managed. The road is **open to traffic** under the following conditions:

- **Light vehicles only** - heavy vehicles must continue to use Manawahē Road
- **One lane access** to keep vehicles clear of the cracked and slumping section
- **Monitoring equipment** is now in place so the team can keep a close watch on the area

Thanks for your patience while this work has been underway, and also to our contractors, Geostabilisation NZ, BSK Consulting Engineers and Hubbard Contracting Limited, for their fast and dedicated work to get this road safely reopened.



PHOTO: SOLLY KING



*You can stay up to date with all local road conditions, by checking the Whakatāne District Council's live Road Status Report – scan the QR code.*

## TĀNEATUA & MURUPARA 2026 By-elections

**Voting closes soon**

Voting is about to close in the Tāneatua and Murupara (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision) Community Board By elections. If you haven't voted yet, now's the time.

You can return your voting paper **in person** at:

- Whakatāne District Council, 14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne
- Murupara Service Centre & Library, Civic Square, Pine Drive, Murupara

These By elections will fill extraordinary vacancies from the 2025 triennial elections, with Community Boards playing an important role in shaping local decisions.

Voting closes **12 noon, Tuesday, 3 March 2026** – make sure your vote is in on time.

To find out more scan the QR Code.



## A new look for our riverfront, coming soon

Community voices will soon take centre stage, when a series of community engagement sessions invites locals to meet the project team, explore the emerging concept designs and share their thoughts on the future of the Whakatāne riverfront.

The sessions mark the next chapter in Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Project Future Proof. With Stages 1 and 2 now complete, the focus shifts to enhancing the Whakatāne Riverfront - creating more welcoming, accessible public spaces while softening the visual impact of the new floodwall.

The work ahead balances community aspirations with confirmed funding and budget, aiming to deliver a riverfront that feels both resilient and inviting.

Dates and times are still to come, so keep an eye on our website and social channels for updates as they're announced.

To stay up to date, scan the QR code.

