

Waitomo Way

**VOTE
2025**
LOCAL ELECTIONS

**Do you
know our
candidates???**

Waitomo
District Council



Get to know your candidates in this year's Elections

Do you know who our candidates are in this year's local elections?

Do you know what they stand for?? their values?? what matters to them?? what matters to you??

Who do you think should make the important decisions for our Council and community??

The elections are your chance to vote for your local representative to influence the decisions Council makes that affect us all.

There is a total of seven positions available: one mayor, three Te Kūiti Urban seats and three Waitomo Rural seats.

The candidates are (in alphabetical order by surname as listed in the Nominations Portal): Mayor: Janette Osborne, John Robertson, Richard Ross and Natasha Willison-Reardon.

Waitomo Rural Ward: Olivia Buckley, Allan Goddard, Janette Osborne, Nicola Painter, Gavin Todd, Natasha Willison-Reardon.

Te Kūiti Urban Ward: Eady Manawaiti, Ross O'Halloran, Richard Ross, Dan Tasker, Ata Te Kanawa, Faye Thomas, Isaiah Wallace.

Candidate names will appear on the voting papers in fully randomised order.

Local elections are held by postal vote, with voting papers being distributed between Tuesday 9 September and Monday 22 September. Elections Day is on Saturday 11 October 2025.

Visit our website for more information.
www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/triennial-elections/local-elections-2025/candidate-profiles



New citizens add to vibrant district

Congratulations to our newest citizens who've made Waitomo District their home. The citizenship ceremony held on 21 August in our Council Chambers was a celebration of the diverse community that makes our district vibrant.

Mayor John Robertson had the honour of presenting each participant with their citizenship certificate.

These 10 individuals – who gathered with friends and whānau – join the many people from all parts of the world who have lived in and contributed to our district and chosen to make this place home. Their skills, cultures, perspectives, and dedication enrich our community in countless ways. They bring with them the gift of language and culture from distant whenua – each carrying unique ways of seeing and expressing the world, adding depth and richness to how we

communicate and understand each other. The latest New Zealand citizens are from Brazil, Indonesia, India, United Kingdom, France, Germany and Samoa.

Nau mai haere mai – welcome: Paulo Baumgratz, Ryan Baumgratz, Cleide Zanatto, Triyoga Dharmautami, Satish Kumar, Abigail Redmond, James Redmond, Nathalie Smit, Oliver Turk and Kiran Vavega Lifa.

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.
What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

Our strength lies in our diversity and the contributions of all who choose to build their lives here alongside us.

Citizenship ceremonies are a special occasion to share with friends and family, and it's always a great pleasure to be able to celebrate this occasion with our new citizens.

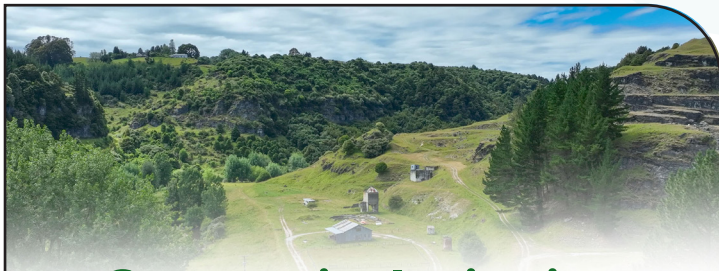
Waitomo District Rates Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that the first instalment of your 2025/2026 rates is due by 4pm, Friday 29 August 2025. Rates payments can be made at the Customer Services and Visitor Hub at 160 Rora Street,

Te Kūiti, over the phone by credit card, on our website or by Internet Banking. Please contact our friendly Customer Services Team on 0800 932 4357 for further assistance or visit our website: www.waitomo.govt.nz

Waitomo Way

Council Newsletter - August 2025



Community Invitation

MANGAOKEWA WALKWAY CULTURAL STORYBOARDS

Official opening and blessing

**Friday 26 September 2025
from 10am, Te Kūiti**

Please note, there are nine separate sites to visit and times are approximate. Please arrange your own travel to and from this event

10am - Site 1

Top of Mōtakiora

Te Kumi Road, Te Kūiti

10.30am - Site 2

Base/Entrance of Mōtakiora

Te Kumi Road, Te Kūiti

11.15am - Site 3

Te Tokanganui a Noho (Te Kūiti Pā)

Awakino Road, Te Kūiti

11.45am - Site 4

He Wāhi Herenga Waka (Waka Landing)

SH30

12.15pm - Site 5

The Original Site of Te Tokanganui a Noho

Beginning of walkway track at Inframax entrance, Waitete Road, Te Kūiti

1pm - Site 6

The Second Site of

Te Tokanganui a Noho

At first bridge along walkway (this site requires a little walking to get to)

1.45pm - Site 7

Taupiri o Te Rangi

Mangaokewa walkway (this site requires a little walking to get to)

2.30pm - Site 8

Tumutumu

Mangaokewa walkway (this site requires a little walking to get to)

3.15pm - Site 9

Mangaokewa Reserve

SH30

This is the final site and where we will have kai

Let's
kōrero
wai

Talk
water

Waikato Waters Ltd

News and Updates

A lot of work has been happening behind the scenes since the Council Controlled Organisation was established to manage water and wastewater services for shareholding Waikato councils, including Waitomo District Council.

A Shareholder Representative Forum (SRF) has been established, comprising Mayors or their delegates.

The SRF is responsible for jointly setting shareholder expectations, appointing the Independent Board of Directors and overseeing its performance.

Board appointments are expected to be announced soon.

Until the independent Board is in place, the directors of the CCO are the chief executives of the shareholding councils. This is a requirement for the transition period only.

The CCO does not yet have a Chief

Executive. This recruitment will be led by the Board.

Staff now working for Waikato Waters Ltd (WWL) form the Establishment Team, and are a mix of fixed term employees, council secondees and contracted resources.

Their office is based near Hamilton International Airport and their focus is to manage the workstreams to ensure a smooth transition.

The workstreams are:

- governance and legal
- funding and capital delivery
- systems and technology
- operations and assets
- project management
- people and capability
- iwi
- communication

The WWL website has been updated and WWL's inaugural newsletter Korero Wai is out. You can read it by visiting www.waikatowaters.co.nz

Council Meeting Schedule

The 2025 Council meeting schedule is up until October this year. A new schedule will be adopted after the Elections and a new Council is sworn in. All meetings will start at 9am in the Council Chambers, Queen Street, Te Kūiti unless publicly notified otherwise.

Appointments and Chief Executive Relationship Committee Meeting
4 September

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - 7 October

Monthly Council Meeting - 9 October

Waitomo District Council

waitomo.govt.nz | info@waitomo.govt.nz | 0800 932 4357

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District Council