

Waitomo Way

Christmas and New Year service information 2025-2026

Customer Services and Visitor Hub

Closes at midday on Wednesday 24 December and will open at 9am on Monday 5 January 2026. Our call centre operates 24/7. Please call 0800 932 4357.

Waitomo District Library

Closes at midday on Wednesday 24 December and will open at 10am on Monday 5 January 2026.

Queen Street Admin Building

Closes at midday on Wednesday 24 December and will open at 9am on Monday 5 January 2026.

Waitomo District Aquatic Centre

Closed on 25 December 2025 and 1 January 2026. Normal schedule will apply every other day during the summer season.

Refuse Kerbside Collection

Kerbside collection for Piopio, Mōkau/Awakino and Waitomo Village will take place as normal.

Te Kūiti east side:

Usually 25 December will now be 26 December. Usually 1 January will now be 2 January 2026.

Te Kūiti west side:

Will still be 26 December.

Will still be 2 January 2026.

All Waste Transfer Stations

All waste transfer stations, including Waitomo District Landfill will be closed on the public holidays but will operate as normal on regular opening days. Awakino Transfer Station will be open additional days over summer, from 19 December to 6 February 2026.

See schedule below for Awakino only:

Mondays	9am - 1pm
Tuesdays	9am - 1pm
Fridays	9am - 1pm (except Public Holidays)
Saturdays	9am - 1pm
Sundays	9am - 1pm

The normal schedule for Awakino Transfer Station will resume Sunday 8 February 2026.



Welcome to our new citizens

Congratulations to our newest citizens who've made Waitomo District their home. The citizenship ceremony held on 20 November 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 eight 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 ded-

ication enrich our community in countless ways. The latest New Zealand citizens are from United Kingdom, Philippines, and England. Nau mai haere mai – welcome: Jacky Jonson, Thomas Jeyes (Jnr), Ruth, Thomas and Annabel Jeyes, Helen Potter, Sarah and Gareth Williams.

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. 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.

Ease Christmas with Rates Rebate Scheme

Christmas can put extra pressure on households, and support may be available.

The Rates Rebate scheme, which we administer on behalf of Central Government, can reduce the amount you pay on your home's rates. You may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$805.

What you receive depends on your income, the rates charged on your property, and the number of dependents in your care.

The maximum rebate for the 2025 to 2026 rating year is \$805.

Applications close on 30 June 2026.

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Waitomo Way

Council Newsletter - December 2025

Council Meeting Schedule 2026

The 2026 Council meeting schedule until June. All meetings will start at 9am in the Council Chambers, Queen Street, Te Kūiti unless publicly notified otherwise.

Tuesday 10 February
Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Tuesday 24 February
Monthly Council Meeting

Tuesday 24 March
Monthly Council Meeting

Tuesday 14 April
Council Hearing: Policies (if required)

Tuesday 28 April
Monthly Council Meeting

Tuesday 12 May
Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Tuesday 12 May at 1pm
Council Hearing: Submissions to Draft AP

Wednesday 13 May
Council Hearing: Submissions to Draft AP

Tuesday 26 May
Monthly Council Meeting

Annual Report 2024/25 highlights impactful year

Elected members and staff have worked through a challenging few years. Government water reforms have been especially taxing, as policies have changed with changes in government. Further reforms lie ahead with respect to resource management and the structure of local government.

This year Council have had to consider some of the most important decisions facing local government through central government reforms. We presented a proposal for how our Council might best deliver water services in the future. Feedback supported Council joining a multi-Council entity.

In a landmark decision on 30 June 2025, elected members unanimously supported the formation of Waikato Waters Limited, with our Council transitioning its drinking water and wastewater assets and services into it on 1 July 2026.

This year ending 30 June 2025 has been one



when most of the road network repair projects that came about from the storm events in 2023 were completed. We spent \$17 million on such repairs over two years, with over ninety percent funded by the New Zealand Transport Agency.

Investment in our stormwater network in Te Kūiti was also sparked by these storm events. Work continues to mitigate against flood risk and to understand and attend to

issues arising from our wastewater network being infiltrated by stormwater. A sludge removal project has begun, expected to take place over the next 10-15 years.

Delivering the best possible outcomes for our community is always at the heart of what we strive for.

Visit our website to read more about our achievements and the full Annual Report.
www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/publications/annual-report/

Are you having difficulty paying your rates invoice?

There are several ways to manage your rates and any outstanding balances.

If you are finding things difficult and cannot pay your rates in full by the due date, please phone us on 0800 932 4357 so we can talk through the

options available to you.

Late payment penalties will not apply if a suitable payment arrangement is agreed beforehand and the payments are kept to as agreed. Visit our website for more information.



Did you know... batteries can now be recycled?

Drop them at any of our transfer stations in the district.

So, don't bin them - recycle them safely!

visit our website for more info: waitomo.govt.nz/battery-recycling

Waitomo District Council

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

