

Sweetwater flows to Kaitāia taps

Supplementary water from two bores at Sweetwater has begun flowing to Kaitāia, marking a significant milestone in improving the drought resilience of the district's second-largest town.

Water extracted from bores located 14km from the Okahu Road water treatment plant in Kaitāia was added to the town's storage reservoir last month. This then feeds water to Kaitāia customers.

Adding bore water to the supply followed final checks on a mobile membrane unit that was installed at the plant in late January. Numerous checks on electrical and reticulation systems were then undertaken to commission the new unit. A final compliance laboratory test of the bore water was completed on Monday 17 February.

In early 2020, Kaitāia had the strictest (Level 4) water restrictions applied to households and businesses when it experienced its sixth drought in nine years. Flows in its main water source, the Awanui River, fell to the lowest level since records began 50 years prior. The Sweetwater project reduces Kaitāia's reliance on



Photo: Mike Dinsdale, NZME

Council staff and contractors celebrate the successful introduction of water from bores at Sweetwater to the Kaitāia supply.

the Awanui River by providing an alternative source of high-quality drinking water.

This will alleviate pressure on the river, especially during dry summer months, and will help to avoid the need for future water restrictions.

The completion of this new water supply is seen as a crucial step toward ensuring a more consistent and dependable water source for Kaitāia residents, businesses, and industries.

To find all news stories in full, visit fndc.govt.nz

Procter Library reno to start

Work to incorporate the Kerikeri Service Centre into Procter Library will kick off on Monday 10 March and run for about six weeks. Parts of the Procter Library will be remodelled to integrate service centre operations, which is expected to save ratepayers an estimated \$250,000 over five years while improving service efficiency.



Renovations will boost council services at Procter Library.

A pop-up library service will operate from the community meeting room near the Citizens Advice Bureau entrance during the entire works.

The Kerikeri Service Centre will operate as usual from its existing location on the ground floor of the John Butler Centre on Kerikeri Road.

However some library services will relocate during the renovation.

- Afterschool programmes will run from the Plunket Rooms on Kerikeri Road
- JP clinics will move to a meeting room on the ground floor of the John Butler Centre
- Toy Library will be closed during the works.

NRC project closes Quarry Road



Quarry Rd bridge extension is part of wider flood protection upgrade.

An important bridge extension project closing Quarry Road in Kaitāia for 10 weeks began on Monday 3 March. A detour along Donald Road is in place during the Northland Regional Council works.

All motorists travelling to the airport will need to drive through Kaitāia and follow the detour. Signs will be placed along the route to guide drivers, while variable message signs (VMS) will provide timely updates for travellers.

Motorists going to the airport from the north and east coast will need to allow extra travel time to travel to Kaitāia.

The \$1.3 million upgrade is part of regional council's wider multimillion dollar Awanui River Flood Protection Scheme upgrade and will fix a 'pinch point' in the flood scheme. The extra span on the bridge will reduce the risk of flooding to surrounding houses and Awanui township.

Visit fndc.govt.nz to watch our video about a new long vehicle carpark at Mangōnui.

Ahipara footpath replacement

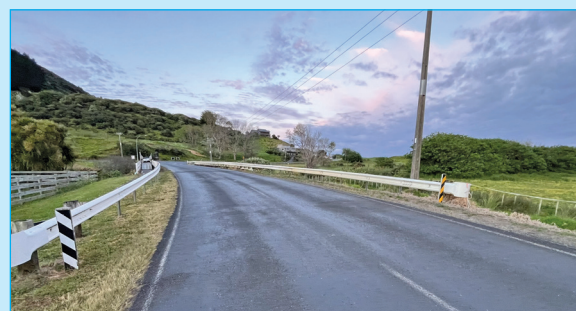
Work to improve pedestrian safety on the Foreshore Road bridge in Ahipara began on Monday 3 March and will run for four weeks. The footpath section of the bridge, which is the only pedestrian crossing over Wairoa Stream, is being upgraded.

Temporary traffic management is in place from 7am-6pm, with traffic lights set up at the Foreshore Road/Roma Road intersection throughout the full construction.

From 13 to 17 March, the bridge will be fully closed for the demolition of the old footpath. Traffic will be diverted via a detour route along Roma Road, Kaitāia-Awaroa Road, and Ahipara Road.

From 18 March to 4 April temporary traffic lights will continue to operate at the intersection of Foreshore and Roma Road. There will be pedestrian access over the bridge at all times.

The current footpath was deemed structurally compromised and unsafe for pedestrians. The new footpath will offer a smoother, more secure surface, fully restoring a pedestrian route in Ahipara and improving walkers' safety on Foreshore Road.



Foreshore Road works will improve safety for a key pedestrian route.

