

Consultation opens on gambling policy

Wairarapa's three district councils have opened a month of consultation on proposed updates to their joint gambling policy which would prevent any increase in gaming machines (pokies) and limit movement of existing machines, while preventing the set-up of any standalone TAB venues.

Councils are required by law to review such policies every three years. Four main changes to the joint policy for Wairarapa are proposed. These are:

- Class 4 Gambling Venues could not relocate in Masterton District under any circumstances. A Class 4 gambling venue is one in which gaming machines (pokies) are operated.
- Class 4 Gambling venues could not relocate to Carterton and South Wairarapa District's most deprived areas if the proposed location is outside a main town centre.
- No standalone TAB venues could be established in the Wairarapa.
- No additional electronic gaming machines will be granted consent, in any Class 4 venue in the Wairarapa (this is an amendment to the policy for clarification purposes).

The purpose of the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy is to:

- minimise the harm to the community caused by gambling
- have regard to the social impacts of gambling in the Wairarapa region, including the cumulative effect of additional opportunities for gambling
- ensure that councils and their communities have influence over the provision of new Class 4 gambling and standalone TAB venues in the Wairarapa region.

There are currently 10 gambling venues in the Wairarapa. Of these, two are in Carterton district, four are in Masterton district, and four are in South Wairarapa district.

The proposed changes follow a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of gambling harms and benefits which considered the effectiveness of the current Policy in achieving its purpose.

Those living in most deprived areas are at greatest risk of gambling harm. Of the districts in the Wairarapa, Masterton has highest overall levels of socio-economic deprivation. Evidence shows gaming machines are used more extensively in Masterton than other parts of the Wairarapa. In 2022, expenditure per gaming machine was \$79,741 in Masterton compared to \$66,744 in Carterton and \$32,348 South Wairarapa. This is also above the national average for New Zealand of \$70,197.

The consultation will run until 4pm on Friday 22 March.

Consultation material is available on council websites:

- Masterton District Council – www.mstn.govt.nz
- Carterton District Council – www.cdc.govt.nz
- South Wairarapa District Council – www.swdc.govt.nz



Submissions forms are available on the council websites and at libraries and council offices:

- Masterton District Council
161 Queen Street, Masterton
- Carterton District Council
28 Holloway Street, Carterton
- South Wairarapa District Council
19 Kitchener Street, Martinborough.

They can be emailed to submissions@mstn.govt.nz, or posted to Masterton District Council, Freepost 112477, PO Box 444, Masterton 5840

People can also ring the Masterton District Council team on 06 370 6300 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

Celebrating our parks

Parks Week is coming and it's actually more than a week, running from Saturday 2 - Sunday 10 March!

It's about celebrating the vital role that parks play in creating liveable towns, cities, and thriving communities. And Masterton has plenty to celebrate with our fabulous, and award-winning, spaces.

Parks Week 2024 will focus on how spending time in our parks and open spaces positively influences our wellbeing.

Masterton District Council, Masterton District Library, and Wairarapa Archive will present a series of events throughout Parks Week, which will include:

- Hip to be Square - a public talk presented by Mark Pacey, of Wairarapa Archive
- Wes Anderson-style Instagram reels featuring our parks and open spaces - #ParksWeek2024
- A Waka Tākaro Play Trailer session in Queen Elizabeth Park (date TBC)
- A guided walk and BBQ in Queen Elizabeth Park, led by Green By Nature (date TBC)
- Parks Week Storytime presented by Danielle at Masterton District Library on Wednesday 6 March.

Keep an eye on our website and our social media channels as details are confirmed.



Photo by Jet Productions

Be in to win a rainwater tank for your home!

We're giving away eight 200L rainwater tanks to eight Masterton residents during February. The last day to enter is Thursday 29 February.

Show us your top tip for water conservation at your home and be in to win!

Follow our three easy steps to go in the draw:

- Take a photo of your top tip for water conservation at your home.
- Upload it to your Instagram page and tag it: #mastertondc
- Tell us about your top tip in your Instagram post.

We love to see creativity with your ideas!

Follow us on Instagram. Winners will be notified on our Instagram page.

Please see the Council website for more details, including terms and conditions.

Connecting with funders

The Wairarapa Funders Forum is returning in 2024!

This expo event offers an excellent opportunity to connect directly with key funders in the Wairarapa. Groups and individuals looking for funding will have the chance to engage in one-to-one discussions with potential funders, and access information about grants and funds available in the region.

The forum will take place on Tuesday 5 March at Trade Hall 1, Solway Showgrounds, from 3 pm to 7 pm.

Online registration is required by Monday 26 February. Register through our online registration form on the MDC website – mstn.govt.nz or scan the QR code.



Council Meetings

The meetings of the Council and its committees for the coming month are listed below.

Unless specified, all meetings will be held in the Kiwi Room at Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road, Masterton. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings. The meetings will also be accessible to the public via the livestream on the Masterton District Council YouTube channel. Agendas will be available on the Council website (www.mstn.govt.nz) and copies will be available for inspection at the main Council office, 161 Queen Street, and at the Library, 54 Queen Street, two working days prior to the meeting.

Opportunity for Public Comment

At the beginning of some meetings, a period is available for those who wish to speak or comment on any matter relevant to the meeting in question. Requests to speak at a meeting should be made to Harriet Kennedy, Governance Team Leader, phone 370 6300 or email mdc@mstn.govt.nz at least one clear day before the meeting.

What's On

- Today Wednesday 21 February**
1pm Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Thursday 29 February**
Rainwater tank giveaway entries close via Instagram
- Saturday 2 to Sunday 10 March - Parks Week 2024**
- Monday 4 March**
11am Chats with the Markivist at Masterton District Library
- Wednesday 6 March**
10am Council meeting
3pm Infrastructure and Services Committee meeting
- Thursday 14 March**
10am Wairarapa Combined District Plan Joint Committee meeting
Hurunui o Rangi Meeting Room, Carterton
- Friday 22 March**
4pm Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy Review submissions close
- Friday 29 March - Good Friday**

Recycling update

The Ministry for the Environment is rolling out standardised kerbside collections across the motu (country).

Some of those changes took effect from 1 February 2024.

Most New Zealanders can now recycle the same things from home, making it easier for all of us to recycle.

Here are all the things that can be recycled from your home in Masterton:

- Plastic bottles, trays, and containers numbered 1, 2, and 5 only
- Tins and cans
- Paper and cardboard
- Glass bottles and jars

Check out our updated information on our website, including our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Head to mstn.govt.nz and search 'Recycling'.



To keep up-to-date and report issues, download Antenna from your Apple App Store or Google Play store.

