

Maungaraki Views

OUR NEWS & VIEWS | MAUNGARAKI.CO.NZ | AUG & SEP 2024

Locals and businesses oppose paid parking on Jackson Street

Starting October 1st, paid parking will be introduced along Jackson Street and in the Peel Street car park behind the Petone Library as part of Hutt City Council's long-term plan. Parking fees will be set at \$3 per hour, with a two-hour time limit enforced from 9 am to 5 pm, seven days a week, excluding public holidays.

The Council expects this revenue gathering exercise will generate \$900,000 in annual revenue, which will help cover rising costs and fund improvements to Jackson Street's transport infrastructure. A total of 33 parking meters will be installed.

This decision, however, has been met with strong disapproval from both locals and businesses. When the announcement was made on



Whilst most see this scene as a thriving main street, HCC views this scene as taxable income.

the Hutt City Council's Facebook page, it sparked over 400 comments, nearly all of them critical. Many residents see this as yet another financial burden on ratepayers, who are already facing a 15% rates increase this year. A local petition against paid parking, signed by 2,500 residents, was

Your Dog's Daycare Paradise

Engagement | Expertise
Environment

The Ultimate Dog Daycare Experience

For more information visit waglands.co.nz

Growing business with creativity, design & digital marketing

Newton King
CREATIVE

Websites & SEO | Graphics | Digital Marketing
0277 222 707 | design@nkc.nz

presented to the council before the final decision, but it did not sway the outcome.

Local business owners have voiced concerns about the potential impact on foot traffic. Hellen Swales, coordinator of The Jackson Street Programme, a non-profit dedicated to promoting and enhancing the area, called the parking fees "another challenge" for businesses still recovering from the effects of COVID-19. Piers Dobier, co-owner of Jackson Street café Faith and Co, echoed these sentiments, stating that the council ignored the will of the community and that the added costs would make running a business even harder.

In addition to the financial burden on businesses, there is growing frustration among ratepayers, particularly with the indefinite postponement of the Petone Wharf project due to cost overruns. Many are questioning what benefits they are receiving in return for the rising costs.

The new parking enforcement will be conducted using an advanced

Aero Ranger camera system, mounted on one of the council's parking enforcement vehicles. The system will capture license plate images and check whether parking fees have been paid. Council staff will review the data and decide if tickets should be issued. The initial trial period for this system will last six months, beginning on October 1st.

With local elections approaching next year, this issue could become a significant campaign topic for Petone ratepayers as business owners continue to express their dissatisfaction.

Melling rail line in jeopardy

The future of the Melling Line is in jeopardy after funding for a pedestrian bridge over the Hutt River was excluded from the \$32.9 billion National Land Transport Programme, which allocated \$3.2 billion for the Wellington region.

The pedestrian bridge is a cornerstone of the RiverLink project, which encompasses the Melling interchange on State Highway

Accommodating the interchange, Melling Station must be

relocated further south. Both the Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council committed to the project on the understanding that a pedestrian bridge would connect the new station with central Lower Hutt.

Regional council chair Daran Ponter emphasised the critical role of the bridge in the project, telling The Post that without it, the Melling Line's viability is in question.

"If the Government is not going to provide the funding for the bridge that is part of the project, then we would have to look seriously at the future of the line," Ponter said. The absence of funding for the bridge casts uncertainty over the RiverLink vision, potentially impacting transport connectivity and the strategic goals of the councils involved.

This development is disappointing, especially given the years of effort, planning and investment already made for RiverLink. It also represents a missed opportunity to deliver significant benefits to Lower Hutt, particularly for its central business district. *Ed.*



 <p>exercise SUPPORTING YOUR WELLBEING</p> <p>Gym, Personal Training, Nutritional Plans, Yoga, Pilates, Massage.</p> <p>147 Dowse Drive, Ph 586 4881 info@o2exercise.co.nz www.o2exercise.co.nz</p>	<p>Chris Bishop List MP based in Hutt South</p> <p>You can always contact my Lower Hutt office for assistance.</p> <p>Phone 04 566 8580 or email me at Chris.bishopMP@parliament.govt.nz</p>  <p>Authorised by Chris Bishop, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.</p>	<p>Maungaraki's friendly electrician</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">⚡ Stereo's/TV's⚡ Electrical⚡ Heat Pumps⚡ Alarms⚡ Data <p>No job too big or too small</p> <p> CK Electrical 021 189 3725 www.ckelectrical.co.nz</p>
---	--	--

 <p>MAS <small>maungaraki auto services</small></p> <p>Maungaraki Auto Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Full automotive repairs○ Auto electrical○ Services & Tune-ups○ WOF Testing station○ Performance upgrades○ Battery replacement <p>04 569 2269 maungaraki.services@xtra.co.nz</p>	<p>Ginny Andersen MP for Hutt South</p> <p>Petone Office: Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm 176 Jackson Street 04 568 2949</p>  <p>Authorised by Ginny Andersen MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington</p>	<p>Sandra Austin Professional Nail Technician Manicures & Pedicures Gel nails - Acrylic nails OPI gel polish Special occasion make-up Ph 0800 624 572 sandraaustinnails@gmail.com Trim-N-Shape Maungaraki Shopping Centre</p>
--	--	--

Ticketing your car just got more efficient

Hutt City Council has begun testing advanced license plate recognition technology to improve fair parking access across Lower Hutt.

An Aero Ranger camera system is now mounted on one of the Council's parking enforcement vehicles, capturing license plates as it patrols. The system identifies unpaid parking or overstays, and Council staff review the data before issuing tickets by mail. Enforcement will begin on 1 October with a six-month trial.

The Council's Head of Environmental Protection, Justin Roberts, says the technology will enhance efficiency and fairness. "Our parking wardens can't cover the entire city at once, but this system increases the likelihood of catching violations, encouraging better compliance and ensuring parking spaces are available for everyone," Roberts said.

Additionally, it checks for compliance with Warrants of Fitness and registration and can identify stolen vehicles.

Privacy safeguards include facial redaction capabilities, with images used solely for enforcement and planning. Data is securely stored for 12 months, in line with legal requirements.

Approved under the Council's 2024 Long-term Plan, this technology aligns with systems already in use in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, and Wellington, aiming to create a safer and more equitable parking system. Critics will just say it's another money grab. *Ed.*



Local Agent
Regional Knowledge
Colin Kelly
10 years living in Maungaraki
30 Years selling real estate
colin.kelly@raywhite.com 021 439 727
Wellington Regional Supreme Winner. Licensed 2008 REA.



Clear View Treecare

Maungaraki's local expert arbourist & tree services specialist

- Tree trimming
- Tree pruning
- Tree removal
- Hedge trimming
- Stump grinding
- Lawn mowing
- Tree health diagnosis

Call or text today
0274 440 339
clearviewarborists@gmail.com



Maungaraki Views (ISSN 1171-1574 Print, ISSN 1179-5743 Online) is published by the **Maungaraki Community Association (MCA)**. The opinions expressed herein do no necessarily reflect those of the MCA committee except where stated. Contributions & photos are welcome on the proviso that there is no obligation to publish. Any item may be edited and there exists no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the Editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect to the content of any article, photo or advert, including any errors or omissions, responsibility for which remains with the contributor. **MCA President** | Tracey Coleman, **Maungaraki Views Editor** | Newton King, **Website** maungaraki.co.nz, **Printer** Garratt Printing.