WHAT'S UP IN WAIPĀ

Waipā DISTRICT COUNCIL

Your Council News

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Ward Councillor Marcus Gower.

Paws for thought: tackling feral cats

Te Awamutu and Kihikihi Ward Councillor Marcus Gower is heartened by the news that feral cats will be added to the Predator Free 2050 target list.

The six-term councillor is only too aware that feral felines are an ongoing issue for many residents in his community, particularly those in Kihikihi.

He says the move by Central Government reflects what many locals have been saying for years: something needs to be done.

"Feral cats are a nuisance - they're dangerous to our wildlife and leave a mess in my gardens and on my property," he said.

After hearing from locals, Council made a submission to the Department of Conservation in June on the Predator Free Strategy. Thanks to strong public support, the Government has now added feral cats to the list.

Gower, who chairs the Council's Regulatory Committee, said residents often find cats straying in their gardens and aren't sure what to do. This strategy will make it clearer for everyone on how to respond.

The move aims to protect native plants and animals, boost biodiversity, and help restore local ecosystems.

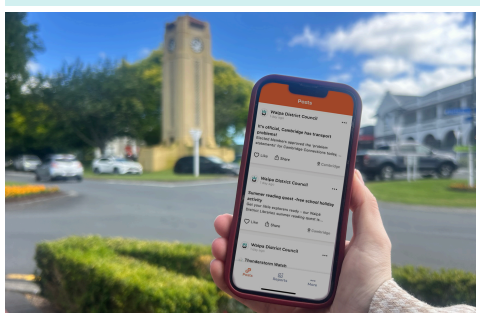
The strategy will also give local groups more backing, with clearer rules, funding, and better coordination to support their work.

"This is a step in the right direction. It will back the great work of local groups like Sanctuary Mountain, Predator Free Pirongia, Te Awamutu, Cambridge, and Aroha Cambridge," Gower said.

He said that without national legislation in place, it's been hard to respond to community concerns over feral cats. The new framework will make it clearer who's responsible for what and encourage more responsible cat ownership.

"I hope it raises more awareness and responsibility among cat owners to desex and microchip their pets," Gower said.

The results of the Predator Free 2050 strategy review are expected early next year.



Antenno

Spot a pothole, overflowing rubbish bin, graffiti, or something wrong with your local playground? Report it with Antenno!

Download our free app to report issues in your neighbourhood and to get notifications on what's happening in your town.

To download visit **waipadc.govt.nz/Antenno**

Get your library books early!

If you're stocking up on summer reads, swing by your local library early.

Like our offices, the libraries will be closed from 5pm Friday, December 19, and will reopen at 9am on Monday, January 5.

All library books and other items issued from Monday, December 1 (including from the Library of Things) are due back on Monday, January 5.

While we are closed, our online services will be available: **www.waipalibraries.org.nz**

Te Awamutu Museum will be closed from 4pm Friday, December 19, and will reopen at 10am on Monday, January 5.

Young readers - get ready to explore!

We're inviting young explorers to join our exciting Summer Reading Quest. Designed for children aged 5–12, this year's programme is all about fun, imagination and holiday adventure.

To get started, simply pop into the Cambridge or Te Awamutu Library and pick up a free challenge booklet from the front desk before Friday, January 9. Kids can choose activities that appeal to them, complete the challenges at their own pace and even do more than five if they're keen. Once their five challenges are ticked off, just check in with a librarian or email the completed tasks to **waipalibraries@waipadc.govt.nz** to receive an invite to the special finale party in January.

It's a great way for tamariki to stay busy, get creative and keep reading over the holidays. Grab your booklet, get exploring and let the adventures begin!

Upcoming Council meetings

Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 9.15am
Council Chambers, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu

Find more information on Council meetings, agendas, minutes and livestreams on our website
waipadc.govt.nz/agendasandminutes

Your Elected Members Get in touch: waipadc.govt.nz/our-council/our-team/mayor-and-councillors

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