

# Our Place

SUMMER 2020

## Kia ora koutou

Now the elections are behind us and a new year is ahead of us, it is time to get on and do the mahi.

I am looking forward to 2020 and focussing on our environment and what we as a regional council can do to help Wairoa. We already have plenty of initiatives underway, including welcoming some new farm workers, cleaning up Putere Lakes, and possum control in Wairoa.

Noho ora mai,  
Charles



If you have any ideas, concerns or just want to chat, you can call or email me:

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Wairoa Regional Councillor

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## Making a meal of dung

A new breed of farm worker was released in Māhia recently – Dung beetles. These beetles are paid in dung, work 24/7, and improve farms and their environments; a win-win for everyone involved.

The beetles were released at a community gathering on Pongaroa Station as part of several collaborative initiatives involving the Regional Council, Whangawehi Catchment Management Group, Beef and Lamb, and Manaaki Whenua, among others.

To keep up to date with all the innovation going on along the East Coast, head along to the Farming Expo 26-27 February in Wairoa.



← Dung beetle hard at work.

Te whakapakari tahi i tō tātau taiao.  
Enhancing our environment together.

## Putere Lakes

We're working with Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust to improve the quality of the Putere Lakes in the Wairoa District.



NPDT are the kaitiaki for these isolated lakes, and are aiming to initially build their knowledge of the water quality and carry out weed control, as part of a project to improve the lakes.

A new, innovative water sampling platform has been developed for the project, providing safe and easy access to deep water and space for native plants to help it blend into the environment.

## Possum control

The Regional and Wairoa District Council are working together on a possum control operation around Wairoa, starting this month. Our goal is to reduce numbers to a low level in your area to enhance biodiversity and improve your community.

The Regional Council has worked with farmers around the region since 2001 across 900,000 hectares to control possum numbers. We've spent nearly \$14 million in total. Before 2001, possum numbers were high with 50-70 possums or more caught out of 100 traps each night. Now as little as 2-3 possums are caught each night.

Head to [hbrc.govt.nz](http://hbrc.govt.nz) and search #possums to find out more.

## Sticking to the rules

Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Compliance team monitors resource consents, responds to pollution calls and manages contaminated land and hazardous waste.

Here's a snapshot from our Annual Compliance Report 2018-19:

8,500 active resource consents

2,965 higher risk consents monitored

1,116 calls to Pollution Hotline - 0800 108 838

1,500 litres of hazardous chemicals were collected

2% of dairy farms were significantly non-compliant

93% of monitored consents were fully compliant