

Important week for council

This is a big week for council as we've moved back into our refurbished council chambers in Rimu Road.

It is also a big week because of the draft decision by the Board of Inquiry to give consent to the MacKays Crossing to Peka Peka Expressway. We are still wading through the 300-plus page report and 94 pages of detailed conditions. The best I can say at this point is at least we now have some sort of certainty for a district that has been deeply divided about the decision to build the expressway in the first place.

I was absolutely delighted to open the newly refurbished civic building on Monday morning. The mood at the opening ceremony was very up-beat and buoyant! Quite rightly so, as we

From the Mayor



Jenny Rowan

Kapiti Coast District
Mayor

now have an accessible, attractive, well-designed, purpose-built building we can all be proud of. And it's come in on time and within budget.

In celebrating the new building, neatly grown out of the foundations of the old one, I pay tribute to my fellow councillors who had the courage to do a long over-due job that desperately needed doing. I also thank CEO Pat Dougherty and the staff team, led by Tamsin Evans, who have managed our side of the project so well.

Projects like this don't come together without a good team of professionals, so I also acknowledge architect Neil Kemp and the design group Stapleton Elliot, contractors Armstrong Downes and project managers, the building intelligence group. All these people have been strongly committed to the project, and very focused on meeting council needs.

Over the past year, most council staff have been based at Lindale Campus and the Customer Service Centre at Kapiti Lights. The customer service team will stay on at Kapiti Lights until March 15 and move into the building on March 18. We deliberately decided to stage the move to avoid disruption.

On another topic, just to remind people who are want to submit on the Coastal Hazards Provisions (Chapter 4) of the District Plan Review — submissions don't close until 5pm on Friday April 1.

We made a decision to extend the time-frame on submissions at a full council meeting on January 30. At the same meeting we also approved the appointment of independent commissioners for the hearings on this section of the review. Please take the time to visit our website, if you're looking for background on council decisions on this issue, all the significant documents are listed as links and there is also a very helpful FAQ section.

■ www.kapiticoast.govt.nz