

THE GISBORNE ECHO

Voice of the People | June 2025 Edition 2

FREE

GREY STREET TRIAL: WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The Grey Street trial is coming to an end later this year, but the real decision is still months away. Even after the trial wraps up, Gisborne District

Council (GDC) will take several months to decide if the changes will stay or go. The real question is: Will locals have their say, or will council make the call behind closed doors?

This trial affects how we move, live, and connect in our town. Your voice matters. We need strong, active community involvement now more than ever.



JOIN THE PROTEST! Every Wednesday, 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM — Grey Street. Stand with us. Stand for your voice. Stand for Gisborne.

ELECTION 2025 – GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Only Two Councillors at 100% of Meeting

DID YOU KNOW, only two councillors consistently showed up, every time, to do the job they were elected for: Cr. Colin Alder, Cr. Daniel Thompson. Where were the others? Ask yourself: Did your

councillor attend? Did they listen? They are paid to represent you — are they doing their job?

Councillors are paid to represent you. They should be turning up, hearing our concerns, voicing our concerns

and making good decisions on your behalf.

If they didn't, are they really doing the job you voted for?

If your voice isn't heard now, decisions will be made without you.

2025: TIME FOR CHANGE?

NEW COUNCILLORS. NEW DIRECTION. IS THIS YOUR YEAR TO STAND FOR GISBORNE?

The next local body elections are just around the corner. We must ask:
Is the current crew really listening to the people of Gisborne?
Are they reading the room?

Are they putting your interests first?
2025 is our opportunity to demand better. Better representation. Better accountability. Better results.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE WAKA BRIDGE AT KAITI BEACH?

A bridge too far?

The community has waited long enough. The Waka Bridge on Kaiti Beach Road was supposed to be a public treasure — but why is it still not open?

We deserve answers:

- Is it not safe?
- Is it a health and safety issue?
- Is it a naming issue?



- Is more money needed for this project?
- Or is this just more endless delay?

The Waka belongs to the people — not the bureaucracy. It's time to open it to the public.

WATER PROPOSAL: AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

GDC is currently pushing ahead with a major water services proposal that could change how water is managed — and paid for — across Tairāwhiti. There are serious concerns about: higher rates for households, losing local control over water services, delays, bureaucracy, and poor service.

It's your water.

Your voice matters. Ask questions. Demand answers!

ARE WE BEING RATED OFF OUR PROPERTIES?

Locals fear rising water costs will drive families out of their homes

By *Gisborne Echo Staff Writer*

Gisborne residents are speaking out against what many see as a creeping financial burden — the possibility of additional water rates on top of already rising council rates.

For both homeowners and renters, the implications are serious. With landlords passing on extra costs to tenants, **everyone is set to feel the pressure**, and for some, it may be the tipping point.

“We’re already paying high rates — do they want to charge us again just to access water?” asks one concerned resident. “It’s unsustainable. It’s unfair.”

Many believe the move to separate water services from council control — and the proposed restructuring — will only lead to

higher bills, less accountability, and more bureaucracy. Community leaders and ratepayers are asking:

Are we going to pay twice? How will struggling families afford this? Will young people ever be able to buy their own homes?

A Basic Human Right — Now a Luxury?

Water is not a luxury. It is a **basic human necessity** — and for many in Gisborne, the thought of paying even more to access it is unthinkable.

As the cost of living rises, locals warn that adding new charges for water could result in: **Evictions** and mortgage defaults, **Increased hardship** for

renters, A widening gap between generations in home ownership. A New Zealand Herald article this week stated “Water rates in Central Hawke’s Bay are set to triple over the next decade” “Our children and grandchildren already have it hard,” said one local grandparent.

“This could be what pushes them out of Gisborne altogether”. Many are calling this a **bureaucratic storming of our rights**, and demanding stronger consultation, better transparency, and a halt to rushed decisions that ignore community wellbeing. If we don’t speak up now, it may be too late

**THIS ISN'T WATER DONE WELL,
IT'S LOCAL WALLETS DONE WELL**

IT'S TIME TO SPEAK UP FOR GISBORNE

- Demand answers from your councilors.
- Insist on fair decisions about Grey Street.
 - Protect our water future.
 - Stand up for better healthcare.
 - Ask the hard questions.
- Get ready to vote for real change in 2025.

LET'S MAKE SURE THEY REMEMBER

That our community deserves better.
Who will stand up for you — and who won't?

What can YOU do?

Become an informed consumer
Join in Wednesdays at the Grey Street protest 12 to 12.30 pm
Consider standing for Council 2025

Check out; Challenging Councils –
www.challengingcouncils.co.nz
also on Facebook and Telegram

Do you want to comment on this page? Email us on
ConcernedCitizensOfGisborne@proton.me

**What's on at the movies?
Odeon Theatre - Gisborne**

“Managed out”

A documentary about managed retreat.

Sunday 15th June 2025

Doors open – 3.30pm -movie 3.45 – 4.45 Q&A to 5.45pm