

Hey, we need to talk me kōrero ngātahi tātou

We're proposing some changes to our **Food Grading Bylaw**.

Some of the changes may affect you or your business and we'd like to know what you think.

When we've taken into account all the feedback received, we'll finish off the bylaw and it will become effective. What is a bylaw? See over the page for a brief description of what a bylaw is, and how it works for you.

IMPORTANT DATES

Open for written feedback:
29 March 2019.

Provide your written feedback by:
29 April 2019.

TALK TO US

Paeroa Library Reading Room drop in:
Saturday, 6 April 2019, 9am-10am.

Ngatea Service Centre drop in:
Friday, 12 April 2019, 10am-11am.

Waihi Service Centre Meeting Room drop in:
Wednesday, 17 April 2019, 11am-12pm.

Whiritoa Community Hall drop in:
Thursday, 18 April 2019, 2pm-3pm.

Hearing of submissions:
22 May 2019 in the Hauraki District Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa.

See over the page for the various ways you can have your say.

FURTHER INFORMATION

We think a bylaw is the best way to implement food grading. You'll find the proposed bylaw (including food grade assessment criteria) and the background report attached to this document, or you can download this information from our website: <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz>

What we're proposing

Things have changed since we made our current bylaw on food safety. We are proposing to remove a lot from our current bylaw on food safety, because it's now covered by the Food Act 2014, for example – a business can be closed down under the Food Act if its hygiene standards are not acceptable. We're also proposing to make some improvements to the way we grade food businesses.

Which businesses will be graded

We're proposing to only give a food grade to the businesses that operate under a Food Control Plan and are registered with us, as opposed to being registered with the Ministry for Primary Industries. We propose that the grade will be given in conjunction with the verification (inspection) of the food business.

What the food grade will be based on

We're proposing that the food grade is based on the most important areas of food safety. All food businesses that have a Food Control Plan are assessed on these areas, which include training, hygiene, cleanliness, temperature control and preventing cross contamination. How well the business is performing in these areas will determine its food grade.

New grade introduced

We're proposing to introduce a new A+ grade to reward outstanding food safety practices. This will apply to businesses that set the standard in food safety. The proposed grades are: **A+** (excellent), **A** (high standard), **B** (satisfactory), **D** (enforcement action) and **E** (enforcement action/closure).

Removal of outdated fees

We're removing the fees we previously charged for food registration. The transition period for moving to National Programmes and Food Control Plans has finished and these fees are no longer needed.



A guide to giving feedback

Any organisation or member of the public can give us feedback in writing, on the phone, in person or all of these. This is your chance to tell us your thoughts about what we're proposing.

Good feedback is clear, concise and to the point. Tell us which parts you support, and which ones you don't. Let us know why. You are most welcome to provide additional pages or supporting material with your feedback.

Remember to provide your contact details if you would like to be kept informed of the decisions made after considering your feedback.

Your feedback will be a council record, so may be reproduced as an attachment to a Council agenda, made publicly available and remain on Council minute records. If you aren't providing feedback on behalf of an organisation and would like your contact details to be kept private, please let us know.

Everyone who provides feedback will be notified in writing of the outcome.

Special assistance

We can offer assistance with special requirements at a hearing in terms of language translation, including that of sign language, or presenting through audio visual mechanisms. If assistance is required, please let us know and we will make the appropriate arrangements.

Huh?! What's a bylaw?

Our bylaws are only applicable to the Hauraki District. They're rules that local councils can develop to make our district a safe and healthy place. They can protect the public from nuisance; protect, promote and maintain public health and safety; and minimise the potential for offensive behaviour in public places. We make them in consultation with you – that's why it's important to have your say.

A bylaw can be enforced by the Council and sometimes the New Zealand Police. Most of our bylaws are coming up for review over the next couple of years.

1

We review how well the bylaw is working, involving key groups

2

Changes are made to the bylaw as a result of early discussions

3

You tell us what you think of the proposed changes to the bylaw

4

We look at the feedback and may make further changes as a result of your views

5

The bylaw is adopted and then effective

How you can have your say

If you want to **talk** to us:

- drop in to one of our sessions in Whiritoa, Waihi, Paeroa or Ngatea and have a cuppa with a councillor.
- contact us to book in to speak to the Council at a hearing in Paeroa on 22 May 2019, or tick the box on the feedback form to show us you're keen to attend. We'll contact you closer to the date of the hearing to arrange a time for you to speak.
- give us a call and speak with a member of the strategic planning team – we can draft your feedback into a written statement and we'll provide you with a copy.

If you want to **write** to us:

- fill out the online feedback form on our website <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz>
- message or comment on our Facebook page
- email your feedback to info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz
- write a letter, or fill in the printed feedback form (available at our service centres, or downloadable from our website)