

MEDIA RELEASE

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Taupō District Council wins national award for collaboration

Taupō District Council has won the Morrison Low Advisory Award for Excellence in Collaborating for Results at the 2026 LGFA Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards.

The award recognises collaborations with government, community or private organisations that deliver strong outcomes for communities and demonstrate the value of working together.

Taupō District Council received the award for East Urban Lands – Oroko Rise, a partnership between Taupō District Council, Penny Homes, Classic Builders and Tūwharetoa Settlement Trust.

The partnership delivered an innovative affordable housing project that embedded affordability into a commercial development without relying on ratepayer subsidy. Stage One has delivered 38 affordable homes, with two-bedroom homes priced from \$550,000 and three-bedroom homes from \$650,000, materially below the district's average house price.

The judges recognised the project's response to a significant community challenge and its potential application elsewhere.

“Housing affordability is a public policy challenge that is not solely confined to the big cities,” the judges said.

“Oroko Rise has embedded a response to a pressing community need into a fully commercial development. This approach is both readily transferable and scalable. We look forward to hearing more as subsequent stages of this project progress.”

The award highlights the role partnerships can play in delivering practical solutions to complex challenges facing communities.

This is the third consecutive year that Taupō District Council has been involved in an award-winning Excellence Awards entry, either on its own or as part of a consortium of agencies.



About the LGFA Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards

The LGFA Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards showcase and celebrate outstanding programmes, projects, partnerships and initiatives from across New Zealand's local government sector. The awards recognise excellence, innovation and leadership that deliver positive outcomes for communities and create learnings that can be shared across the sector. The awards are hosted annually by Taituarā – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa.

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