

Over recent months we have been working hard on our Long Term Plan (LTP). This is completed every three years and outlines to our communities how we intend to invest over the next 10 years, what major projects we will be undertaking, and how we will be funding our work.

One of the things we know is that everyone is experiencing cost-of-living pressures. Our ratepayers' ability to afford rate increases has been top of mind as we have developed our draft LTP for 2024/34. It is an issue we take seriously.

One of the main challenges facing Mackenzie is that we have a small population base (the third smallest in New Zealand) dispersed across a wide geographical area (the tenth largest). Regardless of our size, we must comply with the same central government standards as everyone else. In the current system for local government, rates are our main source of funding.

I am confident that in drawing up our plans for the coming years we have been extremely prudent and have made some tough choices based on prioritising the "must haves" against the "nice to haves". However, we have also been careful not to reduce our current levels of service.

In the coming years you will see us focus delivering essential services and core infrastructure. We are also striving to ensure that investment in infrastructure maintenance and renewals leaves our networks fit for the future.

Overall we are on a journey of improvements. We want to complete projects that deliver the best we can for all of us who choose to make Mackenzie their home.

An area we are also focusing on is Community Development. This small team are working across all our major communities as well as connecting with our rural areas. In the coming year you will see several pieces of work from them:

Environmental Scan

The Team are doing this work to find out what you love about your communities, what priorities you have, what gaps in service provision matter to you, and where council can better support you. This will link to other services they are providing, like the two following.



Funding Database

We know that most community projects need funding at some level. We also know that finding funding can be a challenge. The Community Development team are aiming to make this process easier by providing a database of local funding providers. This free resource will be complimented by free workshops, and staff support to community groups looking to apply for funding.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

For some time now I have been delighted to be associated with our Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme. This is an externally funded partnership with LGNZ and MSD which aims to support young people into sustainable employment. This year we have helped them into work and apprenticeships, to get their driver's license, to write CVs, and to obtain the skills they need to enter the workforce.

It is always a privilege to help a young person into their future and I am grateful to all our employers who also help this happen. If you know of young people looking to enter the workforce or otherwise struggling to get a job please contact our MTFJ co-ordinators.

Mayor Anne

Rates in the Mackenzie District

Rates are the way that everyone pays for those essential community services that we all use every day. When most of you turn on the tap, drive on a local road, flush the toilet or go for a walk in the park, you're using a service you've helped pay for.

As part of the 2023/24 Annual Plan, the overall total amount of rates collected by the council has increased by 10.2%. Your individual rates bill may have increased by more than this or less depending on things like which services you receive at your property and how much your land and property value has increased compared to other properties.

Rates are due and payable in four equal instalments on the following dates during the year:

Instalment	Due Date
1	20 September 2023
2	20 December 2023
3	20 March 2024
4	20 June 2024

Any outstanding amount unpaid at the due dates will attract a 10% penalty.

You can choose to pay smaller amounts on a more regular basis as long as they add up the full instalment amount by the quarterly date. If you would like to pay regular small amounts, please contact our rates team to discuss the details.

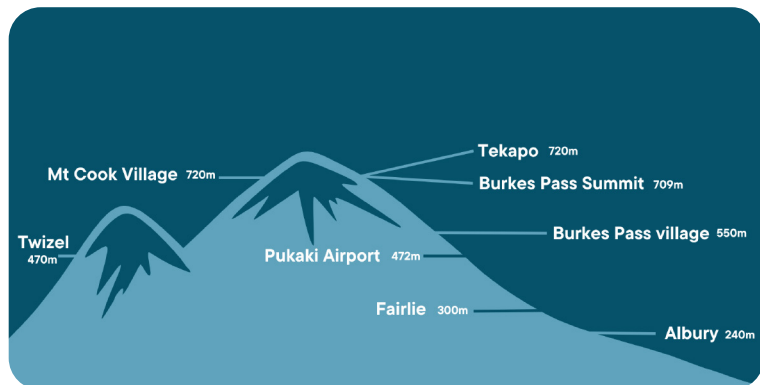
You can pay your rates via direct debit (EasyPay), credit card, internet banking, online on our website, or in person at one of our offices.

Are you eligible for a rates rebate?

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a partial rebate for eligible, low income ratepayers who pay rates on their home to the Council.

The maximum rebate you can receive is \$750 which is available as long as your gross (before tax) income is \$30,100 or less.

Even if your income exceeds the threshold, you may still be eligible, depending on the amount of rates you pay and number of dependants. If you think you may be eligible please contact Council on 03 685 9010.



Elevations of the Mackenzie District

When the weather forecast tells us to expect snow down to 600m do you wonder if that means you might get some snow? These are the elevations of some key points in our district.



Lake Alexandrina Outlet Willow Removals

The second stage of works for willow tree removal around the Lake Alexandrina Outlet Bridge took place in March and April.

This maintenance work was undertaken with Fish & Game who redeveloped the spawning beds in the creek at the same time.

To look after the significant biodiversity in the area, all in-stream work was timed to avoid trout spawning and the Crested Grebes nesting.

To avoid disruption to these species, the removal of built-up root mass and deepening the streams channel also took place at this time.



Changes to wheelie bin collections

The Ministry for the Environment has made changes to what councils throughout the country are allowed to collect in their wheelie bins. The new changes are part of the Government's move to standardise recycling and organics across New Zealand from 1 February.

The main changes affecting Mackenzie District are:

- Paper and cardboard can no longer go in the GREEN bin - instead:
 - Pizza boxes and egg cartons – if clean can go in the YELLOW bin.
 - Newspaper – goes in the YELLOW Bin.
 - Tea bags and coffee filters – go in RED bin.
 - Paper towels, serviettes or tissues – go in RED bin.
 - 'Compostable' marked paper packaging such as coffee cups – go in RED bin.
- Pet Poo – goes in the RED bin.
- Aluminium foil and aerosol cans can no longer go in the YELLOW bin – they now go in RED bin.
- Plant pots now go in the RED bin.

If you live in Mackenzie District, the frequency of your bin collection, and which bin is being collected when, is unchanged. You can always check the front page of our website to check which bins to put out this week.



2024 Community Board Grants

Do you need support for a community project?

The three community boards in the Mackenzie District have grant funding available to encourage and support not-for-profit organisations with a positive impact on the community. They can help local organisations pay for specific projects, events, or the maintenance of facilities that benefit the community. It is preferable that the organisations applying for these grants are incorporated societies or trusts, but informal organisations and individuals may also apply.

How much are the grants?

Most grants are for less than \$500, although occasionally larger grants are approved.

More information, and an application form is available at mackenzie.govt.nz > Community > Grants and Scholarships > Community Board Grant.



Tekapo wins the NZ Sunshine Cup

The Tekapo Community Board was presented with the New Zealand Sunshine Cup on 25 March in recognition of Tekapo being the sunniest town in the country in 2023. The cup was first awarded in 2010 by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and is passed to the winning town each year. Members of the board are (left to right) Sharron Binns, Matt Murphy (Mackenzie District Councillor - Tekapo ward), Steve Howes, Caroll Simcox and Stephanie Hagen.

Plantation Rd 'washover' ford, Fairlie

Construction was recently completed on the upgrade of the Plantation Rd culvert.

This site has been subjected to washouts during nearly every weather event that has occurred since at least 2021, resulting in multiple road closures, detouring local residents, transport firms and affecting the school bus route.



Due to the events events our work crews and subcontractors had to repair the damage numerous times, and the on-going monitoring of this site has led to large repair costs. To mitigate potential ongoing costs of future washouts, reduce closures and disruption to the site it was decided to add a concrete 'washover' area over the culvert, to allow water to flow over the area if the flow inundates the capacity of the culverts.



Special thanks to residents of the road, and local road users, who have been supportive of the work, including the local farmer who opening his paddock up for those needing to access farmland on the other side while the culvert was closed.

No
Excuse

For
Abuse

Please treat our Council
team with respect

ZERO TOLERANCE:
Anyone giving verbal abuse to members of staff will be asked to leave immediately.



Tips to help you survive winter in the Mackenzie District

- Know where your household's water toby is so you can turn off water if required
- Keep a snow shovel in an easy to access place - e.g coat cupboard or porch
- Keep a supply of salt to clear your paths
- If you know you have a fire hydrant outside your place feel free to expose it. You never know when the Fire Service are going to need access for emergencies
- Pipes can freeze in prolonged cold weather. Keep a water supply in an area where it will not freeze, and keep your jug full
- Check on your neighbours. They may require help clearing their accessway
- You might be without power for a while. Ensure you have an alternative source of cooking, heating and lighting
- Once roads are open, drive to the conditions. It will be icy and narrow. Lower your speed so you don't need to heavily apply the brakes
- Access to the cleared road from the household accessway is the residents' responsibility.

Fairlie and Twizel water restrictions lifted

Stage 2 water restrictions for Fairlie and Twizel have been lifted, effective Monday 22 April 2024.

We thank everyone who responded to the water restrictions, reducing household and business water use while restrictions were in effect.

This ensured that the water supplies stayed at a sustainable level over the summer and early autumn months.



Mobile Shop and Traders License Applications

Applications for a Mobile Shop and Traders License for the 2024 to 2025 financial year will open on 1 April 2024 and will close on 31 May 2024.



Applications can be made through Council's website: mackenzie.govt.nz > Services > Food safety

Or alternatively email compliance@mackenzie.govt.nz for an application pack or call the office on 0800 685 8514.



Glass What goes where?

Glass for blue glass crate



Glass for red rubbish bin



No glass is allowed inside the yellow or green bins

Book a planner

Due to staffing numbers, the planning team have introduced a booking system.

To make an appointment with the planning team, call us on 0800 685 8514 or email planning@mackenzie.govt.nz



A team member will be in contact to arrange a suitable date and time.

Public Health Notice

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.



Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a cup-full of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Icy roads in winter

With ice often settling on road surfaces throughout the Mackenzie District at this time of year, it is recommended to drive to the conditions, and where necessary, reduce your speed.

