

From the Mayor

At the end of July we adopted our Long Term Plan for 2024-34. This is the document that outlines the long-term vision for the district and sets out the services, projects and infrastructure we intend to deliver to the community over the next 10-year period, and outlines how these will be funded. It is a key planning document.

In this LTP we worked to balance affordability for residents while delivering on the services and infrastructure that makes Mackenzie a great place to live – for residents now and in the future.

We had to make some very tough decisions about our priorities for the next 10 years and what they would mean for rate increases. In the end we produced a no-frills budget with an emphasis on funding the “must haves” rather than the “nice to haves”.

The average rates increase for year one of the LTP is 14.7% and the annual average increase over 10 years of 6.5%.

Individual rates’ increases will vary depending on the council services applying to an individual property, and how that property’s valuation changed compared with others in the recent property revaluations. You can find a more detailed explanation about how rates are calculated on the next pages.

Preparation of this plan involved much hard work by my fellow Councillors, supported by the staff. After taking the Draft LTP Consultation Document to the community we considered 211 submissions from business and community leaders, local community boards, residents’ groups and individuals.

The response demonstrates the passion our residents have for the district and their recognition of the role the Council plays in delivering the services they depend on.

In the 211 submissions received there were some strong common themes. Many submitters sought Council reassurance about maintaining services and facilities in their towns, or were concerned about:

- aged care services
- the housing shortage
- cleaning the district’s key public toilets
- Support for community-led initiatives
- Sports fields
- Fees for council facilities and dog registration



In working on this budget, inflation is our biggest issue with massive cost increases for essential items, especially infrastructure. For example, we know the cost of building bridges has risen by 38%, roads and water supply systems by 27% and sewerage systems by 30% compared to just three years ago.

In conclusion, thank you to every one of you who got engaged with this process, who talked to me or to my fellow Councillors, who took the time to fill in a survey, or to speak to a meeting. Democracy is only as good as the people who support it and even though we might not always agree, we need to continue to find ways we can all strive to improve our communities.

Mayor Anne

Worried about paying your rates?

If you are worried about paying your rates, please get in touch with us.

Email: rates@mackenzie.govt.nz

Call in to one of our offices

Phone: 0800 685 8514

Explaining your rates

About your rates

Council provides local public services and infrastructure that the community needs to survive and prosper. Providing these services comes at a cost and the rates that Council charges property owners is the largest source (about 59%) of Council's revenue.

Each year Council decides what services it will provide in the future, what projects will be undertaken, and what the associated costs will be. These costs are then allocated over the properties in the district in the form of rates.

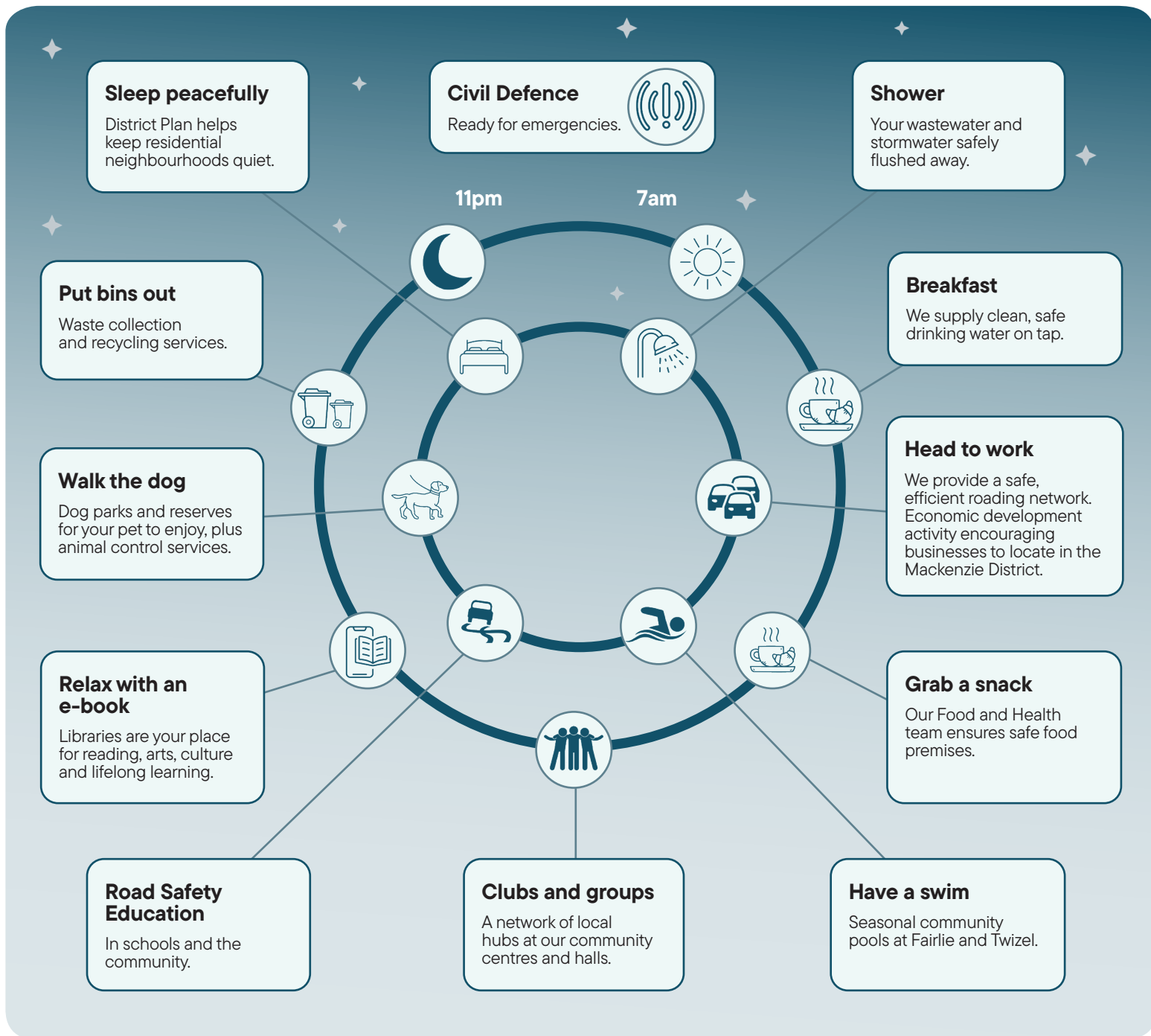
When your rates change there can be several causes. One of these is when the costs to Council of doing regular work increases

(for example, the cost of gravel for roads increases). Other reasons the can change may be because Council is providing new services, or amenities. Because some rates are apportioned according to the value of a property, there can also be changes as your properties value changes.

Our Rating System is driven by legislation and forms a part of the Funding Impact Statement and should be read in conjunction with the Council's Revenue and Financing Policy. There are more details about our rating system in these documents.

This diagram shows some of the ways you interact with Council every day.

Some of the ways your rates keep our community going



Types of Rates

- **General Rates** – generally used by the Council to fund activities that are of public benefit and cannot be charged to specific users.
- **Targeted Rates** – generally used by Council to fund specific activities or provision of services in a specific location.

General Rates

These are paid by everyone. They can be either based on the capital value of a property, or they can be a fixed rate where everyone pays the same.

The Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) is a general rate. It is a fixed amount paid by each rating unit regardless of the value of the property. Every ratepayer pays the UAGC.

It is used for some community amenities, such as parks, and the cost of governance and leadership, civil defence, environmental health, the roading network, street lighting, road/streets landscapes refuse disposal, footpaths, dog control, economic development and promotion, and more.

Targeted Rates

Targeted rates are charged for a specific service. They are applied to each rating unit (or separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit – SUIP) to cover the cost of a service or activity by those who use it, or who contribute to the need for it. A given property may pay several targeted rates, depending on the services they receive.

A targeted rate can also be either be a fixed rate, or a variable one based on the value of a property.

Some of the most common things covered by a targeted rate are: kerbside rubbish collection, water and sewer services.



Rates Rebate

A rates rebate is a partial discount on a rates bill. It is available for eligible, low-income ratepayers. It is available nation-wide and is administered by Council on behalf of the Department of Internal Affairs.

If you own your home and are on a low income, you may be eligible for a rates rebate.

Do you qualify?

Rebates are calculated on your household income, the rates applicable to your property, and the number of dependents you have.

The Department of Internal Affairs has a rates rebate calculator on their website where you can calculate whether you qualify. Go to www.govt.nz and enter **rates rebate** in the search box.

You can apply for a rebate, if you meet the following criteria:

- You are the legal owner of the property
- You were living at the address on 1 July this year
- You have a low income or receive a benefit

If the property is being used mainly for business, farming, commercial or industrial purposes, or is not your usual place of residence, you cannot claim a rates rebate.

If you are receive a rebate it is credited to your rates for that year.

When can you apply?

Applications open on 1 July each year and you can apply at any time up to the end of the rating year (30 June).

How to apply

To apply for a rates rebate you need to complete the form available from the Department of Internal Affairs website, from the Mackenzie District Council offices in Fairlie or Twizel.

When you apply you will need to show

- a copy of your rates account, and
- proof of your income for the previous year.

How much you get

The maximum rebate you can get is \$790. You may be eligible for all or only part of this amount.

How much you get depends on your circumstances and Council works this out when they assess your application.

How to get the rebate every year

A rebate is not given automatically. You need to re-apply every year and your application will be fully assessed each time you apply.

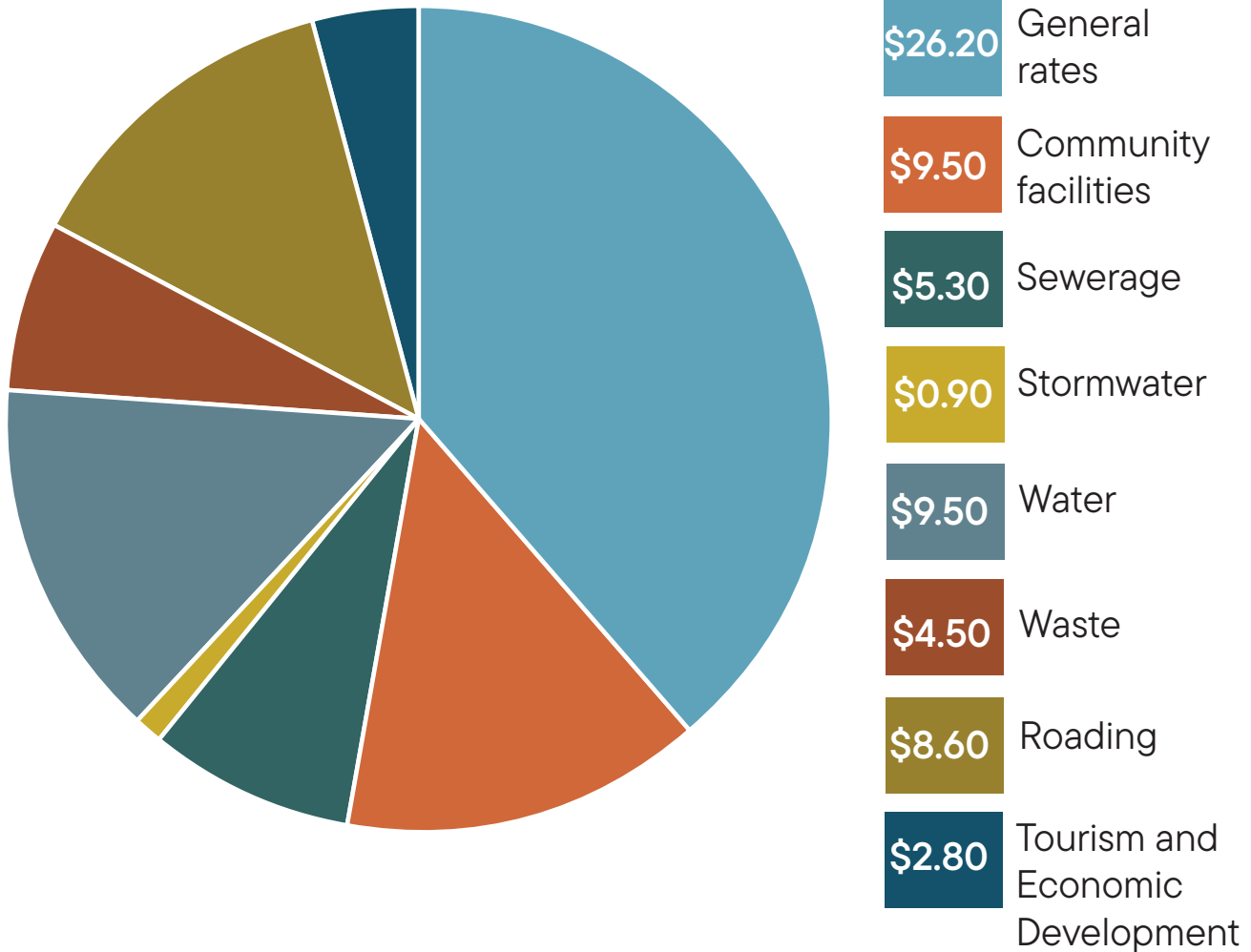
As long as you're eligible, you apply before the deadline and you include the required information, you should get a rebate.

Breaking it down - your weekly rates

How much you pay in rates is dependent on several things:

- the valuation of the property
- how the land is used
- where the property is located and what targeted rates apply.
- changes to the cost of funding of Council's activities and services.

These example figures are for an average urban property in 2024-25.



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.



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.

