

Shortly before Christmas I was diagnosed with cancer.

I will be taking some time away from my role as Mayor while I undergo initial treatment.

During that period, Deputy Mayor Karen Morgan will carry out my functions and responsibilities, and I know that council is in safe hands in my absence.

While I acknowledge that the mayoralty is a public role, I would appreciate being given some space and privacy for the next few months, while my family and I come to terms with what lies ahead of us.

I know that so many in our community have had their lives impacted by cancer, and that you will understand some of what we are going through.

At this stage I won't be making any further comment, but will provide an update at an appropriate time in the future.

Thank you for your understanding.

*Mayor Anne*



## Local Waters Done Well

One of the MOST IMPORTANT issues for Council to decide on this year is our response to the Local Waters Done Well legislation of the Government.

Local Water Done Well is central government's new policy for water reform which requires changes to the structure of water services and delivery nationwide.

Along with the other councils in New Zealand, we have to create a Water Services Delivery Plan, approved by the Department of Internal Affairs, that details how we will meet higher standards, investment, and regulations.

Historically Councils across the country have tended to put off expensive infrastructure projects to keep rates bills down. Those days are gone. The government is holding our feet to the fire and we must respond.

This is a once in a generation decision and it is important that our communities are aware of this work and that anyone who wants to has their say when the consultation comes out.

How do we afford the additional compliance and economic regulation costs that will come from this reform? How do we afford

to play catch-up on past growth while building the infrastructure we need for future growth? How do we afford the maintenance and replacement costs of existing infrastructure - drinking water and wastewater treatment plants, reservoirs, upsized pipes and stormwater swales?

The reforms are intended to make sure that we plan for growth, for maintenance, and for the replacement costs of existing infrastructure (drinking water and wastewater treatment plants, reservoirs, upsized pipes and stormwater swales). The Water Services Delivery Plan must show that the Council can sustainably manage the financial impacts of this. We must also plan for infrastructure to keep people and property safe from more frequent and extreme future weather events.

We will be putting out a lot more information during the next few months and asking for your views on our draft ideas. Look out for the distinctive blue version of our MDC logo which we will be using for all things water reform.



**Mackenzie**  
**Water**

OUR WATER. OUR FUTURE.

## 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 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, for 2024/25 the average total amount of rates collected by the Council increased by 14.7%. Your individual rates bill may have increased by more than this or less depending on the services you receive at your property and the value of your land and improvements 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 2024
2	20 December 2024
3	20 March 2025
4	20 June 2025

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.

## Rates Rebate

### 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 received is \$790 which is available as long as your gross (before tax) income is \$31,510 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.



## Creative Communities Scheme

The Creative Communities Fund supports and encourages arts activities within the Mackenzie District.

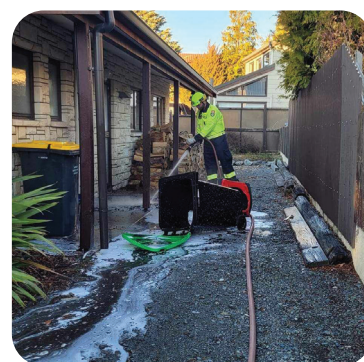
Under the scheme 'the arts' are broadly defined as 'all forms of creative and interpretive expression'.

This includes creative participation in dance, performance, visual arts, music, arts education, toi Maori, literary workshops, digital storytelling and more.

The Creative Communities Scheme is a partnership between Creative New Zealand (the national arts development agency) and local councils in New Zealand. Each council takes responsibility for delivering the scheme in its area. Local decision-making is the key to the scheme: applications are considered by assessment committees with knowledge and experience of the arts in their area.

If you are interested in organising an arts event in the district, consider applying for a Creative Communities Grant. More information is available at [mackenzie.govt.nz](https://mackenzie.govt.nz) > Community > Grants and Scholarships > Creative Communities Scheme

There are several chances to apply for funding through this scheme during the year. Have your ideas ready and look out for the next round later in 2025.



## Cool hot ashes before they reach your red bin

A reminder that all ashes are to go in the red rubbish bin, though only after at least seven days of cooling down in a metal bucket well away from buildings first!

The Lake Tekapo Volunteer Fire Brigade have had a number of callouts in recent months due to hot ashes being placed in bins.

# Watering your garden over summer

With the current hot summer weather many of us are watering our gardens. Here are some watering tips that can help make the most of your water:

- Water your garden in the early morning before the sun heats up.
- Or, water in the evening as things start to cool off.
- Avoid watering during the heat. You risk damaging your plants, and won't get the most benefit.
- Water more deeply and less often. Get the water down into the roots to encourage their growth, and water about 3 times per week.
- Water when your soil is dry for the first 2.5cm



Although it is lovely to have a lush green lawn, it does take a lot of water to maintain. If you can, concentrate your watering efforts on other parts of the garden.

If hot dry conditions continue over the summer we may have to introduce water restrictions. Keep an eye on Council's messaging (our website will always be updated, and we will put posts on our Facebook page and in newsletters) and on the water restriction boards in our towns.



## Citizenship Ceremony

A Citizenship Ceremony took place on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at the Council Chambers, Fairlie.

Mayor Anne Munro (centre) welcomed nine new citizens to New Zealand and the Mackenzie District. They are (left to right):

- Steffen Ekerdt from Germany and Selina Ekerdt from Switzerland, holding their children. Steffen and Selina both work at Lakestone Lodge, Pukaki.
- Four members of the Gorospe family from the Philippines - Bea, William, Jayjim and Jamela. The Gorospe family calls Fairlie home.
- Peter Smith, originally from England but now living in Twizel.
- And Ada Chan and Cameron Siu with their baby Audrey. They are originally from Hong Kong but now live and work in Lake Tekapo.

# Mackenzie District Council 2023-2024 Annual Report

Following a successful audit from AuditNZ, and its adoption by Council, we are pleased to publish our Annual Report for 2023/24 as well as the more condensed Annual Report Summary document.

Key highlights of the 2023/24 year included:

- **SMART Meter Installation:** Successfully installed SMART meters in Twizel, significantly enhancing water conservation efforts and identifying leakages.
- **Fairlie Water Treatment Plant:** Completed the construction and commissioning of the new water treatment plant in Fairlie, ensuring a reliable and safe water supply for residents.
- **Twizel Water Main Replacement:** This ran from October 2023 to May 2024 and replaced aging asbestos concrete water pipes, ensuring a more reliable water supply and supporting the town's growth
- **District Plan Review:** Completed Stages 1 and 2 of the District Plan Review, with Stage 3 currently in the appeal process, aiming to better manage growth and development.
- **Civic Buildings and Twizel Event Centre Upgrades:** Achieved code compliance for the Twizel Event Centre and completed seismic strengthening and fire safety upgrades for the Fairlie Civic Building.
- **District Swimming Pools Upgrades.**
- **Community Development** – recruited staff and commenced working with various community groups leading various local projects
- **Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ)** which connects work ready young people with local employers creating sustainable opportunities and supporting community growth. This is funded externally through the Ministry of Social development.
- **Commenced Alps to Ocean Trail** work funded from prior carry-forwards and Better off Funding received from central government to complete the Eastern Pukaki section of the Alps 2 Ocean cycle trail.
- **Worked with Rūnanga** to develop a concept document for Pou whenua in the Mackenzie District
- **Numerous successful Emergency Management Responses** to events such as Pukaki fires, snow events, demolition of a building containing asbestos and a multiple tourist bus accident in Twizel.
- **Completed the Ten year Long term Plan** for 2024 to 2034 which was adopted on 31 July 2024
- **Introduced a new Freedom Camping bylaw**, effective from 16 December 2023 aiming to regulate freedom camping to protect local areas, ensure public health and safety and manage environmental impacts.



The report documents are available at [mackenzie.govt.nz](https://mackenzie.govt.nz) > Council > Strategies, Plans and Reports > Annual Reports.

Limited copies of the Summary document are available at our Fairlie and Twizel offices where you will also find a reference copy of the full report.



# Parking in the Mackenzie District.

This summer you will have seen Council staff monitoring parking around the district. Our new parking bylaw was adopted by the Councillors at their meeting in August and during this first summer we will be taking a largely educational approach.



The areas we are focussing on are reminding people not to park in a mobility area unless they have a valid permit, and keeping an eye on our areas of 'timed' parking. These are the ones where parking is permitted for a fixed period, like an hour, and where demand means that it's important there is a regular turnover of vehicles and the space is available for others to follow. Council receives the most complaints about these things.

The bylaw also allows us to issue infringements. The details, including the locations of parking zones in our towns, are available from our website at [mackenzie.govt.nz](http://mackenzie.govt.nz) > search: parking bylaw.

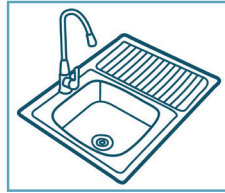
## Did you know?

Updates covering current Road Closures, Water, and Civil Defence alerts are available on the [mackenzie.govt.nz](http://mackenzie.govt.nz) website, accessible from buttons on the homepage.

Updates are also placed up on the Mackenzie District Council Facebook page.

## 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.

## Taking your pooch for a walk?

Taking your pooch for a walk? Unfortunately, there's no such thing as the dog poo fairy so please remember to pick up their poo.

If you are using our dog park in Fairlie, we provide free bags and a wastebin – please use them. No-one likes treading in dog poo, and it's particularly hard to see when it's hidden in the grass. Your dog's poo is your responsibility – Thank you.



## Booking of Facilities

Are you planning an event, and would like to see if a community centre or public open space within the Mackenzie District is available?



Booking schedules are available for these at [mackenzie.govt.nz](http://mackenzie.govt.nz)

Schedules for hall and event venues at Albury, Fairlie, Tekapo and Twizel are under [mackenzie.govt.nz](http://mackenzie.govt.nz) > Services > Parks, Venues and Recreation > Halls & Event Venues

To book a facility, contact Council on 0800 685 8514 or email [info@mackenzie.govt.nz](mailto:info@mackenzie.govt.nz)

## Battery recycling

With batteries unable to be placed in the bin collection, our Resource Recovery Parks at Fairlie, Tekapo and Twizel offer FREE collection points for old batteries.



Batteries accepted are:

- Household batteries - AAA, AA, 9V, C, D
- Button cell batteries - i.e. watch and hearing aid batteries
- Re-chargeable batteries from hand held tools
- Automotive batteries

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.