

# News & Information from Mackenzie District Council



**Mackenzie**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## CouncilMARK™ rates Mackenzie District Council



Local Government New Zealand's independent CouncilMARK programme is giving Mackenzie District Council's performance a tick of approval in its second assessment.

Since the last assessment in 2018, the Council has improved its operations in several key areas with communications and engagement being the standout.

LGNZ President Stuart Crosby says the improvements are heartening to see, especially for a size-challenged rural council. "The Council's communications and engagement policy framework is very soundly based, and recent engagement with iwi has been a breakthrough. The growing collaborative partnership with them, and other key councils and agencies, sets the Council up to successfully address growth and sustainability issues."

"As a small rural council, Mackenzie district faces the challenge of providing viable and sustainable services to a widely distributed ratepayer base. However, the Council recognises the need to be strategy-led and is committed to being so."

Of note, the CouncilMARK report found the Mayor and councillors have a blend of experience, a strong sense of the communities they represent, and valuable renewed relationship with Papatipu Rūnanga. Crosby also commends that there is a sound working rapport between elected members and staff which is respectful of the governance and management roles.

Mackenzie Mayor Graham Smith says the efforts of staff and stakeholders, alongside good community support, help ensure the Council can be outward looking, effectively face challenges and take a strategy-led approach. "We're dedicated to providing the community core services and further building strong relationships with other councils, Papatipu Rūnanga and government agencies. Having these efforts positively highlighted in the independent report is heartening," he says.

The full report can be found on the council's website at [www.mackenzie.govt.nz](http://www.mackenzie.govt.nz). Details of the CouncilMark assessment process and scores for other participating councils can be found on Local Government New Zealand's Council Mark website: <https://councilmark.co.nz/>

## Stepping up for sustainability in South Canterbury

Responding to the growing demand for local sustainability solutions, EnviroWaste's new education programme is empowering people in South Canterbury to make greener choices and raising awareness of the importance of recycling and resource recovery.

Sustainability champions Deepa Goswami and Danielle Schäche work with local groups to support the region's waste minimisation goals, providing practical guidance to enable residents and businesses to waste less and recycle more. Their role is to help people look at resources and waste in a different way.

The new initiative is a collective community effort, says Goswami. Backed by the region's councils, it supports local government's Together Reducing Waste message. "It is a brilliant opportunity to work alongside my teammate, Danielle, to create awareness about recycling and minimizing waste and saving resources from landfill."

We work with communities, schools and businesses in Timaru, Waimate and Mackenzie District Councils of South Canterbury. We're working towards a sustainable world when there is a growing consensus about depleting resources and an awakening towards their recovery."

The Timaru-based team share a teaching background: Schäche previously worked as an early childhood educator, while Goswami was a high school science teacher.

"Education plays an important role in protecting our planet to ensure we create a better future," says Schäche. "I am excited to spread awareness of sustainable practices within the community, so together we can be proactive in the fight against wastefulness. I am especially excited to have a chance to bring this knowledge into education services, with the hope of fostering environmental mindfulness with our next generation," she says.

Tackling New Zealand's organic waste problem is a big focus for Goswami, who is researching how to shift food waste behaviours for her doctoral studies. "I started teaching science in 1995 and was an ardent environmentalist at work. But I felt my passion and message was being lost in the rigmarole of tests, grades and the pressures of teaching. Three and a half years ago, I grabbed the opportunity to pursue my PhD. That proved to be a major transition and I ended up getting drawn into the much bigger issue of the amount of waste generated by this country."

Her new role means she can continue to support people's learning journeys while providing encouragement and advice on steps everyone can take to reduce their environmental impact.

If you want to learn more about how you can embed sustainability at home and work, email Deepa Goswami and Daniele Schäche: [TogetherReducingWaste@envirowaste.co.nz](mailto:TogetherReducingWaste@envirowaste.co.nz)



## Fairlie Watermain Renewal Project

The fourth watermain renewal project, for Fairlie, has been awarded by Council to Rooney Earthmoving Ltd.

This is the final package of work out of four watermain renewal packages allocated to the Mackenzie District, as part of 7 million dollars of funding to stimulate the local economy following economic impacts caused by Covid-19.

The project work is to replace existing watermains and submains that are at the end of their service life, with new polyethylene pipes.

Rooney Earthmoving Ltd are establishing their operations on site on 14 March, with the work continuing to the end of June 2022.

The main project works will take place on the following streets within the Fairlie township - Mt Cook Road, Main Street, and Allandale Road.

The Allandale Road work further involves the replacement of a steel pipe attached to the underside of Allandale Bridge.

There will be a letter drop prior to the project commencing, advising residents and businesses of the watermain work, and for any planned disruptions to service.



## Joe Rush - MDC's new Emergency Management Officer

I have recently started a new role at the Mackenzie District Council as the Emergency Management Officer. I have come from a Policing and volunteer Search and Rescue background for over 20 years. This has included working as a rural Constable in the Mackenzie, based in Twizel and Aoraki Mt Cook and recently working in Community and Youth Services in Timaru.



During my time in the Police, I was the Mackenzie winter avalanche response coordinator, Police liaison officer for the Aoraki Mt Cook, Alpine Rescue team and one of the founding members of the Mackenzie Search and Rescue Trust that fundraised and built a Search and Rescue base for Landsar and Mackenzie Lakes Coastguard, at the rear of the Twizel Police Station.

This was an amazing effort by the community and volunteers. The facility is a fantastic asset to the community.

I have experienced many major events which has included fires, snow events, flooding and many search and rescue operations. I was also involved with the 2015 Nepal earthquake where over 10,000 people died and many more injured. Experiencing firsthand the force of mother nature and the carnage that it can cause, has certainly given me insight into having pre plans and resources in place to respond.

I am really looking forward to maintaining the excellent partner agencies and community relationships throughout the Mackenzie and the wider South Canterbury. My focus is to prepare the district the best I can for any major disaster events in collaboration with all the emergency services.

I am very privileged to be part of the Mackenzie Community. The one thing that has always stood out to me, especially when I was working in the Police was that our community is always there to help in any situation or tragedy.

## Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 8 March	Council Meeting	9.30am
Friday 18 March	Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee	9.30am
Tuesday 29 March	Audit and Risk Committee	9.30am
Monday 11 April	Twizel Community Board	3pm
Tuesday 12 April	Council Meeting	9.30am
Wednesday 13 April	Tekapo Community Board	3pm
Thursday 14 April	Fairlie Community Board	4.30pm
Friday 22 April	Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee	9.30am

COVID-19: Please note meetings may be re-scheduled or moved to zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please check our website for the latest information.

Committee meetings follow the preceding meeting and so start times will vary. The public are welcome to attend meetings. Occasionally times and venues change so please call and check beforehand. There is a public forum at the beginning of each Council and Community Board meeting and members of the public are invited to address Elected Members on relevant matters. Agendas are available on the Council website at least two working days before each meeting.

0800 685 8514

[mackenzie.govt.nz](http://mackenzie.govt.nz)

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