

# NEWSLINE

AUGUST 2021



## MAYOR'S COLUMN



In recent weeks, I've been asked multiple times about what Government's Three Waters Reform Programme means for both the Waimate District Council and that of the Waimate District. The long and short of that answer is, we simply do not know . . . in fact, nobody really does.

As a Council, we've continued to press Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta, the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and her parliamentary staff for further answers, but even now, there are still just too many questions left unanswered.

Many of you will have seen the public discussions and debates playing out in the media spotlight around these reforms, and for those who haven't, I can assure you in the next six to eight weeks, you will.

From our perspective here in Waimate, I want to be clear, as a Council we have not signed any agreement with the DIA and are in no way bound to any future decision making that arises within this programme.

Presently, there is a lot going on in this space and these reforms are being referred to as 'the biggest shakeup in the local government sector for 30 years' – and this is true.

But, what does it all mean, and how have we arrived at this point?

In August 2020, along with every other council nationwide, the Waimate District Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government, which in its initial stages entitled Council to stimulus funding of \$3.36 million (resulting in proposed work being brought forward and additionally some new projects). By signing this MoU, it's important to note Council has not opted-in to the reform programme and there is significant work and research still being carried out behind the scenes to filter through the screeds of information and data being put to councils by Government.

Essentially, the Government are looking to amalgamate New Zealand's water services into four super entities, meaning the existing 67 councils around the country will relinquish their council water infrastructure and no longer supply or manage water supply to their residents. As a Council, we have already questioned the data being used and continue to put pressure on the Government to provide both sides of the story and situation, rather than pushing ahead with a biased snapshot of the case at hand.

As I've said, there are still far too many questions left unanswered and at this point, we are yet to see any benefits to our district if this Council was to opt-in. However, with such a major decision looming, we require your collective voice and feedback – good, bad or ugly, and the conversation must start now.

The decision itself is one that we should not and will not underestimate its impact, the level of community consultation required and the decisions we as a council (on your behalf) will make in the best interests of our district moving ahead.

Therefore, we will be holding a public meeting on Monday 9 August (see below) at the Waimate Event Centre from 6.30pm. This meeting will discuss what these changes may or may not mean for the Waimate District, and more specifically, how they will affect you as a ratepayer and resident.

This is an issue that affects us all, so be sure to tell your family, neighbour, work colleagues and friends.

Come along and join the conversation.

## WAIMATE DISTRICT... THE DECISION IS YOURS



Waimate  
District Council

### YOUR ASSETS

\$70M worth of infrastructure

### YOUR WATER

highly ranked nationwide, second best tasting water in NZ and low cost of delivery

### YOUR FUTURE

- Understand how this will impact you and our district
- Come and hear both sides of the story – get answers to your questions
- Biggest shakeup of local government in 30 years

**Come and join the conversation.**

On behalf of Mayor Rowley, you are invited to the first public conversation on the Waimate drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services and assets being discussed as part of the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme and proposals.

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
Hosted by Waimate District Council

**MONDAY 9 AUGUST 2021, 6.30PM**  
Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street



P. +64 3 689 0000

E. [council@waimatedc.govt.nz](mailto:council@waimatedc.govt.nz)

W. [waimatedc.govt.nz](http://waimatedc.govt.nz)

## COUNCILLORS INCREASE OVERALL RATES INCOME

The Waimate District Council has opted to borrow additional funds and smooth the rates increase across the term of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP), agreeing to Council's preferred option as proposed in the Consultation Document.

In a unanimous decision at Wednesday's Council Meeting, Councillors agreed to increase the overall rates income to 9.9% in year one (2021/22), 7.6% in year two (2022/23), 6.8% in year three (2023/24) and 2.5% on average for years 4-10.

In making their decision, Mayor Craig Rowley spoke of Council's current ability to borrow at low levels and acknowledged the impact of a larger rates increase for ratepayers on a fixed income, such as Option 1.

"Anything above 10% would be unreasonable, therefore in our decision we must take into account the greater good of the district and not just those that have submitted," Mayor Rowley said.

"Commentary provided by submitters indicated that while some elements of Option 1, being the cheapest in the long term, were favoured, other commentary recognised the benefit of Option 2 with the smoothing over the period of the Long Term Plan.

"Council believes Option 2 is the most appropriate option to manage the impact on rates."

As part of Option 2, Council will have to borrow additional funds of approximately \$1.35 million, resulting in interest costs of around \$160,000 over the full 10 years of the LTP. Council intends to adopt the LTP by 31 August 2021.

## COUNCIL CATCH UP

At their latest Council Meeting, Council decided on some other important areas of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan, and took the opportunity to respond to some items that arose through the submission process. Here's a quick overview to help bring you up to speed.

### BUDGET APPROVED FOR LEARN TO RIDE BIKE PARK

Councillors have given the green light to establish a designated Learn to Ride Bike Park within Waimate. The project will be funded by the Subdivision Recreation and Reserve Fund, and will have a minor impact on rates. The location of the facility is yet to be determined. Council agreed to allocate \$50,000 towards the initiative.

### WAIMATE EVENT CENTRE RATES REMISSION TO REMAIN

In a split vote, Councillors agreed to retain the current rates remission for the Waimate Event Centre - meaning ratepayers who already contribute to a rural hall via targeted rates will continue to receive the \$14.50 remission, as proposed in the LTP consultation document. Council considered feedback received throughout the engagement process, as well as feedback provided by submitters, with the vote going the way of status quo, 5-4.

### STATION STREAM BRIDGE MAINTENANCE TO CONTINUE

Council have agreed to continue maintaining the Station Steam Bridge in the Hakataramea Valley on a temporary basis. At last month's Council meeting, Councillors were advised the bridge is on private property and was fast coming to the end of its useful life. Presently, Council maintain the bridge, but it was agreed that consultation with the landowner will take place soon in an attempt to arrive at a resolution going forward.

### RATES DELAY

For a range of circumstances, some outside of our control, Council's draft 2021-31 Long Term Plan has not yet been adopted. Legally, until Council adopts this, Council cannot set and assess the rates for the 2021/22 financial year (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.)

While the payment date for instalment 1 has been delayed to the end of September, it's important to remember the other instalment dates will remain the same. Naturally, this means there is a shorter timeframe leading up to the payment date for instalment 2, so please keep this in mind. Perhaps you could set aside the funds that would typically be used for the August payment to ensure there is a reduced impact on your finances come September.

For all enquiries, contact Council at 03 689 0000.

INSTALMENT 1	INSTALMENT 2	INSTALMENT 3	INSTALMENT 4
Period covered: 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021	Period covered: 1 October 2021 to 31 December 2021	Period covered: 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022	Period covered: 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022
Anticipated due date: 30 September 2021	Due date: 26 November 2021	Due date: 25 February 2022	Due date: 27 May 2022

(subject to adoption of the LTP)

## ESCAPE TO THE SHORES OF THE WAIMATE LAKES



With international travel restrictions still in place due to COVID-19, there's no better time to go back to basics, get out and explore your own backyard.

Camping is a time-honoured tradition for many Kiwi families and the Waimate District has camping grounds in some of the most spectacular places in the country. Whether it's the popular Waitangi, Te Akatarawa, Fisherman's Bend Reserve or Briar's Gully, there's plenty of space for everyone and this year is shaping up to be another bumper summer.

Along the shorelines of Lakes Aviemore and Waitaki, activities range from swimming, boating, water skiing, canoeing, picnics, tramping and fishing - with the Lakes providing an ideal place to get away from the everyday hustle and bustle, relax and enjoy.

But don't just take our word for it, grab the caravan, tent, campervan or house bus and experience it first hand this season. All campgrounds have toilets, porta-pottie stations and drinking water, and are well equipped with rubbish and recycling stations.

Grab your season ticket soon at Council's Main Office on Queen Street, White Horse Motors and Kurow Autos. Casual concession tickets are also available at the registration booths on site at the respective campground during the season.

With each season ticket, you will receive an information brochure to help familiarise yourself with the rules, guidelines and expectations. Take a moment to read through this, and if you have any questions, speak to our camp supervisor on site.

Above all, stay safe, respect others and most importantly, enjoy yourselves.



## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES NOW OPEN

Waimate District Council invite applications for financial assistance from clubs, groups and organisations within the Waimate District for the Heritage and Recreational Track Grants.

### Heritage Grant

Eligible projects include archaeological and traditional sites, buildings and sites with Historic Place classifications, notable and heritage trees and other buildings or sites the Council consider worthy of assistance. A maximum of \$1000 can be granted.

### Recreational Track Grant

Eligible projects include track signage, GIS mapping, development of new recreational tracks, improvement and/or maintenance of existing tracks.

The accountability form for previous funding must be completed.

### Enquiries and completed applications to:

Grants Administrator, PO BOX 122, Waimate, 7960 or Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street, Waimate. For all enquiries, phone 03 689 7771 or email [info@waimatedc.govt.nz](mailto:info@waimatedc.govt.nz)

### Applications close Tuesday 17 August 2021 at midday.

Please note, late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

