

## MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

With the local body elections now behind us, it is business as usual for Council as we embark on what will be a challenging three years ahead. Your new Councillors have now been sworn in and have been undergoing training and induction in the weeks following the election, and I have welcomed Waimate ward Councillor Sharyn Cain back to the role of Deputy Mayor.

Following Council's recent consultation on the Three Waters Better Off Funding, Council will now need to make a decision as to apply for tranche 1 of the funding, or not. For more information on this, you can visit Council's website [waimatedc.govt.nz](http://waimatedc.govt.nz), with a decision likely to be made as this column goes to print.

As I've said before, there are still many questions that are yet to be answered by Government and this complicates any decision-making processes. Last week, a new model was put to the Government by Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown, Christchurch Mayor Phil Mauer and Waimakariri Mayor Dan Gordon – backed by many other Councils, including this Council.

This new approach, which will see councils retain ownership of their three waters assets, could help bring the country together and may be a way forward to stop the divisiveness that we are seeing on this issue around the country. It is time to take a united approach to delivering water reform and it is important that everyone can come along on the journey to get there.

Through Communities 4 Local Democracy, we continue to have our say and remain a big part of this conversation going forward. As new information or updates come to hand, we will bring these to you through our standard communication channels.

In other news, the warmer weather has started to make an appearance and there's no better time to get up to the Waimate Lakes Camping Area on a spare weekend, or a planned getaway. However, if camping isn't really your thing, grab your togs, pack a picnic and enjoy the refreshing water at the Norman Kirk Memorial Swimming Pool – now open for the 2022/23 season.

Until next time, take care.

## REVISED TSUNAMI EVACUATION ZONES FOR WAIMATE DISTRICT

New tsunami modelling for the Mid and South Canterbury coastlines has seen a rollout of revised tsunami evacuation zones, with minor impact in the Waimate District. Environment Canterbury (ECan) commissioned the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences to complete multiple scenario tsunami modelling for the Mid and South Canterbury coastline, which has led to small changes to the existing tsunami evacuation zones in the Waimate District, which overall have reduced in size.

The red tsunami evacuation zone is most likely to be affected by a tsunami, even a small one. The zone includes estuaries, harbours, river mouths and now also includes beaches.

The orange tsunami evacuation zone, which includes low lying coastal land that could be flooded in a large tsunami, has been reduced in many places. Most notably, Makikihi east of State Highway 1 and Waitaki Huts, along with areas of farmland between Otaio and Morven Beach, have been removed from the orange zone as the modelling showed no inundation of these areas, even in a 'worst case' tsunami. The orange zone has been increased slightly at Otaio and the old St Andrews Golf Course. The orange zone now crosses State Highway 1 at these locations whereas previously the orange zone was entirely east of State Highway 1.

In the coming months, tsunami information boards formerly located at Galletlys Road, Hook Beach, Waihao Box and Glenavy will be replaced with new boards, detailing the revised tsunami evacuation zones. Plans are also underway to host a public meeting early next year, though details are yet to be confirmed.

To check if you work or reside within the revised tsunami evacuation zones, head to the tsunami evacuation zone webmap on Canterbury Maps at [canterburymaps.govt.nz](http://canterburymaps.govt.nz), and enter your address.

For more information, visit Council's tsunami page on [waimatedc.govt.nz](http://waimatedc.govt.nz)



## DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR WAIMATE CHRISTMAS CHILD

As Christmas draws nearer, Waimate District residents are being encouraged to get in to the giving spirit and support Waimate Christmas Child.

The annual initiative, now in its sixth year, is spearheaded by Mayoress Lyn Stringer, who has helped to coordinate hundreds of new and unwrapped gifts to families doing it tough every year during the festive season.

Reflecting on the success of the initiative, Lyn is thrilled with the community support, pointing out the collection and donations continue to grow every year.

"It is incredibly heartening how generous Waimate residents are when it comes to children at Christmas time," Lyn said.

"I love seeing the amazing gifts that are given for the children of families struggling for all number of reasons. In recent years, we have had beautiful books, toys and clothing for babies' right up to board games for families and hand-made creations... it has been incredible."

The initiative is in conjunction with Community Link, with all gifts wrapped and distributed to local families in need in the days leading up to Christmas Day. All donations can be left at Council's reception on 125 Queen Street, and must be there by midday on Friday 9 December. Any food items can be taken directly to Community Link.



## WASTE TO ENERGY PLANT CONSENT APPLICATION

Council have received resource consent applications from South Island Resource Recovery Limited for a proposed waste to energy plant near Waimate. The applications are being audited before any public notification begins.

The applicant has requested public notification from both Environment Canterbury and Waimate District Council so, once both agencies have completed the required audits, the proposal will be jointly notified and open for public submission. Members of the community will be able to make submissions and have their say during this part of the process.

Consent application documents can be found on our website.