

NEWSLINE

06 JULY 2023



Waimate
District Council

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

As we head in to the second half of this year, I have reflected on the months gone by and everything we have achieved so far. I want to express my gratitude to Council staff for their ongoing commitment and contribution to our district. Council has recently adopted two key documents: the Annual Report 2021/22 and the Annual Plan 2023/24. The Annual Report shines a bright light on the progress made by Council towards achieving the goals set out in the Long Term Plan. The Annual Plan on the other hand, sets out what Council will deliver in the next 12 months and how we will pay for it.

In recent weeks, we have seen several instances of Government ministers with financial conflicts of interest which could have compromised their ability to make independent decisions in the public interest. Elected members are required under the Local Government Act to annually file a pecuniary (financial) interest return and to amend their returns throughout the year should errors or omissions be identified. A summary of these financial interests, which include property, companies, employment and contracts, trusts, gifts and donations, are recorded in an "Elected Members' Interests Register" which is published on Council's website for public viewing. The register is to provide transparency and strengthen your trust and confidence in Council's processes and decision-making.

About two years back, central government set up the "Panel for the Review into the Future for Local Government". Last month, the panel published its final report with a suite of recommendations to change the way local government is structured and works. Council is currently reviewing the recommendations to understand their implications. While there is agreement that local government needs help in dealing with the enormous challenges we face; help cannot come at the cost of local voices in decision-making, which ignores the "Local" in Local Government.

Until next time, take care.

PROJECT KEA

On 20 June, Council unanimously adopted a motion to request the Minister for the Environment to "call in" the Project Kea resource consent applications for an energy from waste plant.

What does this mean?

The Minister for the Environment has the power to "call in" or take over any resource consent application which is deemed to be of national significance. The Minister then can either direct the application to the Environment Court or appoint a Board of Inquiry to process the application.

Why did Council make this decision?

Council staff have identified that Project Kea meets several criteria to be considered a project of national significance, namely:

- Significant public concern or interest regarding its actual or likely effect on the environment
- Involves or is likely to involve significant use of natural and physical resources
- Involves or is likely to involve technology, processes or methods that are new to New Zealand and that may affect its environment
- Is or is likely to be significant under section 8 of the Resource Management Act
- Affects or is likely to affect more than one region or district.

Council has considered the above reasoning, and the benefits and risks of moving ahead with the request. The application, if "called in", will have better resources and technical experts to assist with the process. In its request to the Minister, Council will also reiterate the need for local input and the opportunity for the community to have their voice heard.

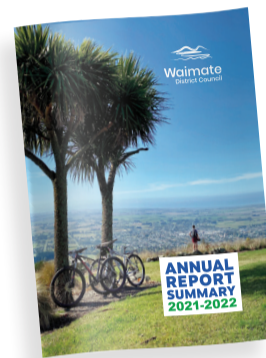
What happens next?

The day after Council adopted the motion Environment Canterbury adopted a similar motion. Both councils will request the Minister for the Environment "call in" or take over the Project Kea resource consent applications. However, until the Minister makes a decision, Council will continue processing the application. We will keep the public informed of all major updates about the application.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Council's recently adopted Annual Report for 2021/22 reflects how well Council has managed projects, services and financial performance against the original intentions of the first year of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. It provides a snapshot of its performance over the 2021/22 financial year and celebrates the key achievements.

Financially, Council recorded a surplus of \$2.461 million compared to a forecast deficit of \$1.208 million. This was largely due to increased water, sewer and subdivision contributions, increased subsidies and grants from Three Waters Stimulus Funding, increased fees and charges revenue, gains on sale of assets, reduced expenditure and electricity costs following a contract pricing and supplier review.



Some of our key achievements included upgrades to the roading and water infrastructure, installation of water meters to identify water loss, the implementation of the waste management contract and 100% dog registration.

The 2021/22 Annual Report is available at waimatedc.govt.nz or can be viewed at the Council reception.

ANNUAL PLAN 2023/24

Council adopted the 2023/24 Annual Plan on 20 June, which covers the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. The plan sets out what we'll deliver and how we'll pay for it.

Major projects set to get underway in the next 12 months include the library extension and the denitrification unit at the Glenavy water treatment plant.

A budget of \$2.92 million has been earmarked for roads and footpaths, and a further \$2.8 million will be invested in renewing and upgrading our water infrastructure to ensure safe drinking water for our residents.

The 2023/24 Annual Plan is available at waimatedc.govt.nz or can be viewed at the Council reception.



The Glenavy Recreation Reserve Planning Group
invites you
to the opening of the
Glenavy Recreation Reserve,
on Sunday 16 July, 11:30am,
at the Glenavy Reserve
car park

Followed by tea & coffee at the
Glenavy Hall and an
opportunity to discuss your ideas
for stage two of the Glenavy
Recreation Reserve project

Please RSVP by 13 July
to promotions@waimatedc.govt.nz



MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS



Lisa Dobson,
JobsHub Employment
Coordinator

Over the past 3 years, the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) programme in partnership with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), and funding from the Ministry of Social Development has helped countless people throughout the district in getting employment or getting employment ready. Council's MTFJ Employment Coordinator, Lisa Dobson, believes the programme has the potential to maximise opportunities for our youth and those disadvantaged in the labour market. The programme helps build knowledge, skills and relationships with ongoing benefit to youth, employers and communities in our district.

The programme has seen phenomenal success in helping young people with their driver licences. It helps them prepare for the learner licence theory test right through to their full licence. All young drivers are encouraged to take the Defensive Driving Course which instils good driving practices and makes them safe drivers.

On 24 May, the MTFJ programme held an Employment Fair at the Waimate Event Centre, designed to connect local job seekers and Waimate High School senior students with local businesses. The idea was for students to get exposure to local businesses, the industries, available roles, career pathways and opportunities. The two-hour event was a success with participation from 14 employers and over 75 visitors.

We would like to acknowledge the businesses that attended the event and shared their knowledge with our students. They were Waimate New World, Lister Home & Hospital, Headford Propagators Ltd, Kirk Irrigation, Idea Services, Waimate District Council, Silver Fern Farms, NZ Police, Ministry of Social Development Connected, Dairy Farmers Ben Smith and Bryson Hargreaves, Oceania Dairy Ltd and Building and Construction ITO.

Since its inception, the programme has helped people get over 150 full time roles, over 70 part time roles and over 75 casual roles in the Waimate District. The annual budget presented by central government in May pledged funding to extend the programme for 2 years, ensuring the momentum built over the past few years is further strengthened.



Over 75 visitors at the Employment Fair held at the Waimate Event Centre on 24 May.

HERITAGE AND RECREATIONAL TRACK GRANTS

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.

Please note, 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 email info@waimatedc.govt.nz or phone 03 689 7771.

Applications close Friday 28 July 2023 at midday.

Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

Let's chat About Dangerous & Insanitary Buildings

Council is proposing one change to both the Dangerous Buildings Policy and Insanitary Buildings Policy.

Tell us what you think. **Submissions are now open.**

Submissions close 12pm, Monday 7 August

To download the Consultation Document go to waimatedc.govt.nz/current-consultations, or collect a copy from Council's Main Office

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 4 July at 9:30am

Open Workshop
Long Term Plan Workshop
Waimate District Council Appeal Panel Meeting

Tuesday 18 July at 9:30am

Ordinary Council Meeting, commencing with Public Forum

Thursday 20 July at 1pm

Chief Executive's Performance Review Committee Meeting

Meetings are held in the Council Chamber, 125 Queen Street, Waimate, unless stated otherwise. Agendas are available on waimatedc.govt.nz at least two days prior to a meeting.

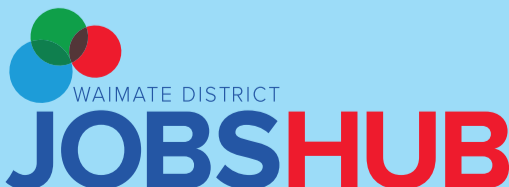
To receive a Microsoft Teams link, or to arrange to speak at the Public Forum please contact the Committee Secretary on karalyn@waimatedc.govt.nz or 03 689 0038.



Waimate
District Council



We are. **LGNZ.** | MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS
Te Kāhui Kaunihera o Aotearoa.



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