

NEWSLINE

10 AUGUST 2023



Waimate
District Council

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Less than nine weeks until the general election and the Central Government seems to be in a rush to get their water reforms passed through Parliament. The Water Services Entities Amendment Bill was open for public consultation for just under two weeks. The bill is a significant piece of legislation which will fundamentally alter Council's roles and responsibilities. Democracy cannot be rushed; however, with their water reforms, the Government seems overeager to sidestep the level of scrutiny that is required for a legislation of this scale.

Council, along with other members of the Communities 4 Local Democracy, made a submission to the Governance and Administration Committee asking the Government to pause and seek a public mandate for the reform at the coming election.

On behalf of Council, I want to assure you that regardless of the outcome of the election and the progression of the reforms, we will continue to maintain, repair and upgrade our water infrastructure to ensure that all residents have access to a robust water network and safe drinking water.

On a lighter note, I'm anticipating another amazing performance from the Waimate Theatre Group, when shows for their newest musical, Chicago, open on 11 August. This talented group amazes me with their highly acclaimed performances and continue to draw huge crowds from around the South Island. I encourage everyone to watch Chicago and support our local Waimate talent.

Until next time, take care.

RURAL WATER SCHEMES FOUR DAYS STORAGE REMINDER

Do you have enough water?

Unexpected interruptions can occur on any water supply. Natural hazards, weather or other unplanned events such as a damaged pipe can affect the supply and quality of water.

Some of the Waimate District rural water supply intakes draw raw water from local rivers and streams. When the quality of the source water deteriorates due to weather events, and becomes untreatable or disinfection is no longer effective, Council will follow a procedure of 'selective abstraction'. This means that the intake pumps will be turned off for a period of time until the source water can be treated and disinfected to a compliant level.

Council's 'Rural Water Schemes Water Supply Policy December 2011' requires all rural consumers to have storage capacity of no less than four times your daily water allocation. It is recommended that you allow four times your peak daily usage on your property if it is greater than your daily allocation. Therefore, in the instance of a supply outage such as 'selective abstraction', you will have enough water to see you through for four days.

The tank or tanks should be sized for a minimum of four days storage. For example, 1,500 litres per day x 4 days = 6,000 litres or greater.

To help monitor storage it is recommended to install a 'Tell Tale' water level indicator to show you how much stored water is available in the tank. It also gives warning of issues when there may be water loss through leaks or pipe damage on your property

If you have any queries, please contact Council on council@waimatedc.govt.nz or 03 689 0000.



THE DOT CAMPAIGN

In the last week of June, the library compiled over 850 school holiday packs consisting of booklets and goodies, and delivered them to all primary schools and early childhood centres across our district. The booklet had numerous exercises to encourage children to continue learning through their school holidays in a manner that was fun and engaging. Among other things, they were given a paper plate in their packs and were asked to decorate and bring it back to place on the butterfly wall in the library. All children who brought in beautifully decorated plates were given a prize. The campaign was inspired by the book "The Dot".

The overwhelmingly positive response to the campaign exceeded all our expectations.

By the end of July, not only did 850 children enjoy the activities in their packs, more than 160 brought their decorated plates back into the library. The plates added colour to our library butterfly wall. The sheer variety of colours, props, ideas and quirks on the plates vindicated the library's belief, "Learning can be and should be fun".

And best of all; we had over 30 new members sign-up for the library. We welcome our new library enthusiasts.

Libraries are so much more than just a collection of books. This campaign is proof of the immense potential that spaces like the library hold to impart knowledge, provide a safe and inclusive space for the community and promote learning as a lifelong pursuit.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 15 August at 11am

Ordinary Council Meeting,
commencing with Public Forum

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.

CREATIVE NZ COMMUNITIES GRANT



Council invites applications for financial assistance from clubs, groups and organisations within the Waimate District for the Creative NZ Communities Grant.

If you have an idea for a project that might support community involvement in the arts, engage young people in the arts or create cultural diversity in the arts - be sure to apply and tell us more.

Application forms and information are available from the Waimate Event Centre and at waimatedc.govt.nz - all enquiries can be made to the Grants Administrator on 03 689 7771.

All applications must be received by **12pm on Friday 8 September 2023** and sent to Grants Administrator, PO Box 122, Waimate 7960, emailed to info@waimatedc.govt.nz, or delivered to the Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street, Waimate.

To learn more, visit waimatedc.govt.nz/community/grants



RATES REBATES

You might be eligible for a rates rebate. Check the information below to see if you meet the criteria.

Overview

- The rates rebate is a partial payment toward your rates for eligible, low-income ratepayers.
- You can apply for a rates rebate once per year and, if eligible, get a rebate of up to \$750 which will be applied directly to your rates account.
- You can use the rates rebate calculator on govt.nz/rates-rebates to work out what you might get as a rates rebate.
- If you received a rebate in the previous rating year, you are on our mailing list to receive a form for the current rating year (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024).

What makes you eligible to apply?

There's a misconception that rates rebates only apply to pensioners – that is not the case. In fact, a rates rebate can apply to any low-income homeowner (subject to meeting the following criteria):

- You must be the legal ratepayer for the property, and you must be living in your home.
- You must declare and provide satisfactory proof of your income (if you are living with a partner or are a joint homeowner their income must also be included).
- You must provide an IRD Summary of Income for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The application

- The application form can be downloaded at govt.nz/rates-rebates or is available at Council reception.
- You have plenty of time to return your completed application to us as the rebate applications don't close until 30 June 2024.
- If you need assistance with the application, you can ask one of the friendly staff at reception for assistance or call 03 689 0000.

PAYING YOUR RATES ONLINE

Online payment methods enable you to pay your rates from the comfort of your home and may help you to avoid penalties for late payment. There are several ways to make online payments including:

Rates EasyPay – direct debit

- Rates EasyPay is a convenient way to pay rates. It is a low-risk method of payment and will ensure that your rates will not attract late payment penalties. You will still have full control over your rate account(s) and you can cancel the arrangement at any time.
- When you join the Rates EasyPay system you can choose your payment frequency. Payments can be weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly.
- After your request to join has been processed, you will receive a letter confirming your bank account details, commencement date, payment amount and frequency of your payments.
- On payment days, the payment amount will be automatically deducted from your bank account and the transaction will show up on your bank account statement.
- If there is a change in rates, your payment amount will be automatically adjusted – we will give you notice of any change.
- You can join the Rates EasyPay system by downloading the form from the Council website, or request one from Council reception.

Pay by credit card

You can pay online using your credit card. Visit the 'Pay Online' section on Council's website. Credit card service fees apply.

GET YOUR RATES NOTICE BY EMAIL

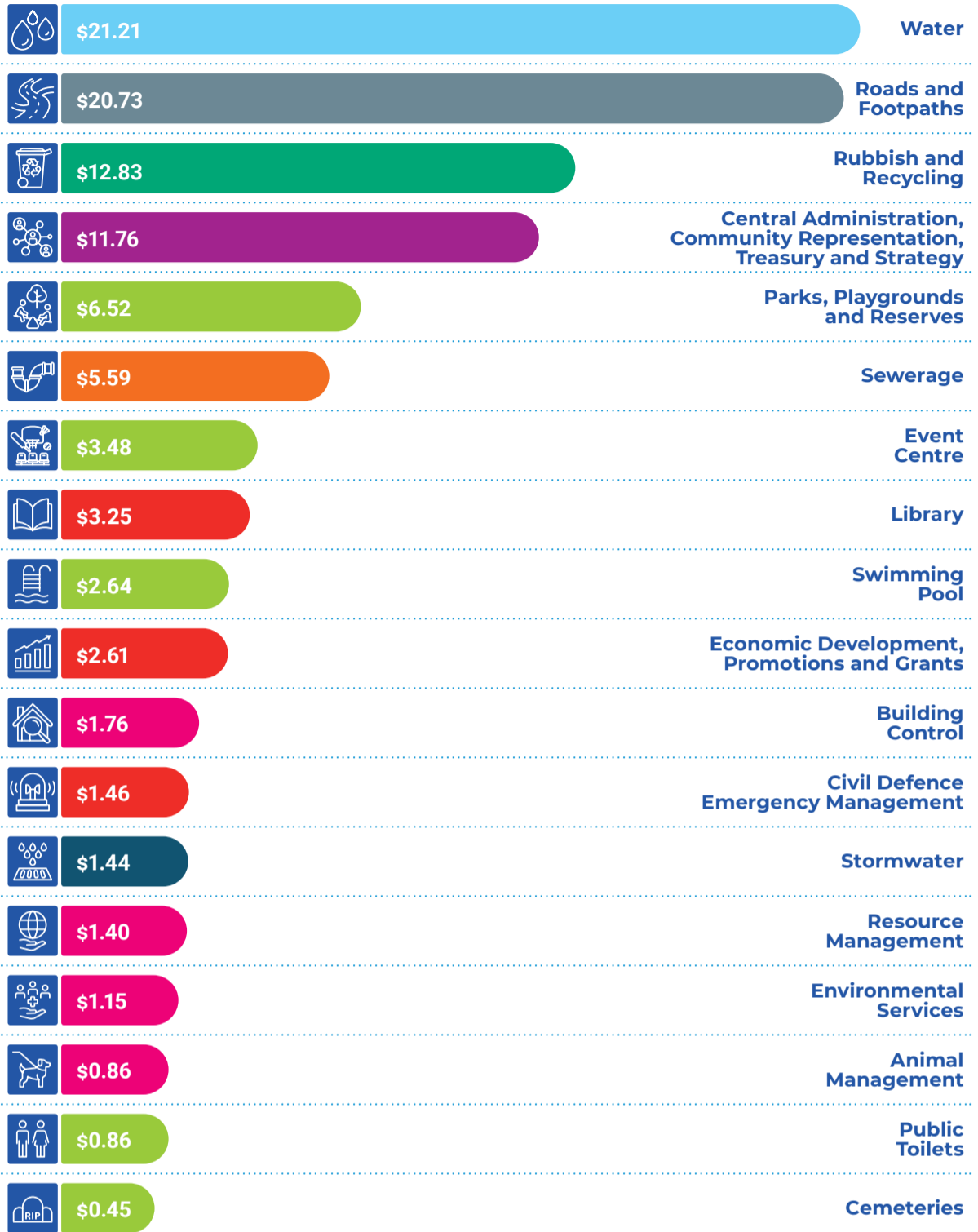
Help save paper, postage and the planet while making life just that little bit easier by choosing to receive your rates notice by email.

Email rates@waimatedc.govt.nz with your valuation number and we'll take it from there.

What \$100 of your rates will pay for in 2023/24



Waimate
District Council



EDWARD STREET WASTEWATER UPGRADE

The Edward Street wastewater upgrade aims to improve the capacity of our wastewater network during rain events and provide resilience for the future expansion of the Waimate Township. The project is contracted to Rooney Earthmoving Limited and is expected to start early August, progressing in phases through to November. It will start within the Bushtown heritage site and cover Dobson Street, Wilkin Street, Edward Street and High Street. The project will replace the existing wastewater line with a larger diameter pipeline.

- **August: Bushtown heritage site**
- **Early September: Dobson and Wilkin Streets**
- **Late September to early October: Edward Street**
- **Late October to early November: High Street**

In 2021, Council conducted a study on the existing wastewater system. The study found that too much stormwater was getting into the system and causing problems. This project will address the immediate challenge while also supporting the long-term vision of the community to build a future-proof network.

Next steps that Council will take include:

- Identifying and replacing our aged wastewater network in key areas of the township.
- Identifying and managing stormwater inflow into the wastewater network.

Things to remember:

- There will likely be road closures when work is progressing through intersections.
- Traffic management will be in place to ensure the safety of both the workers and road users.
- There could be construction noise during working hours between 7am to 6pm. Workers might arrive at the site earlier to set-up the machinery.
- Some residents might be asked to avoid using their toilets and bathrooms for a short period of time when the project directly impacts them. Residents will be notified prior to their connection going on to the new network infrastructure.

