

NEWSLINE

2 NOVEMBER 2023

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

The election is over, but the dust is still yet to settle on the makeup of our next government.

While it is a welcome change to not be bombarded with election chat and advertising there is still a way to go before we have clarity on the extent of the changes.

National has said pre-election that it will repeal the Three Waters reforms in the first 100 days. As we have pointed out, these proposals were an example of Wellington overextending its reach. Taking away these core services from local hands would have had a detrimental impact to our entire district.

However, we know that election promises can be easy to make when you are not in Government. We are monitoring the situation closely to see what the impacts will be and how we can best respond to the changes when they do occur.

Also, a quick reminder nominations for the District's Civic Awards are **closing at 12pm on Friday 10 November**. Have a think about whether someone you know is deserving of recognition for the work they do.

Until next time, take care.

LONG-TERM LENS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICER

Creating a better world for future generations is at the centre of Council's new climate change officer's role. Andrew Oliver, who started the job in September, says the crux of the job is to facilitate a climate change strategy which works for the Waimate District.



Andrew Oliver

In the role he will be actively engaging with the community to facilitate a strategy which best suits the local needs. A public engagement seminar will take place early next year. The climate response must take a long-term approach and take notice of environmental, social, economic, and cultural factors, he said.

Andrew, who has a Master of Science degree, said the district's strategy has to be based on strong evidence about how to best respond to climate change. "It must be based on robust science and be for the people, by the people. It's scary where we are going, there have been five big mass extinctions on the planet so far and a rapid change in climate was a key signature behind all of them. Today is the most rapid change in climate we've seen since the extinction of the dinosaurs. It also makes economic sense to take notice of the science and trends it is imposing on markets. A stable climate underpins the Waimate District's long-term prosperity."

Andrew has previously worked as a teacher for 16 years and as an educator for the Department of Conservation.

He has called Waimate home since 2011 and is actively involved in the Friends of Studholme Bush who are restoring Studholme Bush for the whole community to enjoy.

SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

The Waimate Christmas Child initiative is again aiming to ensure no child misses out on waking up to presents on Christmas morning.

While Christmas can be one of the highlights of the year, it can also put extra strain on families already struggling to make ends meet.

Community Link operations manager Jakki Guilford says she has noticed a greater than usual demand from families for basic necessities such as paying bills and buying food without extra pressure such as Christmas. "We have a cost-of-living crisis and all it takes is for one extra expense to come in and it can be a tipping point."

This is the seventh year of the initiative led by Mayoress Lyn Stringer and every year she is "blown away" by the response.

"The capacity of this community to give is just phenomenal," Mayoress Lyn says. "We have parents coming into Council's foyer with their children to donate gifts, and it is a really valuable lesson. Christmas is about giving as well as getting. Ours is a district that cares, and it shows the very best of who we are."

The initiative takes referrals from a wide range of social services, and it is important to note that all the gifts are given to families within the Waimate District.

Gifts need to be brand new, unwrapped, and can be dropped off at the Waimate District Council reception by **12pm on Friday 8 December**.

Last year, 76 packages of presents were distributed.



INJECTION OF FUNDING FOR COUNCIL

The Waimate District Council has signed the contract to receive its share of the Three Waters "Better Off Funding".

Council initially declined to accept tranche 1 of the funding from the Department of Internal Affairs due to its absolute opposition to the Three Waters Reform and the understanding that if the Three Waters Reform were to proceed Council would then have access to the combined tranches 1 and 2 funding package.

In May, Council reversed its earlier decision due to the Government's cancellation of tranche 2 of the funding. Therefore, the only available option to ensure the community was not denied funding, was to accept the \$2.42 million on offer.

The following projects have been approved for funding.

- \$130,000 for a Learn2Ride area which provides a safe place for children to learn to cycle.
- \$183,100 for the Waimate urban overland flow and flood mitigation initiative that will identify and protect overland flow paths and reduce the number of homes susceptible to flooding.
- \$48,658 for the installation of an emergency generator for the Local Government Centre/Library.
- \$448,800 for new public toilets in Glenavy and St Andrews.
- \$5,500 for a comprehensive analysis of Council's greenhouse gas emissions.
- \$218,992 to re-roof community housing in Kennedy Crescent which will reduce heating costs and modernise the buildings.
- \$18,000 for native tree planting throughout the reserves in Waimate.
- \$177,953 for footpath extensions in the Waimate urban areas to improve pedestrian safety.
- \$221,560 for sealing the intersection/hill section of Centrewood Park Road to improve access to the White Horse Monument.
- \$67,437 to produce a district promotional video to attract visitors and support businesses to attract employees to the area.
- \$900,000 towards the Library extension and Council Chamber upgrade which will also include relocating the Information Centre to the Library.

Waimate District Council Mayor Craig Rowley said it was great that the money had been secured.

"This will be a huge benefit to our community and will enable the Council to proceed with projects that either would not have occurred or had to be funded through rates," he said.

"I look forward to the upgrades and benefits that this will bring."

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 21 November, 9.30am

Ordinary Council Meeting
commencing with Public Forum,
and Open Workshop

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.

DISTRICT TOPS SURVEY

Waimate residents rate their quality of life higher than anywhere else in the country according to the resident's survey. The survey, carried out every two years, was undertaken by Key Research earlier this year, and selected a sample of 404 respondents.

Council has an ongoing need to measure how satisfied residents are with resources, facilities and services provided by the Council, and to prioritise improvements which will be valued by the community.

Compared to the other councils in New Zealand surveyed, overall satisfaction with the Waimate District Council remains high. Overall perceived quality of life in the district was 88% – the most of any district in the country.

In overall performance, reputation, core serviceable deliveries, value for money, enquiry handling and performance of Mayor and Councillors – satisfaction levels were well above the national benchmarking figures average.

In 13 of the 36 metrics, Waimate was perceived as the top performer in the country and in 33 metrics, satisfaction was ranked above the national average.

The biggest improvements from the 2021 survey were noted in waste management. For the regular rubbish collection services – 85% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the service, compared with 68% two years ago. The rate of satisfaction was the highest in New Zealand. Council's recycling service registered an improvement from 64% to 80%, while overall waste management jumped from 62% to 77%. These were largely due to the implementation of the new bin system.

Mayor Craig Rowley congratulated the staff on the work they were doing and overall showed the Council was delivering its core services to a high standard. "Everything is not going to be perfect all the time, but it shows as a Council we are doing the basics

well and continuing to look at how we can keep improving."

The full version of the survey is available to view on the Council's website.



NO MĀORI WARD FOR DISTRICT

Waimate District Council will not implement a Māori Ward as part of its representation review.

To achieve fair and effective representation local authorities are required by the Local Electoral Act 2001 to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years. This addresses the total number of councillors there should be for the district and the way they are elected.

This was the Waimate District's first review since a change in legislation which made it easier for Māori to have fairer representation. Prior to 2020/21, there were three councils with Māori wards or constituencies but as of 2022, there are 35 across the country.

However, the population of Māori in the Waimate District supplied by Local Government Commission is 320. This remains well below the threshold to require a Māori Ward. Currently all eight councillors represent between 1010 and 1080 constituents each.

Waimate will not have a Māori Ward for the 2025 and 2028 Local Government Elections.

Beside are the population figures per ward as supplied by the Commission.

Ward	Population	Councillors	Population per Councillor
Hakataramea-Waihaorunga	1,030	1	1,030
Pareora-Otaio-Makikihi	2,020	2	1,010
Lower Waihao	1,050	1	1,050
Waimate	4,230	4	1,058
Total	8,330	8	1,041



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXERCISE

Last month, several council staff took part in a South Canterbury Civil Defence training exercise.

The staff assisted Mackenzie and Timaru District Councils in their emergency management response to a mock weather event. The session was one of several in which Council staff have been upskilling themselves to best respond to any future civil defence emergencies which take place.

Should a state of emergency be declared, Council becomes the centre of emergency management for the district and staff take up pre-assigned roles to manage the situation.



About the Interim Speed Management Plan

Have your say on Council's proposed speed limit changes.

Submissions close 12pm on Monday 13 November

Download the Consultation Document at waimatedc.govt.nz/speedplan, or collect a copy from Council's Main Office.

About dogs

Have your say on the proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw.

Submissions close 12pm on Tuesday 7 November

Download the Consultation Document at waimatedc.govt.nz/dogs, or collect a copy from Council's Main Office.

Council Community Meeting Cannington-Maungati

**Wednesday 15 November 2023, 7pm
Maungati Hall**

An opportunity for residents to engage and talk to your Mayor and Councillors. Come and discuss what's on your mind. Residents are invited to forward agenda items to Cr Sandy McAlwee on 027 475 6288 or sandy.mcalwee@waimatedc.govt.nz