

NEWSLINE

4 JULY 2024



MAYOR'S COLUMN



Hello to you all and welcome to this month's edition of Newsline.

One topic which has loomed over councils for the past few years is how we manage our water services – drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

We had strong opposition to the now-scrapped three waters legislation and now a reformed version, the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill is being considered by the Government. While we all want to ensure the future security of our water services, I have made a submission to the Bill which outlines some concerns Council has around some points of the proposal.

Mayor Craig Rowley

Currently, I believe the Bill does not give councils enough time and resources to deliver the plans. The issues facing a rural council like ours and a big city council are different and this needs to be recognised.

The Bill must consider the capacity and capability of the communities it will serve and will not exacerbate already existing serious problems of affordability of council rates and charges. If we have fantastic water services but a massive cost increase, it will be a case of the cure being worse than the sickness. The Government must listen to concerns of its communities, or we will be no better off than the previous proposal.

A full copy of my submission is available to view on Council's website under the Services 'Local Water Done Well/Three Waters Reform' tab.

Until next time, take care.

SAFER SPEEDS INTRODUCED

Safer speed areas for Waimate have been given the green light and are now in place.

The changes are a result of Waimate District Council's Speed Management Plan, which was approved by Council last year and now by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. New road signs reflecting the new limits have been erected.

Waimate District Council Roading Manager Rob Moffat said the plan prioritised the safety and wellbeing of community members by targeting schools and other high-risk locations. "These locations were identified through public feedback and supported by research that showed we could implement safer speed limits while maintaining travel journey efficiency," he said.

"By implementing these changes, we aim to enhance road safety and ensure streets are places where people feel safe to walk, ride, cycle, scoot, and drive."

The plan was divided into three focus areas. The first was to reduce the speed limit around most schools in the area to 30km/h. The second focus area involved reducing speeds on five roads in recreational and industrial areas. Limestone Hills Road, Cooneys Road, Centrewood Park Road, and a section of Parkers Bush Road are 40km/h, and a section of Mill Road has been reduced to 60km/h. The third focus area was the Central Business Area, with the streets around Queen Street between Rugby Street and the Council main office reduced to 30km/h. Queen Street itself is part of State Highway 82 and is administered by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, so the speed limit will remain at 50km/h.

Mayor Craig Rowley said when considering the proposal, a slight increase in travel time was worth it to increase the safety of our roads. "These are not long stretches of roads with reduced speeds and will not add significant times to trips."

Maps showing the changes are available to view on waimatedc.govt.nz/speedplan

LIBRARY EXTENSION AND COUNCIL CHAMBERS REFURBISHMENT TAKING SHAPE

Work is progressing well on this flagship Council project. The external work is almost completed and the internal aspects are well underway.



GRANTS FUNDING AWARDED

Successful applicants for the latest round of the Community Grant, Sports Grant and Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund have been announced for Waimate.

A total of \$30,418.30 was awarded across the three grants. The full list of recipients is shown below.

Community Grant

- Waimate Pottery Group – \$1,234.30 to purchase a new pottery wheel
- Project Waimate – \$3,085 towards the Waimate Winter Festival community event

Sports Grant

- Waimate Basketball Association – \$4,600 towards two secondary school pupils to participate in the Under 16 and Under 13 Girls Las Vegas Basketball Tournament in July
- Waimate Disc Golf – \$1,190 to assist with bringing two tournament directors to run the Knottingley Park Giants Disc Golf Tournament
- Waimate District Hunt – \$926.96 to purchase materials to reinforce fences for safe jumps

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund (all for travel costs)

- Waimate Athletics Club - \$1,713.60
- Waimate Junior Soccer Club - \$7,020
- Waimate Rugby Football Club - \$1,500
- Waimate High School Rugby - \$1,694.56
- Waimate High School Netball - \$2,946.80
- Waimate High School Basketball - \$2,946.80
- Waimate High School Hockey - \$1,560.28

Council receives applications on a six-monthly basis, typically in April and October each year. Each funding round is advertised when it becomes available.

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 \$1,000 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 at 12pm on Thursday 25 July 2024.

Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted.



RESOURCE OUTLINES WAYS TO LIVE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Timaru and Waimate District Councils have collaborated to launch a new resource for helping people lessen their impact on the climate and deal with some of the increasing effects of climate change.

To coincide with World Environment Day last month, the Councils released 'Personal Responses to a Warming Planet'. Copies are available to purchase for \$5 at Waimate District Council's reception or can be downloaded at waimatedc.govt.nz/climate

The short guide gives practical everyday advice on issues such as transport, food and running your home, and includes links to additional sources of reputable information such as Government agencies and university websites.



Timaru District Council Mayor Nigel Bowen and Waimate District Council Mayor Craig Rowley.

Timaru District Council Climate Change Advisor Rhys Taylor and Waimate District Council Climate Change Advisor Andrew Oliver worked together alongside artist Polly Rabbits Illustration to develop the guide.

"For some there may be an expectation that climate change is something that either happens overseas, or it's something that is still to happen here in the future. In reality, human induced climate change is here now, although for most of us it probably looks pretty much like any other day here in South Canterbury," Andrew said.

"We're immersed in a changing climate; we often don't spot the longer term trends. Parts of the east coast of New Zealand have experienced their driest autumn since records began. Climate science is suggesting these increased dry spells will become a trend."

ANNUAL PLAN ADOPTED

Council adopted the Annual Plan 2024/25 at an Extraordinary Council Meeting last week. This was scheduled to be the first year of the Long Term Plan 2024-34, however due to uncertainty around Government reforms and direction, Council produced the Annual Plan for 2024/25 and a nine-year Long Term Plan will be created next year.

There will be an overall rates increase of 13.6%, a slight decrease on the 13.8% that was proposed and consulted on with our community.

Council received 34 submissions from the public, and 10 of those spoke at the submission hearings.

In light of the challenging economic climate and feedback from the community, Council decided to remove the Boland Park Learn to Ride project from Council's list of projects. The survey and detailed design already done for the project will be made available to any community group that may wish to progress the project.

The removal of the project would enable Council to redirect \$130,000 from Government's Better Off Fund towards Local Water Done Well activities.

Mayor Craig Rowley said while removing this project would only make a very small saving for ratepayers, the overall rates increase was not due to ambitious projects but reflected the increased costs to Council's core business. "We are aware this comes at a financially difficult time for some people, unfortunately we are not immune to inflation and bear many of the same cost pressures as everyone else."

"Costs have increased on all fronts. Water, roading, waste management, and Government compliance, are some of the services which Council needs to provide and have all become much more expensive. This plan is one that allows us to maintain current levels of service and prioritises looking after our existing assets."

Council wants to thank everyone who took the time to make a submission and those who spoke to their submission at the hearing.

The full Annual Plan 2024/25 document is available to view on Council's website.



Bookings
can be made by
calling 03 689 0000
or at Waimate District
Council's reception
at 125 Queen
Street, Waimate.

Celebrate MATARIKI in Waimate

Saturday 6 July 2024

Come along and spend a day of learning and fun to mark the beginning of the Māori New Year

Programme

- **5:30am:** community bus leaves from outside Norman Kirk Memorial Swimming Pool for the White Horse (limited seats, booking required)
- **6am:** Hautapu ceremony at the White Horse
- **7:30am:** complimentary breakfast (hot drink, soup, bacon butty and sausages)
- **9am to 2pm:** Waimate Community Market at Seddon Square
- **10am to 2pm:** free workshops at Seddon Square (4 x 1-hour sessions each, booking required)

Te Reo Māori – learn words, phrases and the history of our local hapu and their significance in Waimate

Raranga – learn flax weaving and leave with your own woven piece

- **5:30pm to 8pm:** movie night at Seddon Square, **Frozen Reo Māori**. Bring your seat, blankets and dress warm

Supported by:

 Te Rūnanga o **Waihao**

 **Waimate**
District Council



COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETING

Pareora-Otaio-Makikihi Ward

Monday 22 July 2024, 5pm, Makikihi Hotel

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 either:

Cr Tom O'Connor:

03 612 6755, tom.oconnor@waimatedc.govt.nz

Cr Sandy McAlwee:

027 475 6288, sandy.mcalwee@waimatedc.govt.nz

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 9 July

- 9:30am - Open Workshop
- 1pm - Extraordinary Council Meeting (submission hearings and decisions on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024-2030)

Tuesday 23 July

- 11am - Ordinary Council Meeting (commencing with a Public Forum)

Meetings are held at the Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street, Waimate.

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.