

Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031 Progress Update

Mackenzie District Council has indicated that the preparation of the 2021 - 2031 Long Term Plan has been delayed and will miss the deadline for adoption by the end of June.

The Long Term Plan (LTP) is a requirement of the Local Government Act which outlines all the processes a council undertakes and how they fit together. LTP's include information on activities and services provided by a council, and specific funding and financial management policies and plans.

Council invited assessors from CouncilMark to audit our performance in 2018, and they made several recommendations that we are working to implement. In summary we need to take a more holistic view, and move away from an 'ad-hoc' decision making process to a position where we can take a more strategic approach. We must also address years of underfunding and improve our compliance focus. These recommendations have resulted in an ongoing process of organisational change and transformation which will ultimately ensure Council is better able to provide for the needs of the communities we serve'.

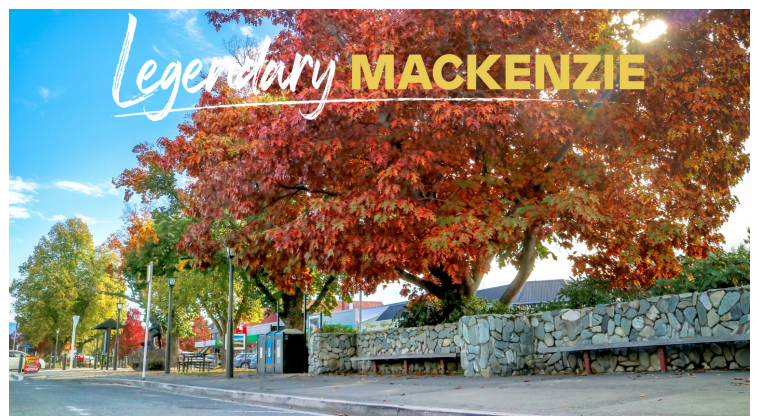
In addition to the workload created by the transformation process, which includes engaging our communities to develop several new strategic documents to prepare for growth and inform future investment, several external factors have

significantly impacted the LTP process. It is important that we take the time to create a plan that will help us deliver the outcomes needed to move the District forward and will satisfy audit requirements. Recovery from the impact of COVID-19 is being factored into all future planning, and tight timescales around the government's three water reform program have been resource intensive and created significant uncertainty. Councils are also addressing resource management reforms in addition to the ongoing climate change response.

'This perfect storm of internal and external factors has meant that despite the best efforts of our small team, we are unable to complete the process in time for adoption by June 30' said van Aswegen.

While Council strives to meet deadlines we are a very small team and the need to understand and respond to the changing regulatory environment places a significant burden on staff and our communities who ultimately foot the bill. But it is important that we create a LTP that reflects the long-term requirements for the District, incorporates a prudent and sustainable financial strategy and delivers the infrastructure and services that our communities need. We expect to release the consultation document in a few weeks time and encourage you to give us feedback.

Graham Smith, Mayor & Suzette van Aswegen, CEO



From the Mayor's Desktop



It is great to see travel bubble starting to open and I feel, provided we have Snow & Ski tourists from Australia, it will be good for vendors this winter. Mayors Task Force for Jobs, which we receive Government funding for, has assisted businesses and job seekers in finding employment. Nineteen have been placed locally in Mackenzie, but we still have a real shortage of skilled personnel to work in our many and varied businesses.

Te Manahuna Ki Uta – Destination Mackenzie is an MBIE funded study of the Mackenzie District so that there is a plan in place for it to be managed and protected in a sustainable manner for the next 50 to 100 years, and it's progressing very well. We have great support and understanding from all parties involved of which there are many, and we're about to launch into engagement and consultation with our ratepayers' and residents soon.

Our District Plan review is well underway. I thank all of you whom have contributed in a positive manner at our spatial planning sessions. This is the time to have your say on what it is you'd like our District Plan to deliver. My thanks to our Planning Team whom have worked very hard to formulate the information and coordinate your contributions in such an effective way.

Although building consents are down, there is still a lot happening in Mackenzie. I am proud to say that MDC passed its Building Accreditation and is achieving 100% processing within time. This should give confidence to our Construction Sector in the MDC team.

The Government's intention in the 3 waters reform, (Drinking, Waste, and Storm water) is creating much debate. We have put every effort into understanding the situation for Mackenzie

and what it is going to mean to ratepayers as we go forward with new legislation and rules with respects to these. The Government is determined on centralization and scale. Our bottom lines are:

- Concern that we will maintain a voice in influencing how services are delivered to our District;
- Concern over cost increases to our communities and potential inequality between Urban/Rural delivery and treatment;
- How our standard assets are going to be transferred to the new agency at a genuine replacement cost ;
- Management of our three waters makes for 20% of our rate intake and without this, it will place pressure on our viability.

I have major concerns over what looks to be Governments shift towards centralization of New Zealand and the future for Local Government. 88% of public expenditure is now controlled by NZ central Government as opposed to 70% in the UK and 12% in Switzerland. The average throughout the world be around 40%.

It is wonderful to see so many people and families out enjoying our cycleways and tracks through the school holidays which is certainly a growth area in Mackenzie and is attracting plenty of visitors.

This Autumn has been unseasonably dry for our farmers. Meat companies have played their part in helping prioritise stock movements in dry areas but it is going to be a long winter. Please look out for your neighbours and remember the Rural Support Trust is there to help. It's always good to talk and be sure to stay warm and safe over the 2021 Winter season.

Mayor Graham



Planning for the future of Mackenzie's parks, trails, facilities and amenities.

The Mackenzie District has many local parks, reserves, trails and open spaces for locals and visitors to enjoy. They play a big part in what makes the area a great place to live and visit. We know there are a number of underdeveloped recreation spaces and that many of our trails have developed organically over time. Some of these trails are also not well-known or well signposted. We also know that providing more connections, seating, shade or facilities like water fountains, furniture and toilets could make these spaces even better. If we improve our parks, trails, playgrounds and public toilets, locals and visitors would want to use these places more often. That's why we're developing the Mackenzie District Parks, Trails, Facilities and Amenities Strategies and we need your help.

By developing these strategies, we'll set out what we'll do with our parks, reserves, trails, open spaces and facilities in the Mackenzie District, including those communities outside of the main townships, over the next 10 to 20 years.

It will provide an action plan for what we'll focus on, what the priorities are and when we deliver each of the projects, making sure funding is allocated in the right places, at the right time. This also means developing a programme of work which will guide investment through the Long Term Plan, annual budgets and the Land Development Fund.

By creating a strategy, we'll be able to:

- Understand how we meet the needs of the people who use the parks, trails and facilities now and how we can meet the needs of locals and visitors who'll use them in the future;
- Understand how we'll be able to fund, manage and operate our parks, trails and facilities;
- Make sure funding is made available in the right areas and at the right time.

You can take the survey on our engagement website, or place a pin on a map and add a comment to show us a place that's important to you, or an opportunity for future development.

Your feedback is valuable to us and you can get involved at www.lets.talk.mackenzie.govt.nz.

**Let's talk
Kōrero mai
Mackenzie**

Community Boards

All you need to know about Community Boards - what are they and who are they?!

Community Board members are elected to look after local interests and to be a link between the community and the Council. Community Boards were established to enable communities to have a voice in decisions affecting them and to ensure people have their say on local issues.

Decision Making

Community Boards have limited decision making powers - which are delegated to them by Councillors. Details of these powers are detailed in the Community Board Standing Orders, which can be found on the council's website.

Advocacy Role

The advocacy role involves creating or changing policies, plans, regulations or the way in which decisions are made, such as the allocation and distribution of resources. Community boards have a number of tools that they can use to be effective advocates and "act in the best interests" (Oath of Office) of their communities, for example:

- Making submissions to council policies and planning documents, regional council policies and plans, and legislation and departmental consultation documents;
- Direct lobbying of councillors and committees as well as other individuals of influence;
- Commissioning research and surveys; and
- Developing communication programmes to change opinions.

Twizel Community Board

Jacqui de Buyzer (Chairperson)
027 383 5695
jacqui.debuyzer@xtra.co.nz

Amanda Sargeant
021 292 0990
amanda.sargeant@gmail.com

Renee Rowland
027 464 5062
reneerowland@gmail.com

Tracy Gunn
021 444 583
tracey@highcountrysalmon.co.nz

Emily Bradbury
021 244 2626
emily.bradbury@mackenzie.govt.nz

Fairlie Community Board

Les Blacklock (Chairperson)
027 252 2227
theteds1955@gmail.com

Damon Smith
021 065 4062
damonsmithy@gmail.com

Leaine Rush
021 055 4844
joeandleaine@gmail.com

Angela Habracken
027 252 2227
ajgrant6@hotmail.com

Murray Cox
027 685 5650
murray.cox@mackenzie.govt.nz

Tekapo Community Board

Steve Howes (Chairperson)
021 123 4567
steve@tekapore.com

Sharron Binns
027 572 5063
admin@bpworks.co.nz

Chris Scrase
021 078 9608
chris@scrase.com

Carol Simcox
027 235 6722
carollsimcox@gmail.com

Matt Murphy
021 0231 5773
matt.murphy@mackenzie.govt.nz