



Mackenzie District Council COVID19 Economic & Community Recovery Action Plan



A summary of the actions Mackenzie District Council will undertake as we work with our communities, key stakeholders and partner agencies to recover from the impact of COVID-19 whilst ensuring we balance the needs of the environment, the needs of our communities, and the need for appropriate economic growth and development.

NOW—Our Immediate Response

Leading Civil Defence in the Mackenzie District to ensure comprehensive local welfare support

Council is leading a local Civil Defence response from our activated Emergency Operations Centre and is coordinating with Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Management, and other agencies to ensure our community is empowered to access the support they need.

Refunding consent fees

Full refunds will be offered to anyone who wants to cancel a building consent or resource consent application in progress that was lodged after March 1st 2020.

Create local jobs with local projects

Council are investigating bringing forward or increasing parts of the District's capital investment programme to stimulate local business and create jobs. This includes applying for additional funding through government economic stimulus packages.

Establish a community-led business development forum

Council would facilitate establishing a Mackenzie Economic Recovery Advisory Group inviting key business and community stakeholders to participate in the development and implementation of a plan to rebuild and grow the local Mackenzie District economy.

Rates Remission and Rates Postponement Policies

Council continue to manage requests for rates postponement and remission guided by the Rates Remission and Rates Postponement Policies. These allow both business and residential ratepayers experiencing financial hardship to apply for remission of rates penalties or postponement of rates payment.

Fast-track (10-working-day target) Resource Consent Process

For non-notified resource consent applications that would generate employment.

Financial contributions deferral

To allow developers to defer contribution payments until

works reach a certain stage or, for example sub-divided properties are available to the market. Working flexibly with developers on payment plans and delivery of underlying infrastructure.

Deliver building inspections remotely

Using video technology to speed consent process, keep staff, builders and the public safe - and reduce costs.

Improving Procurement Policy

Reinforce support for local businesses with a specific mandate to allow consideration of bids from local businesses to provide Council services with up to a 15% higher price than proposals from suppliers outside the district.

Urgent revision of tourism marketing

Working with our Regional Tourism Organisation, Christchurch NZ, to finalise an immediate tourism marketing response plan.

Helping businesses

Ramp up business and financial support services for Mackenzie businesses via South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce.

Engage Department of Conservation

Working with one of our biggest visitor services providers to stay aligned with impact responses. DoC is reviewing options to help businesses that operate from public conservation land.

Using the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to lobby for support

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum has been meeting weekly since mid-March and will continue to advocate for Mackenzie District interests and lobby for increased support and recognition from central agencies.

Launch Mackenzie Open For Business website

In partnership with Aoraki Development, Council to develop and launch a self-service website for Mackenzie businesses to let the community know who's open, what services and available and how to interact with them.

NEXT THREE MONTHS — Short/Medium Term Recovery

Waiving of late rates payment penalties

The option to waive or reduce late payment fees help for residents and business suffering extreme hardship will be included in the revised annual plan.

Incorporate a community recovery lens in our grant funding policy

Council will look to prioritise grant applications which contribute to community recovery from the effects of COVID-

Bringing forward 3 Waters and Rooding projects

Completing a review of capital works and scheduled maintenance to bring work forward and to investigate alternative funding options. Currently focus is on township footpath improvements and water infrastructure maintenance.

Examine policies and processes to ensure Council can assist ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship

Council will examine ways in which it can soften the financial impact felt by our community through a proactive and more lenient approach in the application of our existing rates payment policies and development of new policies identified.

Review regulatory and compliance framework to develop fast-track processes

To help alleviate hardship and provide opportunities to provide economic stimulus. Options under consideration are to reduce or defer Liquor/Health licensing fees for impacted businesses and to review changes to other fees for the potential to reduce hardship.

Mackenzie Recovery Forum underway

Working in conjunction with Council and the recovery programme the forum will sponsor, assess and assist business initiatives to get under way. Recruiting an Economic Development Manager within Council to develop and drive a strategy in co-ordination with district stakeholders.

Commercial rent relief

Businesses leasing Council-owned properties will, on a case-by-case basis, be able to apply for commercial rent relief if trading is COVID19-related impacted.

Community Development

Potentially employing a Community Development Manager and investigating ways to supplement the income of the community organisations in the district to further support community development initiatives.

SIX MONTHS PLUS— Long Term Recovery

Incorporate Social Development into Council's operations and capital programme

Additional emphasis will be given to the full range of social development, including local and iwi employment, contracting and business opportunities in our current and future capital works programme.

Long Term Plan Review 2021-2031

Informed by new economic and social assumptions as council and community evolve in the post-COVID world.

Destination Mackenzie

A study to determine a sustainable pathway for the district, including a tourism strategy, financial modelling, input-output analysis & identification of large infrastructure projects with the aim of applying for further funding & considering joint ventures to enable its delivery and operation.

Economic Development Strategy

Recruitment of an Economic Development Manager and the establishment of the Mackenzie Business Recovery Forum and long-term strategy will be developed in consultation with the community and business stakeholders to diversify our local economy and strengthen sustainable communities.

Tourism Management Strategy

We will establish clear principles to guide the future for Mackenzie tourism, aligning with a New Zealand Tourism Strategy & with guidance from the Destination Mackenzie project, local tourism businesses and our visitor marketing partners.

District Plan Review

Review Council's existing District Plan with a focus on long term sustainable resource management, including analysis of housing diversity, population projections & spatial planning.

Sustainable Infrastructure Strategy

Via the Long Term Plan ensure that the infrastructure strategy is aligned with positive environmental practice & focuses on delivering strong local economies & building vibrant communities .

Mackenzie Basin Alignment

Supporting projects identified through this partnership with LINZ, DOC, Waitaki District Council and ECAN.

Investigate expanding forestry portfolio

Investigate the purchasing of land within the District to convert into forestry to create work within the district, foster supporting industries and allow MDC to become carbon neutral as a council and possibly as a District.