

News & Information

from Mackenzie District Council



Mackenzie
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Three Waters Reform

An update on proposed changes to management of the three waters infrastructure in New Zealand.

Councils currently own and operate three waters services, which cover drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. The Government has estimated that dealing with 30 years of underinvestment in some areas will require an investment of more than \$185b over the next 30 years. This scale of investment would be extremely challenging for councils to fund on their own. Climate change will only exacerbate this challenge.

The Government has told us it wants to deliver water services more cost effectively. It also wants to deliver them in an equitable and sustainable way. It proposes changing the whole system:

- A new water regulator called Taumata Arowai;
- A smaller number of large, specialist water service entities;
- Water services are delivered on a significantly larger scale;
- Water entities remain publicly owned;
- Water services providers meet standards or face significant penalties for noncompliance;
- Entities have strong strategic links to councils and mana whenua.

The Government's proposal would mean significant change to the delivery of water services. For a start, councils would shift their focus from delivery to kaitiakitanga of water services.

Requirements on local authorities to ensure safe drinking water for private and community supplies would transfer to new entities. For most councils, removing water-related debt from their balance sheets would improve their financial position. It would potentially create more opportunity to focus on delivering wellbeing to their communities.

At the very start of this process, in order to guide decision making, Mackenzie District Council set some important base lines. These include ensuring: the local community continue to have representation and a voice; consideration is given to the impact on the viability of smaller councils; and steps are in place to fully understand and mitigate the implications of any transfer of ownership of assets to the proposed entities.

Mackenzie District Council is working to understand the implications of these proposed changes, but we are currently hampered by a lack of data to fully justify Government's case for change. We have raised a number of questions that Government have as yet not answered. We are working with Local Government New Zealand (the industry body for Councils in New Zealand) to request further data and obtain answers to the numerous questions and concerns that are shared by the majority of Councils in Aotearoa | New Zealand.

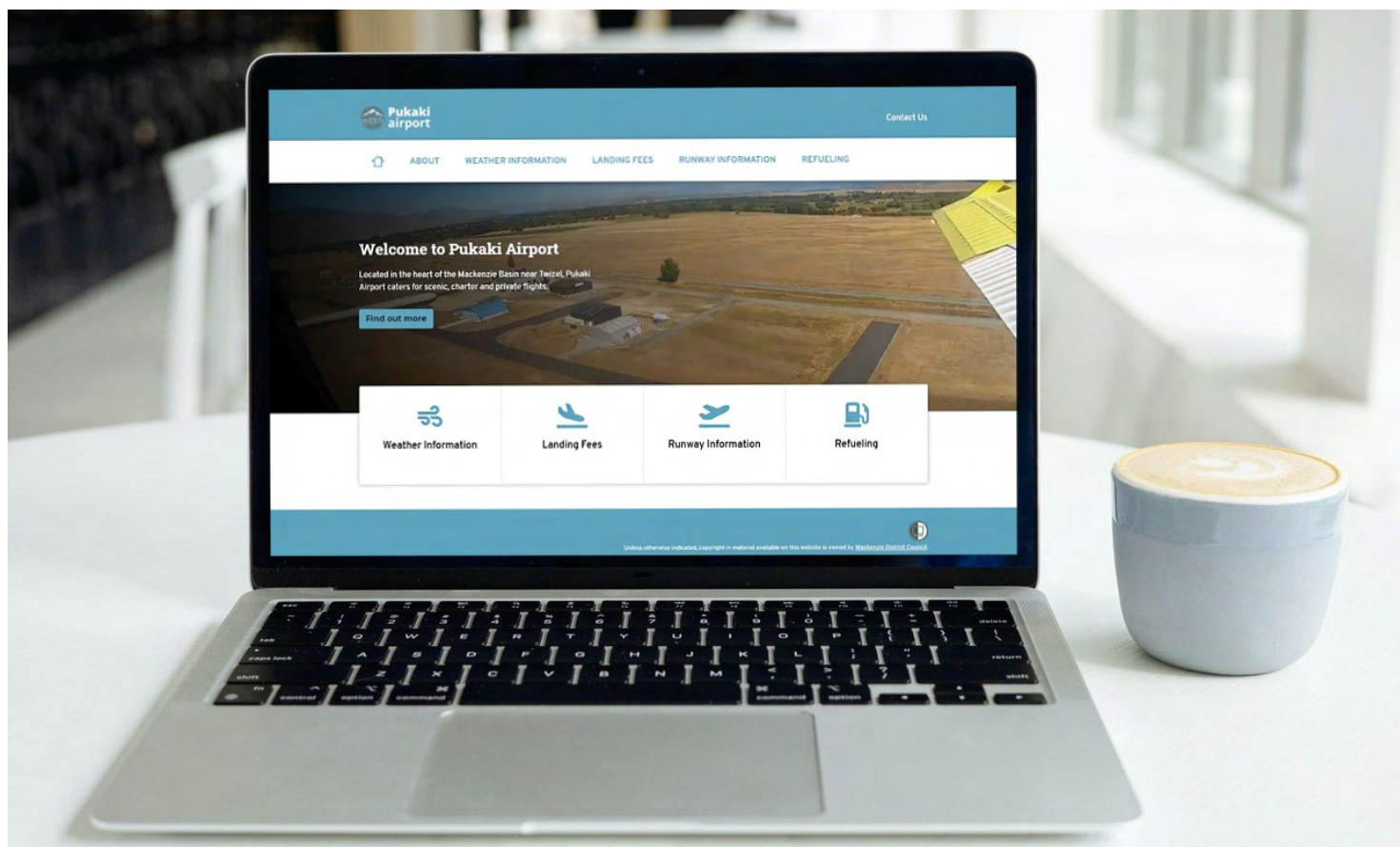
We are working to present the information we have so far on our website in a meaningful way, to help those who are interested in the reforms better understand the Government's case for change, and the potential impact on the community and Council.

Ultimately, we are committed to delivering whatever solution gives the best outcomes for our communities, and will continue working in this space with that objective in mind.

Pukaki Airport Website Refresh

Following on from the recent refresh of the Mackenzie District Council website, we've re-launched the Pukaki Airport website. In addition to the fresh, modern look which is consistent with Council's colour scheme, we've moved the site onto our own platform which means changes can be made more quickly and efficiently, and we no longer need to pay a third party to host the site.

We'd love to hear your feedback on how our websites can be improved - just drop an email to us at info@mackenzie.govt.nz.



Te Manahuna Ki Uta: Shaping our tourism values for the future

Te Manahuna/Mackenzie Basin is an incredibly special place. It's a World Heritage Area and offers some of the best stargazing on earth. It's been recognised as an Outstanding Natural Landscape due to its expansive basins with open grassland and valleys created by braided rivers.

For manawhenua, it is a significant cultural landscape, the home to Aoraki, a place where traditional trails meet, activities such as mahika kai have sustained whānau for generations, and tūpuna live and provide an unbreakable connection to the past.

It's not just local people who love living and working here either, this region has a unique and fragile ecosystem that's home to hundreds of threatened, at risk or endangered species of indigenous animals and plants, some of which are not found anywhere else in Aotearoa.

Protecting our future.

This year, Mackenzie District Council, Manawhenua, Government and the community will work together to curate a 100-year vision for Te Manahuna/Mackenzie District. We will map a more sustainable future for our taoka (treasure) through developing a Destination Management Plan. The long-term goal is to achieve a vibrant, dynamic, and sustainable future: one that speaks to visitors and our community - manawhenua, locals, farmers, adventure seekers, artists and conservationists.

Have your say!

We want to know what's important to you about the Mackenzie - your memories of the past, your views on the present, and your aspirations for the future. Your insights will help us to shape possible scenarios for the next 100 years.

Visit the project website, read more and complete the survey at www.letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz, or pick up a feedback form from the Mackenzie District Council office in Twizel or Fairlie.

Feedback is open until 5pm, 23 August 2021. We look forward to hearing from you!



Dates of Upcoming Meetings

3 August	Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Fairlie, 9.30am
17 August	Engineering & Services Committee	Council Chambers, Fairlie, 9.30am
17 August	Commercial & Economic Development Committee	Follows previous committee
17 August	Strategy Committee	Follows previous committee
17 August	Planning & Regulations Committee	Follows previous committee
24/25 August	LTP Hearings (if required)	Council Chambers, Fairlie & zoom
30 August	Twizel Community Board	Event Centre Lounge, Twizel, 3pm
1 September	Tekapo Community Board	Community Hall, Tekapo, 3pm
2 September	Fairlie Community Board	Council Chambers, Fairlie, 4.30pm
7 September	Audit & Risk Committee	Council Chambers, Fairlie, Midday
14 September	Bylaw & Policy Hearing 1	Council Chambers, Fairlie & zoom 9.30am
15 September	Bylaw & Policy Hearing 2 (if req'd)	Council Chambers, Fairlie & zoom 9.30am.

Committee meetings follow the preceding meeting and so start times will vary. The public are welcome to attend meetings. Occasionally times and venues change so please call and check beforehand. There is a public forum at the beginning of each Council and Community Board meeting and members of the public are invited to address Elected Members on relevant matters. Agendas are available on the Council website at least two working days before each meeting.

0800 685 8514

mackenzie.govt.nz

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