Summary of decisions from Mackenzie District Council meeting on 30 October 2026

Heritage Grant Applications

Council received two applications for grants from the Heritage Grant fund, which met the criteria.

They decided:

- To approve in part funding of $2,500 (the maximum permitted) to the BurkesPass Heritage Trust towards the replacement of the electrical supply and switchboard at St Patrick's Union Church, Burkes Pass.
- They also approved funding of $1,296.75 towards a public heritage interpretation sign at the former Mount Cook Road Board Office, Burkes Pass.

Formal Consideration of membership with Hauora o Te Whenua

Councillors voted for the Council to become an organisational member of Hāuora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network, after a previous presentation by Bill Eschenbach of Waitaha Health (Aoraki Primary Health Organisation) outlining the challenges and opportunities associated with rural healthcare provision across the Mackenzie District.

The annual membership fee of $1,200 is unbudgeted expenditure in the 2026/27 financial year, and the membership will be subject to annual review, with future membership costs to be considered through the relevant budget process.

Twizel Masterplan

Elected members noted that there have been a number of plans under discussion for Twizel. They confirmed that the first priority was the Twizel Traffic Master Plan to address traffic circulation, parking supply and management, long-vehicle and caravan movement, signage, pedestrian and cycling safety, and relevant surrounding roads and intersections the wayfinding from SH8 to the CBD.

This plan would need to be progressed in alignment with the adopted Twizel Spatial Plan, the Market Place Urban Design Plan and the parking strategy and paid-parking feasibility study.

They also directed staff to investigate a separate Twizel Township Master Plan and report back on its purpose, scope, relationship to existing and regional spatial planning, indicative cost, funding, consultation, project-management resources and realistic timeframe.

They noted that it would be helpful if consistent names and descriptions for each planning project could be adhered to.

Lilybank Road Realignment Mt Gerald Station

Councillors approved a proposed culvert and roading realignment for Lilybank Road through Mt Gerald Station subject to:

- the works being undertaken to the satisfaction of Council's roading manager and;
- completed works will be appropriately vested in Council as a road.
- costs will be met by Mt Gerald Station.

This work is linked to tenure review in 2015 and is designed to divert public traffic away from the residences.



Annual Report

Councillors adopted the Mackenzie District Council Annual Report 25/26. The final report will be available from the council's website and in its offices.

Public Toilets – District Wide User Pays

Councillors considered a high-level feasibility and cost-benefit assessment and accompanying financial model for the introduction of district-wide user pays public toilets. They noted that usage for the sites are estimated and the figures are sensitivities, not forecasts.

They also made the following decisions:

1. Approved staff to progress with the implementation of user pays services across the District, including;
    - Endorsing Penny as preferred supplier for user-pays public toilet access,
    - Setting a capital budget of $165,000 for the supply and installation of the necessary hardware.
        - Fairlie Toilets, 8 doors and $40,000
        - Burkes Pass, 1 door and $5,000
        - Tekapo Tavern Toilets, 6 doors and $30,000
        - Tekapo Footbridge, 3 doors and $15,000
        - Tekapo Lakeside Drive, 5 doors and $25,000
        - Pukaki Toilets, 5 doors and $25,000
        - Twizel, 5 doors and $25,000
    - Noting that the Pukaki toilets have been included in this resolution.
2. The capital budget is to be recovered from the $2.5m MBIE funding being provided to Council for this activity.
3. That the tariff to be $1.50 per paid use, as per the fees and charge set in the Annual Plan.

They requested a separate report on resident and group access, including eligibility of non-ratepaying residents and seasonal workers, and practical alternatives for people unable to use digital registration or electronic payment to be considered at its December 2026 meeting.

The commissioning date is now Waitangi Weekend 2027.

News & Information - Continued



Did you know?

You can now watch Mackenzie District Council meetings live online.

If you miss the livestream, you can find the videos and catch up on our website. Look for the meeting details on our Meetings and Agendas section of the website at mackenzie.govt.nz > Council > Meetings and Agendas



Connect with us

If you're looking for new career opportunities surrounded by wide-open spaces and stunning landscapes, connect with us at careers.mackenzie.govt.nz.

Mackenzie Grant Finder

Looking for funding opportunities?
Go to mackenzie.govt.nz/grantfinder





Mackenzie District Swimming Pools

Strathconan Pool in Fairlie has reopened for the 2026-2027 season.
Twizel Community Pool will reopen on Saturday 21 November.

Pool opening hours are as follows:

	Fairlie	Twizel
School Term	6:00am - 6:00pm	8:00am - 6:00pm
Weekends / Holidays / Public Holidays	6:00am - 9:00am 12:00pm - 6:00pm	10:00am - 6:00pm

Find out more at mackenzie.govt.nz > Services > Parks, Venues and Recreation > Swimming Pools

Child Supervision Policy for the swimming pools

Children under 8 years old:

- Must be actively supervised by a caregiver who is at least 16 years old.

Actively supervised means:

- Watching your child/children/children in your care at all times and be able to provide immediate assistance.
- Remaining at a distance from where you can see, hear and be heard by your child, and your child must be able to see you.

Children 5 years and under:

- Must be within arm's reach of their caregiver who must be at least 16 years old.

Maximum adult to child ratios:

- One adult to two under 5yr's
- One adult to four 5-10yr's
- One adult to one under 5 and three 5-10yr's

Please talk to one of the pool staff if you require additional information.

Long Term Plan update

Councillors continue to work on the Long Term Plan (LTP) with a focus on what may be topics for consultation. While those topics still need to be finalised Council has set up an ongoing communication portal.

If you would like to share your thoughts with Councillors on the upcoming LTP please follow the link at letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz or send an email to feedback@mackenzie.govt.nz

