

Mackenzie Messenger

The quarterly newsletter from Mackenzie District Council



As I write this message we are well into the last quarter of 2020 and what a year it has been!

Council have been focussed on our 4 key well beings: Economic, Environment, Culture and Social. This year has seen the need for MDC to look closely at our social issues and the need for additional support in our communities. We acknowledge it hasn't been easy for many businesses, as they pivot to domestic tourism on closure of our borders as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We previously relied on 70% of off shore visitors visiting our District to keep many of our ventures ticking over. A strong relationship with Christchurch NZ and South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce has helped manage a difficult time, and I am pleased with the local support that has seen many businesses either keep their heads above water or fully recover. We will continue to work hard in making Mackenzie a "destination".

MDC has just completed its Annual Report for 2019/ 2020 year, which shows our overall performance for the year. The Annual Report measures us against our goals in the Long Term Plan (LTP) and in general its good, but we need to better manage our regulatory services. MDC continues to grow, with house prices remaining strong in all Districts. My Councillors have also completed a very busy year, meeting many challenges in an uncertain climate and future. Central Government decisions around the management of 3 Waters drinking, sewer, and storm water, is leading to implications for not just MDC, but many councils. Our District plan which was previously 10+ years overdue for review is well underway. Our planning teams have been holding early spatial planning exercises in all communities in consultation with locals. Your towns, your future, your say. We are collecting and building data for future planning options and with the help of our consultants, Rationale will put some plans together for public consultation in the foreseeable future however we encourage all locals to engage with our Lets Talk platform on our website, which is always available to you if and when you ever wish to bring an issue, idea or conversation to Council.

Te Manahuna Ki Uta - Destination Mackenzie is a grant funded study which is now underway with Papatipu Runanga, MBIE, DOC, LINZ, Waka Kotahi (NZTA), Mackenzie Development Group, MDC and BECA. It will provide some valuable data to plan for the future of our community, economy, culture and environment, enabling us to ensure sustainable growth and resilience for the next 30 to 50 years by looking at tourist through a different lens. It's envisaged that some of this work will need to be incorporated into our long term plans also.

MDC has just completed a Community Facilities and Parks Risk Assessment at a high level. We will be making some changes over time to raise the standard of safety as in these areas, this is of course paramount. With 3 major fires recently, in Burkes Pass and Pukaki in Mackenzie, and the harrowing event in Ohau, Waitaki, it's a timely reminder of the risk of fire within our communities and we are beyond grateful that miraculously, there was no loss of life. I am extremely proud of our teams and their efforts within emergency response and welfare. While we all hope disasters don't and won't happen, we can be confident that our teams are well prepared and dedicated to their purpose.

It feels far to early, but this is the last message before Christmas, and on behalf of the team at MDC, I wish you all a wonderful, safe festive season. Appreciate our Mackenzie and enjoy it, as we are all so very lucky to be here.

Mayor Graham



November 2020

Current Strategic Workstreams

Te Manahuna Ki Uta | Destination Mackenzie

Destination Mackenzie, led by Mackenzie District Council and co-designed with Te Manahuna Papatipu Rūnanga, is a high level, multi agency study considering the impact of tourism on the region, and outlining an environmentally and economically sustainable management plan for the future. The project takes a long term (30 - 50 year) view, and will deliver a Destination Management Plan to ensure both the local environment and our communities are protected, while allowing for appropriate, sustainable growth in the Mackenzie District

The outcomes will inform future iterations of our District Plan and Long Term Plan. We'll be starting public engagement later this year with a view to producing the final document in late 2021.

Pre-Engagement

Council is currently conducting pre-engagement to understand the view of ratepayers, residents and stakeholders, to help guide staff as they prepare reports and proposals for the more formal review processes.

Statutory Processes

These are more formal processes prescribed by legislation. A draft is circulated and submissions (which will be made publicly available) are invited from interested parties. Submitters can choose to present their views at a hearing before elected members. Councillors consider this feedback before making final decisions.

Business as Usual

Staff formulate activity plans, policies and bylaws to give effect to the objectives of the strategic documents. We will engage further with our communities and stakeholders as required as we work through implementation.

Spatial Plans

This process is underway - we've conducted a high level survey and obtained feedback on some options to help us understand how communities would like us to manage growth in the future. There will be more opportunities to be involved once we incorporate the feedback received so far.

District Plan

The Mackenzie District Plan gives guidance as to what you can do with your land, for example, whether you can subdivide your property and where you can site a building. It also protects our cultural heritage and our environment by identifying Maori sites of significance, heritage buildings and significant natural areas. It is reviewed every ten years and is a statutory document developed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

Implementation

Monitoring of the plan is part of a comprehensive monitoring requirement for Mackenzie District Council specified in section 35 of the Resource Management Act. The Act requires the plan to state the procedures used to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies, rules or other methods contained within it.

Your Views

We'll be asking your views on a number of topics - starting later this year and continuing into the first quarter of 2021. Once we've explored and understood the communities' aspirations we'll work out how best we can deliver them, and calculate out what the impact on rates would be, before creating a draft plan for consideration.

Long Term Plan

Every three years we review our 10-year plan where we outline our priorities, our projects and how we propose to pay for it all. The Long Term Plan sets out our activities, the resources required to deliver them and where the resources will come from, for example rates or user charges.

Our Annual Plan must be agreed and adopted by 30 June 2021.

Annual Plans

The Annual Plans outline the activity Council will undertake each year and reflect the goals and objectives set out in the Long Term Plan. We may engage the community as we work through the details - and will undertake a more formal consultation process if we need to deviate from the Long Term Plan or make significant changes.

Questions? Email us at info@mackenzie.govt.nz, call us on (03) 685 9010 or send us a message via Facebook.





Let's talk Kōrero mai

Mackenzie District Council wants to have the right conversations with the right people about the right issues before making significant decisions. Council engages with our communities every day and in many ways. It can be a one-way simple communication to keep people informed, or it can be a two-way process of consultation or engagement.

We are committed to ensuring that the local community can participate in the decisions that affect their lives and our environment - but because we are a small District and a small Council, we have to do this in a way that is both time and cost efficient.

Engagement

We engage with our residents and ratepayers in a number of ways but use the Let'sTalk website as our primary tool. It enables us to present information and use a variety of tools to gain feedback. We don't have the resources to have every discussion in person, or to review and analyse written submissions on every topic. If you can't get online we have computers you can use in our Twizel and Fairlie offices, or our staff can help you have your say. Most of the items we're seeking feedback on are not formal consultations (see below) and therefore we're not required to ask for input - but we choose to because we value your opinions. You can also pop in and talk to us, give us a call, or send us an email.

Consultation

This is more a formal process than inviting feedback. There *are* rules about how we undertake consultation. Comments are treated as formal submissions (which will be made publicly available) and submitters can choose to present their views at a hearing before elected members. Full details of the process, and when it must be applied, can be found in Council's 'Significance & Engagement Policy' which can be found on our website or viewed at our offices in Twizel or Fairlie. The policy is reviewed every three years when Council reviews its Long Term (10 year) Plan.

When we won't engage or consult

There are times when we won't normally consult the community because the issue is routine, or operational, or because there is an emergency. We also recognise that 'consultation fatigue' can cause people to tune out of conversations with Councils, so we want to concentrate on the issues that are genuinely significant.

We're here to help - just ask!

We know finding and understanding information isn't always easy - particularly when there are those who via social media or the press try to spread mis-information. If you're not sure about something or have concerns, please get in touch and ask us directly. There's usually a sensible explanation.

<https://letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz/>



Let's talk Kōrero mai

Mackenzie District Council is committed to providing opportunities for community input into decision making and believe that better outcomes are delivered as a result. Below is a list of some of the current projects open for input - and we're adding more each week. Visit our engagement website - or call into one of our offices and one of our customer services team can help you to have your say.

Township Shared Path/Footpath Projects

As part of a number of initiatives to stimulate economic growth to offset the impacts of COVID-19, Council have allocated funds for the 2020/21 financial year to upgrade footpaths and shared pathways in Twizel, Tekapo and Fairlie. We are seeking feedback on the locations and priorities in all three townships which will assist Council in determining which paths will be prioritised for construction. Closes 20 November 2020.

Twizel Visitor Information Terminal Location

Council will be trialing a self service terminal to provide information to visitors to Twizel. The concept may be repeated elsewhere in the District if the trial is successful. The electronic kiosk will provide tourism information and link to local businesses, hospitality, accommodation and activity provider websites. Free wi-fi will be provided to allow visitors to scan QR codes and open websites and make bookings or enquiries on their own devices. A number of locations in the market place have been considered, and we're seeking feedback on the proposed location before we make a final decision. Closes 20 November 2020.

Your Choice: 2022 Representation Review

Every six years councils have to review how they are elected. We are keen to hear your views on the current arrangements in the Mackenzie District and whether you think these should change before the next election in 2022. The goal of this review is to provide for 'effective representation of communities of interest' and 'fair representation of electors' (as required by the Local Government Act). In this process, the word "fair" means having equal representation for all voters across the district. Closes 30 November 2020.

Forthcoming Engagement

As indicated we'll be incorporating feedback on the spatial plans before coming back to the community for comment on the revised option(s). We'll also be starting pre-engagement on the Destination Mackenzie Project and our Long Term Plan in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on the Let's Talk website. We'll also let you know what we're engaging on via the Twizel Update and Accessible, as well as providing regular updates on social media.

<https://letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz/>