

# News & Information

## from Mackenzie District Council



Mackenzie  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



### Lake Tekapo Wildfire Risk Reduction Programme

We are undertaking a programme of works around the Lake Tekapo township to help reduce the risk of wildfire threatening the town. The details below list the stages of the programme and its approximate timing during 2023.

#### The Hamilton Drive Firebreak

What: The cutting of an 8m wide firebreak. This will be mown and maintained in future years, allowing for emergency vehicle access and mitigation of risk associated with wildfire spreading into the Lake Tekapo township from the plantations behind Hamilton Drive/Murray Place.

Status/Timeline: Completed.

#### Selective Tree Removal & Pruning on the Hamilton Drive/Murray Place Firebreak

What: Selective tree removals will occur along the Hamilton Drive/Murray Place firebreak, focussing on removing wilding species, and trees deemed too close to property boundaries which increase the amount of fuel in the area, and the risk posed to residents.

Contractors will leave all of the oak trees and have been instructed to leave larch and eucalyptus trees where it is safe to do so. These tree species have a greater amenity value than the wilding species, they support bird life, provide shelter to properties, and pose a lower risk of becoming a potentially problematic wilding trees.

The trees that are going to remain will be pruned/ have limbs removed by qualified arborists, lifting branches off the ground. This is a commonly used technique to reduce the chance of fire spreading into tree canopies. They will also thin tree coverage where required.

This tree work aims to increase the size of the buffer provided by the recently installed fire break and mitigate the risk of wildfire facing Lake Tekapo's visitors, residents and properties.

Timeline: Mid-April 2023.

#### Scrub Clearing

Hamilton Drive & Lochinvar subdivisions

What: Work will take place to remove broom and forestry slash left between the Hamilton Drive and Lochinvar subdivisions. Once removed, we hope to bring this area up to a standard able to be mown in future years, reducing the fire risk to residents.

Status/Timeline: Some work has started on this, and we are aiming to complete it in late 2023.

#### Forestry Removal - South Eastern & South Western Banks of the Tekapo River

What: Forestry containing Corsican Pine and Pinus contorta were identified for removal on the South Eastern & South Western banks of the Tekapo River below the weir. These blocks of trees pose a significant fire risk to the Lake Tekapo township. These pine species are highly invasive and are the seed source of a substantial number of wilding pines downstream. A multi-agency operation, will be undertaken to remove these wilding conifers, the subsequent areas will be left to regenerate in native grasslands to prevent erosion.

Timeline: to be confirmed, but mid/late 2023.

#### Removal of Residential Green Waste

What: Over a period of time green waste has been dumped over residential fences into the adjacent Council land. As part of this programme of works Council contractors will undertake a one-time removal of such waste from the firebreak.

All residents are asked to use their Council-provided green bins and take any excess green waste to their local Transfer Station. There is one of these in Twizel, Fairlie or Tekapo. For further information or hours, click here.

Excess Green Waste on your land or dumped over your fence increases the available fuel to feed a wildfire, increasing its intensity and making it more likely to damage to your property. People caught dumping waste on Council land, or "fly dumping" will be prosecuted accordingly.

Status/Timeline: Mid-April 2023

### Battery recycling

With batteries unable to be placed in the bin collection, our Resource Recovery Parks at Fairlie, Tekapo and Twizel now offer FREE collection points for old batteries.

Batteries accepted are:

- Household batteries - AAA, AA, 9V, C, D
- Button cell batteries - i.e. watch and hearing aid batteries
- Re-chargeable batteries from hand held tools
- Automotive batteries



### Fairlie Dog Park - What Next?



Our new dog park recently opened in Fairlie, and we know it's being enjoyed by residents and visitors. There will be opportunities for us to improve it in the future (as funds become available), and we'd like to know if you have any ideas. What would you like to see: equipment, a small dog area, more trees, anything else?

Have your say at [letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz](http://letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz) > Fairlie dog park - what's next?



### Twizel Community Pool - Swimming Club

It's been a great year in the pool at Twizel with some wonderful improvements to the pool, including the new heating system and the gorgeous mural.

Next year it would be fantastic if we could re-introduce the Swimming Club for school-age kids. This could be an opportunity to help kids train for events and learn/improve their swimming skills. Are you a parent, a teacher, or a member of the community who would be keen to help make this happen?

If this sounds like you get in touch with us on 0800 685 8514, or via the Twizel Community Pool Facebook page. We are hoping to offer a longer season next year, or extended opening hours, and we have some resources available to support the Swimming Club.

#### FREE disposal of #wildingpine slash at Twizel Resource Recovery Park this Easter

“Reduce fire hazard and improve community safety”

- FREE disposal of wilding pine slash from residential properties in the Twizel area
- Wilding pine slash only. Mixed loads will be charged regular greenwaste fees
- Nothing more than 10cm diameter. No stumps or logs please
- Up to 25 tonnes total
- Come early! Once we've received 25 tonnes regular greenwaste fees will apply

Corner Ostler Rd and Hooker Cres, Twizel  
Open Easter Saturday, Sunday, Monday  
10:00am - 4:00pm - (Closed Good Friday)



### Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Friday 14 April	Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee	10:30am - 1:30pm	Twizel
Monday 1 May	Twizel Community Board meeting	4:30pm - 6:00pm	Twizel
Tuesday 2 May	Council Meeting	9:30am - 2:00pm	Fairlie
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	2:00pm - 4:30pm	Fairlie
Monday 29 May	Tekapo Community Board meeting	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Tekapo
Tuesday 30 May	Council Meeting	9:30am - 2:00pm	Twizel
Thursday 1 June	Fairlie Community Board meeting	4:30pm - 6:00pm	Fairlie
Monday 26 June	Twizel Community Board meeting	4:30pm - 6:00pm	Twizel
Tuesday 27 June	Citizenship Ceremony	4:00pm - 4:30pm	Fairlie

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](http://mackenzie.govt.nz)

April 2023