

News & Information from Mackenzie District Council



Fire and Emergency Incident Management at Twizel

You may have seen that Twizel's volunteer fire brigade recently hosted some additional staff from Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) recently. You may also have talked to them in town, or come to the public meeting.



This extra activity was triggered by the situation here in Twizel where conditions were deemed to be the most extreme since 2008. The forecast hot, dry and windy conditions meant that any vegetation fire would move very quickly and would be challenging for firefighters to bring under control and put out.

Fire and Emergency proactively set up an Incident Management Team at the Twizel Fire station, ready to respond to any vegetation fire in the Mackenzie Basin during a period of elevated fire danger forecast between 10-14 January.

They also put out some advice for everyone in the community to help reduce the risk of fire. Reminder: all outdoor fires are prohibited. There is also a complete ban on letting off fireworks. We need all residents and visitors to do their part to prevent any fires.

Please be aware of high-risk activities including:

- Using equipment that generate sparks, or where blades can strike a stone and cause a spark (eg welders, grinders, mowers, chainsaws). Delay this activity until early morning or evening, or wait for cooler weather
- Parking vehicles in long grass – hot exhausts can start a fire
- Dropping cigarette butts

Be very careful with outdoor BBQs and cultural fires – there is advice on the checkitsalright.nz website on how to do this safely.

Every household in the rural area and outskirts of communities should take steps to make their homes and property less vulnerable and easier to defend against wildfire.

This includes:

- Clearing flammable material from 10m around homes and buildings.
- Moving firewood stacked against houses
- Clearing gutters of dried leaves etc that will easily catch fire
- Clearing flammable material from under decks
- Trimming trees and bushes and removing the trimmings
- Keeping grass short (using a trimmer with a nylon line is safer in these conditions than a mower or trimmer with a metal blade that could create a spark)
- Make sure your Rural Addresses Property Identification (RAPID) number is clearly signposted

You can find more advice on line at: fireandemergency.nz > Outdoor and Rural Fire Safety > Protect your home from outdoor fires.



Every home should have an evacuation plan. There is advice on what to do on the Fire and Emergency website - fireandemergency.nz.

Swimming Pool Satisfaction Survey

Do you use the Twizel Community Pool or Strathconan Pool, Fairlie on a regular basis over the summer months?

Let us know your experience at letstalk@mackenzie.govt.nz



Did you know?

Updates covering current road closures and water-off notices are available on the mackenzie.govt.nz website, accessible from buttons on the homepage.

Updates are also placed up on the Mackenzie District Council Facebook page.



Water Restrictions in the Mackenzie District

Why do we have water restrictions?

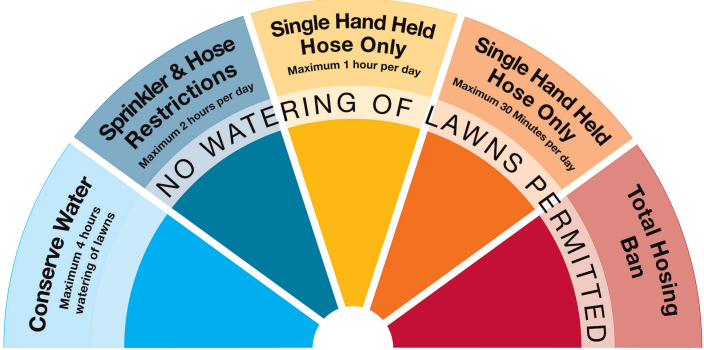
In Mackenzie district our water comes from a variety of rain-fed sources, and we have a range of local climates and average rainfall totals. We are a district which is growing with new properties being built and new people moving to join us. We are also starting to see the impacts of climate change and over the coming years our district will face increasing extreme weather conditions. This will have an impact on our water supplies.

It often seems that water is abundant, but drinkable tap water is not an infinite resource – only about 1.2% of the planet's water is suitable for drinking. Safe drinking water is also expensive to produce and supply to our houses.

During extreme dry spells we put in place water restrictions to ensure we are all using water wisely. When we're in a drought, we don't know when it's going to end, so restrictions are a smart and proactive way of conserving water and minimising wastage.

Our restrictions limit outdoor water use. This means we can focus on having water for use in our homes and for our commercial customers. It is important that people aren't letting their hoses run wild when water is scarce.

We have five stages of water restrictions that we can apply during dry spells:



1	Conserve water	Maximum 4 hours watering permitted each day, including lawns.
2	Sprinkler and hose restrictions	Maximum 2 hours watering permitted each day. No watering of lawns.
3	Single hand-held hose only	Maximum 1 hour watering permitted each day. No watering of lawns.
4	Single hand-held hose only	Maximum 30 minutes watering permitted each day. No watering of lawns.
5	Total hose ban	No watering permitted.

Report an issue or problem?

Contact us on 0800 685 8514 or email info@mackenzie.govt.nz



Dates of upcoming meetings

Monday 22 January	Tekapo Community Board meeting	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Tekapo
Thursday 25 January	Fairlie Community Board meeting	4:30pm - 6:00pm	Fairlie
Tuesday 30 January	Council Meeting	9:00am - 2:00pm	Fairlie
Friday 16 February	Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Meeting	10:00am - 1:00pm	Twizel
Monday 26 February	Twizel Community Board meeting	4:30pm - 6:00pm	Twizel
Tuesday 27 February	Council Meeting	9:00am - 2:00pm	Fairlie
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	2:00pm - 3:30pm	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

January 2024