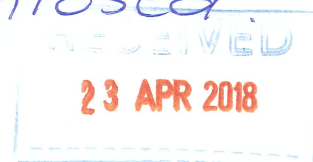


#40 Submission form

Two submissions
enclosed



This form can also be completed online at www.mackenzie.govt.nz

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS (these must be provided for us to consider your submission)

Full name: Anne Yvonne Thomson

Name of organisation (if applicable): _____

Postal address: 10 Gall St

Fairlie 7925 Post code: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: 027 285 8824

Email: aythomson@live.com

HEARINGS (submission hearings will take place on 3 May 2018 in the Council Chambers in Fairlie and on 4 May 2018 at the Events Centre Community Lounge in Twizel.)

Do you wish to present your submission to Council in person?

Fairlie 3 May or Twizel 4 May (please circle)

Yes

☒

No

☐

Do you wish to present your submission to Council by telephone conference call on 3 May?

Yes

☐

No

☐

If you answered 'yes', the hearings will start at 9am on 3 and 4 May. You will be allocated 10 minutes to speak. You don't need to read out your written submission as councillors will have read it prior to the hearing. If you plan to present your submission by phone, we will make every reasonable effort to contact you at the number/s you have provided. If you're unable to speak due to unavailability or technical issues, we may not be able to allocate you another time.

Would you prefer to present your submission in the morning or afternoon?

Morning

☐

Afternoon

☐

Note: We will do our best to give people their preferred time to present, but we can't guarantee everyone will get their preferred time.

*no worries or
preference.*

Submission to the Mackenzie District Long Term Plan 2018 – 2028

I object to the Fairlie Community Board's proposal to spend \$228,000 on improving the Mackenzie Community Centre in Fairlie.

I understand that the Centre is 30 years old, having memories of the great times we had building it, but I ask that further consideration be given and consultation made, before spending funds on a building that is facing reduced use and without any clear plans for use in the long term!

I believe the theatre, the most used area other than the lounge, is in need of an upgrade however I would debate spending money in other areas.

I use the centre intermittently on behalf of the Mackenzie Community Enhancement Board and am aware that these are the few groups currently using it regularly;

The lounge

Pilates - weekly **Music and Movement** - weekly **Church Group** – weekly

Combined Club of Mackenzie (formerly PROBUS) – monthly

Fairlie Friendly Club – monthly **Heartlands** - bi monthly

The Theatre

Mackenzie Theatre Group – duration of practice and performance of a show

- 3 months for practice then entire centre for 6 weeks just prior and including performance

The schools - perhaps a few times a year depending on their choice to have a concert

Travelling Arts on Tour Performances - two annually maybe

Stadium

Netball – one team practices there weekly over winter months

Smallbore Rifle – weekly over winter

Silver Beats Marching – when weather demands

ANZAC DAY - annual

Funerals – when need arises

The Kitchen

Certainly dated but does the anticipated future use of it justify improvements? Not in my reckoning! Local caterers suggest it serves its purpose but is seldom used.

I believe it is obvious that the centre is no longer being used and as busy as it once was!

So I ask. Will any planned improvements make any difference at all?

Reduction in use of the stadium

This is due in part to the Mackenzie College Gym being used for netball etc and the reduction in the number of sporting groups in the area eg: basketball

I guess that the idea might be that if the building was improved, it may be used more often! By whom?

I firmly believe that the days of large functions/ gatherings eg: balls and cabarets, are diminishing due in part to people now using social media to communicate and not needing to socialise in the manner we were accustomed to. Drink driving has also impacted on events in our rural communities.

I encourage the Fairlie Community Board to consider the number of community functions which have been held in the Stadium the last few years, and having been involved in a few of them, know the current stadium fitted the purpose.

I am also aware that there have been a number of community events planned there as fundraisers which have been cancelled due to lack of interest. It is no longer fashionable to use venues such as the stadium for weddings, with smaller venues with atmosphere preferred.

I ask you the Mackenzie District Councillors and the Fairlie Community Board, when you last attended or organised a function in the Mackenzie Community Centre. Other than ANZAC Day or a funeral – maybe a while!

I suggest to alleviate costs in operating the Centre, that the Mackenzie District Council may consider working with a Not for Profit group who could administer it for a much reduced fee and provide an income for said NFP.

Thank you for considering my submission! Anne Thomson - Ratepayer

Submission to the Mackenzie District Plan

I write to ask just where in the Mackenzie Long Term Plan would there be space for the inclusion of a strategic plan for the growing aging community of the Mackenzie District?

Considering the average age of our local body representatives, this could be affecting you in the years to come!

South Canterbury has one of the largest aging communities in New Zealand and with the number of people retiring to or moving here near retirement age, it is timely to include provision for them, in all aspects of planning into the future.

In an environment where population ageing is projected to increase rapidly over the next ten years, Government departments and territorial local authorities are preparing plans and strategies designed to improve the quality of life of older people.

A number of councils are responding to the lead provided by the Office of Senior Citizens, developing their own plans with the assistance of New Zealand's Positive Ageing Strategy.

The local councils in New Plymouth, Hamilton, Rotorua, Dunedin, Tasman, Christchurch and Wellington – have developed Positive Ageing strategies that are linked to both the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy and to their respective Long Term Council Community Plans.

As you are well aware such strategies are future focused. They include goals and action plans to guide Council's decision making and operations in improving the quality of life for older people for the duration of the Long Term Plan and beyond. The growing number of early retirees moving here is a prime example.

A strategy for the Mackenzie could be 'whole of community' focused, recognising the need to take account of the priorities of today's older people, and also to consider the views of those 'midlife' people who will be the older population in the near future.

A strategy for the Mackenzie, perhaps called 'The Mackenzie Way' could be developed through a consultation process that engages a range of community organisations, tangata whenua and individuals.

Once our strategy is developed it could be used in all aspects of the Council's operation and decision making, considering ageing and older people and supporting the strategy.

A prime example of recognising the needs of older people is the current government drive to keep older people in their homes as long as possible. Government and health agencies work towards this recognising that older folk are mostly happier in their own surroundings and want to stay there, if they have some help.

Therefore it would be helpful to our older folk that you give them, many on fixed incomes, some consideration when setting rates. Living as a single income beneficiary on a rate of less than \$450 per week (variations apply) is difficult enough now without any proposed hike in rates. Just think – insurances, rates, home maintenance, power, telephone, car rego, car expenses, and food, consume the Superannuation now with only those who have been fortunate to have good incomes allowing for saving, to have those little extras in their old age.

Please, if the Mackenzie wants its communities to be healthy and happy, and well rounded, we need our old folk to stay as long as we can without them being forced to sell because of rates.

I wish you wisdom in your decision making!

Anne Thomson

Ratepayer – Fairlie