



Mackenzie District Mayor, Anne Munro



Long Term Plan 2024-2034

Staff and Councillors have been working hard in recent months preparing the Long Term Plan 2024-34 (LTP). This is something which every council around the country must do and it is our key planning tool.

It describes what we are planning to do, and what outcomes we want to achieve for our communities in the coming years. It also describes how we plan to spend the rates we collect from our communities. The LTP is due to be operational from 1 July 2024. This year we have many challenges to deal with, not least significant increases in costs that we have no control over – we cannot repair roads or bridges without things like bitumen and concrete, some of which have increased in cost at about twice the official rate of inflation.

During this work we have tried to balance the needs of our communities, our commitments to the services we provide, and our responsibilities to external imperatives like drinking water standards, while remaining mindful of the affordability of our rates for our ratepayer.

By the time you read this we will be preparing to come out to our communities with our LTP Consultation Document. This will tell you where we are with our planning and will ask your opinions on some key matters. I ask you to look out for this document, to read the information, and to tell us what you think. It is vital for us, as your Elected Members, to understand what you want for your communities, and how you think we should manage the things that affect us all.

Fire risk in Twizel and the Mackenzie basin

This has been a particularly dry summer, with very limited rainfall in the basin. We thank Fire and Emergency New Zealand who significantly increased their presence in Twizel during a period when the fire risk was particularly high and have provided a range of useful information to help home owners understand the risks.

I encourage you to learn about the ways you can reduce the risk to your own home if a fire does break out and think about the steps you can take. For example, not all garden plants are equal, and there is good advice available about low-flammability plants that can be grown around a house.

Water restrictions

This year has seen water restrictions put in place for Fairlie and Twizel as we seek to remain within the limits in our water-take consents.

Council staff have provided a lot of information and advice this summer and I am very grateful to all of you who have abided by the restrictions.

Our project to upgrade the ring main in Twizel has gone well, increasing the flow of water to the lateral pipes that go off it, and the installation of smart meters in Twizel is already showing where there might be problems. Good quality water is expensive to produce, and it can only benefit all of us if we use it well.

Mayor Anne

Rates in the Mackenzie District

Rates are the way that everyone pays for those essential community services that we all use every day. When most of you turn on the tap, drive on a local road, flush the toilet or go for a walk in the park, you're using a service you've helped pay for.

As part of the 2023/24 Annual Plan, the overall total amount of rates collected by the council has increased by 10.2%. Your individual rates bill may have increased by more than this or less depending on things like which services you receive at your property and how much your land value has increased compared to other properties.

Rates are due and payable in four equal instalments on the following dates during the year:

Instalment	Due Date
1	20 September 2023
2	20 December 2023
3	20 March 2024
4	20 June 2024

Any outstanding amount unpaid at the due dates will attract a 10% penalty.

You can choose to pay smaller amounts on a more regular basis as long as they add up the full instalment amount by the quarterly date. If you would like to pay regular small amounts, please contact our rates team to discuss the details.

You can pay your rates via direct debit (EasyPay), credit card, internet banking, online on our website, or in person at one of our offices.

Are you eligible for a rates rebate?

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a partial rebate for eligible, low income ratepayers who pay rates on their home to the Council.

The maximum rebate you can receive is \$750 which is available as long as your gross (before tax) income is \$30,100 or less.

Even if your income exceeds the threshold, you may still be eligible, depending on the amount of rates you pay and number of dependants. If you think you may be eligible please contact Council on 03 685 9010.

Wilding Pines Guide

Wilding Pines are a pest tree throughout the Mackenzie District - disrupting ancient native landscapes, native ecosystems, and productive soils for high value sustainable land use.

A guide has been created by wildingpines.nz to identify Wilding Pines, highlighting the issues that they cause.

View the guide at wildingpines.nz > Wilding Conifer Quick ID Guide



Mackenzie District Council 2022 - 2023 Annual Report

Following a successful audit from AuditNZ, and its adoption by Council, we are pleased to publish our Annual Report for 2022/23 as well as the more condensed Annual Report Summary document.

During the 2022/23 year our team successfully completed and progressed some key projects:

- Met all of our statutory deadlines and delivered a preelection report, two Annual reports, an annual plan.
- Progressed the review of our outdated District Plan which was currently 15 years old and updated it to better respond to the effects of growth, bring it into line with national and regional planning instruments.
- Adopted Te Manahuna Ki Uta as our long-term destination management plan in August 2022 and secured funding for five key TMKU initiatives.
- Commenced construction on Fairlie Water Treatment Plant to improve treatment so we can meet New Zealand Drinking Water Standards for protozoa levels.
- Upgraded all the Fairlie lights and bollards to the new fittings, with alternative LED fitting which are both compliant with lighting restrictions within the Mackenzie District and support our gold tier international dark sky reserve status.
- Preparation of Concept Development Plan and Reserve Management Plan for Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve.
- Our new focus on community development commenced and the team supported the Mackenzie Care Community Charitable Trust with their retirement villa project, actively worked with Twizel on the need for a community hub, and with the Tekapo Sport Trust regarding multi-purpose sports facilities.

A was a busy year with high central government workload and some significant challenges – inflationary market conditions, lower economic building activity, and unanticipated severe weather events all of which impacted our budget. However, there are also some good achievements to recognise and celebrate.

Both documents are available on our website at mackenzie.govt.nz > Council > Strategies, Plans and Reports > Annual Reports.

Limited copies of the Summary document are available at our Fairlie and Twizel offices where you will also find a reference copy of the full report.



Did you know?

Updates covering current Road Closures, Water, and Civil Defence alerts 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

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:

Five stages of restrictions



Water Restrictions www.mackenzie.govt.nz

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.

Aoraki Mt Cook – Community Civil Defence Training



On 4 December 2023 a group of approximately 25 community participants attended an Aoraki-Mt Cook Civil Defence workshop.

The group represented a variety of local emergency service providers such as FENZ, St John, Department of Conservation, Search and Rescue, Alpine Guides, Rescue Pilots from Aoraki-Mt Cook airport, Hermitage Hotel, Haka House, Aoraki Mt Cook School, Mackenzie District Civil Defence and the Mackenzie District Council.

The group was presented a severe weather warning based on a historical flooding event that occurred in 1979 where parts of the Aoraki Mt Cook village had to be evacuated due to flooding. Several local bridges were damaged in the storm and power was cut off. The purpose of the workshop was to understand and plan for a localised event where outside resources were limited. Utilising local resources and a coordinated incident management approach to efficiently respond, evacuate, and communicate their response.

Aoraki Mt Cook is a very unique environment that poses many challenges such as topography, extreme weather and high domestic and international tourists visiting the National Park each day. However, they have skilled emergency and community responders and strong community spirit to do what is best for their community. This workshop is one of the four Civil Defence workshops planned for the Mackenzie District in 2023/24. Twizel, Lake Tekapo and Fairlie workshops will commence in 2024.

Mackenzie District Emergency Management Officer Joe Rush was impressed at the commitment and professionalism the group showed during the workshop. Lots of discussion and collaboration between the participants was extremely valuable.



Twizel & Fairlie Swimming Pools

With the start of the school the opening hours at our pools are changing. See the details below, but also look out for up to date information on the pools' Facebook pages and the signs at the pool offices.



Days	Fairlie Hours	Twizel Hours
Weekday School Term	6:00am – 8:30am (Lane Swimming) 9:30am – 3:00pm (Schools) 3:00pm – 6:00pm (Public)	Monday: 8:00am – 7:00pm Tuesday – Friday: 8:00am – 6:00pm
Weekends and Public Holidays	12:00pm – 6:00pm (Free Play)	10:00am to 6:00pm

The 2023/2024 Mackenzie District Swimming Pools season runs until mid-March. Further information about swimming pools is at mackenzie.govt.nz > Services > Parks, Venues and Recreation > Swimming Pools



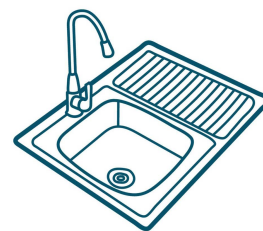
Wilding pine removal near Pukaki Airport

Council contractors started work in mid-December to remove 50ha of wilding conifers (contorta and Corsican pine) on council land next to the Pukaki Airport. This work will continue until March 2024.

Some of this work will take place on land next to the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail. However, the trail will remain open and contractors will manage the work around cyclists.

Public Health Notice

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.



Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a cup-full of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Taking your pooch for a walk?

Taking your pooch for a walk? Unfortunately, there's no such thing as the dog poo fairy so please remember to pick up their poo.



If you are using our dog park in Fairlie, we provide free bags and a wastebin – please use them. No-one likes treading in dog poo, and it's particularly hard to see when it's hidden in the grass. Your dog's poo is your responsibility – Thank you.

Report an issue or problem?

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



Booking of Council Facilities

Are you planning an event, and would like to see if a hall within the Mackenzie District is available?



Booking schedules for hall and event venues at Albury, Fairlie, Tekapo and Twizel are available at mackenzie.govt.nz > Services > Parks, Venues and Recreation > Halls & Event Venues

To book a facility, contact Council on 0800 685 8514 or email info@mackenzie.govt.nz