

# The Mackenzie Messenger



*Photo Credit: George Empson*

## February 2020

### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

As summer is winding down, hot dry fire conditions are still putting much of Mackenzie at high risk. I can only advise utmost caution with strict observation of our closed fire season rules. My thanks to the fire crews, volunteers and neighbouring councils for the wonderful effort in getting the Burkes Pass fire under control in high wind conditions. It was most unfortunate that property was damaged and stock lost. Our thoughts remain with those affected.

The focus for Council last term was on putting some ground work in to reorganise and make our council fit-for-purpose. We have come very far since and we all can be very proud of our council and staff for their resilience through this period of change. Our district is the envy of many councils, and if we focus on continuous improvement, we will ensure we stay ahead of the game.

We have formed some solid relationships with our Rūnanga partners, other government agencies as well as business and community groups. There is still much more to be done, but the momentum is under way.

Our focus has returned to business as usual for Council, providing core, basic local government essential services, like safe and modern infrastructure including roads, bridges, water

infrastructure, which will ensure that our communities thrive.

I want to bring awareness to the work that our Mackenzie Wilding Trust has done in the management of wildings. With \$7.3million spent in Canterbury, our district has fared quite well, funding wise. The Trust has been very active, but more national funding is needed. There is also a need to trial other methods of management and control.

Another focus this year is our District Plan which is well overdue for review, and is causing some development issues. It's a big project and will involve wide consultation and engagement with our communities. It's important that you have your say so that we can get the best outcomes possible for our Mackenzie. Keep an eye out for our surveys and roadshows coming your way over the next few months.

We are also pushing forward with a feasibility study in the District, to better understand the effects of tourism on our valued district, our communities' wellbeing, our infrastructure and our environment. We need to factor those effects into our long term planning for the District to ensure our children and their children can enjoy this beautiful landscape for many years to come.

**Graham Smith, Mayor**

## Council Activity – Progress Update

Council has recently reviewed progress towards key objectives for 2019/2020 and are pleased to report that a significant number have been completed and the remainder are on target for completion by the end of the financial year.

Suzette Van Aswegen, Chief Executive Officer said “We set ourselves an ambitious workload for the financial year and we’re delighted with the progress made so far. The changes to our internal structure made during 2019 have improved our capacity and enabled us to work more effectively and this is reflected in the number of tasks we’ve been able to complete to date. But we can’t take our foot off the gas – there are still key projects to be delivered and we remain focused on delivering these on time”.

## Council Committee Structure

Mackenzie District Council is pleased to confirm that the Mayor and Councillors adopted terms of reference and delegations for the revised Committee structure at their meeting on 11th February 2020.

Under the Mackenzie District Council Standing Orders, all committees automatically cease to exist at the end of a Council term.

*‘A committee, subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making body is, unless a Council resolves otherwise, discharged when members elected at a subsequent triennial election come into office’.*

[See section 7.2 MDC Standing Orders, and cl. 30 (5) and (7), Schedule 7, LGA 2002.]

Following the 2019 election, the Mayor and Councillors undertook a review of all committees and boards to ensure they are providing appropriate oversight of Council functions and activities in the most efficient and cost effective manner that reflects the best value for ratepayers.

The new committee structure was previously adopted by Council at their meeting on 17th December 2019. Staff have been working to produce new Terms of Reference and update the relevant delegations, and this information will be made available via our website in due course.

Some of the changes are detailed below:

- Financial matters will now be reported directly to full Council meetings.
- A new ‘Commercial and Economic Development Committee’ replaces the Forestry and Pukaki Airport Committees, and provides an appropriate structure for oversight of other commercial and economic activities should these occur in the future.
- To ensure independence, the Audit & Risk Committee now has an independent chairperson.
- A number of committees provide for external appointments to ensure appropriate input from industry professionals. The process to identify and appoint these personnel is underway.

The first meetings of the new Committees were held yesterday, and minutes will be made available on the Mackenzie District Council website.

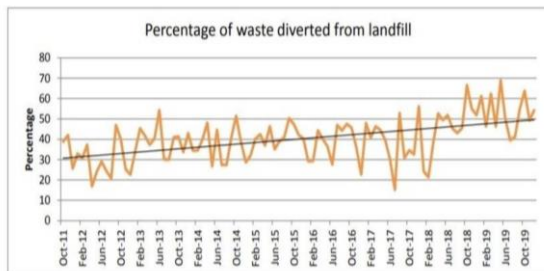
Suzette van Aswegen, CEO, said “The revised committee structure is better aligned with our new internal structure and will enable both staff and Councillors to work more efficiently. We are very grateful for the work of all those involved with the previous committees and are pleased that a number of those individuals will join the new committees and continue to provide valuable assistance to Council”.

## Notice regarding street berms:

Following an audit and review of its mowing schedule, Council has decided to reconfirm its policy to not mow any road frontages adjacent to private properties. The property owners will remain responsible for maintaining their own berms as they have done in the past.

## More waste diverted from landfill!

Council has made significant improvements in diverting waste from landfill as the Waste Minimisation Strategy begins to have a positive impact. Compared to approximately 40% of waste diverted from landfill at the end of 2011, the trend has shown an increase to 60% by the end of 2019.



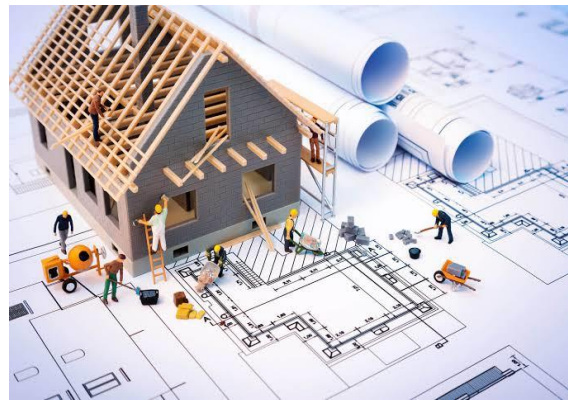
July, September and November in 2019 showed the lowest recorded weight to landfill for those months compared to previous years.

Mayor Graham Smith said “There’s a lot more we can do but the trend is going the right way. It’s a significant percentage of waste we have diverted from landfill”.

Angie Taylor, Community & Solid Waste Officer is pleased with the results and said that work is progressing well on a joint procurement process for Waste Minimisation and Management Services with Timaru District Council and Waimate District Council. “The name has been altered from solid waste services to reflect each Council’s aspirations to reduce waste to landfill” said Taylor.



## Builders’ Meetings – Twizel & Fairlie



In order to build better working relationships with developers and builders working in the District, Council’s Building & Regulatory Team recently hosted meetings in Twizel and Fairlie, with a further meeting planned in Tekapo.

Regulatory and Compliance manager Jan Spriggs said: “Around 40 people attended the meetings, a mix of builders, designers and other interested parties. We had some good, frank and open discussion about how we can improve the services we provide, and are working to implement solutions to the issues raised’.

Spriggs said that a further meeting is planned to be held in Tekapo in the coming weeks. “We’ll take the opportunity to give an update on the processes we’re introducing in response to the feedback we’ve received which will help us to deliver a faster and more efficient service to our customers” Spriggs said. “We’re looking at the possibility of an external speaker to add value and interest too”.

Council is building a contact list for those interested in building matters and will use it to push out updates from Council and information on relevant legislation. To be added to the list – or give feedback to the team – please email [building@mackenzie.govt.nz](mailto:building@mackenzie.govt.nz).

## Do you want to receive notifications of important water and sewerage matters?

If you would like to be added to our Water Notification Database to receive a text or email regarding water issues in your area please send through a request to [info@mackenzie.govt.nz](mailto:info@mackenzie.govt.nz) using "Water Notification Request" in the subject line.

In the body of the email please include the following information:

- Name
- Mobile Number
- Email
- Physical Address
- Preferred contact - email or text

Please note this is solely for important announcements relating to water or sewerage issues.

## Council Meeting Dates – did you know you can attend meetings?

Dates for Council, Committee and Community Board meetings are published on our website: [www.mackenzie.govt.nz](http://www.mackenzie.govt.nz)

Agendas – including reports and documentation - are available prior to meetings and minutes are posted afterwards.

The majority of meetings are open to the public and meeting are held across our three communities (Twizel, Tekapo and Fairlie) to make it easier for the public to attend.

Occasionally – for reasons of privacy or to protect sensitive commercial information – sections of meetings are 'Public Excluded'. There are strict rules governing what can be excluded to ensure openness and transparency is maintained as far as possible.

The public are not permitted to speak at Council or Committee meetings however there's often the opportunity to chat with the Councillors over morning tea or during a lunch break.

Community Boards are slightly different and there's always a public forum at the beginning of each meeting during which the public are free to ask questions or share their views.

If you're interested in attending, the next Council meeting date is:

- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – in Fairlie at 9.30am.

The next Community board dates are:

- Twizel – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 3pm Event Centre.
- Tekapo – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 4pm Community Centre.
- Fairlie – Wed 12<sup>th</sup> March 4pm, Council Chambers.

It would be great to see you there!

## Getting in Touch

We're always striving to improve our service, but appreciate that from time to time things don't go as planned.

It's also great to hear your thoughts and ideas about the Mackenzie District and how we can make our wonderful communities even better place to live, work and play.

You can get in touch in the following ways:

Email us at [info@mackenzie.govt.nz](mailto:info@mackenzie.govt.nz)

Follow us on facebook and chat to us via messenger.

Via our website at [www.mackenzie.govt.nz](http://www.mackenzie.govt.nz).

Call us on (03) 685 9010

Our after hours service is available 24 hours a day. Our helpful team will take your details and direct your problem to the relevant person.