

News & Information from Mackenzie District Council



Smart Meters Project - Twizel

Council contractors are installing smart water meters at every property in Twizel, including businesses. Where a property already has a water meter it will be replaced with one of the new ones.

Why are we doing this?

Twizel has the highest consumption of water per head of population in the Mackenzie District. Drinking-quality treated water is expensive for Council to produce, and it is important that we do not let it leak out of pipes or valves and go to waste. We know the quantity of water that is leaving the treatment plant. By installing meters at the point of consumption we can calculate our real water loss between the plant and the consumer and find the places where we are losing water. By identifying areas of leaks and other losses we can target our repair work.

The meters will also let us know where a property has a potential leak so that we can alert the home owner that there may be a problem. This could mean we can prevent unexpected large bills from undetected leaks etc. This can be particularly useful for holiday home owners.

Does this mean that water will cost more?

No, there is no intention to change the amount we charge for water. Currently, the first 700m3 are paid for by your water rate. Anything over 700m3 currently incurs a charge, and this extra will continued to be billed.

Water Rate Facts:

- Every household pays a water rate. This covers basic consumption and the cost of supplying and maintaining the infrastructure.
- The amount of water allowed under the water rate is 700m3 per year.
- This equals: 700,000 litres
- This is an average of 1917.8 litres per day (700,000 / 365 days)
- The average person in NZ uses 227 litres per day (mainly for toilets, hygiene - bathing etc - and laundry)
- 8 average people can live in a house and still not use the whole of the annual amount of water covered by their rates.
- There is no intention to change the amount of water (700m3) that is provided by the property's water rate.

What you can expect

The meters will be installed at the toby. (The toby is the water shut-off valve, generally located at the boundary of the property, that sits between the council water main and your private water pipe.) This means that our contractors will need to access the property around the toby. We expect that some will be easy to do. However, we also know that there are some older tobys which need to be replaced as part of this work. Where our contractors do need to replace your toby there will be no charge to the home owner.

Our contractor is Paul Smith Earthmoving and their vehicles will be clearly signed. If you have any doubts about anyone approaching your property feel free to ring your one of the Council offices and ask to speak to Geoff Horler in the water team.

Most tobys are already situated at the property boundary on the road reserve. However, we will need to access the toby wherever it is situated. If a toby is somewhere else on the property, if we can, we will also move it to the road reserve. If this is not possible, it will remain inside the property.

How will the meters work?

The meter will log the flow of water through meter, and will send that information via the cell network to Council's systems in the office every day.



Twizel and 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



Level 2 Water Restrictions

Level 2 Water Restrictions currently apply for the Fairlie and Twizel town water supplies.

Twizel

Irrigation is permitted during the hours 10.00pm - 6.00am only.

Fairlie (including Kimbell)

For all users of this water supply, this means no watering of lawns and to limit all garden watering to a maximum of two hours per day.

We hope that these measures may be enough to allow us to avoid having to move to more severe restrictions.

FAIRLIE &
TWIZEL at
Level 2

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.



Dates of upcoming meetings

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.

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.

Report an issue or problem?

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



0800 685 8514

mackenzie.govt.nz

February 2024