

News & Information from Mackenzie District Council



A message from Acting Mayor Karen Morgan

Given it's only been a few weeks since I last addressed this issue, it's disappointing that I'm having to do so again. A small minority continue to circulate narratives about council activities and decisions which, at best, lack context or are exaggerated, and in some cases, are completely untrue. Two recent examples of this are claims that staff censor comments relating to council on social media sites, and that management and/or councillors have considered placing a security guard in the Fairlie office. There is no truth to either of these statements.



As I have said before, it is difficult to see how the actions of those who post this information, and those who amplify it, are benefiting our communities. It is one of the root causes of the negative behaviors which are increasingly aimed towards both staff and elected members, both in the office environment but also, sadly, when not at work.

Council welcomes constructive discussion and debate. However if dialogue is not grounded in truth, it serves no-one. Misinformation causes division and distrust. There are two sides to every story, and things are often more complex than they might appear. I encourage those with genuine concerns to discuss them with the CEO, one of your elected representatives or directly with me. Council doesn't always get it right: elected members and staff are human. Where this is identified we will make every effort to put things right. For those with genuine grievances, council has a transparent complaints procedure, and the Parliamentary Ombudsman provides independent oversight if required.

I urge you to take your information from reputable sources, think critically about the information you read and hear, seek balance in the viewpoints you're consuming and view the opinions shared via the rumour mill or social media as just that — opinion.

Clearing snow from local roads

Snow clearance from roads takes place in the following order:

- Clear critical emergency services
- Clear commercial areas and expose fire hydrants
- Clear access to urban streets and schools including bus stops
- Widen intersections
- Urban streets cleared approximately one lane
- Clear rural roads including intersections
- Move back to urban area and widen streets and clear storm water drains and grates
- Widen rural roads
- Remove snow piles in commercial / critical care areas if forecast dictates snow will linger for a number of weeks



Please stay safe on Mackenzie roads, and avoid unnecessary travel in areas of snow and ice.

Local Elections 2025 - Nominations open soon



**I'M RUNNING FOR MORE
GROWTH. CLIMATE
ACTION. GREEN SPACES.
WHATEVER YOU'RE
RUNNING FOR, RUN.**

Find out more at
mackenzie.govt.nz/elections



Outcome of Community Consultation on Fees and Charges for the 2025/2026 financial year

Earlier this year, as part of the planning for council's 2025/2026 Annual Plan, the Councillors proposed changes to excess water charges, the introduction of user pays for some public toilets and other changes to fees and charges.



These proposals were consulted on with the community. At the Council meeting held on 17 June 2025, Councillors considered the submissions received and made the following key decisions:

Water Charges

The excess water use threshold for every township connection will be set at 500m3 per annum. Excess water charges will be billed every quarter, but there will be no charge until the 500m3 threshold is reached. The charge for excess water use will be \$2.00 + GST per m3 (\$2.30).

This will apply to all township water connections i.e. Twizel, Fairlie, Tekapo and Burkes Pass, as meters are rolled out. Commercial use meters are already in place in Fairlie, Tekapo and Twizel. Residential metering, which is in place in Twizel, is currently being rolled out in Tekapo. Fairlie and Burkes Pass will follow. Further information regarding billing and how to read water meters will be provided to the community in the next few weeks.

Charges for Public Toilets

The toilets at the southern end of Lake Pukaki and at Hamilton Drive in Tekapo will be user pays. Councillors have set the charge per use as \$1.50 (electronic payment) and \$2.00 (coin payment).



Councillors confirmed a greater allocation (40%) of public toilet maintenance and cleaning costs to be allocated to the Tourism and Economic Development Rate (primarily affecting businesses, and commercial and short-term accommodation).

Other Charges

Councillors confirmed the proposed changes to other fees and charges will remain as initially proposed.

Impact on Rates

The excess water use and public toilet charges decisions result in a lower overall rate increase. The forecast overall rates increase for 2025/2026 is 10.7%. (This is because the increased charges for excess water users means a reduction in the overall increase in fixed water charges which are paid by all township connections across the district – and the user pays charges for the toilets reduces the burden on ratepayers).

Report an issue or problem?

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



Dates of upcoming meetings

Date	Meeting	Time	Location
Tuesday 8 July	Hearings for Water Services Council Chambers, Fairlie	9:30am – 3:30pm	Fairlie
Wednesday 9 July	Deliberations for Water Services Council Chambers, Fairlie	9:30am – 3:30pm	Fairlie
Tuesday 15 July	Council Meeting - Decision on Water Services Council Chambers, Fairlie	9:30am – 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

July 2025