



Mackenzie
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Workshop

Notes

Present: Mayor, Scott Aronsen, Deputy Mayor Rit Fisher, CR Phillipa Guerin, Cr Jan Spriggs, Cr Sue Allan, Cr Mark Adams, Cr Brian Finn, Angela Oosthuizen (Chief Executive Officer), Murray Dickson (General Manager Corporate, Commercial and Planning), Sandy Hogg (Finance Manager), Alexis Kereikeepa (General Manager, People, Customer and Cultural Relationships), Robyn Laidlaw (Corporate Planner), Emma Bailey (Executive Assistant Mayor & CEO), Adele McKenna (Governance Advisor).

Apologies: Cr Frank Hocken

Guest: Philip Jones (PJ & Associates)

Council Workshop – Public Excluded

Date: Tuesday 27 January 2026

Time: 9:00 am

At: 53 Main Street, Fairlie

***Important Note:** Workshops are used for information and discussion and are not for decision making. The information presented in workshops should be treated as preliminary and subject to change.*

All decisions by elected members will be made and communicated at formal meetings run under Standing Orders and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA).

Closed Session – Rating Review (Continuation)

Councillors held a closed discussion continuing from the earlier rating review discussion.

Short-Term Accommodation

- Strong focus on the impacts of short-term accommodation (e.g. Airbnbs):
 - Infrastructure impacts need to be clearly defined and quantified.
 - Consideration of lump-sum approaches was raised.
 - Possible tools include targeted rating mechanisms or changes through the Rates Remission Policy.

- Council needs a shared understanding of:
 - The impacts of short-term accommodation on infrastructure and services
 - What costs Council is seeking to recover
 - The scale of the issue (“how big is the mountain”)

Rates Review Considerations

- A full rates review opens potential risk
- Generator rates are currently supported by written documentation; however, reopening this space carries risk.
- If a full rates review is not undertaken now, the next opportunity would be approximately three years away.

Regional Rates (ECAN)

- Discrepancies have been identified in ECAN rates administration.
- MDC acts as the collection agent; concern was raised that the administrative return may not be worth the effort.
- Direction given for staff to draft correspondence to ECAN for review and discussion.

Next Steps

- Priority is required — Council cannot progress all issues at once.
- Agreed focus areas to clarify and return on:
 - Short-term accommodation
 - Financial contributions and policy alignment
 - Remission Concepts
 - Minor Dwellings
 - Tourism hot spots
- Philip Jones and Officers will return on 24 March with:
 - A “state of the nation” update
 - Short-term and long-term options and fixes
- Following that discussion, Council will be better placed to assess implications for future amalgamation readiness.
- Additional matters noted for follow-up outside the meeting:
 - Solar and energy-related discussions
 - Economic Development Officer resourcing