



Local Government Reform - Head Start

Public consultation closes Friday 24 July

The Government is proposing the biggest shakeup to the way local government services are delivered across New Zealand since 1989.

Councils across the motu have been invited to put forward proposals for new unitary authorities — councils that would combine both district council and regional council responsibilities into one organisation.

Your council now needs to decide whether to submit an outline proposal to the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport by 9 August 2026.

Before making this decision, we want to hear what you think.

Have your say at letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz > Local Government Reform Headstart

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Creative Communities Scheme open for applications

The Creative Communities Fund supports and encourages arts activities within the Mackenzie District.

The first Creative NZ Mackenzie District funding round for 2026/2027 is open for applications, closing 5:00pm on Wednesday 19 August 2026.

We would love to hear if:

- You have an idea for a diverse art or cultural project
- You seek to engage young people in the arts
- Your project encourages community participation in arts and culture



Find out more and apply at mackenzie.govt.nz > Community > Grants and Scholarships > Creative Communities Scheme



Avoid closed roads

Road closures are put in place to protect the safety of motorists, emergency responders, and road crews.

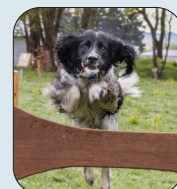
Top reasons to avoid closed roads in the Mackenzie District:

- **It is against the law:** Disregarding road closed signs is a traffic offense.
- **Hidden dangers:** Roads under snow and flood can hide several dangers: damage to the road (washouts, missing bridges, damaged culverts), hidden slips, debris (rocks, trees, animals, abandoned vehicles), or strong currents that will sweep a car away.
- **Operational staff:** Mountain passes and rural highways frequently suffer from heavy snow and black ice. These roads require heavy machinery to clear before they can be safely reopened. Other vehicles traveling on these roads risk impeding the clearing operations and delaying everyone's travel.
- **Voided insurance:** Driving on a closed road violates the terms of most rental car and personal vehicle insurance policies. You will pay out of pocket for any damage to your vehicle, or any towing/rescue costs you incur.
- **Lack of service:** Cellular reception and access to help are very limited in rural and alpine areas of New Zealand. It may be difficult to get help if you run into trouble on a closed rural road.
- **Risk to emergency responders:** If you need help on a closed road, you may find that all the available responders are already dealing with the emergency elsewhere. You could be taking them away from the situation they are already responding to, and you may have to wait for an extended time until they are free.

Dog Registrations Due

Dog registrations are due by 31 July 2026.

Don't forget, you can pay any time by calling into the council offices at Fairlie and Twizel with your details, or using the online dog registration form at mackenzie.govt.nz > Services > Dogs and Animals



News & Information - Continued



THANK YOU!

Councillors would like to extend their sincere thanks to all the volunteers and frontline personnel who gave their time to support our communities during the recent snow event.

Weather events like this can be disruptive, particularly when they coincide with a public holiday and the school holidays, placing additional pressure on our small communities. We also thank local residents for their patience, understanding and support as agencies worked to respond to the changing conditions.

Councillors and staff also received a great deal of valuable feedback from the community, along with some fantastic photos. This feedback was discussed during a post-event debrief, and we will use the lessons from this event to continue improving how we prepare for and respond to future events. Relevant feedback will also be shared with our partner agencies to help strengthen our collective response.

Did you know?

You can now watch Mackenzie District Council meetings live online.

If you miss the livestream, you can find the videos and catch up on our website. Look for the meeting details on our Meetings and Agendas section of the website at mackenzie.govt.nz > Council > Meetings and Agendas



Home energy toolkits

Alpine Energy and Mackenzie District Council have recently launched Home Energy Toolkits.

These toolkits can be used to identify key issues in a home that waste energy including: dampness, heat loss, and power-hungry appliances, giving you the tools to create a drier, more efficient home.

The kits can be borrowed from Mackenzie District Libraries at Fairlie and Twizel and staff can show you how to use them.

There will be future public sessions held at the libraries from Alpine Energy and Mackenzie District Council staff to demonstrate the advantages of the kit.



Dates of upcoming meetings

Date	Meeting	Time*	Location
Tuesday 28 July	Council Workshop Twizel Community Lounge	To be advised	Twizel
Friday 31 July	Extraordinary Council Meeting Council Chambers, Fairlie	9:30am	Fairlie
Tuesday 4 August	Council Workshop Council Chambers, Fairlie	9:30am	Fairlie
Tuesday 4 August	Water Services Committee Council Chambers, Fairlie	3:00pm	Fairlie
Thursday 6 August	Fairlie Community Board Meeting Lake Tekapo Community Hall	4:00pm	Fairlie
Monday 10 August	Tekapo Community Board Meeting Lake Tekapo Community Hall	3:00pm	Tekapo
Tuesday 11 August	Council Workshop Council Chambers, Fairlie	9:30am	Fairlie
Tuesday 11 August	Finance Committee Meeting Council Chambers, Fairlie	2:00pm	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 for scheduled meetings are available two days before the meeting (with the exception of late papers, which are added to the agenda when available). Agendas for extraordinary meetings are made available as soon as practicably possible. (Extraordinary meetings are meetings held outside the published meeting schedule and are called when a decision cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting).

Once published, agendas are available at mackenzie.govt.nz > Council > Meetings and Agendas

* The length of the meeting will depend on the agenda.



Report an issue or problem?

Contact us on 0800 685 8514, email info@mackenzie.govt.nz or use MyMDC - mackenzie.govt.nz/mymdc

