Mackenzie DISTRICT COUNCIL

News & Information



The risk of wildfires

With a developing El Niño expected to influence New Zealand's weather patterns over the coming months, it is important that we all make what preparations we can to decrease the risk of wildfire. The wildfires at Lake Pukaki and Lake Ōhau in October 2020 remind us how quickly fire can spread and how devastating it can be.

Acting now can reduce the risk to ourselves and to our community. Fire and Emergency is working with the council, Environment Canterbury and the Department of Conservation to reduce the risk of wildfires being started by human activities, and to limit the opportunities for fires to spread, so that our whole community is safer.

Actions you can take to reduce the risk to your home from wildfire

- Create a safety zone (also called defensible space) around your home
- Keep the grass short around your home, and around the garage, garden shed and other buildings
- Clear gutters to remove dead leaves, debris and pine needles
- Clear the area around your deck of dead leaves, debris and other material that will burn easily
- Move your firewood stack at least 10 metres away from the house
- Remove highly flammable plants close to your house and other buildings. Some common plants will burn very fast compared to others
- Remove branches of trees overhanging your home and outbuildings
- Make sure the access to your property, including your gateway and drive, is at least 4 metres wide and 4 metres high so emergency vehicles can reach you
- Find out more at checkitsalright.nz

Other things you can do

- Enclose the spaces under your home, such as the edge of your deck or the gap between wallboards and the ground, where embers could blow in and set fire to your house.
- Check any wooden fences around your property, and replace any sections that are joined to the house. If the fence catches fire it can set your house alight too.

Water Restrictions

There are no water restrictions currently in force in the Mackenzie District.

When we have water restrictions in place you will find the information on our website, we post regular reminders on our Facebook page and in our newsletters, and you will see the arrow on our road-side water restriction boards around the district. We have five stages of water restrictions that we can apply during dry spells:

Why do we have water restrictions?

In some years a range of factors mean that we need to put water restrictions in place to ensure our supplies can cope with demand.

In Mackenzie district our water comes from a variety of rain-fed sources, and we have a range of local climates and average rainfall totals. We are a district which is growing with new properties being built and new people moving to join us. We are also starting to see the impacts of climate change and over the coming years our district will face increasing extreme weather conditions. All of these have an impact on our water supplies.

It often seems that water is abundant, but drinkable tap water is not an infinite resource - only about 1.2% of the planet's water



is suitable for drinking. Safe drinking water is also expensive to produce and supply to our houses.

During extreme dry spells we put in place water restrictions to ensure we are all using water wisely. When we're in a drought, we don't know when it's going to end, so restrictions are a smart and proactive way of conserving water and minimising wastage.

Our restrictions limit outdoor water use. This means we can focus on having water for use in our homes and for our commercial customers. It is important that people aren't letting their hoses run wild when water is scarce.

News & Information - Continued



Long Term Plan update

Councillors continue to work on the Long Term Plan (LTP) with a focus on what may be topics for consultation. While those topics still need to be finalised Council has set up an ongoing communication portal.

If you would like to share your thoughts with Councillors on the upcoming LTP please follow the link at letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz or send an email to feedback@mackenzie.govt.nz

Mackenzie Grant Finder

Looking for funding opportunities?
Go to mackenzie.govt.nz/grantfinder





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If you're looking for new career opportunities surrounded by wide-open spaces and stunning landscapes, connect with us at careers.mackenzie.govt.nz.



Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere, and often without warning. It is important to make emergency plans so you know what to do when an emergency happens.

Make a household emergency plan



A household emergency plan lets everyone in your household know what to do in an emergency and how to get ready. Having a plan helps make actual emergency situations less stressful.

Your emergency plan should consider:

- your strengths, needs and situation
- steps you have already taken to prepare, and
- gaps in your plan that increase your risk in an emergency (and ways to address them).

Make a plan with your whānau to get through an emergency. Think about the things you need every day and work out what you would do if you didn't have them.

Make sure your home emergency plan also lines up with emergency plans for your work, school, and other places where you spend a lot of time.

Find out more at getready.govt.nz > Prepared > Household > Make a plan

Dates of upcoming meetings

Date	Meeting	Time*	Location
30 November 2026	**Twizel Community Board Meeting** Twizel Community Lounge	4:30pm	Twizel
7 December 2026	**Council Workshop** Council Chambers, Fairlie	9:00am	Fairlie
8 December 2026	**Finance Committee Meeting** Council Chambers, Fairlie	9:00am	Fairlie
8 December 2026	**Council Workshop** Council Chambers, Fairlie	11:00am	Fairlie
15 December 2026	**Audit and Risk Committee Meeting** Council Chambers, Fairlie	9:00am	Fairlie
15 December 2026	**Council Meeting** Council Chambers, Fairlie	11:00am	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.