

Mackenzie Messenger



Mackenzie
DISTRICT COUNCIL

News & Information from Mackenzie District Council

Much like 2020, this past year has been a testing time for many. Covid continues to impose it's complexities on our lives, with new systems and rules we've been instructed to follow under the new Traffic Light System. Add to this the numerous reforms all occurring at once that have caused contention and division amongst some, it's safe to say 2021 has challenged all of us in some way, shape or form.

In spite of these hardships, I'm extremely proud and honoured as the Mayor of the Mackenzie to see that our communities continue to remain resilient and supportive through these trying times. We have a very unique and special way of life here in the Mackenzie, and it's one that we should continue to cherish and foster. Over the Christmas and New Year period, I hope everyone can take a moment to simply step back, clear your mind of anything that may cause you stress and anxiety, and even just for a few moments, try to focus on your loved ones around you and the little things, like a cold drink on a hot summers evening, or a swim in one of our beautiful lakes. Try to take some time to give your mind, body and soul a rest before launching into 2022, as everyone deserves a well-earned break.

As always, continue to look out for one another,



support local businesses for Christmas and over the summer break, take extra care on the roads and highways when travelling. Enjoy the incredible landscape and natural environment we are so lucky to have as our backyard, and please, continue to be kind to one another.

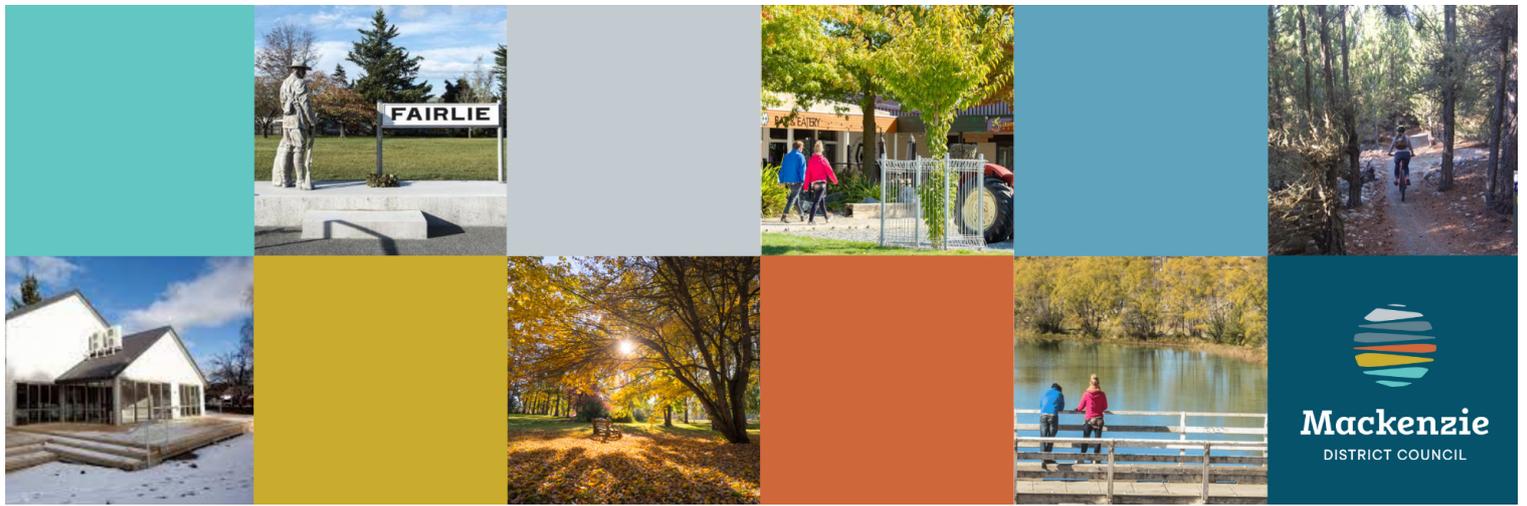
Thank you for allowing me to represent the Mackenzie District as your Mayor for another year. Thank you to my Councillors & Community Boards, Angela and the team at our MDC offices for all your commitment and hard work this year, and to the volunteers who do so much for our communities, especially at this time of year. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and I wish you all the very best for 2022.

Mayor Graham

Best wishes for the Festive Season!

Council offices close at midday on 24 December, reopening on 5 January. Our customer services team are available throughout the holiday period to deal with urgent matters on 0800 685 8514.





Tell us what you think about the strategy for Mackenzie District's parks and amenities.

The Mackenzie District has many local parks, playgrounds, trails and public toilets for locals and visitors to enjoy. They play a big part in what makes the area a great place to live and visit. We recognise that there are several underdeveloped recreation spaces and that many trails have developed organically over time. Some of these trails are not well-known or well sign posted. We also know that providing more connections, seating, shade or facilities like water fountains, furniture and toilets could make these spaces in even better. If we improve our parks, trails, playgrounds and public toilets, locals and visitors would want to use these places more often. That's why we've developed the Mackenzie District Parks and Amenities Strategy and we need your help.

Earlier this year we asked for feedback on how people currently use the existing parks, trails, playgrounds and public toilets in the Mackenzie District, what you like about them, and what you think is missing. We used your insights and the feedback from stakeholders to develop a strategy that sets out what we'll do with our parks, playgrounds, trails, and public toilets in the Mackenzie District, including those communities outside of the main townships, over the next 10 to 20 years.

The strategy outlines:

- The priorities and goals
- The framework for decision-making
- The level of investment needed
- A priority plan for the delivery each of identified projects

We'll also use the strategy to guide investment through the Long-Term Plan, annual budgets and the Land Development Fund. Before we finalise the strategy, we want to check in and see whether we've missed anything.

Have your say!

Visit letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz to view the draft strategy and share your thoughts with the team. Feedback closes at 5pm on **Tuesday 21 December 2021**. Thank you for taking the time to help us deliver better outcomes for our community.

Let's talk
Kōrero mai
Mackenzie

Rates Instalment 2 and F.A.Q

As signalled earlier this year, Council has experienced delays with preparation and adoption of the Long Term Plan. This has impacted production of invoices for the second instalment of rates. To minimise inconvenience to ratepayers, Council has changed the due date for payment of instalment 2 to 30th December 2021 instead of the usual 20th December. Instalment 1 was based on 25% of last years Mackenzie rates as well as a quarter of Environment Canterbury actual rates. The current rates invoice will show instalment 2 being a quarter of the 2021/2022 annual rates, plus any shortfall in the amount that was charged for instalment 1. Any shortfall amount will be payable along with the instalment 2. For new assessments rated from 1 July 2021, only the Environment Canterbury Rates were included on the instalment 1 invoice, so instalment 2 will have the Mackenzie rates included for instalments 1 and 2. Council apologises for any inconvenience that this may cause. We understand that rates can be confusing, and we're more than happy to explain in more detail. You can contact us on 0800 685 8514 or email us at info@mackenzie.govt.nz - we're here to help.

Frequently Asked Questions

Rates Invoices by Email

You can have your rates emailed to you instead of being posted out. Just email us to ask, including the email address you'd like the invoice sent to, along with your property details.

Payments by Cheque

Council does not accept cheques for payment of rates and other accounts.

Payments made from your Bank Account - Direct debits

You can pay your rates by direct debit each quarter, Contact the Council for a form to complete.

Payments made from your Bank Account - Direct credit

Fixed amount payments can be made automatically from your bank account at a frequency preferred by you. Bill payment set up by you is the most popular method. It is the ratepayers responsibility to ensure payment amounts are adjusted if required. The equivalent of each instalment still must be met on or before the due instalment date to avoid penalty charges. If you sell your property, please remember to cancel your direct credit authority with your bank.

Telephone & internet banking

You will need to deal directly with your bank to set up this payment option. Please make sure that with each payment your property's Valuation Number is quoted. If you have more than one property, the rate instalment for each requires a separate entry on the Council's bank statement.

Common mistakes with internet banking -only pay one invoice at a time

If you pay a total amount such as the rates for multiple properties all in the one payment and the reference is for just one rate account, it will appear that you have merely paid more than one instalment on only one of your accounts. That means, it will look like you haven't paid the others and they will be treated just as if you never paid them at all. The solution is to separate your rate account payments and ensure all the details are completed. When no reference is provided we are unable to link the payment to an account.

Changing Properties

If you sell one property and purchase another, please change your Rate Account Number when setting up a bill payment or doing a one-off payment online. If you are paying by direct debit make sure you tell the council to cancel the payment from the property that you have sold and set up a new direct debit for the new property.

Rate Rebate Scheme

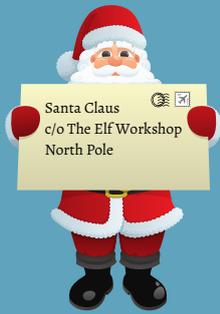
The rates rebate scheme is a government assisted rebate for lower income ratepayers. It is measured on the total income of the household before tax (which includes income benefits, interest and other income such as wages). Examples of eligibility: a single person living alone and solely on superannuation income will be eligible if their rates are above \$1200.00 for the year. Married couples whose income is solely superannuation will be eligible if their rates are above \$2900.00. Other ratepayers such as the self employed or those on very low levels of income may also be eligible but must produce evidence of income such as an IRD income summary or set of accounts.

Rate Arrears

If you are having trouble meeting your rates payments or have rates arrears, please contact the Council for assistance with payment options. We're here to help.

Holiday Services

Please see our website for full details of changes to services over the holiday period, and for up to date guidance on COVID-19 procedures at Council facilities.



Twizel Post Shop hours:

24 December	Closed from midday
25 - 28 December	Closed
29 - 31 December	Open 11am - 1pm
1 - 4 January	Closed
5 January	Normal opening hours

Kerbside Collections:

Bin collections will take place on the usual day. There will be additional an red bin collection on:

Twizel: 27 & 28 December
Tekapo: 5 January



Recovery Parks:



Fairlie: 28th, 30th Dec, 4th Jan	2.30pm - 4.30pm.
Tekapo: 27th Dec, 3rd Jan	9am - 11.30am
Tekapo: 29th Dec, 5th Jan	10am - 4.30pm
Twizel: 27th Dec, 3rd Jan	10am - 4pm
Twizel: 28-31 Dec, 4-5Jan	12pm - 4pm



Please recycle:

Plain wrapping paper
Cardboard boxes, clean bottles & jars. Remove glitter, bows etc from Christmas cards.

Plastics



Please don't recycle:

Shiny or glittered wrapping paper, batteries, soiled paper cups & plates, baubles, tinsel & artificial wreaths.

Plastics

