

# News & Information from Mackenzie District Council



**Mackenzie**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## A Message From Graham Smith, Mayor of the Mackenzie District.



Much like 2020, this past year has been a testing time for many. Covid continues to impose its 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 summer's 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*

## Mackenzie Basin Fireworks Ban to Limit Fire Risk.



A temporary fireworks ban covering the Mackenzie Basin will come into effect on Wednesday 15 December as part of efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire over the summer.

This is the second year that Fire and Emergency NZ has used Section 52 of the Fire and Emergency Act to prevent people letting off fireworks in the area, following the devastating wildfires at Lake Pukaki and Lake Ōhau last year.

The District Manager for Mid-South Canterbury, Rob Hands, says that while the countryside was still comparatively green, locals understood how quickly conditions could change given a few warm and windy days.

"We are putting this measure in place now so that we have a consistent approach all summer. People will see signage being installed over the next few days and we will be putting up posters in campgrounds, shops and iSites around the district."

Wildfire is an ever-present hazard in the Mackenzie District because of its dry and windy climate, the natural vegetation and its topography. Wildfires can be started by natural causes such as lightning, or by human activities - both accidental and deliberate.

"The fires at Lake Pukaki and Lake Ōhau reminded us all how quickly a fire can spread and how devastating the consequences can be," Mr Hands says. "It only takes one spark to start a wildfire. That's why we are once again asking people to leave their fireworks at home if they're visiting the Mackenzie Basin this summer."

The temporary ban will be in place until the end of March 2022.

**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**



## Council adopts 2021 Long Term Plan.

Mackenzie District Council this week adopted its 2021 - 2031 Long Term Plan. Graham Smith, Mayor, said, 'As Mayor of Mackenzie I along with my council are pleased to finally adopt our Long Term Plan. We have faced big challenges in balancing our small rate base against growth, meeting requirements for Government compliance, and protecting our environment. I want to thank our communities for your input into consultation and the excellent submissions we received. From this we have been able to develop a sustainable, affordable plan that largely delivers on infrastructure and will support our communities into the future.'

All councils are required to have Long-term Plans, which outlines to the community how council intends to invest over the next 10 years. The LTP is an important part of council's planning process. It sets out the services and activities that Council will provide, the projects Council will carry out, and the level of service the community can expect over the next decade. It also includes how much Council expects things to cost, how everything will be paid for and what it means for rates and debt. Council has reviewed the rating model to ensure that the majority (80%) of our ratepayers face annual increases of less than \$500.

Local Councils have faced considerably uncertainty, which has made preparation of a robust plan challenging, said Acting Chief Angela Oosthuizen, Chief Executive of Mackenzie District Council. 'There has been significant change in the local government sector, and the needs of the District. Proposed changes to the management of three waters, an overhaul of the planning framework and an ongoing review of the role of local government have diverted significant staff time and resource. We've also been dealing with the ongoing impact of COVID-19, and the need to provide for appropriate growth in the District, balanced with protecting our incredibly important environment. Despite these challenges, I'm confident that we've delivered an ambitious and challenging Long Term Plan. We are keen and looking forward to being able to actively progress and deliver our key strategic projects such as the Destination Management plan, District Plan review, and three waters projects targeting at improving our drinking water treatment and quality.'

The full Long Term Plan and supporting documents can be found on Mackenzie District Council's website - [www.mackenzie.govt.nz](http://www.mackenzie.govt.nz)

**ONE POO  
CAN CLOSE  
THE LAKE**



**POO IMPACTS WATER QUALITY IN OUR LAKES**

Just a small amount of human or dog poo can shut down a whole swimming area for days - don't ruin everyone else's holiday.

[ecan.govt.nz/usealoo](http://ecan.govt.nz/usealoo)

## Looking after our lakes and waterways.

Picture this: it's a hot summer day and you're preparing for a refreshing dip in your favourite swimming spot, but you notice there's something disturbing the surface of the water. Unfortunately, since the last time you visited, the waterway has become infested with an aquatic weed. Someone used their kayak in a nearby lake and forgot to check their equipment before using it at your swimming spot. Now you will have to try and enjoy your swim with weeds getting caught around your arms and legs.

Unfortunately, this is only the tip of the iceberg. We all know how horrible didymo is when it's in bloom, but what happens if more aquatic weeds spread through our waterways? They not only affect our enjoyment and safety out on the water, but ruin valuable ecosystems by inhibiting growth of native water plants and reducing likely spawning areas for many types of fish. Some of the aquatic pest species present in New Zealand exist within Canterbury, but many of our lakes and rivers remain pest-free. To help keep it this way, it's important that equipment and vessels are properly cleaned and decontaminated before entering any waterway. High risk species are those that are microscopic, so even if you can't see it, it's a threat.

This summer, Environment Canterbury, who is the regional lead for the CCD programme, has two Freshwater Biosecurity Advocates on board. They will work through the busy Christmas period at popular holiday spots across the region to speak with freshwater users. The Advocates, Alison Spera and Cameron Caudwell, have also been working hard to connect with clubs, outdoor retailers, event organisers and have reached out to district councils to provide information and cleaning packs.

**You can help the programme too!**

Look after your own gear and equipment but remind others about the need to CCD as well. People are happy to undertake the necessary steps to CCD if they understand what's at stake, and if they receive a friendly reminder. CCD involves a simple set of actions relevant to all freshwater users, which includes anyone who works around waterways, uses them recreationally, or even just crosses through them. If you are frequently moving between waterways, you must Check, Clean, Dry. Visit Environment Canterbury's CCD page for instructions, and if you are interested in helping out with this campaign or would like any further information, you can also email [checkcleandry@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:checkcleandry@ecan.govt.nz).

**0800 685 8514**

**[mackenzie.govt.nz](http://mackenzie.govt.nz)**

**Christmas 2021**