

### Council's view on Three Waters reform - 29 April 2022

#### Council had 5 bottom lines with respect to the Water reform process agreed to in 2021

- Control of the price of water for our communities
- Compliance with new standards is our priority
- Council must remain a viable and sustainable model
- Cost of stranded assets must be considered
- Maintaining a strong local voice for our communities is important

We do believe that improvements in water quality are important and have actively undertaken projects to do just that.

#### We have been disappointed throughout the reform process on a number of matters:

- We did not agree with the assumptions provided in the WCS analysis that formed the basis for the reform models and have made this known through our various submissions to the DIA
- The terms of Terms of Reference of the Three Waters Working group on Representation and accountability was extremely narrow
- We do not believe there was genuine engagement from the Central government with Local government
- Public Ownership ideas in the reform process fell well short of what's needed
- The proposed entities are not democratically accountable to our communities of interest
- The entire approach including today's announcement reflects pre-determinability
- One size fits none"
- We have considered alternative subregional models that can provide economies of scale and greater local voice but these have been discounted and not looked into

Despite all of our concerns, we have worked co-operatively and collaboratively with Central Government and the DIA throughout this reform projects. We agreed to participate in the Tranche 1 Funding and on track to deliver significant water quality improvements by June 2022.

#### The Communities for Democracy have a 10 point compromise plan which we believe targets the key issues with the reform:

- Foundation principle - community property rights in Three Waters assets are to be both respected and meaningful
- The Government agree to pause its reform process to allow time for the revised approach to be refined
- With respect to investment decision-making, asset owners should actively seek to initiate authentic discussions with mana whenua at a local level that consider co-design and partnership arrangements that acknowledge and enable Te Tiriti based pathways at a local and regional level.
- Asset owners agree to commit to meeting health and environmental standards, once known, within an appropriate time frame
- The regulatory framework should specify a "backstop" provision that identifies a set of circumstances which would justify future Crown intervention if an asset owner was not making acceptable progress towards meeting those regulatory requirements
- Progress should be reported on annually by asset owners and be benchmarked across the sector
- To further incentivise sector progress, a formal process might be established that requires an asset owner to prepare a plan that would map out the steps it proposes to take to meet the required standards in a financially viable and sustainable manner
- A process to finance and allocate funds to areas that will require financial assistance be designed that is national in application and independently administered accordingly to objective and transparent criteria
- This subsidy scheme will be designed to meet investment shortfalls until such time as sufficient progress has been made. At which point the scheme will cease and asset owners will finance matters on a business-as-usual approach
- A sector-wide sector best-practice improvement process be created and membership made compulsory

#### A media release by Communities 4 Local Democracy stated the following points.

- Communities 4 Local Democracy says Government plans to force through water reforms virtually unchanged is a worrying attack on property rights and community voice.
- The changes embed an unusual public shareholding model, where shareholders would have no rights other than the ability deciding to privatise services or not.
- They also propose another level of complexity in governance, taking most councils even further away from a position of influence.
- Despite some tinkering around the edges it didn't make the model itself any more palatable for communities.
- With the new sub-regional groups it's likely the voice and influence of smaller councils will be even more reduced.

Communities for Democracy(C4D) comprises 32 councils representing 1.5 million people and these will most certainly voice their disapproval. We will continue to work with the community for democracy who are committed to working to get a better model in place that works for everyone.

The C4D are urging Councils to get in touch with their local MPs to ensure they know what you think about this plan, and are encouraging significant local participation in the select committee process.

We are indeed disappointed with the Three Waters announcement made on 29 April 2022.



# Mackenzie

## DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

TOMORROW'S MACKENZIE  
KA AWATEA HŌU

We're updating the District Plan to ensure it ensures we can grow in a sustainable way, while protecting the things that make the Mackenzie District special.

### What is the district plan?

A District Plan is essentially the rule book that sets district-wide rules for sustainably managing how people use, subdivide and develop land, what and where they can build and also what kind of activities they can undertake. The Plan also controls any adverse effects an activity could have on the neighbourhood and protects the uniqueness of our district by looking after our heritage, cultural values, outstanding landscapes and coastal environment among other matters.

### Why are we reviewing the district plan?

The Mackenzie District Plan (District Plan) is currently 15 years old and needs to be reviewed and updated to better respond to the effects of growth, bring it into line with national and regional planning instruments, and implement the newly created Mackenzie Spatial Plans.

The effects of growth and development are being felt across the Mackenzie District, both positive and negative. The current planning framework is outdated and has not kept pace with growth. This is leading to outcomes that were not anticipated when the operative District Plan was drafted and are affecting the communities of the Mackenzie.

There are a number of issues at play in the Mackenzie District that are creating pressures for both locals and visitors while impacting infrastructure and amenity values. Four key problems have been identified by elected members that need to be addressed.

- Uncoordinated and fragmented development is enabled, disrupting social and economic wellbeing, putting pressure on infrastructure.
- Failure to protect our natural landscapes, water and indigenous biodiversity, erodes Mackenzie's unique environment.
- Mana whenua values and footprint are missing, reducing the strength of the plan & inhibiting the ability of our tangata and mokopuna to thrive.
- The outdated and permissive nature of the plan, results in inconsistent and ad hoc decision making, creating perverse and undesirable outcomes.

### What are we trying to achieve?

These are the District Plan Review's investment objectives:

- Improved social and economic outcomes, and resilience
- Enhancing and protecting our natural environment and landscapes.
- Mana whenua values are protected and integrated for future generations.
- The plan is fit for purpose & future focused.

Partnering with mana whenua and the community, the District Plan will look to raise the bar for the future of the Mackenzie District. It will ensure MDC can manage the effects of growth while planning for the future. It will also ensure the environmental, social and economic needs of each community are provided for.

### How are we going to do it?

It is proposed to work through the plan in stages which, once complete, will achieve a fully replaced district plan in the National Planning Standard format. The objective is to give effect to all relevant regional and national statutory documents via this process. The development of each chapter will include a review to ensure regional and national compliance, with specific provisions or cross references included where appropriate.

### How do I have a say?

Visit our District Plan Review engagement page at 'Lets Talk' -

[letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz/mackenzie-district-plan-review](https://letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz/mackenzie-district-plan-review) - to learn more and find out about how you can be part of the conversation. If you would like to know more, or sign up for further notifications, please email [districtplan@mackenzie.govt.nz](mailto:districtplan@mackenzie.govt.nz) and request to be added to the District Plan Review mailing list.

Wherever you PAY RATES you can VOTE

0800 54 8683 | 0800 LG VOTE | go to [VOTELOCAL.CO.NZ](https://VOTELOCAL.CO.NZ)



# Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve

## Management Plan Feedback



Public consultation took place for the Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan between mid-March and mid-April, with 91 responses received from individuals or organisations, mostly via Council's Let's Talk platform at [letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz](http://letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz)

The main themes within the feedback included:

- General support and complimentary comments to the Council for initiating development of a plan for the reserve
- Provision for horse riding, including trails, float parking and camping
- Requests for a dedicated space for a dog park
- Support for improving and expanding walking and cycling trails
- More and upgraded areas and facilities for picnicking
- Requests to upgrade and expand the play area
- Support for improving and upgrading toilet provision
- Requests to improve boat launching and trailer parking facilities
- Support for better access to the lake edges and development of the lagoon area

Overall, most feedback was positive and focused on the potential opportunities to develop the reserve and enhance the visitor experience.

The equestrian community provided the most feedback and accounted for 61% of all feedback received via the 'Let's Talk' page. Most equestrian-related feedback generally requested provision for horse riding in the reserve. However, other topics included horse float parking and provision for overnight camping and overnight holding paddocks.

People commented on the value of developing the play offer at the reserve and a number noted the need to improve and upgrade other existing facilities such as toilets and picnic areas. To a lesser extent people noted the need for tree management and in particular the need to replace wilding pines with more appropriate species.

There was a mixed response regarding development of sports fields at the park. However, there were almost twice as many in favour of sports fields than opposed to the idea.

Developing the walking and cycle network in the park was seen as important, as was having access to toilets and shade, and better access to the lake edge.

Most responses related to the reserve, although some out-of-scope feedback was received. For example, issues and suggestions relating to the recreational boating on the lake and providing safe access to Max Smith Drive from SH8.



# Tekapo Yellow Recycling Bin Clip Roll-out

With the implementation of the new green organic bins within the Tekapo township bin collection zone, focus is being given to the yellow recycling bin lids.

Traditionally, due to Tekapo's wind conditions, yellow recycling bin lids have been held in place using bungee cords.

With Envirowaste's bin collection trucks moving to an 'automatic arm' side loading system for yellow recycling bins, bungee cords are no longer to be used, due to incompatibility with the new system.

There are further safety and time issues with bungee cords, the collection truck driver leaving the cab to undo cords each time a yellow recycling bin is collected.

To replace bungee cords, Council have rolled out a new bin clip system to all yellow bins within the Tekapo township bin collection zone.



The bin clip, made from rubber, is physically attached to the bin and is designed to keep the bin lid closed when out in the wind, though releases when the bin is tipped into the bin truck. The bin clips are used for bin collections in several areas throughout New Zealand where there are strong wind conditions.

Bin clip rollouts took place throughout April. Later dates may be advised for bins not fitted with clips in the initial rollouts. The rollout is taking place in Tekapo only at this time, though may extend to other bin collection zones in due course.

# New Organic Waste Collection Service

We are excited to have implemented the new Green Organics Bin Collection for the Mackenzie District. We have been working with our contractors for some time to make the changes necessary for us both to provide this service, which ratepayers and residents have been asking for.

The new green bins were distributed over the week of 14-18 March to Twizel, Tekapo, Fairlie, Kimbell, Burke's Pass and Albury.



The Green Organics Bin Collection takes place weekly. The green bin takes food waste and garden waste – the exceptions to this are bamboo, cabbage tree leaves, rhubarb leaves, flax and palm leaves, shells and shellfish.



After collection, Green bin content is transported to the organics facility at Redruth, Timaru.

This is a great step forward for waste in the Mackenzie District, which will result in around 330 tonnes of organic waste being diverted from landfill and processed into usable compost.