

News & Information from Mackenzie District Council



Mackenzie
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Lake Tekapo wildfire prompts strong warning about risk

A wildfire at Lake Tekapo on Tuesday 1 November has prompted a strong warning for landowners to make sure any old land management fires are completely extinguished.

Fire and Emergency Incident Controller Steve Ochsner said the fire was reported at 2.45am, close to the Tekapo Power Station on Tekapo Powerhouse Road, and near Lake Tekapo Village.

The fire was fanned by extremely strong winds overnight, burning through a range of vegetation on privately owned land, including forestry, farmland and wilding pines. Crews worked to protect the power station in the early hours, and it was no longer at risk, Mr Ochsner said.

Thanks to steady rain and calm conditions in the area, the fire was no longer running, providing crews the chance to create a control line. Crews from Lake Tekapo, Twizel, Fairlie and Burkes Pass fought the fire overnight. "This would have been a completely different story if the wind had kept up and we hadn't had the rain," Mr Ochsner said. "We are still working hard to contain it."

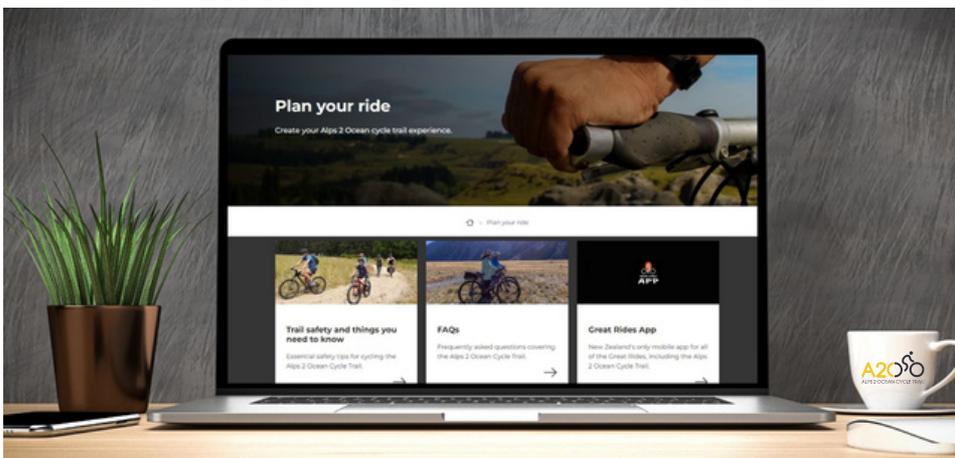
Two crews worked on the fire, joined by a further two from Cave and Cannington, with four-wheel-drive fire trucks. Two excavators cleared access to the fireground and created firebreaks.

There will be an investigation into the circumstances of the fire, which is not considered suspicious.

Mid South Canterbury District Manager Rob Hands said that it was pure luck that the weather had changed in the morning, bringing calm conditions and rain to the area. "Lake Tekapo area has a high risk of wildfire all year round. The morning's incident shows how easily a fire will run in windy conditions, so people have to be vigilant all the time and take extra care when they are lighting any fires on their own property."

Fireworks were an additional risk at this time of year, and anyone planning to let them off needed to have water on hand to make sure they were completely out before disposing of them carefully.

Fire and Emergency is working with Mackenzie District Council, Environment Canterbury and the Department of Conservation on a wildfire risk reduction programme for the Lake Tekapo community.



New Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail Website

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new website for the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail at www.alps2ocean.com. Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail is one of the premium Great Rides of New Zealand, connecting Aoraki/Mount Cook to the Pacific Ocean travelling through the Mackenzie and Waitaki Districts offering amazing scenery and natural wonders along the trail.

The website was redesigned to give a modern, responsive look with easier navigation, making it more user-friendly. The new website was also redesigned to consolidate all functions of the website under one umbrella, to make it easier for website users to find all the information they require under the same website, as well as easily direct visitors to the Alps 2 Ocean Official Partner service providers.

The new site features trail details and maps, covering the route from Mt Cook to Oamaru. It gives tips on how to plan your ride, including trail safety, fitness levels, itineraries, and service providers to help visitors plan their trip on the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail.

Moreso, the website also provides real-time updates on current trail weather conditions for the different trail sections, as well as inform cyclists of trail closures or detours in place. A comprehensive trail directory of service providers supporting visitors along the trail is available, giving visitors a choice of guided or independently organised trips, accommodation providers, bike shops and hire, car relocation services along the trail, food and drink service providers, and merchandise. The adventures along the trail are the highlight of the trip for many, so we also have a list of attractions and things to do along the trail.

We invite you to check out the new website at www.alps2ocean.com. Feedback can be sent to a2otrailmanager@waitaki.govt.nz.



Ruataniwha Reserve Management Plan

Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve comprises of 68.77ha of land classified as recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. Mackenzie District Council has prepared reserve management plan for reserve and in accordance with section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 and invites the public to submit written suggestions on the draft plan.

The council has also prepared a (non-statutory) concept plan for the reserve that provides graphic representation of the vision and development aspirations provided for in the reserve management plan. Council would also like your feedback on this concept plan.

For more information and to provide feedback:

- Visit letstalk.mackenzie.govt.nz > Lake Ruataniwha Recreation Reserve Management Plan
- Email submissions to info@mackenzie.govt.nz

Or write to:
Dafydd Pettigrew
c/o Mackenzie District Council
Service Agency
Market Place
Twizel 9744

The submission period ends at midnight on Sunday 15 January 2023. Please indicate if you would like to speak to your submission.

Next steps

Once the submission period has closed comments collected through this process will be considered, a summary of submissions prepared and hearing may be held if submitters wish to speak in support of their feedback.

Eliminating wild Russell lupin from land adjacent to SH8

Environment Canterbury is responsible for providing regional leadership in pest management and for implementing the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan. Its purpose is to minimise adverse effects associated with specified organisms, through a regionally coordinated approach.

Wild Russell lupin is declared a pest under the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan. Rule 6.4.23 (d) of the Plan requires land occupiers on rural zoned land to eliminate wild Russell lupins within:

- d. 10 metres from an adjoining property boundary.

The reason for this rule is to prevent wild Russell lupin establishing and seeding within the specified distances from waterways and adjoining property boundaries.

Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency undertakes annual lupin control along the road margins of State Highway 8. It is therefore required under the rules specified above, that all wild Russell lupin be controlled within 10 metres of the adjoining NZTA property boundary.

An inspection will be carried out in January 2023 to ensure the control of wild Russell lupin has been undertaken. Further information covering rules and control options is available at ecan.govt.nz



Report an issue or problem?

Contact us on 0800 685 8514
or email info@mackenzie.govt.nz



Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 13 December	Council Meeting	9:30am - 2:00pm	Fairlie
	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Fairlie
	Citizenship Ceremony	4:00pm - 5:00pm	Fairlie

Committee meetings follow the preceding meeting and so start times will vary. 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 are available on the Council website at least two working days before each meeting.

0800 685 8514

mackenzie.govt.nz

Mid-November 2022