

Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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www.cluthadc.govt.nz

0800 801 350

help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz

From the Mayor



Eighteen months into the trimester and it's time for the mid term report. So much has happened in this short period, easily the most confronting and demanding that Clutha has faced. We hadn't even been sworn in when the harsh reality of the sewerage debacle blindsided us, and while the issue struck the entire organisation to the core,

it has been the catalyst to major structural changes. With some hard lessons have been learnt. Fortunately insurance covered litigious actions against Council but this in no way masked the seriousness of the matter, and demanded critical analysis of much that we do.

And so the theme was set. What had been planned as a major delivery period soon became a time where major unforeseen disruption dominated with next Covid-19 changing society forever. Quickly followed by the all-consuming reforms proposed by Wellington around Governance of three waters infrastructure. This will inevitably change democracy as we know it in New Zealand for ever. And all the while there was the urgent and growing demand to devise strategies and initiatives to overcome our economy's dual greatest impediments, a lack of housing, combined with a serious lack of staff.

Exhaustive consultation and engagement with our communities has been another dominant theme, and

the number of people engaging with us now underlines the growing awareness of the significance placed on public sentiment. Consultation gives Council assurance on key and contentious issues. The Clutha Community Hub was a prime example where we avoided the quagmire of inertia and indecision by following the will of the majority. Exhaustive engagement in Milton has eventually lead to a better understanding of all parties needs, as we strive to get the balance right on multi-project initiatives.

This year's Long Term Plan (LTP) was dominated by cost drivers in urban communities, with most rural seeing large reductions, and this trend looks set to continue. We have managed to remain under our 4% self-imposed rates cap for the next three years, but not without difficulty. Our core infrastructural budget has an unprecedented \$280 million to be spent over the next 10 years. While we announced our firm commitment to roading services with a 27% increase over three years we have already been thwarted by our funding partner Waka Katohi, who have demanded we reduce the increase to 15%. Unfortunately councils do not have control of their destiny when it comes to roading.

So how have we managed such huge increases in core spending while remaining one of the lowest rate increases in the country? Undoubtedly this is due to a combination of factors, but do not underestimate the significant role our investment portfolio played with a 21% return, allowing Council the latitude to both support requests from communities and redistribute returns to all ratepayers via the Uniform Annual General Charge.

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From the Mayor continued...

I openly pay homage to the fairness, decency, and commitment of my councillors, who have remained steadfast under pressure. To the organisations internal resilience and strategic foresight. We know we have been tested, and we acknowledge things haven't been perfect, but

we have been able to draw on our Council's historical strength to prevail. But most of all I want to thank you the public that continue to remain positive, and believing in a bright future for the District. Recent LTP consultation around all communities was dominated by a spirit of commitment to staying on course and always striving for new initiatives to enhance

our upward trajectory. I thank you for your support and confidence.

The next 18 months will see us deliver on many key projects, but we also have three waters reform, Covid-19, and who knows what else to contend with. We look forward to working in tandem with you to face what ever challenges come our way – Onwards and Upwards.

Draft Lawrence-Tuapeka Reserve Management Plan 2021-31

We encourage everyone to have their say!

We have developed a Draft Reserve Management Plan for Council reserves in the Lawrence-Tuapeka area.

The draft plan describes the reserves, their purpose, and the activities that may be undertaken.

Once finalised, the plan will act as a guide for Council officers in making both day-to-day decisions, and long-term decisions about how reserves and open spaces under its control are to be used, managed, or developed.

We have used feedback received during the Our Place Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Plan process in 2020 to develop this draft plan.

An additional two-month consultation period is required under the Reserves Act 1977.

At the end of this period, a Council hearing is held to consider the submissions, and submitters can have the opportunity to speak to their submission.

A final Reserve Management Plan incorporating decisions from the hearing is prepared and the finalised Reserve Management Plan is adopted.

The Draft Reserve Management Plan can be viewed via



Council's website or at Council offices.

You can provide your submission:

- Via the online form,
- By post to Clutha District Council, PO Box 25, Balclutha 9230,
- Or by email to helpdesk@cluthadc.govt.nz

The consultation period lasts for two months and closes on 2 September 2021.

New Civil Defence tool helps Otago Get Ready

Emergency Management Otago is encouraging residents across the region to sign up to Gets Ready, a two-way communication tool which helps people better prepare for emergencies and be more informed, co-ordinated and resilient when they occur.

Gets Ready will better connect people in their neighbourhoods and help them look after each other by sharing resources, supporting those who are more vulnerable.

Gets Ready also provides a channel for residents to pass on-the-ground intelligence back to the Emergency Operations Centre via their Community Response Groups. This helps Civil Defence co-ordinate a targeted response and get information and help to where it's most needed, quickly and effectively

To register for Gets Ready, follow the quick and easy three-step process:

Either scan the Otago Gets Ready QR code or go to www.getsready.net to log your contact details.



Fill out the Resources, Skills and Needs section with any relevant details – you can choose to share as much or as little information as you wish.

Once you receive the activation email (check your Junk Mail if it doesn't come through within a few minutes) and click on the link to activate your profile. All information is held privately and securely and is only accessible to authorised Civil Defence staff.

Property Inspections

Council is undertaking a district-wide property inspection programme to identify any issues with inflow and infiltration to our sewer collection system.

Council employees are currently going door-to-door undertaking visual checks of people's stormwater and sewerage utilities at their property.

Council's Water Technicians will be wearing an orange vest and carrying a warrant card and are easily identified.

Why are we doing this

When heavy rain hits the Clutha District wastewater can get into our waterways and has a detrimental effect on our environment. During heavy rain, increased inflow and infiltration can overwhelm our sewer system, it can increase up to 10 times more than the average daily flow, which then causes overflows.

This increases the cost associated with wastewater pumping and treatment and can lead to the contamination of private properties and the environment.

This is not a new issue and it is not just happening in Clutha, but it is something that Council must address as what was accepted in the past is no longer allowed.

What is Inflow and Infiltration?

Inflow and Infiltration refers to rainwater and groundwater that enters the wastewater system through a variety of defects on public and private property.

Inflow is the direct discharge of stormwater

(i.e., rainwater) entering the sewer collection system, often from low lying gully traps, yard drains, roof downpipes and cross connections from stormwater drains that connect directly to the sewer.

Infiltration is the stormwater that seeps into the ground and enters the sewerage system, including sewer service connections, through defects, cracks, and joints in the pipe.

Gully Trap

A **gully trap** collects wastewater from the kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Gully traps that are not set up correctly can allow stormwater runoff to enter them and into the wastewater system where it shouldn't be. Gully traps must be installed no less than 25mm above a paved surface such as a concrete driveway or foot path and no less than 100mm above an unpaved surface such as gardens and grass areas.

Next steps, how can you help?

Once the inspection has been completed, property owners will be contacted regarding the findings and advice on remedial actions. As a property owner, you play an important role in addressing this issue and helping to reduce the risk of overflows. If you find any issues that you can easily resolve, we encourage you to do this.

Need more information?

If you have any queries regarding our Water Technicians entering your property or more information, please phone Clutha District Council on 0800 801 350.



Raised off ground and covered by grate. This is an older style earthenware dish (made from clay) with the waste pipes entering the top of it.



- Gully trap is too low.
- Has stormwater downpipe entering sewer.
- Is susceptible to surface water.

Are you looking for a new job or career?
We have a number of full time and casual positions available. To check out our current vacancies visit our online recruitment hub at:
www.cluthadc.govt.nz > vacancies

Current Vacancies
Staff Benefits
Contact Us

Give us a call 0800 801 350

Report a problem



Antenno makes it easy to report any problem with Council services directly to Council.

However, for **URGENT** issues ring us on
0800 801 350
www.cluthadc.govt.nz



The Balclutha Pool is closed from Saturday, July 24 and is due to reopen on Monday, August 16. This is to allow Council to do its annual maintenance work as well as spring cleaning the complex. We look forward to seeing you when the pool reopens!



Update on the Long Term Plan 2021/31

All councils in New Zealand must produce a Long Term Plan (LTP) every three years.

In June Council adopted our plan for the next 10 years.

Our new Long Term Plan 2021/31 outlines the long-term vision for the Clutha District and set out the services, projects and infrastructure Council intends to deliver to the community over a 10-year period, and how these will be funded.

Early in 2021 we produced a consultation document to help explain key issues and decisions Council was facing, and to ask for your feedback. Your feedback helped us in making choices and setting future directions.

We received just over 220 written submissions from residents and organisations, and 48 people also came to speak to Council. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to be involved and give their feedback.

The range of things we consulted on include:

Milton's Makeover



The LTP consultation gave us the chance to check back in with residents about the preferred extent of the proposed upgrade to Milton's main street.

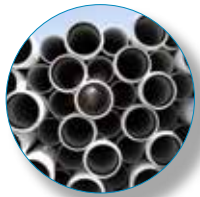
Of the three options presented, 53% of respondents wanted us to invest the most

and upgrade the longest stretch of road. When we looked at this in more detail, it was apparent that of those 53%, the majority were from the Milton and Bruce Ward residents. Those who had favoured doing less improvement were from outside the immediate area.

As a result, Council decided to spend \$5M upgrading from Mill Street to Abercrombie Street.

Several important issues were raised by residents and Council has committed to going back to the community during the detailed design phase of this work.

A Better Water Source



Two treatment plants, Evans Flat and Waitahuna, which source their water from the Waitahuna River and the Tuapeka River, need work. Neither plant is able to produce reliable water which meets national standards and they struggle to meet demand during

summer. We asked if it was time to think longer term about where we get our water from.

After gaining the support of 91% of respondents, Council confirmed that we would go ahead with the establishment of a new water supply from the Clutha River with a budget of \$14.5M (as long as final testing confirms the capacity and quality of the bore).

Infrastructure Projects



We asked you what infrastructure projects were most and least important to you. Safe drinking water was rated as the most important, and this is the focus of several of our significant projects in the coming years.

Other projects of importance include stormwater protection, improving sewage discharge and securing the future for Mt Cooe. Our Infrastructure Strategy has been refined to make sure that it has the priorities right.



Living & Working Projects

After feedback, Council agreed to fund a wide variety of community projects throughout Clutha. These are all projects that are designed to support our Living & Working strategy. Supported projects include support for:

- West Otago Health.
- Waihola children's playground in Waihola.
- Owaka swimming pool.
- Project Bruce community-led project for Tokomairiro-Milton, Waihola, Taieri Mouth, and all the rural areas in between.
- Clutha Development.
- Lawrence Community Plan.
- Catlins Community Plan.
- Kaitangata Community Plan.



New Fees & Charges

Council's fees and charges for the majority of areas have been increased from the previous year by a standard inflationary adjustment; however, there are some increases for building and resource consents to meet target recoveries for these activities.

Trade waste charges have also been included. These were initially proposed in 2020/21, then deferred as part of Council's support for businesses due to Covid-19 impacts and uncertainties.

Charges that are no longer relevant have also been removed including overdue library fees, legal document sealing, statutory document charges and rates postponement charges.

Digitisation of Property Files Flat Charges

- Building Consent: \$150
- Land Information Memorandum: \$20
- Resource Consent: \$150
- Property Searches: \$25

Trade Waste Charges

Trade waste bylaw charges will be implemented in two stages. For the year 2021/22, the charges will be based on volume.

The volumetric charge is based on the amount used above the normal domestic allowance (1,000 litres/house/day, 1m³/d, 366 m³/year), a ratio of 0.8 of water used to wastewater produced and a cost of \$1.60/m³. The cost per cubic metre is based on current wastewater charges and volumes. The Trade Waste Charge is in addition to Council's Uniform Annual Charge for wastewater and volumetric charges.

Charging for other wastewater factors e.g., Total Suspended Solids, Biochemical Oxygen Demand etc will be implemented in 2022/23.

Want to know more?

The full Long Term Plan 2021/31, including major strategies, financial details, and all the key decisions, is available on our website. Use your cell phone camera to scan the QR code. This will take you directly to the website.

