



Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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August 2020

www.cluthadc.govt.nz

0800 801 350

help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz



From the Mayor

In a year that seems hell bent on creating challenges, the 2020 Annual Plan will be remembered as one that was undertaken in extreme circumstances with an intense degree of scrutiny and expectation from many sectors of our communities. However I believe the annual plan

process ultimately produced a document that reflected our stated trajectory while accommodating the primary needs forced on us all by COVID-19.

Despite everything the strength and resilience of our rural economy and the stalwart performance of our service agencies and volunteer groups has enabled the Clutha District to endure the challenges to date in comparatively good shape. Symptomatic of the determination to prevail, I am proud to say that Council also remains steadfast and committed to our underlying strategy to be pivotal to the wellbeing and vitality of the district we all love.

The rates notice attached has been influenced by two dominant, yet conflicting, schools of thought. Many were demanding zero rate increases while an equally large number wanted momentum to be maintained. Consequently the original prediction of a 3.31% rate increase was trimmed to 1.70%. We also established a fund of \$100,000 to directly assist and support ratepayers adversely effected by prevailing conditions.

In tandem with this we also ratified a huge increase in our capital works program to \$35,000,000, including an upgrade to Hina Hina bridge, roading projects and upgrades to urban water treatment. A sum of one million dollars was also assigned to address some of the issues around consenting and deferred maintenance of sewerage plants.

Confirmation of financial contributions to Balclutha's community hub and Milton's pool complex were also made. While these two projects are still dependant on 'local funding' being sourced, many other projects like Milton's main street rejuvenation and two destination toilets projects are locked in and collectively form critical components to our overarching plan while collectively contributing to our districts economic recovery. Central government's partnership on many of these projects has been fundamental, and we eagerly await the outcome to our shovel-ready project applications.

[Read More](#) →

From the Mayor continued...

So I am sure you are asking how were we able to advance so many necessary projects while still reducing rates. Firstly I want to acknowledge the spirit shown by council staff in accepting a wage freeze that correlated to over 1% saving for each and every rate payer. We also leveraged off our strong financial position, using reserves and taking advantage of favourable interest rates.

This year's plan demanded a nimble and pragmatic response. I thank everyone who assisted us and contributed to the process, and I believe it has laid the foundations for our part in economic recovery, while understanding that for many these are extremely demanding times. There are many things that we can be thankful for, we live in communities that showed 'amazing ticker' and compassion, our district remains in a 'job surplus' and we have the real potential to be part of our nation's solution to this crisis. But I think

we all know the bulk of the work still lies ahead of us and actually the most important things in life revolve around family and health, and what better time to wish you all the best of health and good fortune. Onwards and upwards.

Antenno is here...

Have you discovered Antenno, Council's new app?

Antenno lets you get up-to-date relevant notifications about places and topics you care about: road closures, rubbish collection days, water notices and more.

Antenno is easy to use – a simple app where no personal information or log on details are required.

There's no need to check multiple sources for essential Council information – you'll get notifications directly to your smart phone.

You can also use Antenno to report a problem to Council. It's simple to use, you can add photos of an issue, and a location.

Stay informed, get involved and help improve your community.

How to get involved?

Go to your App Store or Google Play and look for Antenno - the bright orange logo makes it easy to find.

Download and open the app, then enter the address of a place you care about - your home, your workplace, Mum's place, the kids' schools, or all of these.

Then you're good to go. You'll start getting notifications relating to the places you entered.

You can also opt out of messages about any topic you're not interested in.



Do you have a project in mind?

Clutha District Creative Communities hold two funding rounds for the 2019/20 year. The next round closes on 1 September 2020.

The application guide can be found on the Funding Schemes page of our website: www.cluthad.c.govt.nz

To qualify, projects must:

- Take place within the Clutha District
- Be completed within 12 months of funding approval
- Not have started or finished before the funding is approved.

Please contact our Corporate Services Administrator Karen Piercy with any questions on 03 419 0261. It's a great funding opportunity for individuals and for groups.

Problems at the Balclutha Grandstand

Can you help? We're having a spate of vandalism and graffiti at the Balclutha grandstand at the moment, including burnt out seats. We've stepped up our security but it all comes at a cost to the ratepayer.

You can help by reporting strange activity to the police, or phoning our 0800 801 350 number with information.

Paying online...

When you are paying your rates online please check that you have the reference details correct.

- **If you are paying your rates, use your valuation number as the reference.**
- **If you are making a Water Billing payment online the reference is also your valuation number.**
- **If you are paying a Council Sundry Invoice, change the reference to Customer ID and/or invoice number.**

For more information just ring Council on 0800 801 350.

Water

Water is one of our most important services. Residents, industry, businesses and farms depend on a supply of safe, affordable water.

Water is also one of our most expensive services. Each year Council spends about \$10M to keep our water supplies working.

We look after 22 water schemes that supply water to 15 towns and more than 2,000 rural properties, providing water for households, workplaces and for livestock.

On our website we have a collection of brochures to help explain your supply, and how to deal with some of the issues that might happen. These include:



Boil Water Notice - Frequently asked questions - What does a boil water notice mean? How long do I need to boil the water to make it safe? Can I shower in untreated water? etc.

Our Water Supply - Keeping people safe describes how water is treated to make it safe to drink.

Rural Water Supply Information explains what a restricted supply is and how it works.

Rural Water Scheme Brochure contains some more information for users of rural water schemes.

Our Water Supply - Stopping the leaks. Not all the water Council produces makes it to the tap. This leaflet explains what we are doing and how you can help.

Household Water Supplies is a comprehensive booklet from the Ministry of Health about the supply of safe drinking water to households that are not connected to town water supplies. It includes information about disinfecting your water tank

These are all available free from www.cluthadc.govt.nz > Publications > Brochures



Dust Suppression

It is time to apply for semi-permanent seal dust suppressant.

A semi-permanent seal has very similar surface characteristics to a sealed road and would be maintained by Council once complete.

Once successfully applied to a piece of road it would be expected to last up to seven years. It could last longer depending on traffic and weather conditions.

Depending on your circumstances, if you meet the criteria, you may be eligible for a 50% subsidy on the first 100m of seal. Seal is applied in 100m lengths and the estimated full cost of a length is \$8,625 including GST.

Council makes the subsidy available to 10 sites every year, based on priority criteria.

If you do not meet the criteria you can still get semi-permanent seal by paying the

full amount with the option to spread this over several years through rates.

Council has developed payment options for this scheme, which you are welcome to ask about.

Applications for Semi-Permanent Seal must be received by Council before Monday 31 August 2020.

Under recent changes to policy by the Otago Regional Council (ORC), people can no longer apply used oil as a dust suppressant on roads.

You can still apply to do your own application using ORC-approved materials, or you can apply to us for semi-permanent seal.

Application forms can be found on our website: www.cluthadc.govt.nz > Publications > Forms & Guides > 23 Rooding and Transport

Or call Council on 0800 801 350 and ask for Melanie Scott, Operations Administrator.



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

Farewell/hello

The last Council News was shorter than usual and came out while we were operating under Lockdown Level 4. This meant that we did not bring you our usual rundown of comings and goings in the Council family.

Library Changes

Vicki Darling was a well known to many in her role as Library/Service Centre Manager. After 19 years with Council she decided to move to Central Otago for an exciting new phase of her life and work.

In her place Debbie Duncan is our new Library/Service Centre Manager. She was General Manager Community at Palmerston North City Council where she led the provision of community services and library facilities. This involved her in a cross-section of activities and projects focused on PNCC's community engagement and stakeholder partnerships, including involvement in the redevelopment of the central library building. Prior to that, she was Library Manager at Upper Hutt City Council and earlier had Library Team Leader and various other library roles there. Although based in Balclutha, you may also spot her at one of the other libraries or service centres.

Service Delivery

We have farewelled Peter Ward who has been one of our Council's Contracts Supervisor for 14 years. He will be a familiar face to customers and contractors as he's been out and about looking after our roads. He is moving to Canterbury with Jody.

Sharon Cousins has joined us as a Project Manager (Community Plan Implementation). She joins Aileen Clarke supporting Council's work for the various community plans around our district. Sharon lives at Warepa and has a strong background working with the community and Civil Defence, having spent ten years at Waikato Regional Council.

Clive James is our new Water and Waste Team Leader. He is an experienced Contracts Manager from the private sector in the water, roading and construction areas. Although he is moving from Central Otago to join us, in his early career, he worked for Council for several years.

Thomas Prins has joined the water team as a Contracts Officer. Graham Hill, Contracts Supervisor in the Transport & Facilities Operations team, joined us in February. John Bishop is the new Site Manager, Taylor Park Camping Ground, Milton.

Balclutha Swimming Pool

We have lost Jody Ward from the Balclutha swimming pool team as she is moving to Canterbury with her husband Peter. She has been a valuable member of the team, and her tasty baking will be missed.

We are glad to be able to welcome two new lifeguards at the Balclutha Pool: Maia Pryde and Kaydin Hunter have joined the team.



Debbie Duncan, Library/Service Centre Manager

Also joining us

Angela Sanderson Customer Services Officer at Rosebank. Angela has been filling this role for the last 15 months on a fixed term basis, providing parental leave cover, and its great news that she is staying on permanently.

Rebecca Shaw is Council's newest planner in our Regulatory Services department, joining us on a two year contract.

Also new in Regulatory Services is Brendon Jury, our Trainee Building Control Officer.

Other farewells

We have recently farewelled:

Hayley Barclay joined us in 2015 as our HR admin support. She has left to take an opportunity at one of our contractors.

Debbie Nixon, a Visitor Information Officer at the iSite in Balclutha.

Melissa Water, was a familiar face at the front desk in our Rosebank Office.

