



Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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May 2023 | www.cluthadc.govt.nz | 0800 801 350 | help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz |  [CluthaDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/CluthaDistrictCouncil)



From the Mayor

I looked back at my message from the rates notice that went out this time last year and worryingly the dominant themes are still virtually the same.

If anything the pressures they bring to bear on all of us has only increased. Last year it was 3 waters reforms, inflation, a critical lack of staff right across our economy, a very heated tendering environment,

and many uncertainties in a world dominated by the Ukrainian war and general instability.

It's readily apparent that these issues have sustained themselves now for so long that the ancillary environment is also being affected. Take 3 waters, it is not good for the organisation, staff, contractors or the wider population to be in this extended state of uncertainty and flux. Coupled with the reforms pressure, there are also the overarching cost escalations that I don't think could be fully described as inflation.

The best examples of this is that our auditors dispensed with their usual cycle of three yearly revaluation of our assets and requested that we bring the process forward and undertake a full revaluation after only two years. Their actions were justified with the final figure being a 35% increase.

The trajectory is only gaining momentum with many of our tender prices coming in 50% above estimate. It's a dangerous time to stay still, and equally a dangerous time to

move forward. That is why your feedback is critical as Council plans and prepares for our triennial direction setting exercise, the Long Term Plan.

It has been a tonic going around the district recently and gaining insight from so many good people through 'Soapbox', and community consultation events. With so many positive initiatives and great ideas being presented for the communities and wider district that we all love. Frustratingly there are also a handful that take no part in the direction setting process only to be vociferous in their opinion years down the track when projects are well developed. I can't stress enough the need to be aware of the structure and progressive stages that consultation always follows, and Council has always taken the course plotted by the majority.

We should also take a moment to consider the many positive advantages Clutha presently benefits from. Unemployment is at historically low levels, even by our standards. Tourism is ramping up with many operators excited about the prospects and the rural economy remains strong.

I especially enjoy talking to our young adults in the district who see a bright future for themselves and more opportunities to progress with a good job, comparatively affordable housing and a great work/life balance. In recent years their voice has been heard with projects like Cooee Bike Park (downhill mountain bike) which has been driven by young people from concept, through to construction. Now well on to being an amazing asset that we will all benefit from. Our district will be the richer as long as we always consider and listen to both future and present needs.

Onwards and Upwards

Enjoying our beaches



Clutha has enjoyed a long hot summer which gave a chance for people to get out and enjoy the many beautiful beaches around our district.

The council's ranger and freedom camping officer has also been out and about providing public education to those enjoying our beaches from locals to visitors. This includes monitoring freedom camping, on-the-spot dog control, reporting issues that need contractor attention (damaged signage, abandoned vehicles, illegal dumping of rubbish), assisting with compliance issues, such as parking, noise complaint follow-ups and undertaking minor repairs and maintenance to council freedom camping facilities.

Freedom Camping is allowed in the Clutha District outside restricted areas and only in certified fully self-contained vehicles.

These vehicles must have a fixed or portable toilet, fresh water storage, grey water storage and a rubbish bin with a lid. For those without these amenities, camping can only take place at managed campgrounds or DOC campsites with toilet facilities.

Our freedom camping officer can issue an infringement fine of \$200 but usually the approach is to inform and help educate people.

A trial freedom camping area in Lawrence opened in February to allow freedom campers to stay near the cycle trail.

The trial was put forward by the Lawrence Tuapeka Community Board and council developed an area for self-contained freedom camping vehicles

near the cycle trail, across from the police station.

Board Chair Geoff Davidson said it was great to see this trial taking shape and the board expected it would draw freedom campers, particularly those using the cycle trail, to stay in the area for longer.

The area is fenced off and has space for four camper vans. It is just outside the area designated as a no camping zone in Lawrence.

Lawrence Tuapeka Ward Councillor Jock Martin said visitors played an important role for businesses in the Lawrence area and the trial was hoped to have economic benefits for Lawrence and surrounding areas including Beaumont and Waitahuna.

This summer council's Vehicles on Beaches Bylaw also came into effect.

The bylaw was introduced to address the effect of vehicles on public safety and enjoyment of beaches, and adverse effects to the environmental values of the coast.

The key rules are:

- People driving on beaches are required to do so in a way that does not threaten the safety of people, plants or native animals.
- Vehicles are not allowed on sand dunes, except to access the beach.
- Vehicles are not allowed to drive above the high-water mark, except in emergencies.

We encourage people to keep an eye out for wildlife on our beaches and give them plenty of space. Dog owners must

place their dogs on a leash when they are within 20 metres of wildlife.

For more information go to www.cluthadc.govt.nz/beaches

Some frequently asked questions

What areas does the ranger cover?

The whole district - all 6,334.47 km². Areas that have problems with freedom campers staying where they shouldn't get more frequent visits.

Are tourists the problem?

Responsible or irresponsible campers don't come from any one group, age, or background. During COVID restrictions when there were no overseas visitors entering New Zealand, the ranger was regularly dealing with illegal freedom camping.

How can station wagons and other small vehicles be certified self-contained?

It is a misconception that vehicles such as station wagons and other small vehicles cannot be legitimately certified as self-contained. Under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, almost any vehicle containing the required self-containment equipment can be certified self-contained. If the occupants of such vehicles are following the rules and are camped in non-restricted areas, then the current legislation allows those vehicles to be used for freedom camping.

What are the rules for camping in a tent?

Camping in tents on council land is not allowed, people camping in tents must stay at appropriate campgrounds, on private land, or at suitable DOC campgrounds.

this month Selling baking you've made at home?

If you're a home baker selling cakes or other foods that you've baked at home, you need to be registered under the Food Act.

It's ok to use your home kitchen to bake the cakes as long as you register with council and follow your food control plan. There are some other laws that also apply to running a business from home.

If you want to prepare food for customers at home, there are several things to think about.

Your site and equipment

- If you're renting the property, do you have the landlord's permission to operate a business from the site?
- Do you need to apply for a resource consent?
- Do you need to apply for a building consent?
- Will your kitchen equipment and storage facilities be suitable for doing the things you plan to do?
- Is there a place to wash your hands before you start preparing food?

Preparation and food storage

- Is there enough space in your fridge and pantry to properly store the amount of food you plan to make?
- How will you keep family food separate from commercial food?
- How will you store ingredients containing allergens separately from allergen-free food for sale?
- How will you ensure that other activities at home will not compromise when commercial food is being prepared?
- How will you transport your food safely?



Keeping food safe

- Do you know enough to make sure the food you sell is safe?
- Will everyone working at the business know how to handle the food safely?
- How will you operate when there are sick family members at home?

Inspections of home-based businesses

As with any local food business operating from a commercial premises, a recognised verifier will need to visit your home to check you are following your Food Control Plan or National Programme.

Details of your home-based business will be placed on the public register of food businesses.

Check out the Food Act case studies online at www.mpi.govt.nz/food-business.

We can help you work through the steps to ensure you are making and selling food in a safe and suitable way.

If you require help or information call 0800 801 350 or 03 419 0200.

Summer water restrictions end

The change in season and cooler weather means the stage 1 water restrictions have been lifted for the Clutha District.

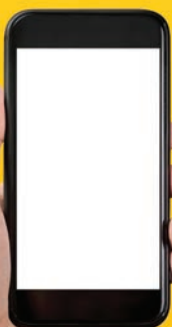
Thank you to everyone who helped conserve water and follow the water restrictions during our dry summer season.



Want to get the latest water notices?

If there's important information about anything from burst pipes to planned water works, you can get this directly from the council:

- Check out our website www.cluthadc.govt.nz
- Download the **Antenno App**.
- If you're on a rural water scheme, make sure you are signed up for **text alerts** or **emails**.
- Follow Clutha District Council on **Facebook** and share our posts.





Report on the future of Clutha’s rural water schemes released

An assessment of Clutha District’s rural water supplies, looking at how schemes could operate in the future, is now complete and available to the public.

Clutha District Mayor Bryan Cadogan says, “The assessment is publicly available so people can make an informed decision. It doesn’t make recommendations about whether schemes should opt out of the Water Services Entity ownership model or not. It presents the benefits, issues and risks of Water Services Entity D versus community ownership for the district’s mixed-use rural water supplies.”

Council and the rural water schemes working party have been working with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). The assessment, funded by DIA, and undertaken by independent management consulting firm, Morrison Low, is the result of this collaboration.

Clutha District has 12 rural water schemes that provide water for farm use and domestic consumption. A number of townships in the district are connected to these schemes, including Kaka Point, Waihola, Clinton, Tokoiti, Tuapeka

Mouth, Waitahuna, Heriot, Pukerau and Waikaka.

All council-owned and operated drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services will be transferred to new water services entities on 1 July 2024. After this date, councils will no longer have direct roles in managing and operating three water services.

However, after refinements to the original proposal were formulated by the Rural Supplies Technical Working Group, the Government has agreed that users of council-owned drinking water schemes that exist primarily to provide water for agricultural or horticultural purposes may have the option to seek direct ownership and operation of their scheme under certain conditions, independent of a water entity. The transfer of ownership to community users would require 75% of all users (farming and domestic) to agree to any proposal.

The assessment report is available on the Council’s website www.cluthadc.govt.nz/rural-water-future and DIA’s website www.dia.govt.nz/three-waters-reform-programme-working-groups

Get the latest information with Antenno

Antenno’s a free mobile app that sends you council-related notifications, including alerts, major water outages, roadworks, closures, council events, consultations and more.

You choose the places you want to be alerted about, so you only hear about the things that interest you. This might include your neighbourhood, workplace or where your kids go to school.

If you have a family member who doesn’t have a cell phone you can add their location to help keep them informed.

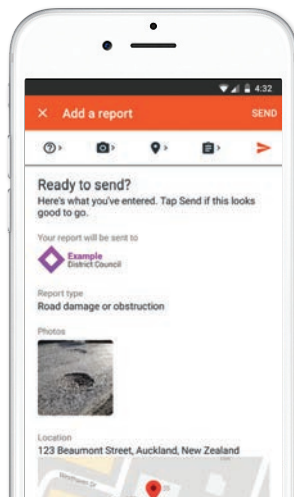
No personal information or log on details are required and no need to check multiple sources of information either – Antenno sends information directly to you.

For urgent reports outside of working hours (8.30am–5pm, Monday to Friday), please call us so we can respond immediately. Otherwise, your Antenno report

will be processed on the next business day.

If you struggle to use your cell phone and other digital devices visit any of our community libraries and get help to download the app.

- **Download the Antenno app from the App Store or Google Play**
- **Subscribe for text and email alerts: www.cluthadc.govt.nz/water-notices**



Rates Rebate

Applications for the current 2022/2023 rating year close soon.

If your household is on a low income, you might be eligible for subsidised rates through the rates rebate scheme.

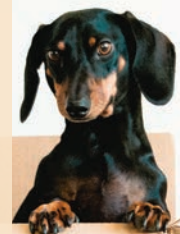
The rates rebate scheme provides assistance for ratepayers with low incomes.

If you think you may qualify and have not applied since July 2022, please complete and return an application form by the 30 June 2023.

Visit www.cluthadc.govt.nz/rates-and-property or call Council on 0800 801 350.

Has your dog moved house?

Our Animal Services team will be sending dog registration invoices in late June and would like to hear from you if you have moved or have any other information that needs updated. That way any notices don’t end up in the wrong kennel!



Give us a call 0800 801 350