



Growth priority in Long Term Plan

Council recently adopted the Long Term Plan 2015/25 that sets the direction for the district over the next 10 years. Following overwhelming support from those who made submissions, Council agreed to be proactive about promoting growth and business investment in the district with the aim of growing the rating base.

The plan was adopted following a month long consultation process that resulted in 358 submissions and a day of verbal hearings.

One of the key consultation issues was how Council funds its roading programme. Changes at a central government level mean Council will reduce its spending on sealed roads and instead target its investment towards roads with the most economic significance. The trade-off will be that

sealed roads may not be as smooth as they are now, but will still be safe to travel on. There won't be much of a change to unsealed roads. Council also voted to phase-in a 'same service-same charge' approach to urban water services over a six year period, which will see all communities paying the same amount for each of the 3 water services. Currently different rating communities pay different amounts for their water, stormwater and sewerage services. This is a longer phase-in period than the three years presented as an option during consultation. The decisions made by Council resulted in an overall rates rise of 3.19% for the 2015/16 year. Other decisions made by Council included a budget of \$2.6 million to seal the Nuggets Road

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From the Mayor

Bryan Cadogan
Mayor,
Clutha District



With Council having adopted its Long Term Plan, now is the time to put that plan into action. Put simply, Council is determined for the Clutha District not to accept the often predicted fate of a declining rural New Zealand. We believe we've identified the critical areas where intervention is needed, but it is imperative ratepayers understand what we're doing and why. People must consider Council's growth solutions from a district-wide perspective and the test of our success will be if we can encourage economic and population growth, while keeping our promise to do this on a rates neutral basis. This will be no easy task, but I am heartened by our initial steps where Council has started to sell the existing non-strategic land it already owns, to create the funds needed to invest in acquisitions that will drive future growth in our region.

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Flooding at Toko Mouth

FLOODING: June brought some bad weather to the Clutha District with snow warnings, frosts and heavy rain that caused widespread surface flooding and road closures throughout the district. Some roads sustained heavy damage such as Mouats Saddle Road in the Catlins. Council's emergency management team kept a close eye on the flooding and snow warnings during the events, working with key agencies and keeping people up to date. People can find out about the latest road closures on the Council's Facebook page and website: www.cluthadc.govt.nz



Mouats Saddle Road

Long Term Plan 2015-25 (continued)

subject to financial assistance from the New Zealand Transport Agency, providing an opportunity for community groups to discuss the future ownership and operation of the Kaitangata Swimming Pool, confirming the changes to some fees and charges such as an increase in swimming pool admission charges and building consent fees.

Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who made the time to become involved in the Long Term Plan process and have their say on the Clutha District's future. It was pleasing to see that the number of submissions received by Council nearly doubled from the previous Long Term Plan in 2012.



Clutha District's newest citizens: Mayor Bryan Cadogan pictured with the Soriano family. Ron Don, Ronie and Donabel Soriano became New Zealand citizens at a ceremony at Council in May, each of them was presented with a Kowhai tree to represent their growth as citizens in this country.

Word from the Mayor (cont.)

In line with this, we recently purchased 8 hectares of land at the former Rosebank Sawmill site for it to be developed as an industrial park - read more on page 3. I now encourage all parties who have expressed a desire for such a development in the past, to get involved and secure their part in our district's future. I believe Council is well placed to be a facilitator of employment and economic opportunities as our primary motivation is to stimulate growth, rather than make a profit. We need to initiate growth in towns such as Milton, as continued inaction will only see our northern neighbours' cash in on our opportunities. But, the first thing we need is support from our communities throughout the district, and please let's all consider matters from a district-wide perspective. After all, this is a chance to give our young people a future in their own district, a chance to give our retirees a reason to stay and a chance for local businesses to prosper. Thank you for your consideration of these matters, and as always, we're only too keen to discuss them with you at any time.

Bryan Cadogan



Restricted water supplies

Frost and Stock Protection: With freezing weather on us, consumers on restricted water supplies (all Rural Water Schemes plus Kaka Point, Waihola, Clinton, Owaka and Heriot) are reminded to ensure that the pipework supplying your tank(s) is adequately frost protected. It is also a good time to check that the connection is protected from stock damage and the strainer is clear and there are no leaks. **The cost of any repairs required as a result of inadequate frost protection or stock damage will be recovered from the customer concerned.**

Tampering: Regular inspections are scheduled on all restricted water schemes. Customers are reminded that it is illegal to tamper with Council water supplies including your restricted connections. Tampering to increase the flow equates to stealing water from neighbours, and Council will pursue actions in such cases. The property owner is held responsible, therefore farmers are urged to inform their managers, sharemilkers etc. of this matter. Please contact Council staff on 0800 801 350 during office hours if you are experiencing difficulties rather than taking matters into your own hands.

Public Health Notice

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours. Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a cup-full of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fitting. We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Council makes strategic purchase of industrial land

In keeping with the direction of the recently adopted Long Term Plan, Council has taken a leadership role in driving our district's economy by purchasing 8 hectares of industrial land at the former Rosebank sawmill site. Chief Executive Steve Hill said the purchase was in line with Council's new economic development strategy. "It provides for Council to be more proactive about promoting growth and business investment and allows it to make decisions, as long as they are rates neutral." For some time now, Council had been selling off non-strategic properties it owns in order to fund future key purchases such as the sawmill site, without a cost to ratepayers, Mr Hill said. "Converting the Rosebank sawmill site into an industrial park needs to happen now, because we know there is a demand from businesses to expand, as well as a demand from businesses to locate here." Council has identified that action needs to be taken in both Balclutha and Milton to encourage future growth in the towns. Mayor Bryan Cadogan said this was an opportunity Council

could not pass up, especially as it meant Council could drive development on a rates neutral basis. "With Council's primary objective being to facilitate growth, not make a profit, it allows us to offer affordable sites in a district that has been starved of options for a generation." To that end, Council planned to ensure maximum yield and quality development of the site as an industrial park for the benefit of the community, Mr Cadogan said. There will be opportunities for any size business to advise Council of its needs, and for potential developers or investors to advise Council of their interest, so the site can be developed to its maximum potential. Heartland Bank's Brendan Cody said after an earlier purchaser withdrew, the bank wanted to avoid the site being land-banked and lying idle. "We recognised the importance of this site and what it could mean to the future development of the local area so we approached the Council and we are pleased at the positive opportunities this site can now provide for the community."

New Logo for Clutha Youth



More than 30 young people entered a competition to design a new logo representing the youth of the district. Organised by the Clutha Youth Development Fund, the winners were presented with prizes and the logo revealed at the Council during May. Youth worker Ruth Ratcliffe said the aim

was to give the district's youth their own unique identity. Pictured above from back left are: Youth Councillors Abigail Clarke and Terri Thomas, competition winner Blake Peoples, runner up James Witt, and front participant Joe Pepper and Youth Councillor Ashton Tourell. Absent is runner up Lucie-May Stoop.

Balclutha Flower Festival: is being held on October 2, 12pm at the Balclutha War Memorial Hall. It includes exhibits, raffles, stalls. New exhibitors welcome. Contact Sue Bound on 418 4004 or s.bound@xtra.co.nz for more information or schedules or D Storer for floral art 4181788 d.storer@hotmail.com

Balclutha Primary School 150th: Members of the public including past and present pupils, teachers, staff members, committee members and board of trustee members are invited to register for Balclutha Primary School's 150th Jubilee being held at Labour Weekend, 24th-25th October 2015. Check out the programme or register at www.balclutha.school.nz or phone Eliza 03 477 1377 or contact the school on 03 4190103.

Leaders: Amy Morrison (22) and Nikeisha Clarke (19) were chosen to represent the district at the Aspiring Leaders Forum in Wellington in July.

New Council Staff: Julie Gardner has replaced Shiree Dudley as Service Delivery administrator, Jo McLeary and Victoria Perroir have joined the information/service centre team and you might have met Jane Soper at the front desk who is now providing relief cover for customer services.

Funding available for arts projects

If you're looking for funding to support a local project then check out the Creative Communities Funding Scheme which provides money for a broad range of local arts.

Examples of projects which funding could be applied for include exhibitions, productions, concerts and training workshops. The scheme is administered by Council on behalf of Creative New Zealand and is designed to support activities that increase participation and make art and cultural activities more attractive to local communities.

In previous funding rounds, successful applicants included South Otago Creative Fibre to hold a public dyeing and needle felting course, Strong Black Coffee Productions to stage a wearable art show and West Otago Theatrical Society to perform Beauty and the Beast. There are four funding rounds a year with the next closing date Friday, 28 August.

Council strongly encourages anyone with an arts or cultural project in mind to get in touch with us and check their eligibility. More information, including some of the main criteria can be found on Clutha District Council's website: www.cluthadc.govt.nz

Have you registered your dog?

All dog owners should now have registered their dogs for the 2015/16 year and dogs should be wearing a yellow tag. Council will be sending out reminder notices late August to those who have not re-registered their dogs and a 50% penalty fee will apply. We will then follow up with property visits and anyone found to have an unregistered dog on their property risks a \$300 fine. Dogs must be registered from 3 months of age.



Main Street upgrade underway



Upgrade underway: Former councillor Margaret Collins and Mayor Bryan Cadogan were delighted to mark the official beginning of Balclutha's main street upgrade with a ceremonial sod turning in May.



The upgrade of Balclutha's main street officially began in May with work expected to finish in November. James Tobin from Fulton Hogan (pictured above right) can be found in the designated site office for the upgrade. Located in the O'Malley's building on Elizabeth Street, any members of the public or business owners can pop in to see James with questions or concerns. The office is open from about 8.30am to 4.30pm on weekdays. Among the first steps of the project is the

undergrounding of the overhead powerlines. The majority of work is expected to be completed between 7am and 6pm, Monday to Friday but some specialist work will be carried out during nights and weekends. Contractors will work to minimise any loss of parking during the upgrade and the safety of the public is paramount. We're aware that construction can be a bit noisy and dirty, so Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience and co-operation during the project.

Cross Rec Centre car park gets sealed

Visitors to the Cross Recreation Centre can now enjoy a sealed, pothole-free parking area after Council awarded the contract for the work to Southroads. Sealing the car park will help increase the life of the centre's playing surface by reducing the amount of dirt and grit that was getting dragged inside.



Clutha District Council distributes this newsletter four times a year to ratepayers with rates notices. It is also available on our website, www.cluthadc.govt.nz, or from your nearest Council office or Service Centre. Feedback and ideas are welcome. Please call us on 03 419 0200, email to help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz, or write C/- Clutha District Council, PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240.