

NEWSLINE

JULY 2021



MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

After many months of flood-related disruption and repairs, we were delighted to reopen the main Council office on Queen Street. In recent weeks, the building has reopened to the public and our customer service team have relocated from the temporary reception at the Waimate Event Centre, back to the main premises. On behalf of Council, thank you all for your patience and cooperation during this time – we appreciate your understanding.

Meanwhile, submissions are now open for the 2021-31 Draft Long Term Plan, with the Consultation Document arriving in every mailbox across the district. I strongly encourage you to take a read through, understand what we're proposing and let us know your views.

Right now, like many other districts, we are facing some huge challenges such as COVID-19 setbacks, climate change, three waters reform— of course, some uncertain and some out of our control. As your Council, our priority continues to be meeting all requirements put upon us by Central Government and providing consistent levels of service throughout the Waimate District.

In this consultation document you will see three rating options. Consider which option best suits your needs and that of your community and through the submission process, let Council know your preferred option. Putting the rates up is certainly not a decision we take lightly, but in a changing landscape and economy, we have to remain realistic and we must follow a robust, strategic plan to move forward.

Remember, your input plays a direct part in Council's decision making, so this is your chance to have your say. But don't forget, submissions close 4pm on Thursday 8 July 2021.

Until next time, stay well.

EMPLOYMENT COORDINATOR ROLE RENEWED

The Waimate District Council has received further funding of \$250,000 to renew the role of Employment Coordinator for a further 12 months.

Supported by the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry of Social Development, the employment initiative will continue across the Waimate District, with incumbent employment coordinator Lisa Dobson continuing in the role.



"It has been an absolute privilege to serve the Waimate community in this way, to support job seekers to upskill and ultimately into employment, and working with local businesses to fill staffing vacancies.

"I look forward to seeing what we can achieve in the coming year."

Since the inception of the Waimate District Jobs Hub, Lisa has exceeded the initial target of 25 sustainable employment opportunities prior to June 2021, instead supporting 34 full-time roles. In addition, 14 part-time placements and 26 casual positions have been filled through this initiative.

Waimate District Mayor Craig Rowley said he is delighted to see the programme extended through to 2022.

Through the programme, Lisa has now been tasked with supporting an additional 50 employment opportunities prior to 30 June 2022. If you're looking for work, or want help recruiting staff, get in touch with Lisa at lisa.dobson@waimatedc.govt.nz, or for more information visit waimatejobs.co.nz

NEW BIN SERVICE COMMENCES ON 5 JULY 2021

	July	August	September
	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
Rubbish bin: Fortnightly pickup		1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
Recycling bin: Fortnightly pickup	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
Glass Recycling crate: Weekly pickup	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
Organics bin: Weekly pickup	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30

Collection information

As shown above, the new kerbside rubbish and recycling service gets underway across the Waimate District from Monday 5 July. Whether you are rural or urban, bin collections will remain the same for all areas, starting with the red rubbish bin and alternating weekly with the yellow recycling bin.

Remember to place your green organics bin and blue glass crate as part of the weekly collection. To check your exact pick-up day, refer to the sticker on the side of your bin. So come on Waimate District, let's work together to reduce waste.

What can I put in each bin?



Red Rubbish

This bin is to dispose of all refuse items that can not be recycled using the other bins.



Yellow Recycling

Use this bin to recycle paper, cardboard, plastic containers (with numbers 1, 2 and 5 in the triangle), tins, cans, aluminium trays and foil, magazines, junk mail and other clean mixed recycling.



Green Organics

You can use your organics bin for food scraps, garden waste, cardboard pizza boxes, fish and chip paper, wet newspapers, animal droppings, fur, hair, tea bags, raw/cooked meat and the list goes on.



Blue Crate

All glass bottles and glass jars (rinsed with lids and caps off) can be placed in this crate.

For a more detailed list of what goes in each bin, visit our website waimatedc.govt.nz, download the Waimate Bins App or refer to the information guide delivered with your bins.

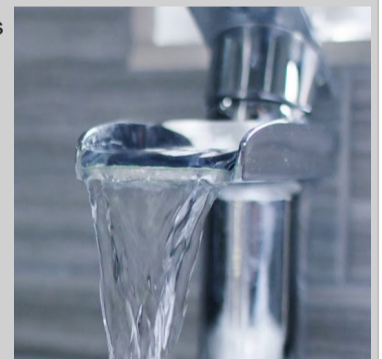
What is happening with the rural recycling stations?

The eight rural recycling dropoff stations will remain in place under the new rubbish and recycling contract, albeit with a minor change at Makikihi. The recycling stations at Holme Station Corner, St Andrews Village Green, Hunter Domain, Willowbridge, Forks Hotel, Morven Domain and Glenavy will continue to be serviced and will not move from their existing location.

However, the Makikihi-based bins will move from Makikihi Motors to the Makikihi Hotel truck stop. For health and safety reasons, daily access to this particular site will only be between 6am and 6pm. In the coming months, once the new kerbside rubbish and recycling service has been firmly established, Council may review the existing locations, based on community demand. Should the locations be subject to review, further information will be publicised.

MAYOR RAISES SERIOUS CONCERNS AROUND THREE WATERS REFORM

Waimate District Mayor Craig Rowley says there are simply too many unanswered questions when it comes to the Government's Three Waters Reform, and on behalf of Council, is calling for more honest and clear information.



The Government is in the middle of reforming local government's three waters services into a small number of multi-regional entities, with the review itself commencing in 2017.

Earlier this month, the Water Industry Commission for Scotland (WICS) completed a report on behalf of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) that considered 30 scenarios for amalgamation, ranging from a possible 13 entities across the country to just one.

In response to those findings, Mayor Rowley says the Council hold serious concerns with the validity of data and evidence being presented, pointing out Scotland does not compare with New Zealand – particularly rural South Island.

"There's a real lack of information that has been forthcoming from the DIA and Central Government, and there's just too many unknowns," Mayor Rowley said.

"As a Council, we're extremely concerned with the timeframes that have been placed around this process, first coming off the back of a once in a generation global pandemic and second, the extreme pressure and resources called on under time critical deadlines.

"We want to see some transparency and honesty around the delivery of the service and the costs associated with it, and until that time, the ratepayers are only getting one side of the story."

Later this year, Council's across the country will need to decide whether to opt out of the Government's three waters reform, though with so many details not yet known, Mayor Rowley is calling for answers.

"Time is running out and ultimately, we want to inform our ratepayers."

