



Waimate
District Council

NEWSLINE

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8 October 2026

Council amalgamation update

Waimate District Council will continue to deliver on its core responsibilities after the Government deferred its decisions on amalgamation proposals submitted under the Head Start pathway: Simplifying Local Government policy.

"I'm not surprised with the deferral," says Mayor Craig Rowley. "There has been lots of uncertainty over the Head Start process and its implementation."

"Councils were put through a rushed and unfunded process, only for the Government to now acknowledge that the work could not be completed properly in the time available."

The Government was expected to accept or reject the proposals last month, and determine which ones would proceed into the detailed design phase or into the backstop process. But the Government announced on 24 September that it would wait until after the election to make its decision.

In the meantime, it's business as usual for Council, from service delivery to the implementation of new legislation.

"We can now refocus our efforts to ensure we continue to deliver our core responsibilities," Mayor Rowley says. "We will continue to work with neighbouring councils to identify possible efficiencies that clearly benefit all parties."



Water projects well underway

From pipes and mains to pumps and treatment plants, Council has been upgrading water infrastructure throughout the Waimate District to help ensure legislative compliance and improve services for residents.

On 8 September, the Audit and Risk Committee received a Major Projects report that identifies the status of water-related initiatives at varying stages of development.

The Hook-Waituna scheme will have a new water treatment plant, which includes a pipe main and a generator, while residents of the Cannington-Motukaika and Waihaorunga schemes will enjoy safer drinking water, thanks to the planned installation of end-point treatment (EPT) devices on their properties. The EPT devices will help strengthen Council's compliance with drinking water standards.

These EPT projects are set to be completed by 30 June 2027, as will an upgrade to the water treatment plant in Lower Waihao rural water scheme, which links from a new nitrate-free water source near Bells Pond. The upgrade builds on improvements in the area's water infrastructure (new mains for Lower Waihao-Glenavy rural areas and town proper). Meanwhile, the water treatment process to achieve compliance for the Waikakahi scheme is currently under tender.

Council has also been addressing the needs of a growing urban population through the Te Kiteroa project. This initiative involves the diversion of some properties from the Hook-Waituna scheme onto Waimate township water. Design is also underway for provision of a dedicated rising main from High Street-Queen Street to the cemetery. A booster pump station for Bakers Road, Court Road, Hunts Road and Fitzmaurice Road has also been designed, while the watermain extension for Hunts Road (including Wales Street, Centre Street and Short Street) will be completed in late October 2026. This year, Council finished similar extensions on Garland Road and Point Bush Road with the pump station being commissioned to provide firefighting flows in October 2026.

While the contract to replace the cover for the urban water reservoir has been delayed, wastewater pipes in the urban network received upgrades, particularly on Augustine Street and Gorge Road. Council also installed a new aerator to expedite the treatment of urban wastewater, remove odours and enhance treatment quality to align with resource consent conditions.

To help manage stormwater flooding, Council is looking to maintain overland flow pathways and is in the process of completing consent-related work for a drainage area along Park Road and soakage pits on Belt Street.

Council will provide updates as these and other projects progress, including the implementation of a water rates review and the Water Services Strategy for 2027/28.

For details on these projects, visit waimatedc.govt.nz/majorprojects

LGOIMA requests high per capita

For the year 2025/26, Council processed Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests at a rate higher than those of larger councils, including Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.

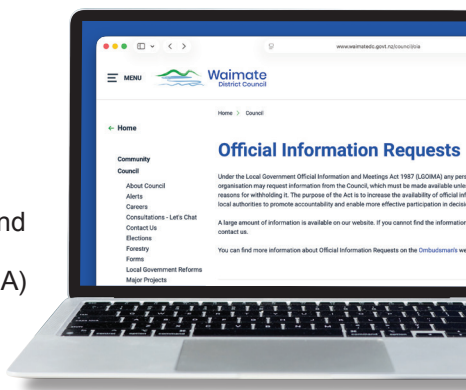
In a district with a population of around 8,850, Council completed 128 information requests, a rate of around 14.5 requests per 1,000 residents.

Data from 48 councils show that only three other councils had a higher rate than Waimate.

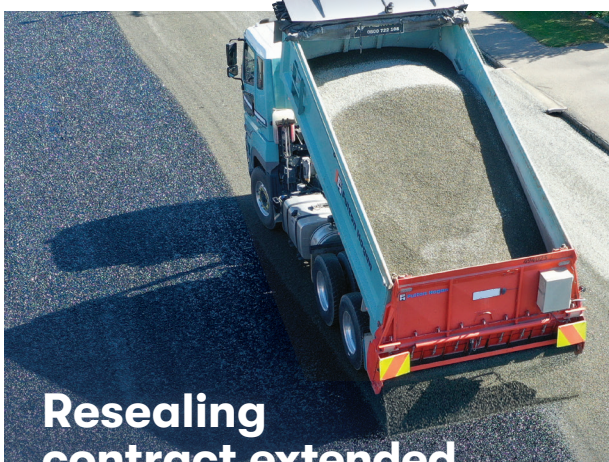
Forty-one percent of LGOIMA submissions in 2025/26 came from Waimate residents, up from 30 percent in 2024/25. The spike indicates greater public interest in Council matters.

Requests have risen overall since 2022, indicating Council's workload, despite its smaller size and resource base, and reiterating the need to maintain adequate resources and response capacity.

Council's LGOIMA report shows the topic of each request, and how long it took Council to provide the information.



Details of the LGOIMA report are available on waimatedc.govt.nz/lgoima



Resealing contract extended

Fulton Hogan has successfully completed a two-year road resealing contract which included an option for a 12-month extension to a maximum term of three years. At its meeting on 22 September 2026, Council extended the contract to 30 June 2027, when a new tender process will be undertaken. The decision presents a cost-effective approach to current resealing requirements delivering continued certainty around price and performance.

Resealing is completed annually as part of Council's road maintenance programme. A reseal is the addition of a thin chip and bitumen surface to an existing sealed road – this provides improved skid resistance and waterproofing to improve the road's resilience.

Roads due to be resealed in the current year are identified based on their condition and location to maximise the efficiency of the programme. The summer resealing schedule will be published on Council's website and Facebook page when it is available.

New tsunami blue zone

Canterbury is transitioning to a single blue tsunami evacuation zone as part of a national approach to tsunami evacuation planning.

Red and orange tsunami evacuation zones have been combined into a single blue tsunami evacuation zone. There is no change to the extent of the evacuation area or how far inland the zone extends. Residents previously located within the red or orange zones are now within the blue zone.

Signs will be placed along our district's coastline alerting the public that they are in an evacuation zone and showing a map of the area to help people leave when needed. Council will also be delivering information to residents within the new blue zone.

If you feel a long or strong earthquake, move inland or to higher ground so that you are out of the blue tsunami evacuation zone. Do not wait for an emergency mobile alert or sirens. A tsunami could arrive within minutes or a couple of hours.

To find your tsunami evacuation zone, visit cdemcanterbury.govt.nz/hazards/tsunamis

To make a household plan, visit getready.govt.nz/make-a-plan

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waimatedc.govt.nz

03 689 0000

council@waimatedc.govt.nz

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