



Waimate
District Council

NEWSLINE



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10 September 2026

Mayor's Column



Spring is upon us! As the season turns, a series of significant changes lies ahead. This month, we are expecting a decision that will shape the long-term future of our community: whether the Government will accept the amalgamation proposal to create a Mid-South Canterbury/North Otago unitary authority.

Second, legislation that could replace the Resource Management Act is imminent. As part of the reform, a new regional planning committee will develop a regional spatial plan. I will represent Council on that committee, which will consist of other community representatives across Canterbury. We will ensure that local voices like Waimate's will have a say in the new planning process.

Closer to home, Stuart Duncan will end his tenure as chief executive on 25 September. As the recruitment process for his successor moves along, I want to thank him again for his exemplary service and wish him the best.

Things are changing fast, but much remains business-as-usual. We are continuing to deliver on our core responsibilities, which include providing quality infrastructure and public services, and supporting community wellbeing.

On 14 August, I attended The Gallagher and South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce Business and Community Excellence Awards 2026. A few Waimate-based businesses were among the finalists, and although they did not win, I was proud to see them recognised. Last week, I also attended the St John South Canterbury Service Awards Ceremony, which honoured the longstanding commitment of volunteers in our region.

Tickets are now available for the 2026/27 camping season, which opens on 12 September. I invite everyone to enjoy the camping grounds and other amenities in our district, from parks to scenic spots.

Until next time, take care.

Mayor Craig Rowley

Drinking water to get better treatment

As part of the upgrades to the Cannington-Motukaika and Waihaorunga Mixed-use Rural Water Supplies, Council is working to install end-point treatment (EPT) devices in residents' properties under these schemes. The project aims to improve access to safe drinking water and helps ensure compliance with legislation.

An EPT device uses filtration and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection to remove harmful microorganisms in water without altering taste or introducing unnecessary chemicals. The device is designed for personal and residential use.

The project helps ensure compliance with the Water Services (Mixed-use Rural) Drinking Water Acceptable Solution, which took effect in September 2025.

After a rigorous tender process, the project contract

was awarded to Filtec, who will also set up systems that will manage network monitoring, control and communications. To avoid duplication and reduce costs, Filtec's systems will integrate with existing Council-owned source water monitoring instruments.

Filtec's partner, Foleys, will handle the installation of the EPT device, as well as a 5,000-litre storage tank and pump (if required). Council will pay for the initial installation, while annual costs for parts replacement, maintenance, and operations will be built into rate payments.

Council is currently seeking feedback from affected residents on the project, as well as permission for access and installation.

Initial site visits are expected to begin this month. Installations are set to start in November 2026, with the project scheduled for completion before July 2027.

The EPT project is one of several Council initiatives to upgrade water services in the district.

Visit waimatedc.govt.nz/endpoint to learn more about the project.

Service with a smile

There's an anniversary coming up for one of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs' success stories.

On 30 October, Andrew Ford will celebrate one year with Sadler's Service Station, where he works as a Forecourt Attendant.

Andrew secured the role through the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), which supports young people into employment and training opportunities.

Sadler's owner Mark Sadler says Andrew is an asset to the team.

"Andrew is a valuable staff member, especially with his confidence and understanding of technology. He's very reliable and willing to cover for absent staff at short notice."

Andrew's employment journey reflects both his determination and the support provided through the MTFJ programme.

"Andrew's potential was evident from our first meeting, and he went from strength to strength from there," says MTFJ Coordinator and driving instructor Deborah Kibble.

Working closely with Andrew, Deborah helped him hone his CV and gain a clearer picture of his employment options. As not having a driver licence can be a barrier to employment, Andrew received driving lessons through the programme and gained his Restricted licence. To boost his confidence, MTFJ referred him to Outward Bound and Limited Service Volunteer courses, both of which he completed.

"Andrew responds well to encouragement and is a quick learner," says Deborah. "I was happy to refer him to Sadler's. As part of the programme, I check in with clients during the first six months of their employment, and it was great to see him settle and shine in the role."

Andrew isn't the only one celebrating a milestone this year. The Sadler family is marking 100 years of continuous business in Waimate, making the partnership especially meaningful.

"It is wonderful to see a highly respected local business put its faith in this young man, providing him with valuable work experience," says Mayor Craig Rowley.



MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

WAIMATE DISTRICT
JOBS HUB

Find out more at waimatejobs.co.nz

Mayor as representative on new planning committee

Mayor Craig Rowley will represent the Waimate District Council on the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee, which will guide the development of a regional spatial plan (RSP) for Canterbury. An RSP will set the direction for how our region manages growth within environmental limits and constraints.

The formation of the committee comes in the wake of expected legislation that will replace the Resource Management Act. Two bills, the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill, are expected to pass into law shortly and will represent the most significant reform to New Zealand's planning laws in more than a generation.

Setting up the new regional committee marks one step in the reform process, once the bills are passed. The committee will consist of members representing different communities across Canterbury.

Council will work with the community to ensure that Waimate's voice is heard in the new planning process, and to plan for appropriate development in our district.

Council will provide regular updates as we work toward the Government's deadline to notify the public for formal consultation on the plan, which is in 2028. Full implementation of the new planning system will take place in 2029.

DID YOU KNOW

Elected member attendance is public information

Ever wondered how often your Mayor and Councillors attend Council meetings? Waimate District Council keeps a public record of elected member attendance at Council Meetings and Open Workshops each year. The 2025/26 attendance register shows strong participation by elected members, with all absences formally notified and no instances of councillors missing meetings without an apology.

The register includes Council Meetings and Open Workshops which are attended by all elected members. Committee meetings involving only selected elected members, such as the Audit and Risk Committee, are not included. Closed Workshops are also excluded, ensuring the register provides a consistent comparison across all elected representatives.

Publishing attendance information is one of the ways Council promotes transparency and accountability. It allows residents to see how elected members are participating in Council business. The attendance register also helps Council respond to requests for information from the public.

To view the register, go to waimatedc.govt.nz/meetings

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