



Waimate
District Council

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24 September 2026

Thank you for your service, Stuart

Council extends its deep gratitude to outgoing chief executive, Stuart Duncan, who is ending his tenure on 25 September 2026 after nearly a decade of service.

"We've been privileged to have Stuart for all these years," says Mayor Craig Rowley. "On behalf of Council and the community, I thank him for his unparalleled commitment to our district."

Mr Duncan helped guide the Waimate District through many key developments affecting local government, including the Three Waters Reform Programme, changes in resource management policies, and recently, the initial stages of the council amalgamation process.

Council announced his resignation in a media release on 7 July 2026.

"Leading the Waimate District Council has been the most rewarding role of my career," Mr Duncan said in the media release. "I have been fortunate to work with an outstanding team of councillors and staff whose commitment to serving the community is second to none. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together."

As the recruitment process for Mr Duncan's successor continues, Council has appointed Dylan Murray, Regulatory & Compliance Group Manager as acting chief executive.



Library buzzing with activity

Bringing the community together through events, learning opportunities and activities for all ages, library life is in full swing.

On 12 September, the library launched its Seed Library. Housed in a custom-made box crafted by Waimate MenzShed, the collection offers a variety of seeds in exchange for a gold coin donation. The launch featured a gardening expert sharing advice, while children took home mystery seeds to nurture and grow. Seed donations are welcome as the initiative continues to bloom.

On 28 August, the library marked National Poetry Day with guest poet John Russell-Hodge. Poetry enthusiasts gathered to listen, share and celebrate the written word.

With the school holidays now here, there's plenty on offer for younger visitors, including movie screenings, a special gaming session, Halloween origami and reading with SuperGran featuring Fred the library dog. For details, look out for school holiday posters or give the library a call on 03 689 0071.

And let's not forget Luna, the library unicorn, who could pop up at any time. She was last spotted at Glenavy Mobile Kindergarten. Whether you're looking for your next favourite read, a quiet place to study, a welcoming space for young families or a special event to enjoy, there's always something happening at the library.

A warm welcome for lost pets

Recent upgrades to the Council Animal Shelter are helping create a safer, warmer and more comfortable environment for lost and found pets while they wait to be reunited with their families.

The shelter's walls and ceiling have been insulated, and a heat pump has been installed, making it easier to maintain a comfortable temperature. Pets will stay warm during the colder months and enjoy a cooler environment when temperatures rise.

The upgrades ensure the facility continues to meet animal welfare standards and reflect Council's commitment to responsible animal management and the wellbeing of pets within our community.

Existing features such as video surveillance cameras support the safety of both animals and staff.

For many families, a pet is an important part of the household, and having a beloved companion go missing is a stressful experience. While Council prioritises reuniting lost pets with their owners as quickly as possible, the improvements help ensure animals' needs are met during their stay.

"We know that when a pet comes into the shelter, they are someone's much-loved family member," says Linda Shefford, senior animal management officer. "Our focus is on keeping animals safe and well cared for while we work to get them safely home. It makes a difficult time a little easier for pets and their families."



Meeting snippets

Major Projects: Several water and roading projects are experiencing extended timeframes and increased costs. There is uncertainty whether existing budgets will remain adequate through future procurement processes.

Water Services Delivery Plan: Updates covered rates modelling, the review of water service bylaws, the Water Services Strategy for 2027, and managing the relationship between Council and the internal business unit.

Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules Peer Review: Council has strong compliance with drinking water standards for 2025/26. A few schemes did not meet or achieved only partial compliance with certain measures. Ongoing capital upgrades are expected to address these issues.

Policy Index and Legislative Reform Risk: The index shows the status and review schedule of Council policies. The Risk Report examines how national-level reforms can affect

Audit and Risk Committee September 2026

Council operations and the Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2027-37.

Debt Funding Instrument: The committee considered the Debenture Trust Deed, which provides the security framework that supports Council's participation in the Local Government Funding Agency and enables Council to access reliable, flexible, and cost-effective debt funding.

Other Audit Matters: Following the 2025 annual audit, Council has successfully implemented four recommendations from Audit NZ. Council is continuing efforts to meet other recommendations on asset management, roading valuations, drinking water safety disclosures, and authorisation of sensitive expenditure. The committee also received updates on the timing of the 2026 Annual Report Audit, as well as the terms of engagement for the audit of the LTP 2027-37 and the LTP consultation document.

For details of the reports and other matters, see the meeting agenda: waimatedc.govt.nz/agenda

More pass choices for lakes campers

The 2026/27 lakes camping season has begun, with campers returning to Council's popular lakeside sites from Saturday 12 September.

This season, campers have more pass options. In addition to the traditional Full Season Family Pass, Council is now offering a Single-Person Season Pass and a Half Season Family Pass.

The new options build on the success of winter caravan storage and a trial of winter camping, providing greater flexibility and responding to community feedback.

Tickets are available at Council reception, Kurow Caltex and the Lakes Camping Office at Waitangi East.

Family Passes: Two adults (16 years and over) and two dependant children (5 to 15 years old)



Full Season Pass: \$525
12 September 2026
to 2 May 2027

Half Season Pass: \$375
16 January 2027
to 2 May 2027

Add more dependants to any pass: \$5 per child, \$25 per adult. Children under five are free.

Single-Person Pass:
One adult on a single site

Full Season Pass: \$400

For more information, including casual camping fees, visit waimatedc.govt.nz/camping or call 03 777 2008

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