

# 2024 Winter Newsletter

## The year ahead for Hurunui - 'Forging a Future, Together'

Council is always mindful that we need to ensure rates remain affordable while still getting things done.

When we went out to our community over March and April this year to consult on the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34, we asked our community for their views on three key issues: a proposal to increase rates investment in roading; the financial planning of Queen Mary South site; and a proposed change in rating for stormwater and drainage.

Roading, in particular, is a Council activity that attracts a lot of interest from our communities. Funding for roading comes from rates (48%) and subsidies from NZTA Waka Kotahi (52%).

Our ratepayers sent us a clear signal they were willing to pay more for our roading network.

At the time of going out for consultation, Council had put together a robust bid to NZTA Waka Kotahi for a roading programme of \$61 million over three years. In June, NZTA Waka Kotahi advised Council of its indicative funding for the next three years. The funding will be significantly lower than Council's bid. NZTA Waka Kotahi has approved a subsidised roading programme of \$30.6 million over the next three years, with \$16 million coming from NZTA Waka Kotahi subsidies.

What this means is we can do more resealing than we have been able to do over the past three years, but not as much as we had expected.

Elected members have raised their disappointment through every avenue available, including with the Minister for Transport, Simeon Brown. We will take every opportunity to seek additional funding.

In the coming year, a key factor contributing to rates increases for many properties will be the cost of servicing debt incurred to carry out water supply upgrades to meet changes in regulations.

Council remains committed to providing quality services and ensuring the decisions made can support resilient infrastructure, so that our district is well positioned for the future.



**Mayor Marie Black**  
Mayor for Hurunui



## Rates Rebates

### Did you know...

If you are a low-income homeowner, you may be eligible for assistance with your rates as part of the Government's Rate Rebate Scheme.

The rebate depends on a combined income of you and your spouse/partner (if applicable), your annual rates amount, and the number of dependents living with you (if applicable).

- You can now apply for a rebate for the 2024/25 rating year.
- You have until 30 June 2025 to apply.
- No appointment necessary – just fill in the form and return to us.
- Forms are available for pick up at Council offices/service centres, we can post on request, or you can print out a form from the Council's website at <https://www.hurunui.govt.nz/property-rates/rates-collection/rates-rebates>.
- You do not have to be a pensioner to apply.

## Lower Waitohi upgrade

Treatment upgrades to the Lower Waitohi water supply have now been completed. These were undertaken to comply with New Zealand Drinking Water Standards.

The project included a new treatment building with UV, filter and pumps, and a new 1 million litre reservoir, as well as new water main installations extending from the treatment plant to Waikari township. The perimeter has been secured with security fencing.

All necessary tests and procedures were completed last month to ensure the plant meets all regulatory standards. The work was budgeted for in the Long Term Plan.



## Recycled housings for clothing bins

Council's clothing bins at Hawarden and Amuri community libraries now have attractive new bin housings – made from waste clothes. The new bin housings, made by ImpacTex, show just what can be created by diverting clothing from landfill.

The wheelie bins with their new housings are ideal for areas where there is no access to clothing bins and will be moved around all the libraries.

Once the bins are full, they will be brought to the Amberley Transfer station from where all the district's waste clothing is picked up for re-use. Seven tonnes of clothing was recycled via the Amberley Transfer Station during the past financial year.

## Library services

Hurunui District Council libraries have you covered for all your reading needs.

Did you know that, as well as the books on the shelves of Council's libraries, you can also borrow from a collection of over 30,000 eBooks and audio books. Visit Council's website at [www.hurunui.govt.nz/community/library](http://www.hurunui.govt.nz/community/library) or talk to a librarian for details on how to access the Bolinda (BorrowBox app) and Overdrive (Libby app) platforms.



## Winter grit

The grit trucks are out and about around the district on frosty mornings to help keep motorists safe on the road.

Laying grit provides an extra layer of traction to icy roads, however, this offers only an additional 15% skid resistance. Driving to conditions and good driving practices are always important. Slow down before corners and allow extra time to defrost windscreens, windows and side mirrors – and allow yourself enough time to reach your destination.

For more tips, have a look at Council's website at [www.hurunui.govt.nz/roading-water/transport-network/hurunui-roads/ice-gritting-in-winter](http://www.hurunui.govt.nz/roading-water/transport-network/hurunui-roads/ice-gritting-in-winter)



## Rates invoices

If you feel you will not be able to meet the 20 August 2024 due date for the first rates instalment, please get in touch with Council on any of the numbers at the bottom of this page, or email Council at [rates@hurunui.govt.nz](mailto:rates@hurunui.govt.nz) to make arrangements.