

Masterton Monthly Wrap

December 2024

Two options for Local Water Done Well

Masterton District Council will now be consulting on two rather than three options for the future delivery of water services as part of the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms.

On 4 December, the Council voted to revoke a decision from 13 November, and exit the Wellington Regional Model for the delivery of water services.

Consultation in the first part of 2025 will now seek community views on two options:

- a combined Wairarapa and Tararua water services delivery joint arrangement (known as Wai + T), involving Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa, and Tararua district councils
- an enhanced status quo, in-house model, delivering against new Government requirements.

The estimated consultancy costs for Masterton if it remained part of the Wellington model were up to \$192,000.

Carterton and South Wairarapa district councils had already decided to exit the Wellington regional model, and Tararua District Council decided last week to exit the Manawatu-Whanganui regional grouping.

Pools come with rules – and costs

Bargain hunters looking for low-cost swimming pools as summer heats up are being reminded that pools come with rules, and potential costs, around fencing and access, to keep them safe for young children.

The law requires pools intended for swimming that hold more than 400mm of water to be contained by a safety barrier or fence at least 1200mm high, to prevent access by a child under five years old. This includes temporary pools.

A building consent may be required for such a barrier/fence, with a fee of \$440.

The Building Act requires councils, including Masterton District Council, to inspect pools every three years to make sure they meet requirements, with warranted Council staff entitled to enter properties to inspect pools at any time, including temporary pools. The fee for inspections is \$205.

Research by Water Safety NZ has found that home swimming pools pose the highest risk of drowning for children under five.



Silent night? Yeah right...

Masterton District Council's Environmental Services team is reminding Masterton residents that a little consideration for neighbours will go a long way to achieving a quiet festive period.

In the 11 months to the end of November, there were 503 noise complaints, the majority for stereos.

October was the busiest month for complaints, with 55 received. A total of 17 excessive noise directions were issued, and three noise abatement notices issued.

An excessive noise direction means no excessive noise, audible outside the property, must be made for 72 hours.

A noise abatement notice can follow a number of excessive noise directions, and means no unreasonable noise, audible outside the property, can be made for six months.

Breaching an excessive noise direction can result in a \$500 fine, and forfeiture of the noise-making equipment, while breaching an abatement notice can result in a \$750 fine and permanent forfeiture of the equipment.

Water restrictions introduced

Lower flow levels in the Waingawa River, the source of Masterton's drinking water, have triggered Masterton District Council water restrictions for the first time this summer.

Garden sprinklers may now only be used on alternate days – odd numbered houses on odd days, evens on even days.

Restrictions when flows are low are required as part of the Council's consent to take water from the river for Masterton.

Restrictions can be found on the Council website (www.mstn.govt.nz) and through the free Antenna app (available through the Apple Appstore and Google Play).

There are also Council billboards on Chapel Street, near the fire station, on Dixon Street, near Kuripuni, and at the entrance of the Masterton transfer station.

Three Waters Operations and Transition Manager Steve Watt said the start of restrictions was not unexpected.

"Masterton gardeners know how to manage conditions and keep their gardens growing," he said.

"Restrictions will remain in place until the end of Summer – the end of March – even if we get rain before then.

"We want to avoid changes every time it rains, or we get a few dry few weeks, but if there is a sustained dry period there may be further limits on water use."



Oops... let's try this again

In the last Monthly Wrap we included an incorrect email address when we asked if you find the information on these Council pages useful.

We're trying again, so please tell us what you think by 23 December and go into the draw to win a \$100 Prezzy Card (we'll get it to the winner in the New Year).

Email us on: communications@mstn.govt.nz, or call us on 06 370 6300.

Christmas holiday opening hours

Please enjoy all that the Masterton District has to offer, from our award-winning parks, recreation trails, skatepark, and playgrounds, to the delights of our coastal communities and the Tararua Range. Take care as you travel around the district, and please look out for each other.

Below are the opening hours of some of our key services during the holiday period. We're looking forward to a great 2025!

Queen Street Customer Service Centre and Waiata House

Closing 12 noon, Tuesday 24 December
Re-opening 9am, Monday 6 January (normal hours resume)

Masterton District Library

Closing 12 noon, Tuesday 24 December
Re-opening 9:30am, Monday 6 January (normal hours resume)

Wairarapa Archive

Closing 5pm, Monday 23 December
Re-opening 1pm, Monday 6 January (normal hours resume)

Bannister Street Toilets

Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December	Closed
Boxing Day Thursday 26 December	Closed
New Year's Day Wednesday 1 January	Closed
Thursday 2 January	Closed

Otherwise operating normal hours.

Please note: The after-hours toilet will be available outside of the main facility's hours of operation.

Trust House Recreation Centre

Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December	Closed
Boxing day Thursday 26 December -	
New Years Eve Tuesday 31 December	8am - 6pm
New Year's Day Wednesday 1 January	1 - 6pm
Thursday 2 January - Friday 10 January	8am - 6pm
Saturday 11 January	Normal hours resume

Masterton Transfer Station and Recycling Centre

Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December	Closed
Boxing Day Thursday 26 December	10am - 4pm
Friday 27 - Tuesday 31 December	Normal hours
New Year's Day Wednesday 1 January	Closed
Thursday 2 January	10am - 4pm
Friday 3 January	Normal hours resume

Masterton kerbside collections

In the weeks following Christmas Day and New Year's Day, all urban residential kerbside collections move one day later (For example, if your rubbish is usually collected on a Friday, it will be a Saturday pickup instead). Commercial collections do not change.

Castlepoint and Riversdale Beach Transfer Stations

Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December	Closed
New Year's Day Wednesday 1 January	Closed

Otherwise operating normal hours

Beach kerbside collections

Both Castlepoint and Riversdale Beach will have twice-weekly kerbside collections on Mondays and Fridays, from Friday 20 December 2024 until Friday 31 January 2025.

Kerbside collection will be as normal on Wellington Anniversary Day holiday, Monday 20 January 2025.

Room at the Inn Christmas lunch

Room at the Inn Community Christmas lunch is running again for 2024 at the Trust House Recreation Centre on Christmas Day.

This free community lunch has been running since 2002, and is open to any person or family needing Christmas love and community on Christmas day.

The food is always plentiful and delicious!

Guests arrive from 11:30am, with lunch starting at 12pm.

No registration required.

Check out the lights!

'Tis the season to check out some of the amazing house decorations put together by Masterton residents to celebrate Christmas.

A map of houses worth a look can be found on the Masterton District Council website: www.mstn.govt.nz

Enjoy the sights, and please respect people's private property.



New Year alcohol-free zones and road closures

To ensure everyone has a great time at the beach over New Year, road closures and alcohol-free zones will again be in place at both Castlepoint and Riversdale Beach.

Alcohol-free zones

6pm Saturday 30 December 2024 until 6am Monday 1 January 2025

Road closures

4pm Sunday 31 December 2024 until 6am Monday 1 January 2025

People living within the road closure area, or renting accommodation, may be asked to provide proof of address to gain vehicular access. Vehicle use within the road closure area is also prohibited.