

## Message from the Mayor

### Positive progress signalled for key Masterton infrastructure

Next week Masterton District Council will move forward with plans to invest in a new Town Hall and upgraded library as part the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan (LTP).

The Council is due to approve the final LTP on 26 June after meeting for more than six hours to consider how to respond to the almost 850 submissions received in our LTP consultation.

It's fair to say debate was robust and councillors quite rightly had a keen eye for the financial impact of decisions on ratepayers, but the majority wanted to make progress on some key projects.

That means moving ahead with plans for the Town Hall and the library, while also continuing to invest in roads and water infrastructure.

Councillors voted to demolish the Town Hall and Municipal Buildings, including the façade, and build a new Town Hall on the current site, with a total budget of no more than \$25 million.

While the majority of submissions were against retaining the façade, we are well aware of how some people in the community feel about it, as Deputy Mayor Bex Johnson said at the meeting.

We'll be looking to ensure designs incorporate elements of the old Town Hall in the new multi-use facility, including reusing any salvageable materials.

We're also planning to upgrade and expand the library at a cost of \$10.75m and consider in future a further extension to include the Archive.

It was also agreed to expand our Waiata House office to accommodate Civil Defence, customer services, a Council Chamber, public meeting rooms, and a lab for use by environmental services staff – at a cost of \$8.7m.

Of course, the bulk of Council expenditure in the next 10 years will be spent on road and water infrastructure – our 'business as usual'.

That includes nearly \$400m on roading, \$7.4m on footpaths, \$135m on water supply, \$123m on wastewater, and \$28m on stormwater.



I want to say again how much councillors and Council staff have appreciated the effort made by the people of our District to have their say on the LTP.

This is by far the most responses we have had for a consultation of this nature – and they were definitely taken into account during decision-making.

## Don't let dog rego fees creep up and bite you

Dog Registrations are due on 30 June. Pay your registration in full by 30 June and your dog will go into the draw to win one of three prize packs full of goodies for them and their families.

Dog registration payments must be made in full by 31 July to avoid penalties. Pay in full before 31 July and your dog will also go in the draw to win a refund of its fee.

There are a range of ways to pay, including online and weekly payments. For more information visit: [www.mstn.govt.nz](http://www.mstn.govt.nz)

Pay now and win!



## Follow the stars for Matariki

### Matariki calendar available now

A total of 11 grants have been provided by Masterton District Council to groups and individuals holding community events for Matariki.

Grants up to \$500 were available to help organisers where events were free and open to the public, and aligned to one of the Matariki stars.

All events are able to be included on a calendar of events that will be promoted on the Council website and appears in this edition of Midweek.

Council Manager - Community Corin Haines said the response to the grants process showed the growing interest Matariki.

"It is a special part of the calendar and the grants are a way of supporting activities that encourage the public to learn more about the meaning of Matariki," he said.



## Council Meetings

The meetings of the Council and its committees for the coming month are listed below.

Unless specified, all meetings will be held in the Kiwi Room at Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road, Masterton. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings. The meetings will also be accessible to the public via the livestream on the Masterton District Council YouTube channel. Agendas will be available on the Council website ([www.mstn.govt.nz](http://www.mstn.govt.nz)) and copies will be available for inspection at the main Council office, 161 Queen Street, and at the Library, 54 Queen Street, two working days prior to the meeting.

### Opportunity for Public Comment

At the beginning of some meetings, a period is available for those who wish to speak or comment on any matter relevant to the meeting in question. Requests to speak at a meeting should be made to Harriet Kennedy, Governance Team Leader, phone 370 6300 or email [mdc@mstn.govt.nz](mailto:mdc@mstn.govt.nz) at least one clear day before the meeting.

## What's On

**Monday 24 June**  
Follow the Stars Matariki events begin - see full page calendar in this paper

**Wednesday 26 June**  
9:30am Council meeting to adopt the Long-Term Plan

**Friday 28 June - Matariki holiday observed**

**Sunday 30 June**  
Dog registration payments due

**Sunday 7 July**  
10am Wagging Trails Launch at Henley Lake (see [www.mstn.govt.nz](http://www.mstn.govt.nz) for details)

**Wednesday 10 July**  
10am Awards and Grants Committee meeting

**Sunday 14 July**  
Follow the Stars Matariki events end - see full page calendar in this paper



## Further decisions from LTP deliberations



In other decisions to be confirmed when the Council meets on 26 June, councillors decided to progress the preferred option to complete essential work to improve water and roading infrastructure in the Town Centre, with no other improvements to Queen Street.

### Changes to services

The following decisions were made on funding of services:

- Reduce Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (WEDS) funding by 20 per cent compared to 2023/24 - \$80,000 compared to \$100,000, saving \$20,000.
- Cease funding for regional Walking and Cycling facilitation (\$35,000 per year).
- Continue funding for regional Positive Ageing facilitation (\$40,500 per year).
- Seek further external funding for Welcoming Communities facilitation beyond 2025 when current funding expires.
- Increase the Community-Led Climate Initiatives Fund to \$100,000, from \$50,000, rather than funding climate activation facilitation beyond April 2026 when external funding ceases.

### Changes to Council funding and funding requests

The alternative option in the LTP was agreed, to maintain existing funding arrangements, with \$85,000 through annual general contestable applications, and \$316,300 available through the Long-Term Plan submissions process.

The detailed breakdown of expenditure on roading and water infrastructure over the next 10 years is:

Planned expenditure on roading and water infrastructure for the next 10 years is:

- Roading - \$159.9m capital budget and \$235.2m operating budget
- Footpaths - \$7.4m operating budget
- Water Supply – \$51.2m capital budget and \$83.6m operating budget
- Wastewater – \$30.9m capital budget and \$92.0m operating budget
- Stormwater – \$12.2m capital budget and \$16.2m operating budget

## Independent wastewater report welcomed

Masterton District Council welcomes the independent report into work carried out to address wastewater overflows in Cockburn Street and is already carrying out investigations to find long-term solutions.

The report, completed by GHD, recommends making the Cockburn Street area (including Taranaki Street, Patea Place, Okato Place and Kuripuni Street) a pilot study for identifying the source of water entering the wastewater system and leading to overflow issues at times of heavy rainfall.

The Council has accepted the recommendations and established a dedicated project team with work already underway.

The Council's General Manager – Infrastructure and Assets, Maseina Koneferenisi, said the installation of 21 non-return valves and 13 tanks on properties had been effective but was only the start of work.

"As identified in the report, this was intended as a short-term solution, and we have begun the recommended pilot study to identify the source of water entering the wastewater system.

"We will also be looking at what regulatory, planning, and engineering solutions may be appropriate as we consider the wider issue of how we manage stormwater and the state of our wastewater network district-wide.

"I would like to thank the residents of Cockburn Street for their co-operation with assisting Council with the collection of data required to inform this work. We will continue to be in regular contact with property owners as investigation work continues."

The GHD report is available on the Masterton District Council website.