

Have your say on Council plans

Big plans are ahead for Masterton's Town Hall, library, town centre and Masterton District Council wants your views.

The Council's Long-Term Plan 2024-34 Consultation Document is being finalised with public submissions open from Friday 5 April.

All councils in the country refresh their Long-Term Plans and consult their communities every three years, setting out what they have planned for the following 10 years.

Elected members have agreed that the three big decisions relate to the future of the Town Hall and Library, and progress of town centre improvements.

The new long-term plan will be called Tō Wāhi, Tō Mahere – Your Place, Your Plan, and outlines the Council's priorities and spending proposals to support our community, and growth in our District.

Council plans are required to be updated every three years because a lot can change in that time.

The proposed new plan has a strong focus on essential infrastructure – roads, water, and waste networks – but will also propose new options for the town hall, found earthquake-prone in 2016, Masterton District Library and the Wairarapa Archive, and improving water and roading infrastructure in Queen Street.

These projects featured in the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan but increasing costs have prompted the elected members to seek a steer from the community about what direction to take.

When it goes to consultation in April, the plan will include three options for the future of the town hall, and three options for the library and archive, with two options for work in the town centre.

You can also have your say on proposals relating to how the Council funds community groups and organisations, and changes to services to achieve cost savings.

The Council proposes to spend more than \$353 million in capital expenditure in the next 10 years, including nearly \$160 million on roads, \$51 million on water supply, \$30 million on wastewater, and \$12 million on stormwater.

More than \$90 million is planned for community facilities and activities, which includes the Town Hall and library/archive projects.

But what do you think? It is essential that the community makes its views known on what direction the Council should be taking.

Have your say from Friday 5 April to Monday 6 May.



Gambling consultation

Consultation on the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy Review closes at 4.30pm on Friday 22 March. See the Council website for details.

Check the health of your home

Get your home ready for winter with the Home Health Assessment Kit. It's free to borrow from your local library and will help you check things like:

- your insulation
- how damp your home is
- how much power your appliances are using
- whether your firewood is ready to burn

Visit our website and search 'Home Health' for more information.



Time for dogs to dive

It's the highlight of every water dog's year – time to make a splash!

Dogs in Togs returns to the Lido pool at the Trust House Recreation Centre on Saturday 6 April (after end of the season for people).

As usual, we are staggering events to give dogs of all kinds a chance to perform at their best.

Timings are as follows:

- Small/medium dogs (up to 15kg) – 10-10.45am
- Medium/large dogs (over 15kg) – 11-11.45am
- Mixed-sized dogs – 12-1pm

There will be toys for the dogs to play with, and a ramp for getting your dog in and out of the pool will be in place.

All dogs must be registered and have tags. One dog per adult.

Owners are welcome to swim with their dogs – they are responsible for their dog's behaviour, and must clean up after their dogs.

The fee of \$5 fee per dog will be donated between SPCA and Companion Animals.



Community Climate Fund opens

Applications are now open for Masterton District Council's Community Climate Fund, launched last year and offering grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000, from a total fund of \$50,000.

Applications should cover projects within four action areas:

- Community Empowerment
- Circular Economy
- 20-Minute Town
- Climate Resilient District

An information sheet and application form is available on the Community Climate Fund webpage on the Council website, with hard copies at the Council's office at 161 Queen Street and Masterton District Library (54 Queen St).

Council staff will host drop-in sessions at Masterton District Library to provide information about the fund and to help with applications:

- Thursday 21 March 5-6pm
- Tuesday 26 March 3-4pm

Applications close 12 noon Monday 8 April

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) 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 at least one clear day before the meeting.

What's On

Friday 22 March

4:30pm Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy Review Consultation closes

Friday 29 March - Good Friday

Monday 1 April - Easter Monday

Wednesday 3 April

3pm Council Meeting

Friday 5 April

9am Long-Term Plan 2024-34 Consultation opens

Saturday 6 April

10am Dogs in Togs - small/medium (<15kg) dogs

11am Dogs in Togs - medium/large (>15kg) dogs

12noon Dogs in Togs - mixed-sized dogs

Monday 8 April

12 noon Applications for 2024 Community Climate Fund close

Monday 15 April

10am HEARINGS: Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy Review Hurunui o Rangī Room, Carterton District Council, 28 Holloway Street, Carterton

Wednesday 17 April

3pm Infrastructure and Services Committee meeting

Wednesday 24 April

Senior Regional Games

Thursday 25 April - Anzac Day

Pool inspections continue



The Building Act (2004) requires any pool that can be filled with a minimum of 400mm of water – including temporary pools – to have a secure barrier preventing access to children under five years old.

Masterton District Council is carrying out pool inspections to ensure barriers meet the legal requirements. What you need to know about council swimming pool inspections: Section 162D of the Building Act (2004) requires swimming pools to be inspected every three years by either the Council or an Independent Qualified Person (IQP) to ensure compliance.

Warranted Council Officers can enter properties to inspect pools under Section 222 of Building Act (2004). This inspection carries a fee of \$165.

The elected members of the Council have agreed that the cost of pool barrier inspections should be targeted to those who own pools, not general ratepayers.

Common ways in which pool barriers fail to meet requirements:

- The gate does not self-close or latch.
- The barrier has deteriorated and is no longer suitable.
- Objects are placed against the barrier, such as seats, planter boxes – i.e. anything that can be considered an aid to climb a fence.
- Temporary pools are purchased without consideration of fencing requirements.

For detailed information, see the Swimming Pool Fencing Guidelines on the Council website: www.mstn.govt.nz

Warranted Council Officers are lawfully able to inspect pools without an appointment, however if you would like to book a specific day/time for your pool inspection or have any further queries, please phone 06 370 6300 or email: pools@mstn.govt.nz