

HE TĀKAI KŌRERO MAI I WHAKAORIORI

MASTERTON MONTHLY WRAP

WHIRINGA-Ā-RANGI 2024

NOVEMBER 2024

We want to hear from you!



Consultation begins on water meter charging

Masterton District Council wants the views of the Masterton community about plans to change how it charges for water services, by using water meters.

The Council does not make a profit from water but must recover the cost of providing water – estimated to be \$6.16 million in 2024/25.

Water supply charges are currently part of rates - 30 per cent of costs come from a targeted charge of \$180 per connection, and 70 per cent of the cost is paid through a rate based on the Capital Value (CV) of properties.

With water meters now installed for around 87 per cent of properties connected to the Masterton urban water supply, it is possible to base charges on actual water used.

The Council aims to follow its 'user-pays' policy when it comes to recovering the cost of water supply services. But it is also updating its Rates Remission Policy to reflect support available for those who feel they are experiencing hardship as a result of water charges.

The Council works hard to conserve water, and encourages property owners to do the same.

The water meter charging consultation runs from 14 November to 4pm on Friday 13 December. with hearings for those wanting to speak directly to the Council scheduled to begin on 18 December.

Background information, and questions and answers, are on the Council website: www.mstn.govt.nz

Feedback can be provided in a number of ways through an online form, or using hard copy forms available at the Queen Street customer service centre and Masterton District Library. People can also phone the Masterton team on 06 370 6300 between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) and tell us what you think.

All feedback will be considered by the Council at a deliberations meeting in December 2024. Finalised policies will be considered for adoption by the Council in February 2025.

MDC to consult on three Local Water Done Well models

Masterton District Council has voted to include for consultation the Wellington region water services delivery joint arrangements, proposed under the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms.

Local Water Done Well is a change to the way drinking water and wastewater is managed.

The Council agreed to consult next year on three water service delivery models:

- Masterton being part of the Wellington region water services delivery joint arrangement
- 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.

Work will continue on development of the models and consultation will take place in the first part of 2025.

Rego and WoF warnings issued

Masterton District Council parking staff have begun leaving warning flyers on vehicles parked in central Masterton that do not have current registration or Warrants of Fitness (WOF).

It is a legal requirement for vehicles to be registered and warranted if they are being driven, or parked, on a public road.

Warnings will be issued for the next couple of months but will be replaced by infringement notices in the New Year.

A \$200 infringement fee applies for not having a current registration and a \$200 infringement fee for not having a current WOF.

Team Leader Animal and Bylaw Services Gordon Crawley said a staged approach was being taken to the issue.

"We have a responsibility in terms of vehicle safety, and the first part of that process is about educating vehicle owners about requirements for registration and warrants of fitness," he said. "But enforcement will follow if owners are not following the law."

Casual swim prices rise for first time in five years

Prices for casual swimming at the Trust House Recreation Centre will see a small increase for the first time in five years.

The centre has not increased its casual swim entry prices since 2019 and in that time has experienced a significant increase in operational and utility costs.

Prices changed on Monday 11 November. Membership prices remain unchanged and multi-trip tickets purchased before the increase will remain valid after 11 November.

Venue Manager Nikki Roud is committed to maintaining a great facility at a reasonable price.

"Our goal is to offer affordable entry rates that allow us invest in the centre and maintain the level of service and safety that our community deserves."

Regular swimmers can purchase a membership or beat the change by buying a multi-pass ticket up until 10 November at the current prices.

Changing prices:
Adult \$5.10 to \$6, Child/Senior/Student \$3.60 to \$4.50, Family Pass \$14 to \$16.



Do you find this useful?

We want to know if you find the information on these Council pages useful. Tell us what you think and go into the draw to win a \$100 Prezzy Card. Email us on: communications@mdc.govt.nz, or phone 06 370 6300 before 4:30pm Wednesday 27 November 2024.

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

- Thursday 21 November**
4:30pm Deadline for business registration applications to begin operating in January (excluding alcohol)
- Friday 22 November**
4:30pm Deadline for building permit and resource consent applications that are likely to be granted and issued before Christmas
- Monday 25 November - Sunday 1 December**
Pack the Bus - see opposite page for details.
- Saturday 30 November**
12:30pm Christmas parade followed by Christmas in the Park
- Friday 6 December**
4:30pm Deadline for special licences for an event held between 28 January and 14 February 2025
- Monday 9 December**
4:30pm Last day for non-urgent LIM applications in 2024
- Wednesday 11 December**
9:30am Council Meeting
- Thursday 12 December**
4pm Lighting the Christmas tree celebration
- Friday 13 December**
4pm Water Meter Charging consultation closes
4pm Last day to register your address for our Masterton Christmas Light map
- Monday 16 December**
4:30pm Last day for urgent LIM applications in 2024 (the next day for lodging a LIM application is Monday 6 January)
- Monday 23 December**
4:30pm Last day for building inspections in 2024 (the next inspection appointments will be available on Monday 6 January 2025)

Christmas is coming!

Christmas parade

Celebrate Christmas with your community at Masterton's Christmas Parade followed by family fun in the park!

The parade will take place along Queen Street from 12:30pm on Saturday 30 November followed by Christmas in the Park at Queen Elizabeth Park. The parade will start next to Countdown supermarket and move along Queen Street, finishing at the Farriers Bar and Eatery carpark.

After the parade, there will be a festive family afternoon of activities in the Green Space in Queen Elizabeth Park. There will be performances, live music, food trucks, and the Waka Tākaro play trailer to keep the kids entertained.

Lighting up the Christmas tree

Mayor Gary Caffell will celebrate the lighting up of the Town Square Christmas tree at the Thursday night food trucks on 12 December. Food and fun from 4pm, lights at 6pm. The Waka Tākaro play trailer will be providing activities for the kids.

Light up your house!

We are again producing our map of houses in Masterton decorated for Christmas. To register for inclusion on the map, contact: events@mstn.govt.nz by 4pm Friday 13 December.

Pack the Bus is back!

We're proud to support the cause - filling a bus with kids' gifts and non-perishable festive food to ensure everyone gets a great Christmas.

- The bus will be at:
- Monday 25 November**
12:15-12:45pm Innovative Advisory Accountants
 - Thursday 28 November**
9-10am The Warehouse
 - Friday 29 November**
9-9:15am Waiata House
9:30-11:30am Paper Plus
 - Sunday 1 December**
11am-1pm Mitre 10 Mega Masterton
- Donations can also be left at district council offices, Innovative Advisory Accountants, all Property Brokers Offices, Mitre 10 Mega Masterton, Paper Plus Masterton, and GoZone.

To keep up-to-date and report issues, download Antenna from your Apple App Store or Google Play store.



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