



Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

p2

Rosebank
Subdivision

p3

Milton Waihola
Water Supply

p4

Bruce Community
Facility

February 2025 | www.cluthadc.govt.nz | 0800 801 350 | help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz | CluthaDistrictCouncil

From the Mayor

As promised with every opportunity available we need to discuss the latest developments on Three Waters. It's a battle that has so much at stake and in the next few months the fate of every council in New Zealand will be determined.

Please, if you have been following the recent issues of 'Council News' or the many newspaper opinion pieces we have done on this matter, my apologies for repetition. But everyone needs to know the background to understand what is at stake and why we believe the strategies we have chosen give us the best opportunity to avoid the full brunt of ramifications.

The 1989 amalgamation established 67 individual councils, all competing for the construction sector's limited resources. This created a heavily skewed disadvantage detrimental to ratepayers, add to this the legal imperative of consents and this storm has been brewing for decades.

Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) realised the risk, knowing councils' determination not to bankrupt their ratepayers balanced against ever rising environmental standards. DIA knew this situation was inefficient and desperately needed changed, the only real solution, to take three waters control away from individual councils and create collaborative groupings that had the critical mass required and consequential efficiencies.

It would have been around 14 years ago that the then Minister for Local Government Nick Smith first read the riot act to the mayors of the lower South at the newly opened Distinction

Hotel in Dunedin. From memory his interpretation of how to implement DIA's solution was rather blunt. Unfortunately, the next day he lost some of his portfolio for whatever reason I can't remember, and the momentum was lost.

The next time DIA's solution surfaced was during the next term when the new government assigned their Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta to introduce her interpretation of the solution. We all know that the messaging wasn't very good and created a vacuum for meddling.

The basic concept for the South Island was relatively simple, most councils are sprawled out with small townships dotted all over the place attracting the attention of the ever-changing legislation. Take Clutha, we have the 3rd longest water reticulation network in the country with a wastewater or water plant for every 287 connections.

The only hope was strength in numbers, with Christchurch City, Waimakariri and Selwyn District Councils consisting of virtually half the island's population and new earthquake funded infrastructure, and strangely the strength in numbers even showed a saving for them from a wider collaboration. To think that people drove around with "Stop 3 Waters" and



Mayor Bryan Cadogan

[Read More](#) →

From the Mayor continued...

consigned us all to the suboptimal solutions presently on offer.

Councils have been compelled to produce their own 'Water Delivery Plans' and to search out their own collaborative partners. The original 21 councils of the South Island have splintered and today continue to behave very similar to how a primary school sports team was selected, slowly working down the line until you're left with the "unselectable". This is a very dangerous, and a shallow game that we are being forced to play.

For Clutha we have always remained committed to exploring opportunities and seeking efficiencies, and it was out of our control when the 21 councils of the South were whittled down to the 8 councils of Otago and Southland. Recently, the Southern spirit evaporated leaving ourselves, Waitaki, Central Otago, Gore and hopefully Queenstown still in discussions.

With every departure we are all left weakened, and time is required to analyse the implications of the new grouping. Unfortunately, we don't have time because 'Water Delivery Plans'

must be completed next year. The devil is in the detail and as you can see, we don't have many more regroupings before any advantages are lost and we are left with only one question available: Do we stand and oppose the legislation that is pushing us over the cliff, or do we bankrupt the people we are proud to serve?

At the moment, the option is to pursue the last collaborative opportunities available but if that fails, I know where my heart lies in taking Clutha.

Onwards and Upwards

Protect our pipes

Do you have leftover cooking oil or fat? Pouring grease down the sink can lead to fatbergs, which are large clogs formed by grease and plastics, potentially blocking wastewater lines. Dispose of your cooking oil appropriately instead of pouring it down the sink.

Don't flush these items down the toilet as they don't break down and/or cause blockages:

- All Wipes (including those labelled "flushable")
- Tampons
- Dental Floss
- Cotton Buds (Q-tips)
- Pills and Prescription Medication
- Condoms
- Nappies and Disposable Diapers
- Any foreign materials: including old clothing and undergarments

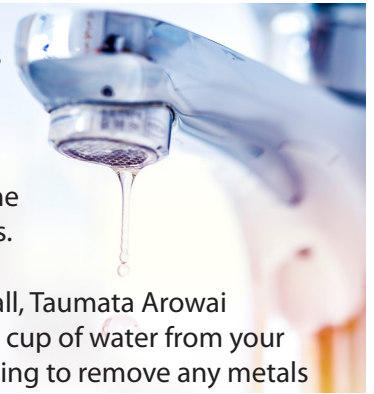
Dispose these items in the rubbish (or pharmacies for medication).

Public Health Notice

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metal to accumulate in water left standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the risk is small, Taumata Arowai recommends flushing a cup of water from your drinking tap each morning to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the fittings.

This simple precaution is recommended for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.



New Council Rosebank residential subdivision developed

Clutha District Council has recently completed a 1.9 hectare residential development at Rosebank Terrace. The development includes 18 residential sections, varying in size from 634m² to 889m² and is located on Rosebank Terrace behind the Rosebank Council office with rural outlooks over Kakapuaka.

This development was initiated back in 2021, and the key driver for this development was the Council's Living and Working in Clutha strategy, with the hopes that the new subdivision will enhance Clutha's appeal as a place to live and work, boosting its economy and help meet the continued needs for residential sections.

The Council-owned land had recently been used for

grazing. The costs of the subdivision project are to be rates neutral, meaning the sections will be sold at a price to cover the cost of the development.



Subdivision consent for Rosebank was granted in March 2023, and on 3 October 2024, the Rosebank Terrace subdivision for 18 residential lots were granted. In November 2024, the newly constructed roads were named Newnham Way and Oswald Court. Oswald Sim was the owner of the land who sold it to Council in the early 2000's. William Newnham was the engineer who designed the Balclutha Bridge.

All sites are established with services to their boundaries, including ultra-fast broadband.

Milton Main Street

A mammoth project to upgrade aged infrastructure underneath Milton's main street, including replacing old pipes and undergrounding overhead powerlines, has been underway since June 2023.

As part of the Milton Main Street improvement project, one pedestrian crossing has been relocated closer to the future site of the Bruce Community Facility, while another has been relocated to the Plaza area.



The resealing of the main street footpath began in January, and the entire project is anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2025. Once the resealing has been completed the next project is the beautification of the Milton Plaza and intersection re-development. This has been out for tender, and the work is expected start early April.

Rural Water Scheme

Waitahuna, Balmoral, Tuapeka East, and Tuapeka West are under a long-term boil water notice until the Balmoral/Tuapeka Rural Water Scheme & Lawrence New Supply (previously known as the Greenfield Water Scheme Project) is operational.



The Capital Projects team is nearing project completion, initially expected by end of 2024, but challenges with borefield and water quality have delayed it to May 2025. After completion, reservoirs and pipes must be flushed to ensure safe water, keeping the boil water notice in place until testing confirms water quality is safe for consumption.

spotlight on / water



Completion of the new Milton Waihola Water Supply



The majority of Waihola residents no longer need to boil their water before consumption.

Following completion of the new Milton to Waihola pipeline, completed under a \$6.27 million budget, Clutha District Council staff have undergone a full commissioning plan, intensive flushing of pipes and reservoirs and rigorous testing of the Waihola township, and has confidently lifted the boil water notice and the aluminium advisory in December 2024.

229 households no longer need to boil their water however, 25 will continue to have their water fed from pipes to the North Bruce Rural Water Scheme which remains on a boil water notice and an aluminium advisory.

The map on council's website shows the properties in Waihola either being fed from Milton or North Bruce line. www.cluthad.c.govt.nz/waihola-water

All water supply to the Waihola township had previously come from the North Bruce Rural Water Scheme which also supplied

the North Bruce area.

This water scheme was at capacity and under the current resource consent, no additional water could be taken from its source.

Council recognised that Waihola needed an upgraded water supply to meet the demand for further development in the area, as well as making supply available for development in the Milburn area.

An 18.5km pipeline from the Milton Water Treatment Plant to the Waihola reservoir was installed to double capacity to 500 units of water for the town.

As part of this project a new pump station was constructed at Milburn as well as upgrades to pumps, electrical equipment, and the filtration system at the Milton Water Treatment Plant to allow it to produce enough water to meet the needs of both Milton and Waihola.

Council has been working with an independent water engineer to improve processes at the Moa Flat and North Bruce

water treatment plants. Council has started an Organic Carbon Filtration trial at the Moa Flat plant and we hope this will be a successful solution to lift both of the boil water notices. However, this trial will need to run for three months before we are confident of long-term success. If this does not work, we will work with the Rural Water Scheme Committees on further options

While water from Milton had been flowing to Waihola for some time, it is advised that Waihola residents, especially those that do not live there full time, have their own water tanks cleaned if they have not already done this.

North Bruce residents can fill up clean containers from the public tap at the Waihola Domain, situated behind the public toilets.

It is also noted that Waihola is still a restricted water supply, and all households are required to have a tank with at least two days' storage (2000L).

Residents with any questions or concerns can contact Council on 0800 801 350.

Basis of Election for 2025 Local Elections

The Clutha District Council's representation arrangements for the 2025 local elections, set for 11 October 2025, were finalised with no valid appeals. The council will consist of a mayor elected at large and nine councillors from eight wards:

- Balclutha Ward - two councillors (Balclutha township)
- Bruce-Waihola Ward - one councillor (rural areas north of Milton)
- Catlins Ward - one councillor (rural areas to the southern coastline)
- Clinton-Clydevale Ward - one councillor (inland rural area around Clinton)
- Kaitangata-Matau Ward - one councillor (Kaitangata and surrounding areas)
- Lawrence-Tuapeka Ward - one councillor (Lawrence and nearby rural areas)
- Milton Ward - one councillor (Milton township)
- West Otago Ward - one councillor (areas around Tapanui and Heriot)

Two community boards will also be elected: the Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board and the West Otago Community Board, each with six members plus one councillor.

The eight wards, the number of councillors per ward, the ward populations (estimated at 30 June 2023) and the population ratio per councillor are as follows:

Ward	Population	Councillors	Ratio
Balclutha	4,270	2	2,135
Bruce-Waihola	1,990	1	1,990
Catlins	1,910	1	1,910
Clinton-Clydevale	2,150	1	2,150
Kaitangata-Matau	2,140	1	2,140
Lawrence-Tuapeka	2,010	1	2,010
Milton	2,140	1	2,140
West Otago	2,270	1	2,270
Total	18,880	9	2,098

*population estimates as of 30 Jun 2023

Enjoy our Beaches Responsibly

In the Clutha District, we are fortunate to share our stunning coastline with an array of incredible wildlife. As you set out to enjoy our beaches this summer, it's important to be mindful of the environment and its inhabitants.

Protecting our wildlife

The presence of wildlife is one of the unique charms of our beaches. To ensure that we coexist harmoniously, please follow these guidelines:

Avoid driving on the beach if possible:

Vehicles can disrupt the natural habitat and pose a threat to wildlife. If you must drive on the beach, be vigilant and aware of your surroundings. Drive safely to protect both

people and wildlife and comply with the Vehicles on Beaches Bylaw.

Dispose of trash properly:

Leave no trace behind. Ensure that you take all your belongings with you and dispose of trash in designated areas. Keeping the beaches clean helps preserve them for everyone, including the wildlife.

Enjoying the beach with your dog

Clutha District offers several beaches where you can walk your dog.

Here are some tips to ensure a pleasant experience for everyone:

Leash-free zones: While many beaches allow dogs to roam without a leash, it is crucial to keep your dog under control at all times.



Proximity to wildlife: Be extra cautious around wildlife. If you are within 20 metres of wildlife, please ensure your dog is on a leash. This helps protect the animals and ensures the safety of your pet.

By respecting these guidelines, you contribute to a safe and enjoyable environment for both the local community and the wildlife that call our beaches home. Let's make this summer memorable for all the right reasons.

For more information, visit: www.cluthadc.govt.nz/beaches

Mt Cooe in high winds

The operating hours of Mt Cooe landfill can be affected by weather conditions, especially during high winds. We recommend giving us a call before your visit to confirm that we are open. For the latest updates on council alerts, including Mt Cooe closures, download the Antenna app on your smartphone.



Antenna
Be Informed. Get Involved.

Keep up to date with Antenna

Did you know that you can receive the latest water alerts, road closures,

reminders and news from Council direct to your smart phone? Stay in the loop by signing up to Antenna, our free mobile app. Visit our website to learn more:

www.cluthadc.govt.nz/antenna

Construction of the Bruce Community Facility to proceed

The Clutha District Council is moving forward with the Bruce Community Facility, which will include a new library and a six-lane swimming pool.

During the council meeting on 5 December 2024, Calder Stewart was appointed as the contractor for the design and construction.

Mayor Bryan Cadogan noted the challenges faced, balancing community support with keeping rates low. The decision was nearly split among community feedback, with 49.7% in favor and 50.3% against, though 63% from the Bruce area supported it. To alleviate financial pressure, the Council approved a \$2.5 million grant and an interest-only loan for the \$15.5 million rate funded part of the project.

The updated total budget is approximately \$20 million, prompting further consultation.



The next steps involve detailed design work and cost updates, and the Council will collaborate with the Bruce Communities Facilities Trust for additional funding support.

Read more at: www.cluthadc.govt.nz/BCF