



Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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Plans Update

May 2025 | www.cluthadc.govt.nz | 0800 801 350 | help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz | [f CluthaDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/CluthaDistrictCouncil)

From the Mayor

With the restrictions around political commentary muzzling all councils for three months leading into an election this is my last chance to engage in this format. No doubt there will still be time for farewell and reflections, but for now we need to talk.

I am presently the 2nd longest serving Mayor in the country. I will always be indebted to the district I love for the support and understanding that you have extended me, and I have been so fortunate. But right now, it seems that the last 27 years in politics condenses down to this moment in time. The following weeks will ultimately define our districts future, and as we brace for the final show down on 3 waters there's a few things I need to share with you.

Firstly, I know 3 waters is my legacy, regardless of if I want it or not. Like most councils the rapid change in expectations from Wellington caught us out. When you have been in a system so long you expect a more logical transition. Every council cut its cloth to suit, it wasn't perfect, but the alternative where councils became hyper focused on only 3 waters also ran the extreme risk of rupturing the financial wellbeing of both the organisations and the communities, we are proud to serve. My greatest disappointment ever in politics was that together we should have made this work, but the stupidity of the Stop 3 Waters campaign put paid to that, clouding racism to distort reality.

That's not to say the original 3 Waters reforms were perfect, far from it. There was a ghastly vacuum of information which was quickly filled by manipulated misinformation, and

looking back it was probably too good a deal for councils. In Clutha's case we would have concluded the reform process this June leaving us with just over \$40 million in the bank and handing over the financial and litigious encumbrance of 3 waters to a far bigger collective with the strength to leverage efficiencies and transform the sector. In comparison Clutha's net debt is now predicted to be around \$120 million in June, and we hold all 3 waters encumbrances until these reforms conclude, and even then, with the sub optimal options that remain, there is inevitably going to be some pain ahead.

The damage these reforms have inflicted go far deeper than purely financial. To this day its decimated the trust and comradery between councils. I am sick and tired of the dysfunctionality, we are enfeebled and ill equipped. Local Government New Zealand is a shadow of its former self and local democracy is in the saddest of states. The relationship with Central Government is fragile and some in Wellington are trying hard to repair the damage, but contemptuous comments stick!

That said it is now imperative that we make the most of what remains. I am proud that Clutha has managed to negotiate the only extensive collaboration agreement in the South



Mayor Bryan Cadogan

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From the Mayor continued...

Island, and one of only two in the country. The four councils involved (Clutha, Waitaki, Gore and Central Otago) offer an option for you to consider at consultation time in the coming weeks what a joint collective has to offer, along with the alternatives of a modified status quo and an independent Council Controlled Organisation.

The challenge will be to identify which option garners the most long-term benefits for our district. My plea is that deliberations are based on reality and facts not the damming manipulation and distortion we saw with 'Stop 3 Waters'. Our nation cannot afford a similar travesty. And Clutha with its 27 water and wastewater treatment plants, along with the 3rd longest

reticulation network in the country, and only just over 18,000 residents, must remain steadfastly focused because we are in a uniquely fragile position.

My time as co-chair of the South Island councils over the last decade gave me insight into the wider situation. I am adamant that we are in a stronger position than most of our South Island colleagues which is cold comfort, but does indicate that there is a huge reality check on the near horizon as councils present their water plans for approval in September. I look forward to catching up with you in the coming weeks as together we try and unravel this Rubik's Cube and chart the next course for Clutha

Onwards and Upwards

Rates rebate

Applications for the current 2024/2025 rating year close soon.

If your household is on a low income, you may be eligible for subsidised rates through the rates rebate scheme.

The rates rebate scheme provides assistance for ratepayers with low incomes.

If you think you may qualify and have not applied since July 2024, please complete and return an application form by 30 June 2025.

For more information, visit www.clutha.govt.nz/rates or call 0800 801 350.

Rates reminder

Council would like to remind ratepayers:

- If your bank account number has changed, please contact Council to update your direct debit details.
- If paying via internet banking, please update your reference field to include your valuation number.
- If your property's capital value changes due to the demolition or destruction of buildings, such as a dwelling or farm buildings being burnt down, please remember to notify Council.

Council would also like to encourage ratepayers to sign up to receive rates notices via email. Visit www.cluthadc.govt.nz/rates for more information.

Sign up for email and be in to win

Sign up by June 2025 to receive Council communications and correspondences by email to enter a draw to win a \$50 Prezzy card.



Receive information like invoices and dog registration renewals via email, saving time, money, and avoiding missed deadlines.

Sign up today - complete the online form at www.cluthadc.govt.nz/email-signup or call 0800 801 350.

Kapa Haka for the community

Sessions are held every Monday at the Balclutha Community Library from 5.45pm - 7.15pm. Please bring a plate.

contact Wikitoria McNutt 027 269 0966 or Timikuka Walker 027 253 3311.

For more information,



Taylor Park Camping Ground booking moves to Penny

Booking a spot at the Taylor Park Camping Ground has transitioned to Penny, an online booking system designed to enhance efficiency and convenience for all campers.

With this system, you can book your stay 24/7, and access to the park will be granted virtually with a Penny keycard - which can be used at any Penny location around New Zealand. Keycards are available for purchase at Milton Night 'n Day and the Milton Community Library.

Taylor Park campground offers 16 powered sites, three unpowered sites,

and five spacious tent sites to cater to various camping preferences. Enjoy its facilities, which include restrooms - featuring an accessible option, showers, a coin-operated laundry area equipped with a washing machine and dryer, and a fully stocked kitchen

The kitchen comes with amenities such as a fridge, oven, stovetops, microwave, electric kettle, and toaster, making meal preparation effortless.

Please remember to bring your own pots, pans, utensils, and dishwashing liquid to ensure a comfortable cooking experience.

Book your spot at go-penny.com today and come have an unforgettable outdoor adventure at Taylor Park Camping Ground.

Visit www.cluthadc.govt.nz/taylorpark for more information.



Dog registrations

Our Animal Services team will be sending out dog registration invoices by early July, and you will have till the end of July to register your dog/s. This will be sent via email (remember to check spam folder) or by post if no email is provided.

You can sign up to receive your invoices by email by visiting www.cluthadc.govt.nz/dogs

It is important to register dogs over three months old otherwise you can be issued with an infringement notice. If you have moved address or your dog has died, please make sure this is updated by notifying Council. You can give us a call at 0800 801 350.



Reminder: Keep pathways clear

At the most recent public drop-in session for the Lawrence Tuapeka Community Board, concerns were raised regarding shrubs and vegetation hanging over fences onto public footpaths.

This overgrowth is making it difficult for

mobility scooters and pedestrians to navigate the pathways safely. In light of this, Council kindly remind all Clutha residents to ensure that their plants, shrubs, and fences do not encroach on public footpaths. Please take a moment to check



and maintain clear access for all pedestrians, particularly those using mobility aids. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our community safe and accessible for everyone.

Waste & recycling services reminder

Council would like to remind the Clutha community of a few simple rules to ensure that our waste and recycling services run smoothly in Clutha District. Let's work together to keep our community clean and green.

- **Put Bins Out by 7am:** Make sure your bin is at the curb by 7am on collection day so you don't miss the truck.
- **Bring Your Bin In:** Please remember to bring your bin back in from the kerb on the same day as collection to keep the streets tidy and avoid any unnecessary clutter.
- **Weight Limit:** The maximum weight for a bin is 30kg, and the lid must be fully closed for it to be collected. If you can't close the lid, it's too heavy!

- **Recycling Guidelines:** Recycling should always be loose — not bagged.
- **Contamination Awareness:** Contamination continues to be an ongoing issue, and it's taken seriously. Remember, we follow a three-strike system. If you're unsure whether something belongs in the recycling bin, leave it out and pop it in the red rubbish bin instead. It's better to be safe than sorry!

Let's make 2025 a year of cleaner streets and smarter recycling practices. Thanks for doing your part, Clutha! For more information, visit www.cluthadc.govt.nz/kerbside



New Operating Procedure for Forestry Activity Notices

Clutha District Council is advising all forestry operators and relevant stakeholders that it has introduced a change to its operating procedure for processing and monitoring notices of permitted forestry activities.

With over 90,000 hectares of plantation forest, Clutha District is the fifth most forested district in New Zealand and the most forested in the South Island, as of 1 April 2024. In 2024 alone, the Council received 92 permitted forestry activity notices.

The recent changes will better equip the Council to process these notices effectively, ensuring adherence to NES-CF requirements and providing clarity for forestry operators regarding their responsibilities.

Key Changes to Operational Procedures:

- **New online permitted activity form:** Starting 1 July 2025, all forestry activity notices must be submitted through the new online form. This streamlined

process will enhance efficiency and improve record-keeping. This online form can be found at www.cluthadc.govt.nz/forestry

- **Streamlined internal operations:** The Council has implemented internal operational systems to improve the recording, processing, and monitoring of forestry activity notices, ensuring more effective management and oversight.
- **Processing and monitoring fee:** As per regulation 106 of the NES-CF allows the council to recover some costs involved with monitoring certain permitted activities. We are investigating options and more information around this will be available during the proposed schedule of fees and charges consultation.
- **Updated Website and Public Information:** The Council has updated its website

and resources to better inform forestry operators and the public about their responsibilities under the NES-CF, including relevant information and guidance for compliance.

Clutha District Council encourages all forestry operators to familiarise themselves with the new procedures and requirements to ensure smooth compliance with the NES-CF. For more information visit www.cluthadc.govt.nz/forestry or contact the Clutha District Council Planning Team. Phone (03) 419 0207 or email planning@cluthadc.govt.nz



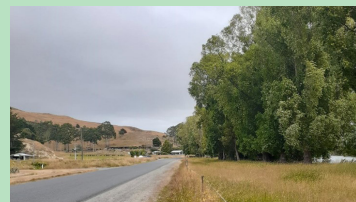
// Our Place Community Plans update

MILTON DOG PARK

Our Place Milton Community Plan Construction of the Milton Dog Park began in late March, led by Milton Area Promotions with support from Clutha District Council. Located on the old tennis courts at Taylor Park, the project is funded by Clutha Vets, the Council, and other stakeholders. The site will be closed during construction, and residents are asked to avoid the area. This development aligns with the **Our Place Milton Community Plan** adopted in 2017, aiming to enhance Taylor Park as a more appealing destination for the community.



KAITANGATA RIVERSIDE TRAIL



Our Place Kaitangata Community Plan Construction of a riverside trail in Kaitangata began in April, led by Kaitangata Promotions with support from Clutha District Council. Funded by local fundraising and community contributions, the trail will run 500m along the Clutha River from Berry and Water Streets. Residents are advised to avoid the area during construction. This project aligns with the **Our Place Kaitangata Community Plan**, which prioritises improved river access and local walking trails.

updates / Clutha Development

Supporting our community – Heartland Services and Local Jobs

Clutha Development is proud to support our community through various initiatives, including our contract with MSD to provide Heartland Services. This service helps connect people in the Clutha District with government agencies and community support, making it easier to access information and assistance close to home.

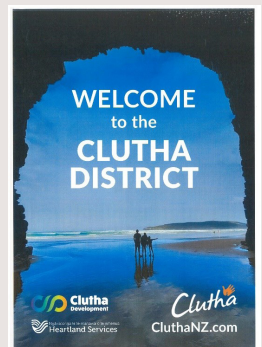
We encourage you to drop in and see us at Level 1, Te Pou Ō Mata-Au, Clutha District War Memorial and Community Centre, 6 Clyde Street, Balclutha. We provide a range of free services, including:

- ✓ Forms and guidelines – print, photocopy, and scan documents
- ✓ Email and phone facilities
- ✓ Computer access
- ✓ Meeting spaces & video conferencing
- ✓ Justice of the Peace (JP) drop-in clinic: Fridays, 2 – 5pm

To find a local JP outside these hours, visit www.justiceofthepeace.org.nz

New to Clutha? Get your welcome brochure

If you or someone you know has recently moved to Clutha, check out our Welcome to Clutha brochure! It's packed with useful local information and is available in hardcopy from our office. Businesses are also welcome to request extra copies for new employees and their families. A digital version is available online at www.cluthanz.com



Find local jobs – Or list one for free

Looking for work? The Clutha Jobs Portal on www.cluthanz.com lists local vacancies across a range of industries.

If you're an employer, you can list job openings for free by emailing jobs@cluthanz.com or calling us at 03 418 4048.

For more information, visit cluthanz.com, email info@cluthanz.com, or call us at 03 418 4048.

Or better yet, drop in and see us—we're happy to help!



Keep up to date with Antenno

Stay in the loop and receive the latest water alerts, road closures, reminders and news direct to your smart phone by signing up to Antenno, our free mobile app. Visit our website to learn more www.cluthadc.govt.nz/antenno

Livestream Meetings

We livestream all our Council and Committee meetings.

You can watch these meetings live or on-demand on our Council YouTube channel [@cluthadistrictcouncil8457](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1clutha8457)



Catch our new trucks!

We have some new waste collection trucks roaming the streets - see you if you can spot them!

