

Fluoride pause as water plant finished

The Methven community drinking water supply will be without fluoride for about three months, while a new water treatment plant for the town is being completed.

The new membrane water treatment plant will be like other modern plants and use fluoride in the form of Hydrofluosilicic Acid (HFA); the old plant uses Sodium Fluoride and Council's last stocks are likely to be used up in the next month.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said Council had made exhaustive but ultimately unsuccessful efforts to find enough Sodium Fluoride to use in the old water treatment plant until the new plant is commissioned in August.

"We've looked at importing more Sodium Fluoride but that is only available in very large quantities. The two tonnes we would need to buy would have lasted three years, but it also might not have been able to be shipped in time. We've looked at other water suppliers but most have already upgraded their plants to use HFA and we've also looked at hiring equipment on a temporary basis to use the HFA.

"Ultimately, the most commonsense decision is to temporarily stop adding fluoride to the town's water supply for a couple of months."

Methven's water supply has been fluoridated since 1970 and the community has supported fluoridation, through referendum, to help prevent tooth decay.

While fluoride is temporarily out of the supply, residents are being encouraged



The two new reservoirs at the new Methven water treatment plant are ready for use, while a new building to house the new membrane treatment system is under construction.

to use fluoridated toothpaste, and talk to their family dentist if they have concerns about their oral health.

Methven Community Board chair Kelvin Holmes said the new plant was on track to be completed by August.

"Our community has been looking forward to this plant and an improved water supply for a long time, and commissioning the new plant will restore fluoride to the Methven supply."

Mr McCann said Council had contacted the office of the Director General of Health to advise them of the situation.

"A recent amendment to the Health Act means that Councils no longer make decisions about whether community

water supplies are fluoridated or not. That is now decided by the Director General of Health, who is progressively asking all Councils to fluoridate their supplies.

"The amendment also said any local authority already fluoridating a drinking water supply must continue to do so, so on paper we are not fulfilling this obligation. But we have given the Director General plenty of notice about the situation and done our very best to find a resolution."

The new membrane water treatment plant is currently under construction, and once complete, will house equipment to better filter water coming into the supply and is expected to bring about the end of boil water notices after a heavy rain event.

Health warning for lake, canals

Te Mana Ora Community and Public Health has issued a health warning after potentially toxic blue-green algae (planktonic cyanobacteria) was found in Lake Hood and its canals.

People should avoid the lake and animals, particularly dogs, should not be allowed near the water until the health warning has been lifted.

Dr Cheryl Brunton, Medical Officer of Health of Te Mana Ora, National Public Health Service, says the algal bloom can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals.

"People should avoid contact with the water until further notice.

"Exposure may cause skin rashes, nausea, stomach cramps, tingling and numbness around the mouth and fingertips. If you experience any of these symptoms visit your doctor immediately and please let your doctor know if you have had contact with the lake water," Dr Brunton said.

No one should drink the water from the lake at any time. Boiling the water does not remove the toxin.

Animals that show signs of illness after coming into contact with algal mats or scums should be taken to a vet immediately.

Environment Canterbury continues to monitor the lake on a regular basis and the public will be advised of any changes.

Richard Wilson - Councillor

Making a difference starts with a good plan

As a new councillor, I want to make a difference for the betterment of our community - whether this is ensuring our water is clean to drink in town or our roads are fit for purpose.

This was brought home to me during council's deliberation on the annual plan. There are multiple needs for a finite resource (money) and core services like water and roads compete against social programmes and community assets like the EA Networks Centre, the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum and the Ashburton Event Centre.

At the same time the rate burden must fall on those who benefit.

A good example is urban water where our council is funding upgrades to comply with national standards.

Rural Mid Canterbury households not connected to these urban supplies do not pay drinking water rates but they are still faced with higher costs to upgrade their own private supplies.

Our roads are in need of improvement like many of the nation's roads and the extra funding put into this year's annual plan is a welcome addition. While there is more work to do in the roading space, I believe our annual plan gets the mix right between maintaining and improving services across the board.

I attended my first Rural and Provincial Local Government conference recently and the event was naturally dominated by the recovery efforts under way in areas hit by Cyclone Gabrielle.

While the damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure was significant, we heard how communities were pulling together with local people

and local organisations getting stuck in to help.

All the affected districts said the key message was being able to communicate, whether that be emergency services, checking on your family and neighbours, or on river level and weather data recorders.

The cyclone should also make us all consider our own preparedness. Do I have an emergency pack ready? If I have a generator, does it work?

Have a plan.

I learned that Local Government New Zealand supports councils in many ways, including lobbying Government, upskilling councillors, and giving a forum for councils to learn from each other's experiences.

The rate of change in Government policies is staggering and our Council

submits on many bills. Keeping an eye on how

Central Government policies and plans affect us in the Ashburton district is hugely important - and just like Local Government, the people making decisions can change every three years if voters are unhappy.

The people of the Western Ward have a chance to have their say in the by-election and a high turnout when voting starts next month would show that democracy is still alive and well in Mid Canterbury.

Finally, I must make mention of the recent Mayfield A&P show - it was a great, well-run family event with pig racing, tractor pulling, sheep shearing, horses and of course the Lions chocolate wheel. We live in a great district.



Change to alcohol ban areas

Expanded alcohol ban areas in Ashburton and Methven could be on the cards, as Ashburton District Council asks for public feedback on its draft Alcohol Control Bylaw.

The bylaw was first adopted in 2018 to help reduce the risk of alcohol-related offensive behaviour, disorder and crime through banning the drinking and possession of alcohol in certain areas in Ashburton and Methven between the hours of 9pm and 7am.

Council's Compliance and Development Group Manager, Jane Donaldson, said the bylaw has been working well, but there was a need to expand the ban areas to account for recent town development.

"The feedback we've heard certainly suggests that the ban areas have proven effective at reducing alcohol-related incidents in our town centres and helped to improve public safety.

"It's been five years since the bylaw was adopted and we've seen a lot of growth in Ashburton since then, so it makes sense to review the boundaries of the ban areas."

Council was proposing to add three 'blocks' to the Ashburton alcohol ban area. These included the area around the new retail River Crossing development, the block between Cass, Tancred, William and Moore Street, and the block opposite the rail footbridge on East Street at the north edge of the town centre.

Ms Donaldson said that Council staff had engaged with local police and health agencies who had provided direction on the changes.



"All of these areas contain licensed premises in close proximity to large carparks or public areas which can make them prone to alcohol-related issues.

"This bylaw gives police a tool to intervene early when they see behaviour that has the potential to spiral into something more serious."

In Methven, the Council with the support of the Methven Community Board was proposing to slightly extend the alcohol ban area to include a loop of Mackie Street where it connects to Methven Chertsey Road.

"The current ban area cuts through the middle of properties, so we'd like to extend it to the nearby road which will make the boundary a lot clearer for residents and visitors," Ms Donaldson said.

She urged people to read through the consultation material and have their say.

More information along with maps of the proposed changes and an online submission form can be found at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay. Submissions close 5pm, Sunday 16 April.

ROAD WORKS NOTICES

Barford Road - current to 14 April. Barford Road from Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road to Timaru Track is closed for road surface upgrade and widening. Detour available.

Mayfield Valetta Road - current to 6 April. Mayfield Valetta Road between Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road and Anama Valetta Road is temporarily closed during the day for rehabilitation. Resident access remains, detour available.

Holmes Road - current to 21 April. Holmes Road between Mt Hutt Station Road and Barkers Road is closed for a full road reconstruction and drainage installation. Detour options available.

Thompsons Track - current to 28 April. Thompsons Track, between Methven Highway and Ashburton River Road, is closed for rehabilitation work. Detours are available; resident access remains.

Allens Road - Sections of Allens Road between Middle Road and Harrison Street may be closed over the next few weeks for watermain renewal. Detours are available.

Forks Road - current to 6 April. Forks Road between Ashburton Staveley Road and Arundel Rakaia Gorge Road, is closed for roading upgrades. Detours are available.

Seafield Road - Seafield Road, between Bremners Road and Bridge Street, will be closed on **28 March**, from 7am until 5pm to allow EA Networks to replace two poles. Detours are available.

View a map of all current and upcoming road closures in the district by going to our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event - Ashburton Returned and Services Association Anzac Day Ceremony.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **West Steet (SH1), from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**
- **Havelock Street, from Park Street to East Street**
- **Cameron Street, from West Street to Park Street**
- **Baring Square West, from Havelock Street to Cameron Street**

Periods of closure: **From Tuesday 25 April 6am to 8:30am and from 10am to 12:30pm.**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the next Council meeting on **5 April 2023**.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, **Tuesday 28 March 2023**.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

Mayfield Reserve and Hall Board
- Tuesday 28 March, 7.30pm at the Mayfield hall

SAVE THE DATE!

2 - 4 June
King's Birthday Weekend
Tinwald Domain

ASHBURTON
GLOW
in the park

This popular free family event is returning bigger and brighter!

Don't miss the chance to experience Tinwald Domain and the Plains Vintage Railway & Historical Museum under the colourful glow of breathtaking lighting displays.

Public Notice

Ashburton District Plan Change 5

Ashburton District Council has prepared **Plan Change 5 - Transportation** to its Operative District Plan (2014). The change covers the following areas:

- Consequential amendments to various sections resulting from the implementation of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development
- Provision of mobility parking and cycle parking standards
- Provision for the assessment of high trip generating activities
- Updates to the Roading Hierarchy tables in the Transportation section.

Details of the proposal and the accompanying evaluation report in accordance with Section 32 of the Resource Management Act (1991) are available for inspection at the following sites;

- Council Offices at 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton;
- Ashburton Library or
- Download from Ashburton District Council website: ashburtondc.govt.nz

Submissions

Any person, including the local authority, may make a submission on the proposal, but submissions on trade competition grounds are not allowed.

You may make a submission by sending a written or electronic submission titled 'Plan Change 5 - District Plan'. Submissions must be written and in accordance with Form 5 of the Resource Management Regulations. All submissions must state whether or not the submitter wishes to be heard. Forms are available from the locations stated above.

Submissions may be:

- Posted to: Planning Team, Ashburton District Council, PO Box 94, Ashburton 7740
- Delivered to: Council Offices at 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton
- Emailed to: info@adc.govt.nz

The closing date for submissions is 5pm, **Friday 28 April 2023**.

Jane Donaldson
Group Manager - Compliance and Development

COUNCIL OFFICE

5 Baring Square West
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am - 5pm
Thursday 9am - 5pm

ASHBURTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

180 Havelock Street, Ashburton 7700
Mon - Fri 9am - 8pm
Sat 10am - 1pm | Sun 1pm - 4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace
Mon - Fri 6am-9pm (pools 7pm, gym 8pm)
Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 5pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am - 4pm daily