

Water services plan adopted

Council's Water Services Delivery Plan was adopted last week and has now been filed with the Department of Internal Affairs.

Every council in the country must have their water services plan approved by DIA as part of Government reforms for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

Councillors adopted Ashburton's plan at their meeting last week and it sets out how the district will sustainably deliver and fund safe and reliable water services over the next decade.

Key elements are:

- Council will continue to deliver drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services via an in-house Stand Alone Business Unit
- The proposed investment programme is financially sustainable
- Water services revenue will be clearly separated from other Council funds
- Council has enough headroom to borrow for unexpected events

The plan will strengthen service delivery and ensure compliance, including asset management and maintenance strategies, financial monitoring, governance improvements and alignment with



upcoming legislative requirements

The plan outlines projected increases in water services charges/rates over the next 10 years, from \$1441 in 2024/25 to \$2948 in 2033/34.

Councillors adopting the plan last Wednesday, noted that the new structure for water services would generate a lot more work in the stormwater, data analysis, information and reporting space, and that this could result in up to four new water services jobs.

Democracy and Engagement Group Manager Toni Durham said Council would now wait for DIA to approve the plan, and then the new Council elected in the coming local elections would decide on the governance structure for the Stand Alone Business Unit.

The water services unit would have its own long term plan that would feed into Council's long term plan, with the transition and implementation period expected to be about two years.

SHORT AND SWEET

REBATE CLINICS

Our Customer Service team is heading to the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall in Methven on **10 September** (from 10am-12pm), and to the Rakaia Library on **1 October** (from 10am-1pm) to help residents with their rates rebates applications. Please phone 307-7700 to make an appointment at either of the rural clinics, or in Ashburton at another time. Do you qualify? Check the criteria on our ashburtondc.govt.nz/rates webpage.

NEED A JP?

Justices of the Peace are available at the Ashburton Library every Tuesday and Friday, from 12pm until 2pm. A JP is a volunteer who witnesses and certifies legal documents, such as statutory declarations, affidavits, and copies of original documents. No appointment needed.

CREATIVE PROJECT?

Just a few days remain to get your application in for a Creative Communities NZ grant. Whether you're producing a play or hosting an exhibition, your arts project could be eligible for funding, especially if it helps to increase local participation in the arts. Applications are close on 31 August so go to ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants and find out more about the scheme, qualifying criteria and to apply.



JOBS SHOWCASE

Mid Canterbury businesses, educators and community organisations are being invited to showcase their trade at an interactive careers event on **Thursday 9 October**. Career Fest 2025 is aimed at showing the many different industries and jobs that are available. Interested in being an exhibitor? Email our Mayors Taskforce for Jobs co-ordinator Sharon.Watson@adc.govt.nz

WATER WORKS

Line Road changes

Tru-Line Civil has made a start on installation of new wastewater pipes at Line Road, Methven, however the order of work has changed. They are working first between McCloys Road and Dolma Street, then between Dolma and Methven Chertsey Road. There is a one-way closure on McCloys Road currently, with stop-go management planned later at Dolma Street and Line Road, and closure between Dolma Street and Methven Chertsey Road in the final stage.

Stockwater meeting

Community members interested in the future of the Brothers stockwater intake are invited to a meeting at the Mayfield Hall on 2 September, 4pm, and encouraged to have their say via an online survey (ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/projects/ashburton-district-stockwater-network). The Alford Forest intake survey is open for feedback, until Monday 1 September.

Reduced flows

Council is alerting properties on its stockwater service that reduced flows are likely next month, when the Rangitata Diversion Race will close on 1 September for a three-week maintenance period.

CE Hamish Riach

Election orange is the new black



It's hard to believe that this is the last week of winter, in meteorological terms.

In the next few weeks we will see fields of yellow daffodils break into bloom around Tinwald and Ashburton. While yellow is the colour of spring, orange is the colour of the local elections and you will see more of it too, as the voting period gets under way.

Voting papers will be arriving in your letterboxes from 9 September and voters have a month to return them, either by post or by depositing them into the secure orange ballot boxes that will be dotted around the district.

We've also enlisted the help of some locals to be the face of the voting campaign in in Mid Canterbury, and I want to thank them for encouraging their fellow residents to have their say at the ballot box.

In the Ashburton District, we'll be voting for one mayor and seven councillors (five in the Ashburton ward and two in the Western ward) - the two Eastern ward councillors have

already been decided as there were only two nominations, and the five Methven Community Board members have been decided too, with matching nominations.

Voters will also be asked to choose two representatives on Environment Canterbury and six for the Braided Rivers Community Trust.

It was great to see a good turnout to a meet-the-candidate evening in Methven last week and, as I write this on the eve of the Ashburton event, I expect another good showing in town.

Technology willing, the Ashburton event was livestreamed and should be available as a recorded session via our Council website and social media channels.

It's important to be as informed as possible when you vote, as these elected members will have a big impact on our daily lives, from parks to potholes, over the next three years.

If you're not sure who to vote for, then you can always visit voteashburton.nz to view candidate profiles and videos.

Join the lifelong learning crew

Departing Mayor Neil Brown will talk about his time leading the Ashburton District, when he opens the Lifelong Learning Festival in the Ashburton Library next month.

The free festival is on 9 September, during Adult Learners’ Week.

Mayor Brown has served 21 years on Council, the past six as mayor, and he said it was a job that required constant learning.

“I remember my first term, learning to listen and talking only when needed, and then getting to grips with meeting procedure and the Local Government rules.

“You also need to know how to work as a team and relate to a wide range of people, so I’ve been learning on the job for a long time now and it’s great to be part of this local learning festival.”

The Lifelong Learning Festival will run from 4pm until 7pm on Tuesday 9 September. It features both a programme of 10 different talks and demonstrations run in the library’s Event Space, as well as interactive activities throughout the building, run by over 30 learning providers and groups.

Attendees can have a go at watercolour painting, virtual reality training and sign language, get health checks, wellbeing tips and business advice. They can walk away with free lightbulbs, keyrings they’ve made, results from a careers

Live presentations, 4-7pm

4pm My Time as Mayor Mayor Neil Brown

4.20 Beatmaking demonstration Ben Tomassetti, Ashburton Library

4.35 Youth Finding their Feet Beekeeping Sharon Watson and Georgie Wade

4.55 Watercolour painting demonstration Lynda Scott, Ashburton Society of Arts

5.15 Yoga Introduction Lauren Stokes, Nourish Health

5.30 Give Sasa a Go, Samoan Slap Dancing Laura Viliamu, Agape Siva Kingdom Dance

5.45 A Bagpipe Adventure Harrison Doak

6.05 What makes a good photo? Nel Davison, Ashburton Photographic Society

6.20 Tau'olunga, Tonga dance performance Nat Taufa

6.35 Healthy Eating on a Budget Jo Taylor, Kai for Kids

6.55 Closing and prize draws Kate White, Keep Learning Mid Canterbury

Lifelong Learning Festival

personality test, information about study support and university courses, and so much more!

The event is a collaboration between the Ashburton Library and Keep Learning Mid Canterbury, and coordinator Kate White said there would be something for everyone, from hands-on interactive experiences to free hot chips from the Ashburton Lions Club.

“The aim is to celebrate all the different learning opportunities in our district. So if you are looking to upskill for work, or want to pick up a new hobby or keep busy in retirement, then I encourage you to come along on September 9 and come early as there is so much to experience!”

The event also includes supervised children’s activities and a scavenger hunt, as well as prizes, giveaways and a free sausage sizzle.

The event also includes free children’s activities and a scavenger hunt, as well as prizes and giveaways.

Ms White said people didn’t need to book or get tickets to attend, and could just show up on the day.

“Anyone who signs up through humanitix will also be sent a copy of the festival programme.”

This event is taking place during Adult Learners' Week Festival of Adult Learning Ahurei Ākonga.

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of the following community event.

RIDE THE RAKAIA

Road proposed to be closed:

- Rakaia Barrhill Methven Road, from Baker Road to West Town Belt

Period of closure: **From 6am to 3pm on Saturday, 25 October 2025**

Any person objecting to the proposal should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton by 4pm, **Monday, 1 September 2025.**

NEIL McCANN, Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chamber), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified. Agendas can be found on our website.

- Wednesday 27 August, **Treasury Policy Workshop**, 1.30pm
- Wednesday 3 September, **Council meeting**, 1pm (livestreamed)
- Tuesday 9 September, **Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee**, Wakanui Room, 9.30am
- Wednesday 10 September, **Three Waters Committee**, 9.30am (livestreamed)
- Wednesday 10 September, **Audit and Risk Committee**, 1pm (livestreamed)
- Wednesday 17 September, **Council meeting** (livestreamed), 1pm
- Thursday 18 September, **Stockwater Transition Working Group**, 1pm
- Monday 22 September, **Methven Community Board**, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall
- Wednesday 24 September, **Council Activity Briefings** (livestreamed), 9.30am
- Wednesday 24 September, **Council Agencies - 6 month reporting**, 1pm

WATER RACES BYLAW

Notice is given that the Water Races Bylaw 2025 comes into operation on 12 September 2025.

Copies of the bylaw may be inspected and obtained at Te Whare Whakatare, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton or from ashburtondc.govt.nz

VISITING OUR DISTRICT?

- Here's how we roll when it comes to recycling:
- Clean glass bottles in the green crate
 - Clean hard plastics 1, 2 and 5 (no lids), and clean cardboard, paper and tins in the yellow bin
 - Food waste and all other rubbish in the red bin

SECOND ASHBURTON BRIDGE



Come and meet the team!

We'll be holding an information session in September where you can pop in, see plans and ask questions.

When: Thursday 11 September
Time: Any time between 3.30pm and 6.30pm
Where: Te Whare Whakatare, the Ashburton Library and Civic Centre 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton



HAKATERE NOODLE festival

SAT 13 SEPTEMBER
3pm–8pm
Baring Square East

Celebrate our multicultural community and Welcoming Week with noodles from around the globe!



Proudly supported by



COUNCIL OFFICE

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

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm
Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace
Mon - Fri 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm). Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)