



New utilities contractor

A change of Council's Utilities Maintenance Contractor took place on Monday 1 October 2018. The new contractor is **Paul Smith Earthmoving Limited**.

For our consumers and customers, there will be no physical change to the way Council's Water, Sewer, Stormwater and Flood Protection services are provided. You will, however, see a number of new service trucks and vehicles on our roads carrying out the operation and maintenance of these services.

If you have a fault with Council's Water, Sewer and Stormwater services, please:

- Call Council on 03 769 8600 during office hours to talk to Council staff; or
- If the fault occurs after hours, please phone the same number (03 769 8600) and you will be transferred to our Contractor.



Mayor's Comment

Greymouth's CBD renewal is well underway. Over recent years ten buildings have been demolished as the Greymouth CBD starts to downsize in the same way that all

small towns in provincial New Zealand are doing because of earthquake regulations and the growth of online buying, which will have a huge impact on the way people shop and do future business.

The combination of the big-box stores being established outside of the traditional Greymouth CBD and the many old buildings, coupled with internet buying, makes it inevitable that future commerce will not require bricks and mortar as it has in the past. Compounding the problem in Greymouth is leasehold land, where trading banks are reluctant to loan money for redevelopment. Council has formed a new committee in order to speed up the process of change and find new opportunities in the CBD. The membership is Mawhera Incorporation, Greymouth Business & Promotions Association and Councillors.

The District has, over the last 20 years, made a painful transition from an extractive to a sustainable industry. We have diversified our economy away from coal, which now only employs up to 70 miners with no

underground coal mines operating in 2018. This huge downsizing of the coal industry has also made a big impact on local retailing, where hundreds of \$100,000+ wages once washed through the Greymouth economy.

The Greymouth town is well into the changes needed to revitalise the District. Forty two percent of the West Coast population and 45% of all full time employees are living and working in the Grey District. Tourists spent \$14 billion throughout New Zealand last year, so the town must capture as many of those dollars as possible. That is why we built the Town Square, which looks great and there are lots of activities planned for the summer months ahead. New fairy lights are ready to go up on the main intersection and the floodwall facelift is ready to start.

We are planning a viewing platform on the floodwall to enhance the cycleway and there has been big improvements around the train station where TranzAlpine arrivals are going from strength to strength.

More old buildings will come down and be replaced by modular, pop-up type structures servicing cottage industry and tourism, similar to the containers used in Christchurch. Council has done the hard work with the new \$50 million sewerage scheme, recycling, drinking water upgrades, new stadium and aquatic centre. We are planning a Discovery Centre and more downtown improvements but it all takes time.

We have the ninth lowest residential rates of the 68 District Councils throughout New Zealand and our debt is under the national average.

	Grey District	National average
Average residential rates	\$1,941	\$2,304
Total operating expenses per ratepayer	\$2,870	\$3,750 <i>(rural average)</i>
Debt per ratepayer	\$4,123	\$4,867
Staff costs per ratepayer	\$578	\$728 <i>(rural average)</i>
Borrowing cost per ratepayer	\$116	\$170

2018 Ratepayers Report, Taxpayers Union - Grey District

We still have issues getting access to conservation land but our economy has diversified to tourism, farming, fishing, horticulture, forestry, health, education and construction, with servicing industries and minerals still playing a big part.

Whether we like it or not, the ultra-fast broadband and technology investments we have introduced, coupled with the huge infrastructure expenditure made over the last ten years, has set the District up to take advantage of the competitive world we all live in today.

The changing face of downtown Greymouth is inevitable if we want to remain the service centre and heart of the West Coast. That change is well underway.

Tony Kokshoorn

Building matters

Our Environmental Services team deal with a number of different matters, including building consents, resource consents, subdivisions, LIMs, swimming pool compliance, animal control and much more.

Please come in and see us if you are considering any building work – we look forward to working with you, as well as potentially saving you time and money. Call on in or phone us on 03 769 8608.

Here's some information on recent topics of interest.

Asbestos

Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations came into force on 4 April 2016. This regulation has set rules on how to identify and handle asbestos in the workplace and home. It is recognised that over 3,000 building materials contain asbestos. Building products manufactured in NZ after the year 2000 are asbestos free so therefore any buildings constructed before 2000 may have some materials containing asbestos. Note: Imported building materials may still contain some asbestos.

Building owners or Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) have a responsibility or duty of care to provide a safe working environment for their staff and visitors. Under the Regulations, asbestos within the building or workplace needs to be identified and a safety management plan developed. This plan must be put in place immediately.

Please see the WorkSafe website for more information:
<https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/asbestos/>

Building consent applications for alterations to an existing building

Commercial building owners: Under the Building Code - F2, we will require a copy of the asbestos survey and a management plan on how the asbestos is to be safely handled. Designers will need to ensure this is satisfied.

Home owners: Your tradesperson should request that you have likely materials tested for asbestos before they assess the job. Your builders, electricians, vinyl layers or plumbers may have sufficient knowledge on what materials are likely to have asbestos and provide advice. Your designer must also ensure F2 NZBC is complied with in the same manner as a commercial building – ensuring the asbestos is noted, handled safely and disposed of.

If stable, asbestos materials may not need removal and could be encapsulated to remain safe. It is only the materials that the tradesperson is working on that could pose a danger and need to be handled safely. With encapsulated materials, Council would like to have these materials notified on the property files so future potential owners are aware of the presence of the materials, ie noted on future LIM's.

Swimming pools & spa pools

Summer is coming and we want your summer to be safe, therefore this is a reminder that all swimming pools and spa pools must, at all times, remain fully compliant with the Building Act 2004.

For those of you considering purchasing a swimming pool, maybe as a Christmas present, please note that any pool capable of holding 400mm or more of water MUST be fenced. In addition, the construction of a pool fence is NOT exempt and therefore you must obtain a Building Consent and achieve a Code Compliance Certificate before erecting/building any pool.

Failure to comply with the requirements of the Building Act could become very costly, as well as disappointing for those wanting to be in the pool for Christmas.

There are some instances where a pool may be exempt from being fenced, so please come and talk to us before you begin the process of purchasing a pool.

Westland Anniversary Day

Westland Anniversary Day happens on the Monday closest to 1st December each year. For 2018, the public holiday will be observed on **Monday 3 December 2018**.

Spring Creek pool

The Spring Creek Swimming Pool in Runanga is due to open for the summer season on **Saturday 1 December 2018**. Stay up to date on Facebook, www.facebook.com/westlandrec



Rates news

Sign up for email rates invoices

You can now sign up to have your rates invoices emailed to you!

Head to our website to register:
www.greycouncil.govt.nz/rates



Property revaluations

All properties in the Grey District are being revalued this year. Revaluation is a legal requirement that every Council in New Zealand must carry out. Grey District Council carries out revaluations every three years and uses these rating valuations for the purposes of calculating the rates each property is to pay.

We have contracted QV New Zealand, our valuation service provider, to carry out the revaluations.

Timeline

December 2018	Revaluation notices sent to ratepayers
18 January 2019	Objection period ends
1 July 2019	New valuations used for rating purposes

Please visit our website for more information,
www.greycouncil.govt.nz/rates

Special licences

Under section 137 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act), you will need to get a special licence if you want to sell or supply alcohol at an event or series of events. Applications need to be made at least 20 working days before the event, however as special licences take time to process, you are strongly advised to apply well before the 20 working day period.

It's now coming up to our busiest period for processing special licence applications. Please note specific deadlines below - please apply as early as possible to avoid any disappointment.

Timelines and trading days

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 specifies timelines, deadlines and non-working days that can impact on filing and assessment of alcohol licencing applications. Under the Act, a working day is defined as a day that is not:

1. A Saturday, a Sunday, Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, the Sovereign's Birthday or Labour Day; or
2. A day in the period commencing on 20th December in one year and ending with 15th January in the next year.

Application deadlines

Summer 2018/2019

If your event date is between **19 December 2018 and 28 January 2019**, you must make your application by **21 November 2018** at the latest to ensure it can be processed, granted and issued to you by 19 December 2018. This includes all special licence applications for Christmas and New Year's Eve.

If your event date is between **29 January 2019 and 13 February 2019**, you must make your application by **4 December 2018** at the latest.

Waitangi Day 2019

All special licence applications for **Waitangi Day 6 February 2019** must be received by **4 December 2018**.



Speed limit changes in CBD

As approved in the recently amended Speed Limits Bylaw, the Greymouth town centre is now a 30 km/hr zone.

Signs have been installed and drivers are required to now drive to the lower speed limit. A map of the 30 km/hr area is available on our website, www.greymouth.govt.nz.

Thank you to motorists for observing the new lower speed limit.

2018 Civic Awards

A big congratulations to our 2018 Civic Awards recipients:

Peter Henry	Services to Greymouth Municipal Band, Just Jazz, Greymouth SPCA and Greymouth community
Brian Blackman	Services to "Not Just Jazz" band, Greymouth Tennis Club, St Patricks Church and Greymouth community
Greville Wood	Services to Holy Trinity Church, Greymouth Rotary Club, Kowhai Project and Greymouth community
Harry Piner	Services to NZ Fire Service, St Johns and Runanga community
Tom Cameron	Services to Blaketown Rugby Club, Greymouth Fire Brigade and West Coast Rugby Union

Summer reading challenge

Research has shown that school children's reading levels drop during the summer - the Grey District Library and local schools want to do everything possible to prevent that.

The Summer Reading Challenge helps to maintain school children's reading levels over the summer by encouraging daily reading. Participating in it is easy - kids just have to read every day or almost every day. They can read anything as long as it is text and young children may be read to by someone else.

Once again, this year's prizes are going to be epic! All participants will go into the draw to win an Apple iPad! Everyone who enters will receive a book and there will be a book voucher from Paper Plus drawn for each school.

Please encourage your school children to take part in the programme and have fun with reading. Look for entry forms at your child's school or the Grey District Library later this month.



Digital literacy class timetable

Our Stepping Up digital literacy classes are extremely popular and best of all, they are free and open to people of all ages! Here is the schedule for Term 4.

DATE	TOPIC
Thursday 25 October	Pinterest
Thursday 1 November	Trade Me
Thursday 8 November	Microsoft Word
Thursday 15 November	Spreadsheets
Thursday 22 November	Gmail
Thursday 29 November	YouTube
Thursday 6 December	Google Drive
Thursday 13 December	Smartphone basics



GREY DISTRICT
LIBRARY

All classes are held on a **Thursday from 2pm to 4pm** in the West Coast Room at the Library.

Registering is easy - either phone the Library on 03 768 5597 or go to <https://2020.arlo.co/upcoming-courses> and select 'West Coast Region'. You will need to register for each class you wish to take.

For further information about the Stepping Up programme, please visit <http://steppingup.nz/>.

150
YEARS

Greymouth was proclaimed a borough on 16 July 1868 and Edward Masters was elected the first mayor of the Greymouth Borough.

This means that 2018 is Council's 150th anniversary. Check out our website for photos and more information, www.greymouth.govt.nz.

New animal welfare regulations

The Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 came into force on 1 October. They apply to anyone who owns or is in charge of animals and those not looking after the welfare of their animals can incur hefty fines. We have put further information about these regulations on our website, www.greymouth.govt.nz



Event schedule

Throughout December

Light Up West Coast - business and residential

Friday 30 November

3pm: Children's attractions in Mico carpark - Wipeout Zone

5pm: Children's attractions in Court House carpark - bumper boats, water walkers, bouncy castle

5pm: Food stalls, Town Square

5.30pm: The Hits Christmas Concert in the Town Square - two hours of fun, entertainment and giveaways

7.35pm: Light Up the Christmas Tree with nominated Grey District Great Person

This Christmas, The Hits West Coast, Grey District Council and Grey District Youth Trust are coming together for a month full of festive fun with The Hits Christmas Carnival!

The Hits Christmas Carnival will run for the month of December and will include a number of exciting activities and events for the whole family, including children's attractions, The Hits Christmas Concert, Christmas parade, markets and much more.



Saturday 1 December

10am: Children's attractions in Mico/Court House carparks

11am: Greymouth Christmas Parade

Sunday 2 December

9am: Children's attractions in Mico/Court House carparks

9am: Christmas market in Mackay Street with activities and entertainment in the Town Square

Tuesday 18 December to Sunday 23 December

Community Christmas Tree Festival at the Regent Theatre

MĀWHERA
GREY
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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