

Council News

MAY 2022

Mayors Comment

Well, it seems that we are getting over the peak of COVID and our community has managed quite well. Now we need to move back into a new phase of normal and a return to life as we once knew it. Grey District Council was one of the first councils to lift the mandates on its facilities as we want everyone to be able to reconnect and enjoy our public facilities.

I have been making it a priority to get out to our local businesses through Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) and, along with our Coordinator Marina Tomasi-Atkinson, see how they have been going throughout this time and offer direction, help, and support.

The MTFJ has been one of the best, most rewarding initiatives I have been involved in since becoming Mayor of the Grey District. It has provided many positive outcomes and given our employers the confidence in uncertain times to employ young people and those whose jobs were affected by COVID. Offering financial support and pastoral care to our candidates and employers and the opportunity to connect and engage has been so valuable. Below are some of our statistics since starting the programme in September 2020:

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Statistics

153 Supported candidates to date

97 Employers involved

113 NEETS employed
(Not in education, employment and training)

59 COVID affected employment

59 New apprentices supported

The new apprenticeships is the one that is close to my heart as I believe that once you have a trade you are set for life. Following these apprentices through their training has been an amazing experience, seeing how much they have learnt every time you visit and how their confidence grows. There has been a lack of skilled workers coming through in trades and MTFJ has helped to start growing a much-needed workforce across many areas. It has been a privilege to learn about our local businesses and what they do along this journey. I believe they punch way above their weight, are humble and don't shout about their achievements. On a similar line I want to give a big shout out to all of you who were worried about the uncertainty brought on by the pandemic. It's been a tough couple of years. You have done a great job.

Moving from the young to the elderly, Grey District Council has been undertaking significant upgrades to our retirement housing as they had been on reactive maintenance for many years. Our residents deserve to have good healthy homes so plans were put in place to upgrade to a better standard. We are pleased to report that much of the major work has now been completed with rebricking of units, bathroom conversions of baths to showers, installation of fans in bathrooms and kitchens and insulation, exterior painting, resealing, and reroofing. Work is ongoing, but maintenance plans are being put in place to make sure that these are kept to a standard you would expect.

As you know costs are rising steeply in all areas of life and the same is happening with council projects. We are doing our best to mitigate this and will have to make choices



in the future about the timing of some projects, as we are aware of the financial pressures being faced. We must make sensible decisions and prioritise those most important to our community's wellbeing and safety. There is always a lot to take into consideration and we certainly acknowledge that there is a cost-of-living crisis and that everyone is doing their best to get through it. I always like to end though by mentioning that we still live in a great place and events happening around the world at the moment certainly cement this. Please if you would like to get in touch with me or my councillors, we are available, and our details are on the website. My email is mayor@greydc.govt.nz or you can contact me on the phone or through **Facebook Messenger**.

Tania Gibson
Grey District Mayor

Three Waters Reform Community Update

Communities 4 Local Democracy met with Local Government Minister Mahuta and Department of Internal Affairs officials on the 4th April 2022 to discuss the Governments Three Water Reform proposals and present alternative models developed by our group of 31 partner Councils from around the country representing over 1.5 million New Zealanders and growing.

The models we have been working on are more localised and allow our communities and local Iwi to have more input into their water assets while still retaining ownership and achieving better drinking water and environmental outcomes.

The one size fits all model of 4 mega corporate entities is strongly opposed and ninety percent of Councils submitted their opposition to the Governments model prior to it being mandated. We have asked for a pause and from the Government to allow them to consider our proposal.

The Government Working Group report and the new proposed shareholding (one share for each 50,000 population) would see Grey District having 1 share but contributing \$248 million replacement cost of assets and the only benefit of this share is to prevent future privatisation. There are no other rights attached to this share. We will still have no say or input into our assets as the shareholding does not give rights to ownership nor does it address core property rights. There is still a real risk of future privatization with a future Government not being bound by current Government decisions.

The Grey Districts feedback came back at 95% against these reforms. People around NZ are not happy, and it is time for the Government to listen. Opposition Parties have confirmed that they will repeal these reforms and are not in support.

To read more about Communities 4 Local Democracy and the Three Waters Reform please visit their website at <https://www.communities4localdemocracy.co.nz/>. We encourage your engagement and welcome contributions from the community, please forward comments onto your local Councillors or your local Member of Parliament.

The Compromise Proposal: 10 Point Plan

- 1 Foundation principle – community property right in Three Waters assets are to be both respected and meaningful.
- 2 The Government agree to pause its reform process to allow time for the revised approach to be refined.
- 3 With respect to investment decision making, asset owners should actively seek to initiate authentic discussions with mana whenua at a local level that consider codesign and partnership arrangements that acknowledge and enable Te Tiriti based at a local and regional level.
- 4 Asset owners agree to commit to meeting health and environmental standards, once known, within an appropriate time frame.
- 5 The regulatory framework should specify a backstop provision that identifies a set of circumstances which would justify future Crown intervention if an asset owner was not making acceptable progress towards meeting those regulatory requirements.
- 6 Progress should be reported on annually by asset owners and be benchmarked across the sector.
- 7 To further incentivise sector progress, a formal process might be established that requires an asset owner to prepare a plan that would map out the steps it proposes to take to meet the required standards in a financially viable and sustainable manner.
- 8 A process to finance and allocate funds to area that will require financial assistance be designed that a national in application and independently Administered accordingly to objective and transparent criteria.
- 9 This subsidy scheme will be designed to meet investment shortfalls until such time as sufficient progress has been made. At which point the scheme will cease and asset owners will finance matters on a business as-usual approach.
- 10 A sector-wide sector best practice improvement process be created and membership made compulsory.

REMINDER: DOG REGO



A reminder to Grey District residents that dog registration notices for the 22/23 year will be mailed out to dog owners by the end of June and will be due for payment by 31 July 2022.

Unpaid registration fees will incur a late payment penalty from 01 August 2022. Currently we are unable to accept payments until 01 July 2022.

All dogs must be registered by the time they are three months of age, and this must be renewed every year thereafter.

If you have a new dog and we don't know about it please contact us to start the registration process.

If you have recently moved to a new house or no longer have your dog, please contact the Animal

Control team, using the contact details below, to let us know so we can update our records.

While you are required to register your dogs by law, your registration fee helps contribute to a range of benefits that we all get to enjoy as residents in the district. A few of these include:

- Ensuring community safety by managing roaming and aggressive dogs
- Reuniting lost dogs with owners
- Responding to complaints about dogs
- Provides an afterhours (emergency only) service
- Educating owners and promoting better care and welfare of dogs
- Administration of the Dog Control Act 1996 and Council Bylaws

To find out more information about Grey District Council animal related services please go to our website: <https://www.greydc.govt.nz/06your-home/animal-control>. Or alternatively give the Animal Control team a call on 03 769 8600 or email info@greydc.govt.nz



Triennial Election Enrolment Reminder

Every 3 years Councils within New Zealand are required to undertake an election process to determine who their elected representatives for the next 3 years will be. This year is an election year with voting papers being mailed out in September and voting closing on 8 October 2022.

For residents within the district




To get voting papers mailed to you in September you must be enrolled on the parliamentary electoral roll and your details need to be up to date. The Electoral Commission passes a file of those parliamentary electors enrolled within the Grey District to Council's Electoral Officer who will use that file to compile an electoral roll for the Grey DC elections. Electors included in these files are called residential electors as they are enrolled for addresses within the council boundary.

If you have recently changed address, shifted into the district or turned 18 and haven't yet updated your details with the Electoral Commission, you should do that now. You can do that:

-  Online from the www.vote.nz website
-  By calling the **0800 367 656** helpline to get a form sent to you
-  By free texting your name and address details to **3676** to get a form sent to you

For ratepayers outside the district

If you pay rates on property within the Grey District but live outside the council boundary, you may be eligible to enrol as a Ratepayer elector. To receive voting papers in September, eligible ratepayers should enrol now. You can do that:

-  By downloading an enrolment form from <https://www.greydc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvtsvtyv1cxbyz1k6uz/hierarchy/sitecollectiondocuments/Pre%202021/our-council/elections/RatepayerEnrolmentForm.pdf>
-  By calling **(03) 744 7153** to get an enrolment form sent to you
-  By emailing elections@greydc.govt.nz to get an enrolment form sent to you

Who can be enrolled is determined by the name(s) listed on the rate account. If the property is in a single name, only the named person can be the enrolled ratepayer elector. If the property is in joint names only one of the joint named can be nominated to vote on behalf of the joint owners. If the property is in an entity name (business, trust, club or society etc) then a representative of that entity can be nominated to vote on behalf of the entity.

Some points to note about ratepayer elector enrolments:

- No one can be enrolled more than once on any electoral roll.
- Only one enrolment can be processed for any Ratepayer, joint ratepayers or entity, irrespective of how many properties those ratepayers own.
- Certain restrictions apply. Each application will be assessed and the applicant will be notified of the outcome.



Grey District Residents Satisfaction Survey

Thank you everyone that took the time to take part in the 2021 survey.

The results of the annual survey has been presented to Council, here are some of the highlights:

-  Most consider Council to be actively working for the District, doing a good job, moving forward and getting things done.
-  Satisfaction in overall service when contacting the Council Offices has increased in 2021 to 80% from 78% in 2020 and 76% in 2019.
-  The Mayor, is widely praised for her commitment to the community, high level of visibility, ability to listen and respond to resident's needs.
-  Main reasons for satisfaction focuses on the good performance of Council, Mayor, and the Council offering good support, communication, consultation, being approachable, and the Council moving forward.
-  Residents satisfaction of the information they receive from Council, has grown to 80% of respondents being satisfied in 2021.
-  In 2021, 66% of residents expressed satisfaction that the Council consults with residents on important issues, which is marginally higher than 64% in 2020, and substantially higher than the 52% in 2019.

Residents responded with reasons for the Grey District being a great place to live as, The Grey District being friendly with a sense of community, beauty and natural unspoilt outdoor nature and good relaxed lifestyle. There is however still a sense among some that the District is run down, in need of maintenance, has issues with transport, roading and the CBD is dying with lots of empty shops.

Council considers the information received from the survey very thoroughly, and uses the data to help inform decisions across all areas of operations. Thank you again for those taking part and to read the full results, please visit the website here: <https://www.greydc.govt.nz/04your-council/council-publications/surveys>

UPDATE

Grey District Council's Retirement Housing Upgrades



Blaketown Re-Bricking Project

Four of the six blocks of units in Blaketown have been rebricked to ensure that residents stay warm and dry. The construction works began with the removal of the old brick cladding, followed by installation of a weather tight barrier, new wall insulation and the complex task of rebricking and porch rebuilds.

Contractors have now completed re-bricking on all four units. Council's Property Officer, Graham Smith has also completed the gardens, mowing strips and pathways around the units to keep the complex looking fresh.

Thank you to contractors Tony Wilkins Builder Limited and S. A. Thelning Brick and Blocklayers for completing this project well before Winter.



Threadneedle Street Exterior Painting

Another day, and another project complete!

The Grey District Council have facilitated many projects around the Retirement Housing units which has enhanced the overall appearance and condition for Council's tenants. Work on the Threadneedle Street complex is now complete thanks to local contractor, Alan Atkinson Painting and Decorating. The units have been given a refresh with painting of the exterior walls, windows, doors and handrails. Pleased to say Council is happy with the results!



Driveway Re-seal in Cowper and High Street

The sun is shining, so are the Grey District Council's Retirement Housing units!

This driveway reseal in Cowper and High Street has improved the access and outlook for tenants. Council's Property Officer, Graham Smith facilitated the project while contractors Paul Smith Earthmoving completed the reseal on Friday 18 March along with a patch re-seal in Dobson early February.



Dobson Fence

Following storm damage that occurred last October, the back yard fencing around the Dobson housing units has now been completely replaced.

Paul Smith Earthmoving and James Murphy Plaster and Painting were on hand to design and construct the fencing. With the fencing complete, Council staff are now organising planting around the fence line.

Other Projects and Maintenance works completed in the last quarter include:

- ✓ Taylorville Road slip stabilisation
- ✓ Annual road resurfacing
- ✓ Annual road remarking
- ✓ Stormwater, sump and drain cleaning
- ✓ Preston Road Recycling Centre
- ✓ William Stewart Bridge

Projects in Progress

Rough River and Moonlight Bridges, Airport Runway Reseal and McLean's Pit Recycling Building

GREY DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS

Libraries are really important for our community and at Grey District Library we have been adjusting our programmes and services to keep in line with government recommendations and help keep everyone as safe as possible.

We're delighted to welcome everyone back to the Library, from Friday 1 April 2022 visitors no longer needed to show a vaccine pass before entering.

While many of our regular programmes and activities haven't yet resumed, the Justice of Peace are available to consult on Tuesday afternoons between 1pm and 3pm, no appointment necessary.

We continue to offer a Click and Collect service – contact us on **768 5597** or via email at library@greydc.govt.nz either with a topic or a specific item and we'll collect it for you to pick up. Please allow up to 24 hours turn around.

To keep up to date with changes to our services we recommend following our website www.greydc.govt.nz/libraries or Facebook page www.facebook.com/GreyDistrictLibrary for the most up-to-date information.