

# 2023 Winter Newsletter

## Council adopts Annual Plan 2023-24 with a commitment to deliver on key services

Delivering key services remains a priority in the Annual Plan 2023-24, which was adopted by the Council on 27 June.

Total capital expenditure will be \$36 million, of which \$16 million is allocated to water service delivery (drinking water, stormwater and wastewater) and \$7 million is allocated to roading renewal projects.

In addition, a further \$2.8 million has been provided towards the development of new water slides at the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa to replace the current body slides, which are about 25 years old.

The average rate increase has been set at 7.49%, higher than the 4.99% rate increase that was predicted in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP).

Due to this Annual Plan sitting in the third year of the LTP, much of the structural work relating to the budget has already been prepared, and therefore must be followed through. While funding capital works on Three Waters will be happening through debt, during a time of high interest rates and inflation, Council

remains committed to futureproofing Hurunui District. We have an obligation to meet timeframes set by Taumata Arowai, the regulator for water services across New Zealand and, as a result, some key projects have been brought forward into the 2023-24 year.

Anticipated debt at the end of June 2024 is \$71.5 million.

When Council set the budget for the LTP, we were in a period of very low inflation, ranging from 2.5% to 3.0%. Council has also experienced a large increase to the cost of roading in the 2023-23 year, and a further increase of 10% is required in the forthcoming year just to retain current service levels.

Despite this, Council remains firm in its commitment to continue paying off the roading debt and has allowed for \$916,000 repayment in this Annual Plan, budgeted for in the LTP.

To view the Annual Plan, please go to [www.hurunui.govt.nz/council/plans-and-strategies/annual-plans](http://www.hurunui.govt.nz/council/plans-and-strategies/annual-plans)

## Drinking water upgrades

**Kowai to Amberley pipeline:** Contractors will return to site in drier weather to complete berm work along SH1, which includes topsoiling work, grass seeding and completing chip sealing to driveways. The new watermain will be switched over by mid July.

**Hurunui 1 scheme:** The one million litre reservoir arrived on site at the beginning of July, and works have commenced on its build. The earthworks to continually improve access for all vehicles to the worksite are continuing.

**Medbury Road:** Installation of the Medbury Road watermain work has gone well, relocating the Hawarden and Waikari potable water pipelines to provide extra resilience from high river level events. Works will be completed during July.

**Osborne Road:** Works are underway to improve the stormwater drainage capacity of the area in Amberley, to be safely discharged into the Eastern Drain waterway. These improvements will reduce surface water on properties and the road during heavier weather events. The works will be completed by mid July.



## Amberley Beach Coastal Adaptation Plan

At Council's meeting on June 27, a Coastal Adaptation Plan was finalised for Amberley Beach. The plan sets out how the Amberley Beach community will respond to the risks of coastal and flooding hazards over the next 100 years. In the short term, the bund continues to provide protection to the community from the sea.

As the effects of climate change increase the hazard, the community will likely need to adapt another option. The plan reflects three years of coastal conversations between the community and Council. Work is still underway to create an adaptation plan for other coastal communities within the district. Thank you to Amberley Beach and all the coastal communities in Hurunui District for your feedback.

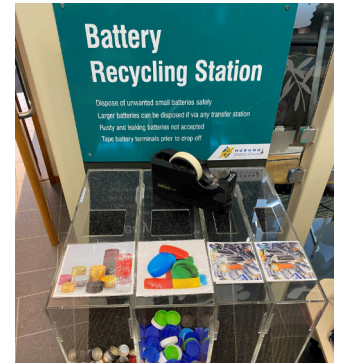


## District library collection points

Hurunui District Libraries are supporting waste minimisation by making it easy for communities to drop off batteries, lids and pre-loved clothing.

Battery and lid recycling bins can be found at Hurunui District Libraries in Amberley and Hawarden, thanks to the efforts of the Hawarden Menz Shed.

Pre-loved clothing can be placed in the pop-up clothing bins at the Hurunui District Libraries at Hawarden and Amuri. Clothing will be collected until the end of August and will go to SaveMart, with some of the funds raised going towards the Child Cancer Foundation.



## \$3.1 million confirmed for Soldiers' Block restoration at Queen Mary Hospital Reserve

The old Soldiers' Block building at Queen Mary Hospital Heritage Reserve is to be revitalised, with \$3.1 million confirmed to fund the works.

Lottery Grants Board funding of \$350,000, \$1 million existing budget from the Queen Mary development contributions account, \$250,000 from Council's earthquake strengthening fund, and \$1.5 million from the government's Better Off funding has raised a total of \$3.1 million to proceed with the first stages of the

project. This will include earthquake strengthening and restoration, and is expected to be completed by the end of next year. The works will include the original hospital wards, located in the east and west octagons, the rooms linking these, and the restoration and fit-out of the central hall as a multi-use community space.

A concept plan for a potential immersive experience created by Weta Workshop has also been unveiled, with next steps to include seeking external capital funding.

## Winter driving — a reminder to drive to conditions

Winter road safety tips from Council's Road Safety Coordinator Dean Eades:

- Lights on all the time – winter presents us with low light most of the day and more cloudy days. Lights are for everyone's safety, not just yours.
- With sickness in the air, don't mix your medicines. Many things we take for granted don't mix well with medicines and can cause sleepiness and other effects. Driving impaired is a major cause of

accidents and road deaths.

- Prepare for the drive – not just your vehicle but yourself as well. Can you see through the windows, are your mirrors set correctly, are you tired, are there a lot of distractions in the vehicle?
- Drive to the conditions – we all know winter days can be very changeable. So slow down, increase your following distances, and plan for that journey to take a little longer. Drive safe, everyone.