

Mayors Comment

It has been another busy few months at Grey District Council and in our communities. It is a tough time now, and I think everyone is feeling it with the pressures of life.

The past two years have seen many challenges and there is a lot of fatigue from the cost of living, interest rate rises, winter is upon us and sickness is affecting many businesses, health agencies and schools. There is a lot of positives happening though and we need to try and focus on those, and living where we do, we are very lucky. However, I want to acknowledge how people are feeling.

We have just completed our Annual Plan for the 2023/24 financial year and now we start work on our 10-year Long Term Plan. We recently headed out to the community again for pre-engagement to gather ideas on how you would like to see your district develop.

We recently finished going around our district consulting on the Annual Plan and one of the frequent comments is that Council should be run like a business. As someone who owned their own business, like many past and current councillors, we all stand for Council with the intended big goal being to make this happen.

The stark reality soon hits you when you begin getting into the processes of governance in the public sector! Once you are in Local Government it is a whole new world of layers of legislation that dictates process that must be adhered to, to create transparency and accountability. Every year Council must produce an Annual Plan and every three years an audited Long Term Plan. Every year our Annual Report is audited, some would say to a higher standard than businesses. These three processes alone are huge projects that come at great cost, with significant staff

time and resources required. We are also a regulator, dealing with building and resource consents, liquor licensing and much more. Central Government mandate new requirements that we must do, adding new legislation at the drop of the hat and they expect councils to implement these, often with no extra funding assistance.

The last few years it has been relentless - Three Waters; Resource Management Act Reform; Tai Poutini One District Plan; Future for Local Government; Stewardship Land Review and a requirement to fluoridate drinking water are some major examples. In addition to this there has been over \$12 million in PGF projects that we were very grateful for. To work on and implement all these things we need good, well qualified staff, especially in the areas of planning, engineering, finance, and project management. However these roles are in high demand around the country and this is the main reason we see many consultants working in councils now. Private sector has a profit driver, the product they are selling is their skill and their place in the market. Local Government is driven by community wellbeing outcomes, delivering services that we all require such as roading, libraries, cemeteries, swimming pools and three waters, all at a cost that could not be done by private sector as there is no profit margin. I feel this is a point that needs explanation to help understand why Local Government make some of the decisions they do and is something I did not fully understand myself while in private business.

All the people I have worked with in Local



Government are involved because they want to make their communities a better place. I hope in the future many more good people stand for Local Government to continue the legacy, to help make a future district fit for our children to grow up in and raise their families. There is so much opportunity and benefits living here on the Coast. I always say "5 minutes to the beach, 5 minutes to school or work and the native bush to enjoy". Yes, we will always be faced with difficult decisions, hard times, and never enough funding for some services but I firmly believe we are punching well above our weight. Let's get through the winter and look forward to the weather getting warmer and attending events and celebrations together.

Tania Gibson
Grey District Mayor

Your Rates

By now you should have received your first rates bill for the 2023/2024 rating year. This will show the adjustment for the average rate increase of 5.99% set down in the Annual Plan 2023-2024 and adopted by Council at a meeting held on 29 June 2023.

Your rates are made up of General Rates (to fund activities such as roading, refuse disposal sites, stormwater, parks, community services, district planning, flood protection and much more) and Targeted Rates (to pay for services such as refuse/recycling collection, water and sewer, or to fund specific activities, ie economic development).

Your rateable land value, the area of the district you live in and what the property is used for helps determine how much rates you pay towards Council services and activities. Rating evaluations are completed every three years by Quotable Valuations (QV), with the last review completed in 2022.

Anyone who is having trouble paying their rates is very welcome to reach out to Council. We can discuss payment options to make things more manageable and other assistance that may be available. We want to help everyone to stay on top of their rates.

Paying rates

Rates rebates

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides for a rebate on rates of up to \$750 to low-income homeowners.

Applications for the current rating year (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024) can be made from 1 August.

Those homeowners who have received a rebate in the 2022-2023 year will automatically be sent a form. Otherwise head into Council offices to collect an application form.

Email rates invoices

You can sign up to receive your rates or debtor invoices via email or to pay your rates by direct debit. Please visit our website for details.

If you have any questions about your rates, you can visit our website, www.greycd.govt.nz/rates or call **03 769 8605** to speak with our friendly rates staff.

There are many easy ways to pay your rates, including:

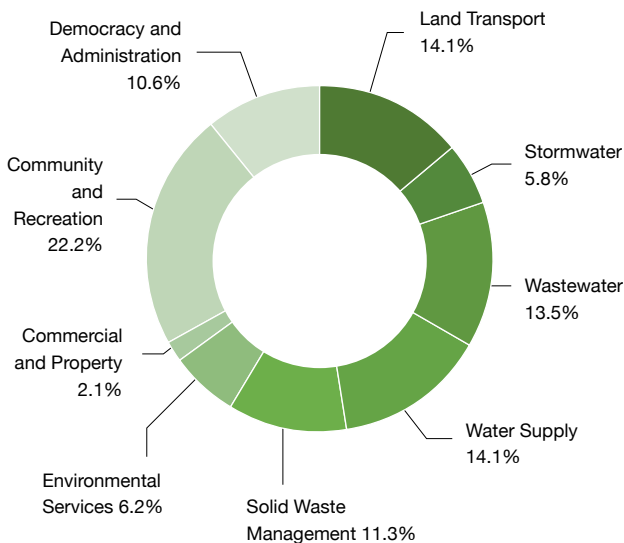
In person:

- Cash
- Eftpos
- Visa or Mastercard

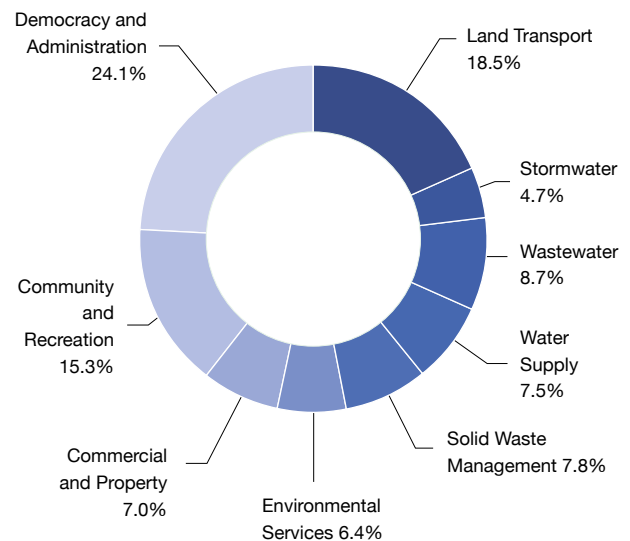
Other methods:

- Direct debit
- Telebanking
- Internet banking
- Automatic payment
- Credit card over the internet

Rate input into each activity



Expenses by activity



We are. LGNZ.
Te Kāhui Kaunihera o Aotearoa.

MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Statistics

Since the programme started in September 2020, Mayors Taskforce for Jobs has achieved great success in the Grey District:

226 Placements into employment

105 Apprentices in employment

119 Employers involved

Grey District Council is excited that the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme has secured further funding from Central Government to continue the Community Employment programme for another two years.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs has secured \$10 million for the first year and \$8 million for the second year.


This funding will be split across 33 rural districts which includes the Grey District. Grey District Council will receive \$325,000 in funding for year one and will be allocated funding for year two in the future.


Attention Rate Payers


Discover the hassle-free way to manage your payments and unlock a world of convenience with Direct Debit!


Paying your bills has never been easier. By opting for Direct Debit, you'll enjoy a seamless and stress-free experience that frees up your valuable time and ensures your payments are always on track.


Here's why you should give it a go:

 **Simplify your life:** Say goodbye to the hassle of remembering due dates.

 **Time-saving convenience:** Imagine the freedom of having your payments taken care of effortlessly. No more queues, no more manual payments.

 **Peace of mind:** Rest easy knowing that your payments are handled securely and reliably.

 **Avoid penalties and late fees:** Forgetting or delaying payments can lead to unwanted penalties and late fees.

 **Budget-friendly:** Direct Debit allows you to better manage your finances.

Don't miss out on the benefits of Direct Debit! Take a moment to set it up today and experience the freedom of effortless bill payments. Contact our friendly rates staff on **03 769 8605** or visit our website, www.greycdc.govt.nz/rates to get started. Your time is precious, so let Direct Debit handle your payments while you focus on enjoying life!

Stay up to date with Council

You can stay up to date with all Council news on our website or Facebook page, we update these regularly with interesting articles and stories, basically anything we want to share with the community. It's a great way to keep connected!

On our website, it's possible to find out what projects the Council is working on, by viewing documents such as the Long Term Plan and the Annual Plan. We have lots of goals and collaborate with organisations and industries across the district to bring positive outcomes and a strong, obtainable, and prosperous vision of the future.

If you've got a question or some feedback for us, please feel free to use the easy online contact form on our website. We want to hear how we can better engage and communicate with you so please let us know - we're here to help.

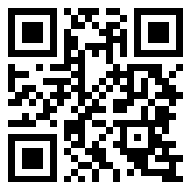
If you would like to speak with somebody, please contact our friendly customer service team on 03 768 8600. They are the best channel for all enquiries, they will answer your query or find the right person to help you.

 greycdc.govt.nz

 facebook.com/GreyDC

STAY UP TO DATE

Scan the code below to sign up to our newsletters and alerts



GREY DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS

Digital Skills for Life

The Library's Stepping Up Digital Skills for Life classes are extremely popular and best of all, they're free and open to people of all ages.

Here is the schedule for Term 3, 2023:

Date	Time	Class
Thursday 27 July	10:30am – 12:30pm	Smartphones
Thursday 3 August	1:00 – 3:00pm	Excel
Thursday 10 August	10:30am – 12:30pm	Google Drive
Thursday 17 August	10:30am – 12:30pm	Chromebooks
Thursday 24 August	1:00 – 3:00pm	Smartphones
Thursday 31 August	10:30am – 12:30pm	Word Editing Tools
Thursday 7 September	1:00 – 3:00pm	Facebook

All classes are held in the West Coast Room at Grey District Library. Registration is easy – either visit or phone the Library **03 768 5597** or go to <https://2020.arlo.co/upcoming-courses> and select 'Grey District Library'. You need to register for each class you wish to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Annual 15% Membership Discount

Purchase any
Pay Upfront Membership
in August and receive a
15% discount!

Westland Recreation Centre

83 High Street, Greymouth | Phone 03 768 9076

Email westlandrec@greycdc.govt.nz | facebook.com/WestlandRec

Web greycdc.govt.nz/wrc

Preparing for Emergencies



WEST COAST
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

GROUP

Get your household ready! Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere. You can take steps to be prepared.

GET READY



Talk about the impacts

Understanding the impacts of an emergency can help you get through. Have a chat with the people in your household and work out what you'll do in these situations.



Make a plan

Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere, and often without warning. It is important to make emergency plans so you know what to do when an emergency happens.



Tailor your plan

Think about a plan for your home, work and school.



Work out what supplies you need

In an emergency, you may be stuck at home for three days or more. Figure out what supplies you need and make a plan to work out what you need to get through.



Make your home safer

We can't predict disasters, but we can prepare for them. One of the best places to start is with your home. Find out what you can do to make your home safer.



Stay informed

It's important to know the different ways you can stay informed during an emergency.

Household kits and supplies

You probably have most of the things you need already. You don't have to have them all in one place, but you might have to find them in a hurry and/or in the dark.

In a grab bag

A grab bag is a small bag with essential supplies ready to go!

Each bag should have:

- ✓ Walking shoes, warm clothes, raincoat and hat
- ✓ Water and food for 3 days. Include special dietary requirements
- ✓ First aid kit and sanitisation
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Cellphone and portable charger
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Copies of important documents and photo ID
- ✓ Torch, radio and batteries

Your pets

Your animals are your responsibility. You need to include them in your emergency planning and preparation.

- ✓ Aim to have food, water and medication for your animals for a couple of weeks or more
- ✓ Collar, lead, muzzle and/or cage
- ✓ Microchip your pets
- ✓ If you need to evacuate, take your pets with you. If it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them
- ✓ Make sure your evacuation place will take your pets. Or have contact details for kennels, catteries and pet friendly motels
- ✓ Review your pet insurance policy to see if it covers emergencies

At home

Aim to have supplies to last at least a couple of weeks or more

- ✓ **3 litres** of water per person per day
- ✓ Long-lasting food, don't forget special dietary needs, babies and pets too
- ✓ Basic first aid kit, medications/medical items
- ✓ Battery powered radio and spare batteries
- ✓ Cellphone and portable charger
- ✓ Torch and batteries
- ✓ Sanitation, personal hygiene items
- ✓ Toilet paper and large plastic buckets for an emergency toilet
- ✓ Blankets/sleeping bags
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Clothes
- ✓ Spare car/home key
- ✓ Family and emergency contact information
- ✓ Copies of personal documents in watertight bag
- ✓ Pet supplies
- ✓ Tools or equipment you might need

By looking after yourself and your household, you'll also be helping emergency services focus their limited resources on the people who need the most help.

Find out more on our website www.westcoastemergency.govt.nz

