



January 2025

## Have your say on the council's upcoming consultations

We want to hear from you about the future of South Wairarapa. When we go out to our communities with consultations and other engagements, the feedback you provide is a crucial factor in how decisions are made around the council table.

We've launched a new platform where going forward, you will find all of our consultations and engagements in one place.



We have two important consultations coming early this year, our 2025-34 Long-Term Plan and Local Waters Done Well. These will both have a direct impact on communities across the district so we encourage you to visit [haveyoursay.swdc.govt.nz](https://haveyoursay.swdc.govt.nz) and register to get notified when these opportunities open to share your feedback.

### 2025-34 Long-Term Plan

We have been busy working on the 2025-34 Long-Term Plan, which is a strategic document that outlines the services the council provides, how we maintain the district's infrastructure, our budgets and the projects that will make the South Wairarapa an even better place to live.

There's no denying that we continue to face an unpredictable future, but we are learning to adapt to this ever changing environment. Factors such as inflation, insurance costs, water reform and the rising cost of living continue to affect us all and these considerations have guided our decisions thus far. We know the rates increases of the past few years have been unsustainable and we have listened closely to what you have said over the past year about what you value and the progress you want to see.

The decisions made as a result of the consultation will have a direct impact on rates, so it's important for you to have your say to ensure we have our priorities right. Keep an eye out for the consultation early this year where there will be a number of ways to share your thoughts, and find out more detail about what will be proposed.

### Local Waters Done Well

In May 2024, the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill was introduced to Parliament and it requires councils to prepare a water service delivery plan (WSDP) that identifies the current state of each council's water services and demonstrates publicly each council's commitment to deliver water services in a way that ensures compliance, meets drinking water standards and is financially sustainable as well as supporting housing growth and urban development. Councils are encouraged to join up with other councils in a joint arrangement if they determine that would be a more efficient model to deliver water services, although this is not compulsory.

In preparation for producing our WSDP, we spent a good part of 2024 developing options to determine how South Wairarapa's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services could be managed into the future, including a number of possible joint arrangement options. In November last year, Council agreed to continue developing a joint Wairarapa + Tararua (Wai+T) WSDP and exit a Wellington Regional model option.

The Bill also requires councils to consult with their communities on the part of the WSDP that sets out the anticipated model or arrangement for delivering water services. In March we will look for feedback on two water service delivery models options for South Wairarapa District Council, these will be:

- a Wai+T water services delivery joint arrangement involving Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa, and Tararua district councils utilising a water services CCO model.
- a status quo model which is a non-asset owning CCO (like Wellington Water Limited) delivering against new government requirements.

This is a critical piece of work. It's no secret that water infrastructure in South Wairarapa is suffering from historic underinvestment and uncertainty so it is important that we hear your views during the consultation.



## Welcome to the new Greytown Pavilion

Take three modular buildings, one large truck and an overnight journey and you have the new Greytown Pavilion.

The pavilion was constructed in Palmerston North by Presidential Homes, which won the job in an open tender. This offsite method of construction significantly reduces the cost of a typical on site build as well as the disruption and the building timeframe - from months to a matter of weeks.

The new pavilion will cater for the growing sports community in the wider South Wairarapa district. Finishing touches are being independently fundraised for by Greytown Sports and Leisure Society, among others, to add decking, a veranda and furnishings.

The new pavilion is a larger building with more changing rooms, shower facilities, a large clubroom area, bar, kitchen facilities, storage rooms for clubs and an outdoor decking area. It is situated in Soldiers Memorial Park, Greytown, on the same site as the original pavilion.



"I helped build the original pavilion and I'm passionate about it but it's no longer fit for purpose," says John Gray, Life Member and Chair of the Cricket Club Management Committee. "We regretfully need to say goodbye to it but we're hoping to salvage the clock tower to put on the new building to keep a connection with the past."

## Community gains from sustainability funding

Solar power for a school and community centre, funds for rain water collection at Hau Ariki marae and coastal protection at Tora are among the many sustainable projects to be given substantial funds from the one off Community Wellbeing Fund. Funds, which were distributed in November 2024.

The \$340,000 worth of funding comes from the second and final round of the Community Wellbeing Fund, which in turn is Government funded from Te Tari Taiwhenua, the Department of Internal Affairs. The directive to councils was to distribute funds to projects that tick two boxes:



community wellbeing and sustainable projects with long term benefits.

Councillor Rebecca Gray says it is inspiring to see the vision of those who are spear heading sustainable living in the South Wairarapa and to help them with this funding, which comes from a total pool of \$500,000.

"It is an honour to support the kaupapa of so many fantastic community groups who work hard to make South Wairarapa an amazing place to live in through initiatives that look after the environment or the people or both," says Councillor Gray.

The largest grant in this round was \$49,000 to Hau Ariki Marae in Martinborough to support rain water collection for its potable water supply. This strengthens the marae's role as an Emergency Assistance Centre. The second biggest grants were \$33,000 each for solar power to Featherston Community Centre and Greytown School. Martinborough School was given \$10,000 for its Garden to Table project and the Featherston nursery, Pae tu Mokai on Tairā, was given \$10,000 for a native nursery potting shed, among many more. "This was an incredibly competitive round with over 50 applications, 30 presented in person and 19 granted as they bring measurable long term benefits," says Lina McManus, council Funding and Grants Coordinator.

## Do you need funds? Help is here for all

The SWDC Fund Finder hand picks grants and funding opportunities specific to local businesses and community groups. It encompasses all government and private sector grants, along with council's grants and funds that are available to apply for.

You can find the Fund Finder at: [swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder](https://swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder)

## Martinborough Library turns 130

It is often said that a picture tells 1000 words and the photograph above does just for Martinborough Library. The building is now home to the Martinborough Museum but it was originally constructed to house the village's library when it opened in October 1894. The opening ceremony was led John Martin, an early settler and runholder in the district. The original library was reported to be well stocked with books and periodicals when it first opened.



## Summer water restrictions and budget buy tanks

Summer has arrived and so have the warm temperatures that go with it, which means being mindful of water restrictions.

If you're a gardener, water restrictions limit how you water your garden, which is where a tank can tide you over. It is also helpful to have a water tank on hand for emergency situations.

The council is now selling portable emergency water tanks at a permanently discounted price of \$128. The tanks are 200 litres in size, available in green or grey and can be picked up from the council's office when purchasing them. The good news is that they fit into most cars. Their dimensions are 1200 mm high, 650 mm wide and they weigh 7.5 kg when empty. All fittings are included in the purchase price, including a diverter kit, bung, instructions and brass tap.

The water tanks can be purchased from the council office at 19 Kitchener Street in Martinborough from 8.30am-4pm Monday to Friday. Contact the office to double check that tanks in supply, phone 06 306 9611.

Find out more about water restrictions and water tanks at [swdc.govt.nz/water](http://swdc.govt.nz/water)



## Four essential summer water tips

- Annual water allocation change - the annual water allocation is now 250m<sup>3</sup> (250,000 litres), with an excess water charge of \$2.50 per m<sup>3</sup>. The previous allocation of 350 m<sup>3</sup> was reduced on 1 July this year, to incentivise the conservation of water in South Wairarapa.
- Reading your meter can help to save water - average water use per household in the South Wairarapa is approximately 150m<sup>3</sup>, which means the lower allocation is unlikely to impact most people, but we encourage you to read your meter as it allows you to monitor usage and be mindful of how much water you use, and a high reading may indicate you have a leak.
- Top tips to save water - shorter showers; a bucket in the shower to collect surplus water and use in the garden; taps off while brushing teeth to save six litres of water each minute; using water flow reducer attachments on taps to save electricity and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as water. We also recommend shorter cycles on washing machines along with using a washing machine or dishwasher only when it is full.
- Check for leaks - what can residents do to help? In warmer months especially, we ask people to be more aware of their water use. There are a few simple steps you can take to see if you have a leak on your property:
  - Check all taps, inside and outside the home.
  - Look behind the dishwasher for any signs of water.
  - In dry weather, look for damp patches in the garden, lawn or driveway and look for any water seeping through cracks in the concrete.
  - Listen for running water inside your home when no taps, hoses or showers are turned on, and if you have a water meter, check how much you use periodically.

Visit [swdc.govt.nz/water](http://swdc.govt.nz/water) to find more information on water conservation.

## Rebates 2024-25

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$790.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2024.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$31,510 - \$42,000.
2. You must provide details of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest and dividends. If requested by the Department of Internal Affairs you must provide proof of this income. Application forms will be sent to those who have previously received a rebate in 2023-24. Copies of the form can be obtained from the Council office in Martinborough, Greytown and Featherston libraries, or online [www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms) and by email: [rates@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:rates@swdc.govt.nz).

## Having trouble paying your rates?

Please contact us as soon as possible so we can work with you on a payment plan. Council will make every effort to work with you on this process. As a last resort, Council policy is to approach banks and legal representatives to recover arrears.

**For any queries regarding your rates, please contact our rates team at the following email address: [rates@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:rates@swdc.govt.nz)**

## Automatic payment

At the start of each new rating year, if you are paying your rates by automatic payment, you may need to recalculate your payments for the new year's rates.

Please check your payments and adjust these if required. Your payments still need to clear the quarterly instalment by the due date to avoid penalties.

We are unable to recalculate automatic payments for you. To avoid any issues, you can switch to a direct debit where we calculate the payments right up to 30 June, not each quarter. No penalties are charged if paying by direct debit.

## Rates 2024-25 Instalment Three

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**Enclosed with this newsletter is the rates invoice covering the period 1 January 2025 - 31 March 2025.**

**The last day for payment is 20 February 2025. Please pay by this date to avoid the 10% penalty.**

Please help us to process payments by ensuring you include the property valuation number for all properties you are paying for. If paying online please make a separate payment for each property.

## Payment by direct debit

We encourage ratepayers to pay rates by direct debit as this ensures the correct amount is paid and you avoid late payment penalties.

We offer **weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly direct debit options to pay rates**. Direct debit is the easiest way to pay your rates as we withdraw the funds directly from your bank account at the last minute. That way you will get the benefit of your funds for the longest time and avoid penalties. If you would like to pay using this method, forms are available from Featherston and Greytown libraries, the Council office in Martinborough and online at [www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms). All you need to do is complete the form and send it to SWDC, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741 or scan and email it to [rates@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:rates@swdc.govt.nz) or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at Featherston or Greytown libraries.



**GET IT  
SORTED**

Something needs fixing?  
Let us know...

To South Wairarapa District Council,  
P.O. Box 6, Martinborough 5741

### From:

First name

Surname

What's the problem?

Where exactly?

Street or Road name and number

Your phone number (Should we need to contact you to clarify the details)