

Rebates 2019/20

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$640.00 for low income earners. Rate payers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2019.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$25,560-\$42,000.
2. You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends. Application forms will be sent to those who have received a rebate in 2018/2019 and are also available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries, the Council office and online swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property.

Get your rates invoice by email

We now have a facility to send rates invoices by email. If you wish to receive your rate notice by email contact rates@swdc.govt.nz.

We encourage you to take up this option to allow Council to use the postage savings on projects to benefit the district.

Having trouble paying your rates?

Please contact us as soon as possible so we can work with you on a payment plan. Council's policy is to approach banks and legal representatives to assist us in recovering arrears at the end of the rating year.

For any queries regarding your rates, please contact our rates team at the following e-mail address: rates@swdc.govt.nz



Payment by Direct Debit

Council encourages ratepayers to pay rates via Direct Debit as this ensures the correct amount is paid and you avoid paying penalties for late payment.

Based on feedback from ratepayers, we now 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 very last minute. That way you will get the benefit of your funds for the longest

possible time, and avoid penalties. If you would like your payments to be made by using this method the forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries as well as the Council office and on our website swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property. All you need to do is complete the form and send it to SWDC, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741, scan and email it to rates@swdc.govt.nz or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at the Featherston or Greytown Libraries.

Rates 2019/20 Instalment three

3

Enclosed with this newsletter is the first rates invoice covering the period 1 January - 31 March 2020.

The last day for payment is 20th February 2020. 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. If paying online please make a separate payment for each property.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

January 2020



SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Kia Reretahi Tātau

Mayor's message

Happy New Year! I hope you managed to find time to relax and unwind with friends and family during the holidays. Your council and I have many decisions to make in the New Year, many of them infrastructural investment and ensuring essential services can be maintained long term. Our first priority remains to improve the safety and resilience of our town drinking water supplies, by providing multi-barrier protection, and installing a manganese removal plant in Martinborough to restore supply to past levels.

Good progress was made at the end of last year to address water supply compliance issues at the Pirinoa and Memorial Park bore in Greytown. At the time of writing, the UV unit in Greytown is being installed and the one at Pirinoa is scheduled to go in early in the New Year.

Council approved \$500,000 from Council Infrastructure Reserves to pay for these urgent works, some interim improvements all round, and the detailed design work for a permanent solution at the Memorial Park bore.

Further funding to the order of up to \$5.1 million may be needed to implement permanent improvements to ensure fully compliant drinking water to South Wairarapa's towns. The extent of this will be known once the detailed design work is completed and the full scope of the work required is confirmed. Fortunately, the Council is able to receive low interest loans, to enable the cost to be spread over many years and generations. The required future infrastructure spend is therefore expected to come from a mix of loans and infrastructure reserves, with the aim of minimising the impact on rates. Once we've completed the work to bring our drinking water supply up to standard though, it will benefit generations to come. Then we can address our wastewater needs.

In the interests of openness and transparency, we have a new streamlined Council committee structure, with fewer committees and working groups, more delegations given to community boards, and videos of meetings will be available on our website soon. An independent auditor of council processes will also be appointed early in the New Year.

If you have an issue you would like to discuss, please pop in to one of my weekly drop-in sessions in any of the three towns. Alternatively, you can email me at themayor@swdc.govt.nz. To stay up to date with Council activities, please visit our website or follow us on Facebook.

As summer continues, drive safely, and of course, conserve water! This seems to be a mantra these days. If you need to cool off, visit one of our free pools.

Cheers

Alex Beijen
Mayor



Waihinga playground open

The new kids' playground at the Waihinga Centre is 'open for play'. Many thanks and congratulations to the Friends of the Waihinga Centre Project and all those in the community involved in making this play park a reality. (The water play area will open once the water restrictions are lifted.)



Water restrictions

For those on town supply, water restrictions are in place all over Wairarapa and are expected to continue to the end of summer. Restrictions are changeable and may be different in each town, so to stay up to date, please keep eyes and ears open for announcements on our website, Facebook, newspapers and radio.

Fixing water leaks

For metered properties, which most urban properties are, if you use more than the threshold of 350m³ of water over the year, there is an additional charge of \$1.84 per cubic metre.

Residents are responsible for maintaining the pipes that run from their house or business to the Council-owned pipe, which usually terminates at your property boundary. If you suspect a leaking water pipe, tap, water cistern etc. on your property, call a plumber. If you think there is a leaking water main, please contact the Council on 06 306 9611 (24 hours).

**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, Road, Number

Your Phone Number (Should we need to contact you to clarify the details)



Themes of Spatial Plan feedback

South Wairarapa residents raised ten key themes during the Spatial Plan engagement process. This feedback will now be considered and addressed in the development of the Draft Spatial Plan, which residents will get a chance to comment on during 2020.

The revised target timeline is to publish the final district-wide Spatial Plan by December 2020, to feed into the District's next Long Term Plan starting the following year.

The District's Spatial Plan will help us prepare for the ongoing growth of our population and provide a blueprint for what we want our district to look like in the future. More information www.swdc.govt.nz/spatial-plan

Summary of themes of submissions to the Spatial Plan Discussion Document

Iwi leadership and involvement

- Community seeks more iwi partnerships in projects and decision-making
- Promote local Māori history and culture including place names
- Use of more Māori design and Te reo in Council documents

Life-style options and quality urban environments

- Seek range of housing options such as smaller sections in town
- Retain rural production land/soil
- Mixed responses on whether the town should grow at the boundaries
- Housing options should provide for a range of demographics, enable affordable, social and aged housing
- Keep the unique urban and rural environment
- Ensure new buildings, subdivisions are well designed, of high quality

Climate change awareness

- Some seek this to be a top priority, along with sustainability, wetland restoration and promotion of biodiversity
- Seek leadership by Council - leading by example, e.g. with waste, solar, electric cars

Better connections

- Enable better and more accessible internet and fibre connections as more people work from home
- As residents now commute to work, need for improved road, bus, bike and train services
- Identify key corridors

Industrial hubs

- Some residents seek industrial development in hubs outside existing centres, provided they are well screened
- Keep commercial developments in the centre of the towns

Regeneration of Featherston

- Support for further studies on the regeneration of Featherston
- Featherston provides opportunities for good employment, economic and community outcomes

Infrastructure growth/maintenance

- Submitters want Council to continue its roles with infrastructure being upgraded, maintained and installed where required
- Support collaboration with other Councils within Wairarapa for integrated transport and infrastructure solutions

Tourism development

- Both support and concern expressed for tourism - impacts of tourism, Airbnb on housing affordability, infrastructure capacity etc
- Support Dark Sky Reserve, and sustainable tourism options such as walking and biking tracks
- Support for cycleways and walking tracks for both residents and tourists

Open space/environment

- Some seek new sports fields and reserves in towns such as Greytown; others seek existing areas to be better utilised and developed
- Mixed views on tree corridor - those who support would like to support the Main Street corridor expanded through the other towns

Community focus

- Residents want the friendliness of the community retained and retention of 'small town' feel
- Options to have community events and initiatives highlighted
- Government/Crown agencies, e.g. NZTA, Regional Public Health and Greater Wellington Regional Council seek to work closely with Council on the development of a Spatial Plan and integrate with other initiatives underway by the respective parties

Resource Consent and Private Plan change for the Orchards Retirement Village

On 20 November Council adopted the Private Plan Change to allow for the Orchards Retirement Village in Greytown to go ahead.

Resource consent for the 180-unit retirement village was granted by the Independent Hearing Commissioner on the 2 October 2019 subject to conditions. At the time of this decision, the Hearing Commissioner recommended that South Wairarapa District Council approve the request to rezone land from Rural Primary Production to Residential including a Character Area Overlay to provide for the establishment and operation of the retirement village.

The decision of the Hearing Commissioner and the Council resolution on the Private Plan Change can be viewed on our website.

Direct Debit rates payments - now available on Tuesdays

You've asked and we've listened! We are now offering direct debit to be paid either Tuesday or Thursday for weekly or fortnightly direct debits customers.

If you have an existing direct debit in place and you want to switch from paying on Thursday to Tuesday, please contact the rates team on 06 306 9611 or email rates@swdc.govt.nz. You don't need to complete a new authority.

If you are not an existing direct debit customer and would like to set up a direct debit, you will need to complete a direct debit authority and return it to rates@swdc.govt.nz. A direct debit authority is available from our website www.swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property-enquiries or you can pick one up from the Featherston or Greytown Libraries. You can also call or email us, and we can send one out to you.

We are also offering the direct debit facility for your water rates. Please contact us to discuss the payment options for this - email water@swdc.govt.nz for more details.

Want to receive your rates invoices by email?

To receive your rates invoice by email, and get important Council notifications emailed to you, please email us at rates@swdc.govt.nz.

Community board by-elections

By-elections are coming up for the vacancies on the Featherston and Greytown Community Boards - one vacancy on each. These vacancies have arisen from insufficient nominations received during the 2019 triennial elections. As with local elections, by-elections will be by postal vote. Voting papers, including candidate information, will be posted out to ratepayers in the Featherston and Greytown wards in late January, and need to be returned by noon Tuesday 18 February 2020. Official results will be declared on Friday 21 February 2020. More information on our website.

Thank you for helping Pack the Bus

A big thank you to all the schools, businesses and individuals who donated gifts to those in need. Special thanks to Craggy Range for 800 Santa sacks from their 'A Children's Christmas Foundation'



FREE Swimming pools

Our three pools in Martinborough, Greytown and Featherston are open and FREE to enjoy, and with extended hours this year. Daily opening hours and further information at www.swdc.govt.nz/swimming-pools.

