

## Rebates 2020/21

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$655.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2020.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$26,150-\$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 Department of Internal Affairs you must provide proof of this income. Application forms will be sent to those who have received a rebate in 2019/2020 and are also available from the Featherston and Greytown libraries, the Council office and online [www.swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property) and can be obtained by calling 06 306 9611 ext. 858.

## Get your rates invoice by email

If you wish to receive your rates notice by email contact [rates@swdc.govt.nz](mailto: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 email address: [rates@swdc.govt.nz](mailto: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 time,

# 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)*

## Rates 2020/21 Instalment two

# 2

Enclosed with this newsletter is the second rates invoice covering the period 1 Oct - 31 December 2020.

The last day for payment is 20th November 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.

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 [www.swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property](http://www.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](mailto:rates@swdc.govt.nz) or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at the Featherston or Greytown libraries.

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

October 2020



SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Kia Reretahi Tātau

## Mayor's message

We are back in Level 1, which of course is a huge relief for many businesses, especially those hosting events. I would like to commend our district for being so vigilant with health and safety requirements, something we can be extremely proud of, but also caution people to keep using the Covid App should there be an outbreak again.



At present we are leading NZ in consumer spending - our district is currently at 122% of last year but this may not continue as the country enters a recession. I wholeheartedly acknowledge that despite the drop in levels, it remains incredibly tough out there, as unfortunately the reduced health threat does not fix job losses or the hardship being experienced within our communities.

The impact Covid-19 has had on our district has required Council to adapt and be flexible with how we work, think and connect with our community - many of these issues were highlighted in the Annual Plan submissions and we have listened to you. This has created great opportunity but also challenge, highlighting the importance of hearing from those directly impacted, which brings me to my next point.

Council has launched the 'What's on Top?' campaign, calling for community feedback, before formal consultation, in order to identify our district's priorities to shape the Long Term and Spatial Plans. Now more than ever it is important to have your say and I strongly encourage you to take the online survey, which is also available at local libraries, or come and have a chat when you see us out and about in the community!

Council is proud to endorse the Martinborough Dark Sky Society and their vision to preserve and protect the night sky. Creating a Dark Sky Reserve is a great opportunity to attract more people to the region all year round and further drive economic prosperity for the region. The proposed Plan Change to reduce night-time light pollution, which is required for International Dark Sky Reserve status, is currently open for submissions. This project also complements the expansion of our cycle trail network, and the increased tourism that may follow.

Another milestone is securing funding from the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Innovating Streets Fund, to run a trial and test interventions aimed at improving shop access and pedestrian movement around Martinborough Square. Again, Council welcomes and encourages public to engage to ensure plans are fit for purpose.

Council is still in the beginning phase of this, just setting up the project. It has been another difficult yet gratifying quarter. As summer looms, and we now have daylight savings, I look forward to longer nights and warmer days with people out and about enjoying the best district in NZ!

Kia Kaha,

**Alex Beijen**  
Mayor

## Wairarapa Sky Reserve progresses to next stage

South Wairarapa and Carterton District Councils have formally agreed to progress with supporting Wairarapa Dark Sky Association (IDSA) to secure Dark Sky Reserve status in the Wairarapa region.

Council members unanimously approved to proceed to public notification of the proposed 'International Dark Sky Reserve - Outdoor Artificial Lighting' Plan Change which proposes new lighting rules in order to conform to International Dark Sky Reserve requirements.

The Council's proposed lighting changes will enhance dark sky viewing including low-Kelvin lighting shielded or tilted to direct light downwards and a 10.00pm light curfew for sport and recreation facilities.

South Wairarapa and Carterton Councils support the economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits the reserve will bring to the district, attracting more visitors year-round creating jobs and bringing business to the region.

Plan changes are a vital part of the application to the IDSA, which the association is hoping to make before the end of the year.

The Plan Change was publicly notified on the 30 September. Submissions close on Friday 30 October. To find out more information on the Plan go to: [www.swdc.govt.nz/Wairarapa-International-Dark-Sky-Reserve-plan-change](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/Wairarapa-International-Dark-Sky-Reserve-plan-change).



## Outdoor exercise equipment

Council is installing two outdoor exercise machines in each of the three towns, with plans to expand in the future. Outdoor fitness equipment provides another opportunity for our community to enhance wellbeing through physical activity in a safe environment.

The equipment is being installed at Colliers Reserve (Greytown), Considine Park (Martinborough), and Johnston Street (Featherston). Keep your eyes peeled for further development!

## Bring your own device (BYOD)

As part of our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint, we're encouraging people to BYOD (Bring your own device) and use free WIFI at council and committee meetings, instead of printing agendas.

Agendas and papers are available on our website and limited numbers of print copies are available in our libraries and at meetings.

In our Annual Plan consultation, people voted overwhelmingly in favour of this move to reduce paper. Thank you for your support and cooperation. Every little bit counts!

## Water restrictions

Wellington Water is completing final works to bring Martinborough's Manganese Reduction Plant (MRP) online. Following some final work at the Water Treatment Plant and control system testing, the MRP is expected to be operational from mid-October.

This means we will be able to supply water to Martinborough township at a higher capacity than last summer, however it is still important we all play our part to ensure there is enough water for everyone. This means following watering restrictions, which are in place year-round and subject to change, and conserving water wherever possible.



For up-to-date water restrictions, visit [watcheverydrop.nz](http://watcheverydrop.nz)

For water conservation tips, visit [loveeverydrop.nz](http://loveeverydrop.nz)

## Time to trim those hedges!

As spring has sprung and trees and hedges are growing, please check that your greenery is not growing over the footpath.



## Check your gate latches!

South Wairarapa is experiencing high winds now spring is here. Please if you own a dog ensure that your gate is secured to keep your dog safe. Gates blow open due to ineffective latches that may require a bit of maintenance.

If you own a rental property and there is a dog living there, please ask your tenant to ensure that their dog is safe and cannot escape.

**Thank you!**

## Need support paying your rates?

Reminder that we offer payment plans for those experiencing hardship during uncertain times! If you would like to discuss payment plan options, please contact [rates@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:rates@swdc.govt.nz)

## Want invoices and communications by email?

Did you know you can receive your rates invoice and this newsletter by email to save us printing and postage costs? By requesting email invoices at [rates@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:rates@swdc.govt.nz) and generating savings, this means there's more money for good things for our community, and it reduces our carbon footprint.

The added advantage is that you can receive other important Council news by email. This proved to be a welcome way of communicating service updates during the changing Covid-19 levels, and is a channel we would like to use more in the future.

## Funding granted from Waka Kotahi's Innovating Streets Fund

The South Wairarapa District Council has secured \$180,000 from the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Innovating Streets Fund to create safe, vibrant and welcoming spaces for socialising, increasing foot traffic and supporting local businesses in Martinborough.

Projects under this fund are conducted under the Tactical Urbanism approach, trialled in live environments on a temporary basis allowing SWDC to co-design and test interventions with the community to inform future development.

The funding secured will help SWDC engage our community to explore opportunities together, which could include temporarily repurposing car parks in the Martinborough Square and part of Kitchener Street.

Consultation with the community will inform the trial, which is essential to ensure street developments meet public needs and do not have any unintended impacts.

Securing the funding for the project was the first major milestone. Now we're setting up a project team before embarking on community engagement.

More information about Innovating Streets is available at

[www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/innovating-streets/about](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/innovating-streets/about), or if you would like more information about the South Wairarapa pilot, please email [innovating.streets@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:innovating.streets@swdc.govt.nz). Project information will be available on our website once the project gets underway.



## 'What's on Top?' prioritising for the future to form Long Term Plan

South Wairarapa District Council has launched its 'What's on Top?' campaign to help identify what the priorities are for the district over the next 10 years, and beyond, to form its Long Term and Spatial Plans.

The campaign will provide the opportunity for people to voice what they consider Council should prioritise to improve the wellbeing of the district.

Planning in uncertain times is a challenge and now more than ever, it is essential we hear from those affected by Council planning decisions.

The Long Term Plan sets the strategic direction for the district over the next 10 years and includes project priorities, budgets and rates forecasts. The Spatial Plan will set the blueprint on how we want the district to look in 30 years' time.

Feedback can be given via our website: [www.swdc.govt.nz/whatsontop](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/whatsontop) or by completing hard copy surveys available at Council offices and libraries or chatting to elected representatives when they're out and about.

A calendar of community events, including workshops, is available on the website.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts!

The engagement period closes 5pm, Tuesday 27 October.

