

Friday 20 April 2018

Media Statement – Consultation on Carterton’s Ten Year Plan gets underway.

For the past few months Carterton District Council has been drafting Carterton’s Ten Year Plan. Also known as the Long Term Plan (or LTP), and prepared every three years, the plan is a document that sets out the Council’s intentions, priorities and the issues its district faces for the next decade.

Carterton Mayor John Booth explains that Council has taken its time to finalise its plan this time ahead of consulting with the community.

“We’ve had some really challenging calls to make this time, with a couple of major infrastructure projects happening in the upcoming years. We also need to respond in the plan to the speedy growth that Carterton is experiencing.”

“Affordability and value for money were the driving force behind the Councillors’ planning”, says Mayor Booth.

“In order to minimise the increased rates impact these new projects will cause we have made the decision to focus primarily on core infrastructure services over the next 10 years, and continue to deliver our other activities in line with business-as-usual rather than take on new initiatives.”

“Our major project is the upgrade of the Daleton Farm wastewater treatment plant. In line with our previous commitments and our recently granted 35 year resource consents, we will be spending \$4.2 million next year to build the new reservoirs and ready the property for a second pivot irrigator. This will enable us to reduce to a minimum our discharges of treated wastewater to the Mangatāre Stream.”

“We are also starting a three year project to increase our drinking water storage capacity, extending our storage from 12 hours to four days. Over the next four years we will be constructing eight more tanks similar to the ones already near the Kaipaitangata water treatment plant and the Lincoln Road bores. This will improve the resilience of our town should we be hit by a major disruptive weather or earthquake event.

In line with a proposal currently being considered by the Masterton and South Wairarapa communities, the Council will be also consulting on upgrading and expanding rubbish and recycling services.

“Engagement with the community shows a desire to reduce household waste, and with that a need for better recycling services”, according to Mayor Booth.

Council is considering expanding their current recycling services to include a food waste collection, an electronic waste drop-off facility, and more capacity for general household recycling.

The increase in average rates next year (including all rural and urban ratepayers) is 8.4%. This equates to about \$5.53 per week for a medium value residential property in the town.

Mayor Booth acknowledges this will not be popular with many people, especially urban ratepayers who will be paying the majority share of the wastewater costs. Outside this big project the rate increase is a more modest 2.7%.

Mayor Booth is encouraging everyone to get involved with the consultation and provide their feedback to the Council.

“We will be releasing a Consultation Document which presents our proposed activities in the next and subsequent ten years. I urge everyone to read it, and the information that underpins the plans which will be available on our website.”

Councillors will be out and about over the next month to discuss the plans with residents and ratepayers of Carterton. There will also be two public meetings, one which will be streamed live through council’s Facebook page so people who can’t physically make it to the meeting can be involved.

“My fellow Councillors and I will be everywhere! We understand that making ourselves available to the community during this significant process is vital to the decision making process of the Ten Year Plan.”

The Consultation Document will be made available online, with hardcopies available at Council and the District Library on Holloway Street, and on hand with Councillors throughout the consultation period.

The Carterton Ten Year Plan consultation period is expected to start on Tuesday 24th April, when the consultation document, submission form and supporting documents will be available on the Carterton District Council website www.cdc.govt.nz/plans/tenyearplan.

Mayor Booth wants everyone to get involved. “I encourage everyone in the Carterton District to have their say. If anyone is unable to access the Consultation Document online, and cannot pick up a copy from Council office or District Library on Holloway Street, please let us know and we will arrange to get one to you.”

“We look forward to hearing your feedback.”

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