

Views sought on Pudding Hill

Council is seeking the views of the wider community on the future of the Pudding Hill stockwater intake, following a survey of the properties that use water from the intake.

One hundred and seventy-one users were surveyed in 2023 as Council considered an initial closure of the intake, which is required to have a fish screen in order to be compliant with Environment Canterbury resource consent conditions.

The investigation into a possible closure of the intake was carried out before Council decided to exit its stockwater delivery service, as part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 deliberations last year.

The Pudding Hill stockwater intake is situated near Hart Road and takes an average of 250 litres per second of water from Pudding Hill Stream. The 220km of downstream race network provides stockwater to 171 rateable properties between the intake and Rakaia.

The survey results showed that 70 per cent of properties no longer required stockwater, with the remainder needing an alternative should the intake be closed.

Those properties were contacted by a council contractor to talk about alternative options for water and this work is ongoing.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said feedback already gathered from the affected properties had been considered and now it was time for the wider community to have their say.

“We know the Pudding Hill intake is also of interest and valued by people who don’t use stockwater from it, so now is the time for them to have their say.”



A public drop-in session will be held at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall on Wednesday 19 February, 7-8pm, to talk about the Pudding Hill intake.

Each of the 17 intakes under consideration as part of Council’s Stockwater Exit Transition Plan will be considered in a two-stage process. Stockwater users of the intake will to be surveyed first, followed by the wider community.

Mr McCann said the same process would be repeated as each intake is considered and people could keep up to date with the programme of work by signing up for email updates.

“It’s important that people have their say at the right time and we want to make sure everyone who needs stockwater has advice about an alternative option.”

You can find the Pudding Hill survey at itsourplace.nz/stockwater-exit/puddinghill

The Pudding Hill intake channel (above) and the intake itself (below).



CE Hamish Riach Speak up on stockwater

Responses to the first of our stockwater exit surveys are arriving at Council, with users of water from the Methven Auxiliary intake the first to take part.

Council sent letters to around 200 stockwater users earlier this month, asking them if they would need water if the intake was closed. It is part of Council’s decision to exit the delivery of stockwater services, as per the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Those users have been steadily responding using the paper survey provided or via the online link also provided; we’ve asked them to get back to us by Monday 17 February, so that deadline is fast approaching.

The wider community will have its turn to have a say on the Methven Auxiliary

intake in mid-March, and this is where groups like the Methven Community Board, Forest and Bird or those who have thoughts about a race but don’t pay for the stockwater can have their say.

As part of the stockwater exit work, we’re also currently asking the wider community about the Pudding Hill stockwater intake and that survey is open now on Council’s consultation page itsourplace.nz.

We’ve already surveyed stockwater users of Pudding Hill water and know 70 per cent don’t need it.

This two-stage survey process will be the same for all the 17 stockwater intakes Council will consider as part of its decision to exit the service – users first, then the wider community, followed by a discussion with key

stakeholders and then a Council decision.

The order of intakes is part of a Stockwater Exit Transition Plan, but if a group of people come to us with a solid proposal to take over an intake then we can consider it earlier.

The whole process will generate a lot of communication in the stockwater space over the next two and a half years and it’s important that people give us feedback when their time arrives. We literally don’t want anyone left high and dry, so engaging is key.

One of the easiest ways to keep up with progress on this project, and to know when it’s your turn to speak up, is to sign up for email updates at ashburtondc.govt.nz/stockwater



SHORT AND SWEET

PASSIVE HOUSE

Council is cohosting a free seminar about passive houses on 12 March and the event will include a visit to a passive house in Methven. The Canterbury chapter of the Passive House Institute of New Zealand and Council have teamed up for the event, which will include information about how passive houses are built, costs and the experience of the home owners. The seminar starts at 3pm in Methven and people can register via Eventbrite.

COURT IN PROGRESS

Sand for the outdoor volleyball court at EA Networks Centre arrived onsite this week, as the project nears completion. Over the past week or so, contractors have dug a base for the 20m x 12m court in the flat grassed area north of the carpark. The special sand was laid on top on Monday. The new sand court will be fenced off for about four weeks while the grass edges are established.



AIRCON TO MOVE

Council will apply for a variance of the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum’s resource consent so a ground enclosure can be built to house new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Councillors voted for the enclosure to be built to the north (domain side) of the facility, on four carparks currently used by staff. It will have a four-metre high acoustic wall on two sides.

GRANTS A-GO!

Community groups are being encouraged to think about projects that could qualify for funding as the first round of community grants and funding is open now for applications. Council grants about \$300,000 annually and grant applications are open until 28 February.

Heritage explosives shed restored

A special joint project to restore the heritage-listed RDR pipe shed at Methven is now complete.

The shed was originally built from a giant piece of concrete pipe created for the construction of the Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR) in the 1930s. It was converted into a storage shed for explosives and remains on its original foundation in its original location on Council land near the Garden of Harmony.

Council has been working with the RDR management company and Heritage NZ over the past few months to do restoration work and raise its profile.

The recent work has involved repairing the foundations, replacing damaged floorboards and other timbers, repairing external cracks and applying a timber preservative to all timbers.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said the work had been kindly funded by RDR, who first raised the restoration with the Methven Community Board several years ago.



“After the scope of the project was set, they contracted Joseph Builders to do the work, with assistance from Council and Heritage NZ, and now the pipe shed has been preserved to tell its part of Mid Canterbury’s water history.”

Mr McCann said the pipe shed was already accessible to the community and tourists via the Garden of Harmony, and an interpretive panel shared information about its importance.

The special building has a Category 1

Heritage NZ listing and a Category A listing in Council’s District Plan.

The RDR scheme was built during the 1930s depression to deliver irrigation water to farmers on the Mid Canterbury plains. The pipe shed was one of the giant concrete pipe made for the canal that runs between the Rangitata and Rakaia Rivers and Heritage NZ says they were remarkable for their construction and size.

About 800 pipes were used for siphons in parts of the 67km canal and are not visible, so the repurposed pipe shed is considered a unique piece of engineering.

The shed was built in 1940, on the site of the public works department’s headquarters and the workers’ accommodation camp in Methven, and was used as a secure place to store explosives. It is 3.65m in diameter and set on a concrete foundation slab, with timber wedges to keep it from rolling off.

The works camp was once a bustling area with a large number of buildings associated with the RDR scheme.

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to traffic to enable the holding of a community event - the **Ashburton Car Club's Sealed Autocross**.

The proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at a Council meeting on 5 March 2025.

Roads proposed to be closed:

- **Bonningtons Road, from Fitzgerald Road to Seaside Road**
- **Seaside Road, from Bonningtons Road to Fitzgerald Road**
- **Fitzgerald Road, from Seaside Road to Bonningtons Road**

Period of closure: From 8am to 6pm on **Sunday 30 March 2025**.

Any person objecting should do so in writing by post or email to the Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, by 4pm on **Monday 17 February 2025**.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure & Open Spaces

Domain to host live jazz concert

Set aside Saturday 29 March in your calendars, a new outdoor music event has been announced for Ashburton: Live on the Lawn will offer an afternoon of live jazz set amongst the trees, grass and flowers at Ashburton Domain.

The event runs from 12pm – 3.30pm, with visitors encouraged to bring their picnic blanket and settle down for a lazy Saturday afternoon of beats amongst the blooms.

Entry to the event is free, and people are invited to bring their own lunch and refreshments, or find a tasty treat from one of the onsite vendors.

Council is hoping that Live on the Lawn will become an annual event, although the genre of music is likely to change from year to year.

Group Manager for Compliance, Development (and now Groove), Ian Hyde, said the event will fill an important gap in the Council’s line-up of community events.



“We have well-established and successful events such as Glow in the Park, Light up the Night and the Hakatere Noodle Festival, but we knew we were missing an event in late summer.

“An outdoor concert in the domain is a great fit for the warmer months and while it will be family-friendly, offers something a bit more orientated towards adults.”

The roster for this year includes a who’s who of Canterbury jazz royalty including The Curio Club - a trio specialising

in transforming well-loved rock and pop songs into jazz; Garden City Combo - comprising of members from Christchurch’s Garden City Big Band; and Swing 42 – a group of some of our most dedicated and respected jazz musicians.

Live on the Lawn will take place on the Long Lawn (located adjacent to the West Street layby), in the Ashburton Domain on Saturday 29 March from 12pm-3.30pm.

Follow the Council’s Facebook page or website for updates.

Repairs for Hakatere water

Residents on the Hakatere drinking water supply are being asked to conserve water next week while repairs are under way at their water treatment plant.

Hakatere’s water comes from a 30m well and one of its two pumps has failed and will be replaced. Riser pipes on both pumps will also be replaced.

The work will be done by ACL from 17-21 February and will affect residents at both lower and upper Hakatere.

Group Manager of Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said Council would keep the water supply’s reservoirs full by

tankering water to the treatment plant, but residents were asked to use water only for essential household activities during the repair period. Essential use includes water for showering, cooking, drinking, using the toilet and washing clothes. It does not include things like washing vehicles or filling paddling pools.

Mr McCann said the original steel risers had corroded and would be replaced by PE pipe.

“This is usual in risers of a certain age and we are taking the opportunity to replace them while we put in a new bore pump.”

TREE WORK PLANNED

Arborists will be pruning trees on the **East Street green** (Ashburton) from **17-20 February**. They will be repositioning fairy lights and removing dead wood; work zones will be taped off as they move along the green.

Arborists will be pruning trees on **Spaxton Street**, Methven, on **Monday 24 February**. Lower branches that are getting in the way of pedestrians will be pruned.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at **Hine Paaka (Council Chamber), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified.**

Wednesday 19 February, **Council Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Thursday 20 February, **Council Agencies 6-month reports**, 9.30am (live-streamed)

Tuesday 25 February, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Wednesday 26 February, **Budget Workshop**, 9.30am

WORKS NOTICES

Seafield Road - Closed between Morris Road and Ashburton Airport, until 12 April for road rehab. Detour available.

Maronan Road - Closed between Swamp Road and Simpsons Road (no access through Barford Road) until 31 March. Road rehabilitation work in progress.

Mainwarings Road - Closed between Griggs and Gardiners Road for daytime works until 24 February (the closure is 6am-7pm daily, with the road re-opened at the end of each day). Contractors will be doing road maintenance. Detours available.

King and Alexander Streets, Chertsey - Closed until 13 September while a new water treatment plant is built. Closure will not impact Chertsey School access.

State Highway 1 Rangitata River bridge - NZTA is advising delays up to 30 minutes during night works from 23-26 February. Pile pre-tensioning work will happen between 7pm and 6am, with Stop/Go for up to 30 minutes.

Full details of local road closures are on our website, ashburtondc.govt.nz

COUNCIL OFFICE

2 Baring Square East
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm
Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace
Mon - Fri 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm). Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)