

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 28 January 2009



Marathon meeting to review Council budgets for Draft Ten Year Plan concludes

In a meeting which began on Tuesday morning and finished on Wednesday afternoon the Waimakariri District Council has been reviewing in detail the recommended budgets for its forthcoming Draft Ten Year Plan for 2009-19, (the Long Term Council Community Plan).

There was considerable debate on Tuesday on one of the more contentious issues - the provision for Performing Arts venues. The Council recognised the importance of the provision of indoor performing arts facilities in the Waimakariri District and has set aside \$50,000 in 2009/10 to investigate options of meeting those requirements. It also included a provision of \$5 million in the 2013/14 year of the Draft Ten Year Plan for the development of performing arts facilities - inclusive of a community contribution of \$1 million.

Council also confirmed a proposal for including in the Draft Plan a five kilometre targeted rating area around Rangiora from which to fund any shortfall in the \$3 million community fund-raising required for the Dudley Park Aquatic Centre.

In addition, confirmation was given to a proposal to include the Woodend Beach Holiday Park in a joint developer/community funded scheme for extending the Woodend Water Supply to service the beach community.

Rates for the average ratepayer are projected to increase by 3.98% in the 2009/10 year, although the level of rate increase will vary in different parts of the District.

Council will now meet again on February 9th to approve the draft plan documents for public consultation. The public will be able to have their say on the Draft Ten Year Plan in the latter part of February and most of March - submissions open on Saturday 21st of February and close on Friday 27th of March.

After public submissions have been received, heard and considered, the Council is due to adopt the Ten Year Plan early in June and it will be set in motion from July 1st.

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