

Have your say on the District Plan

It's review time for our Central Otago District Plan. This is the community's plan and the Council is seeking your ideas on what should be included in this review.

The Central Otago District Plan, which became operative in 2008, is the key document that assists the Council to implement the Resource Management Act 1991 within the Central Otago District. The District Plan provides for subdivision and land use activity to occur in Central Otago, with or without the need for a resource consent.

During 2013 the Council invited comments from the public to assist in identifying the significant resource management issues and other matters that should be addressed in the District Plan Review. These comments have now been considered by the Council and potential changes to the District Plan have been identified.

The Council has prepared a Discussion Document that states its current intentions with respect to potential changes to be included in the District Plan Review. The Discussion Document can be viewed on Council's website at codc.govt.nz or at any Council office or library throughout the district.

We now welcome your feedback on this Discussion Document. You have the opportunity to make a submission to the Council by **28 November 2014**.

While suggestions for change are presented in the Discussion Document we encourage you to raise any other matters that you feel should be addressed during the preparation of the District Plan Review.

In early November drop-in sessions will be held throughout the district for you to meet with Council planners to discuss any matter relating to the District Plan Review. This gives you a chance to discuss your ideas with the Council staff before preparing your submission.

All submissions will be considered by the Council's Hearings Panel. If you make a

submission you will have the opportunity to present this in person to the Hearings Panel early in the new year.

Following the consideration of submissions on the Discussion Document the Council will

prepare the District Plan Review. This will be publicly notified for submissions. The Council will then conduct a hearing and any Council decisions on submissions are able to be appealed to the Environment Court.

From the Mayor's Desk

One of the most important documents that the Central Otago District Council produces is its District Plan. Not to be confused with the annual plan or long term plan, the District Plan is the blueprint that establishes the rules and regulations about subdivision, building platforms, size of sections, colours that can be used for buildings, landscape requirements, zoning..... you name it the rules on what we can and cannot do are in the District Plan.

New District Plans do not come along every day. This will be only our second new plan since amalgamation back in 1989. I have always said that our last plan was the most satisfying thing that I have worked on in all my years on Council. It has served our district well, it got us through the lean times well, and with a few tweaks it has handled the surges in development that have arisen from time to time. But it is time to review the adequacy of our plan.

“It is time to look at our plan with fresh eyes and see if it is still appropriate today.”

I urge every one of you who has an interest in the way our district develops to have a say on what is right about our existing plan or if you think something is wrong tell us.

Once the District Plan comes into effect it may be called the Central Otago District Plan, but in reality it is your plan. These are the rules and regulations that will determine how Central Otago will grow and develop for the next 20 years.

“Don't leave it up to someone else to determine our future – have your say.”

If you think that we need more land zoned residential or more land zoned industrial tell us. If you think the current rules are stupid tell us.

Get involved. For some this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to determine what Central Otago will look like in the future.



Tony Lepper
Central Otago Mayor



What are some of the discussion points?



RURAL AREAS

- The landscape classification of outstanding natural landscapes, significant amenity landscapes and other rural landscapes should be maintained.
- Greater emphasis is to be placed on sustaining the productive land resource in subdivision.
- The District Plan should not distinguish between one form of farming and another.
- The tenure review exemption that currently applies to outstanding landscapes and the clearance of indigenous vegetation is to be removed.



URBAN AREAS

- Sufficient land will be zoned to accommodate 20 years' growth for residential, business and industrial purposes.
- The minimum lot area of 250m² for residential subdivision should be maintained.
- Homestay accommodation for up to 6 persons will be permitted without resource consent in residential areas; and resource consent will be required for other forms of travellers accommodation.
- The minimum floor area for "big box" retailing in the Business Resource Area (1) will be reduced from 600m² to 500m².
- Existing controls on retail activity and residential activity in the Industrial Resource Area are likely to be made more rigorous.



RURAL RESIDENTIAL

- A minimum lot area of 1 hectare could replace the current average of 2 hectares to reduce pressure for subdivision in other rural areas.
- The Rural Residential notation may be applied to additional land in the Springvale Road/State Highway 85/Dunstan Road triangle; in the Earnsclough Road/Chapman Road/Conroys Road triangle; and south of Bannockburn.



HERITAGE

- Additional items can be nominated for inclusion in the Register of Heritage Items.
- Design guidelines for buildings within Heritage Precincts are to be provided for.
- Rural Heritage Areas will be identified where they have a strong association with historic activities/ archaeological sites. Examples include the Nevis Valley, Sugarloaf, Northburn, Bannockburn, Doctors Point, Bendigo and the Ophir Historic Area (including the Ophir Bridge environs).



HAZARDS

- Hazards will only be shown on the District Planning Maps where they can be accurately plotted.
- A Hazards Register will be prepared outside the District Plan to provide information about all known hazards.

For more details on these proposals and others see the full District Plan Discussion Document at www.codc.govt.nz or pick up a hard copy at any Council service centre or library.

Plus look out on our website and Facebook page www.facebook.com/centralotagodistrictcouncil for more ways to engage in the District Plan Discussion with Council.

Rates Rebates 2014/15

Do You Qualify For A Rates Rebate?

- Do you own the property you are living in?
- Were you living at the property at the beginning of the rating year, 1 July 2014?
- Is your total income (before tax) including your spouse/partner and any joint home owners low?
- Are you a superannuitant, or on a Work and Income benefit?

The rebate is aimed at ratepayers who earn less than or around \$30,000 gross per year (combined income). It is worked out on a sliding scale, therefore the higher your rates and the lower your income the more chance you have to qualify for all or part of the rebate.

You must re-apply for a rebate every rating year.

If you haven't received an application form this year they are now available at any of our Central Otago District Council Offices, or you can contact Michele on (03) 440 0672 for further information or assistance with filling out your application.

Invite a CODC Rep

Is your community or business group having a meeting and want to invite along a CODC representative/s (staff member/s) and/or elected member/s) to discuss a particular issue of interest to your group? If yes, please get in touch with us with as much advance notice and details as you can and we'll do our best to make it happen. Please email communications@codc.govt.nz or phone (03) 440 0600.

Congratulations to 'Ms Info'

Cromwell i-SITE team leader Helen Scoles' received an award last month at the annual i-SITE Conference Awards for her 20-plus years' service in providing visitor information.

Well-known for getting into the spirit of a conference dinner theme, Ms Scoles was looking resplendent in full Scottish attire to accept the award at the ceremony held in Larnach Castle, Dunedin.

The bio that was read out for Ms Scoles at the awards ceremony touched on her tireless service attitude at work and the fact she devoted the balance of her time in service to her local community, with involvement on many community groups and clubs.

"Helen is a wonderful ambassador for Cromwell and the Central Otago area and deserves recognition for the great work she has provided over many years of service," the commendation read.



i-SITE Executive Manager Paul Yeo and Cromwell i-SITE Team Leader Helen Scoles.

Look out for our Annual Report

The Central Otago District Council Annual Report 2013-14 will be out soon.

It will be available either to download and read on our website, or if you prefer a hard copy format you'll find copies at all our service centres and libraries.

Keep an eye out in the CODC Noticeboard in the *Central Otago News* or on Council's

website or social media channels to find out when it is available.

We have also produced a summary that overviews some of our year's highlights. We encourage you to take the time to read this summary and, for those keen for more detail, the full report to get an overview for our year's achievements and how we have performed against what we set out to do.

DISTRICT PLAN DROP-IN SESSIONS

| Date | Location | Venue |
|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| Tuesday 4 November | Alexandra | Alexandra Community Centre, Skird Street |
| Wednesday 5 November | Cromwell | Golden Gate Conference Centre, Barry Avenue |
| Thursday 6 November | Ranfurly | Maniototo Rugby Club Rooms, Dungannon Street |
| Friday 7 November | Roxburgh | Roxburgh Rugby Club Rooms, Scotland Street |



The drop-in sessions will be held between 11am and 3pm on each day.

Please send your written submission to:



District Plan Review
Discussion Document
c/- Central Otago District Council
PO Box 122
Alexandra 9340
Attention: S de Jong



If you prefer you can deliver your written comments to your nearest Council office/ service centre.



Or email them to
sed@codc.govt.nz

Your comments should be clearly labelled "District Plan Review Discussion Document".

Please note that written comments are to be forwarded to the Council on or before Friday, **28 November 2014**.

Volunteers invited to Health & Safety workshop

NOVEMBER

10

Members of volunteer groups who want to learn more about what effects national health and safety reforms will have on volunteers are asked to circle 10

November on their calendars.

Central Otago District Council (CODC) and the Otago Southland Employers' Association (OSEA) are teaming up to run a free community workshop on Health & Safety for Volunteer Groups and Organisations.

The workshop's aim is to assist voluntary organisations to manage their health and

safety obligations effectively by providing them with good information and advice, and the tools and contacts they need, so they can keep on with the invaluable work they do in our communities.

OSEA's Workplace Health and Safety Consultant Judy Currie will lead the workshop, which will be held on Monday 10 November at the Alexandra Community Centre on Skird Street from 6-8pm.

Those interested in attending the workshop are asked to RSVP to Judith Whyte ((03) 440 0618 or email judith.whyte@codc.govt.nz

Nice work Central!

Since the introduction of our fortnightly refuse collection in July we've made great strides in reducing the amount of material we send to landfill. Figures for both July and August show a 30%-plus reduction on the same month's landfill tonnages from last year. Keep up the good work. We're on our way to our more sustainable Central Otago.



8-16 November

Creative arts and sustainable living workshops, walks and events

Check out the programme at:

www.thymefestival.co.nz

Joint Emergency Management Role for CODC & QLDC

CODC has joined forces with neighbouring council Queenstown Lakes District to appoint a joint Emergency Management Officer.

"We both had vacancies at the same time so it made sense to use this opportunity to create a shared, dedicated role in emergency management," QLDC Chief Executive Adam Feeley said.

"This is a critical role in terms of our community preparedness and to be able to deliver that in a way that also delivers best value to our collective communities is an entirely positive outcome," CODC Chief Executive Phil Melhopt said.

Both Chief Executives said that the joint appointment would strengthen the relationship between the two councils. Trevor Andrews (pictured right) will step into the position from 28 October 2014.

Mr Andrews is currently employed by the Northland Regional Council as an emergency management officer and group controller. He comes from a Fire Service background in New Zealand and Australia, where he has held senior command and management roles. His experience includes major emergencies such as the 2010 Christchurch earthquake; the 2011 Murray River floods; the aftermath of the Black Saturday Fires in Victoria; the grounding of the container ship Rena in Tauranga in 2011; and the storms and floods in Northland this year.

Mr Andrews' particular areas of expertise and experience are in incident command, but he also knows the importance of ensuring communities are well prepared with local plans in place if disaster strikes.



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www.linkedin.com/company/central-otago-district-council

