

## Message from Gore District Mayor Tracy Hicks

As we enter our second week of lockdown, it's worth remembering we have been here before and have proved we can get through.

Be kind to each other, be kind to your pets, and if you know of anyone who may be struggling, reach out virtually or from at least 2m away.

The same applies if you are feeling anxious or overwhelmed, which is perfectly understandable during these times. There are people a phone call away who can provide support – none of us are in this alone.



**Kia Kaha - Gore District Mayor Tracy Hicks**  
on behalf of Councillors and Council staff

## Rates payment penalty extension

The first rates instalment for the 2021-22 financial year is due this Friday (27 August). Given COVID-19 Alert Level 4 restrictions, the Council has decided to allow ratepayers until **Friday 10 September** to pay the instalment without incurring a 10 percent late payment penalty.

Rates can be paid online via the Council's website.

Go to [www.goredc.govt.nz](http://www.goredc.govt.nz) and click on **Do It Online** on the home page.

## Upcoming Meetings

*Please note - all meetings are subject to COVID-19 alert level restrictions. Meetings will be held via zoom or in the Council Chambers, in Bowler Avenue, Gore, unless otherwise stated.*

### Monday 6 September

A meeting of the Maitara Community Board will be held in the Maitara Elderly Citizens rooms, in McQueen Avenue, starting at 5:30pm.

### Tuesday 14 September

A meeting of the Council will be held, starting at 4:00pm.

### Wednesday 22 September

A meeting of the Community Strategy Committee will be held, starting at 3.30pm.

*Agendas for all meetings, except those in committee, will be available on the Council's website [www.goredc.govt.nz](http://www.goredc.govt.nz) beforehand.*

*All meetings are livestreamed on the Council's YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/GoreDC](http://www.youtube.com/GoreDC)*

### Postponed Meetings

The following publicly notified meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19 Alert Level 4 restrictions:

- An extraordinary Council meeting to consider the Matai Ridge subdivision project, scheduled to have been held in committee on Wednesday 18 August.
- A meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee, scheduled to have been held in committee on Wednesday 25 August.

## New Council Website

The Council will be launching a new-look website and hope that it will be live by the end of this week.

Apart from a design refresh, the new website will make it easier for customers as they will be able to apply and pay for nearly all Council activities and services online any time and from anywhere.

There's a **Do It Online** portal with easy to follow, intuitive digital forms replacing the traditional hard copies.

Customers can visit the portal as a casual user or they can create a **My Gore** account, which provides access to a personalized dashboard with their online transactions.

Having a **My Gore** account means they can auto-fill their personal details. Customers will also be able to start filling in an application then save it, so it can be completed later.

## If you need help

If you need help, please call us on 209-0330. Our staff will do their best to find a solution or put you in touch with someone local to help you.

Help is always closer than you think. Here's a few handy numbers:

- Helpline – text 1737
- Youthline – text 234
- Rural Support Trust - 0800 787 254
- Age Concern New Zealand - 0800 65 2105

## Council Services and Facilities

With Alert Level 4 restrictions remaining in place for the time being, here's a reminder what it means all our facilities and services.

All our facilities are closed, including

- Gore and Maitara libraries
- Gore Multisports Complex
- Gore Transfer Station
- Main Administration Building
- Gore Visitor Centre
- Eastern Southland Gallery

## Rubbish Collection

The weekly wheelie bin collection service is still operating, but the transfer station is closed. Now is a good time to think about how you can minimise your waste. Some options are:

- Compost food scraps
- Crush all containers
- Store all containers eg tins, plastic bottles and cardboard to dispose of when restrictions ease
- Don't put green waste in your bin

It's important not to fill up your wheelie bin with green waste. Pile it somewhere to take to the transfer station when it re-opens.

## Parks and Playgrounds

All playgrounds, including those at schools, are closed. Under level 4 you can exercise, but you need to keep it local. You don't need to wear a face covering when you are outdoors exercising, but they are strongly recommended.

## Library Information

- Please do not return items to your library, keep them safe at home until we re-open.
- You will not be charged overdue fines or fees during this time.
- Any library item requests will be held and will be available for you to pick up when we re-open.