

Further Notice of Referendum to Determine Ownership of the Otama Rural Water Supply

Voter packs for the Otama Rural Water Supply referendum will be sent to consumers and residents within the Otama Rural Water Supply area from **Thursday 18 November**. The voting period will be from this date through to 12 noon on Friday 10 December.

The referendum will be conducted by postal vote under the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system.

The referendum is in response to a request from the Otama Rural Water Supply Committee, the Council has resolved to hold a referendum on the following proposal - "That ownership of the Otama Rural Water Supply be transferred from the Gore District Council to Otama Rural Water Limited."

The referendum result will be binding. The Council will use the result to determine if ownership of the Otama Rural Water Supply should be transferred to Otama Rural Water Limited.

Inspection of Ownership Transfer Information

Copies of the following documents about the proposed transfer are available at www.lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/otama-rural-water-scheme-referendum.

- the views of the Medical Officer of Health
- the transfer plan and the proposed agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities of the Company and any contractors (including the Council) in relation to the scheme
- the assessments made by Otama Rural Water Limited
- a map of area to be subject to the referendum.

They are also available for inspection at the Council's main office, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, and the Gore Library, in Jacob Street, until 12 noon on Friday 10 December.

Special Voting Arrangements

Special voting facilities for the referendum will be available from the Council's main office from Thursday 18 November to 12 noon on Friday 10 December. Enquiries about special voting can be directed to Frances Shepherd, phone (03) 209 0351 or email fshepherd@goredc.govt.nz

Welcome Plan Open for Feedback

To ensure we build on our reputation as a friendly place to live and visit, the Council has developed a Welcome Plan in collaboration with locals and newcomers to the Gore community. The plan gives a cultural diversity snapshot. It outlines current challenges and suggests things we can do to create a community where newcomers feel valued and welcomed.

The Plan is open for feedback until **Thursday 9 December**. Go to www.lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz to get involved.

Overgrown Sections Notice

This time of year is when vegetation growth can get away from people. Sections become overgrown, and trees and shrubs start encroaching onto footpaths and roads.

The Council's job is to ensure property owner's keep trees, shrubs, and plants on their boundary at least 2m clear of any road or footpath.

Overgrown sections are not only unsightly. They are also an ideal place for rats and mice and can become a fire risk. The maximum height for grass in an urban area is half a metre.

There's more information about overgrown sections at www.goredc.govt.nz.

Get into the holiday spirit with the **Gore District Advent Calendar**. From **Wednesday 1 to Friday 24 December**, the Council will reveal daily challenges, giveaways and retailer offers within the District.

With something for everyone, you won't want to miss out - so make sure you follow the Council's Facebook event page, check Antenna or listen to Cave Fm 106.40 to find out what's behind the doors.



Rates Reminder

Gore District ratepayers are reminded that **Friday 26 November** is the last day for payment of the second rates instalment for 2021-22. Any amount outstanding on this day will incur a 10% penalty.

Anyone with concerns about their rates is welcome to call the Council's rating team anytime, phone **209-0330**.

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.

Wednesday 17 November

There will be a meeting, in committee, of the Capital Works Committee, starting at 3.30pm. The public is excluded in accordance with Sections 7 (2)(i) and 7 (2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations; and protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Wednesday 24 November

There will be a meeting, in committee, of the Audit and Risk Committee, starting at 3.30pm. The public is excluded in accordance with Sections 7 (2)(i) and 7 (2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations; and protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Monday 29 November

The Mataura Community Board will meet at 5.30pm in the senior citizens rooms, Mc Queen Avenue, Mataura.

Agendas for all meetings, except those in committee, will be available on the Council's website www.goredc.govt.nz beforehand.

All meetings are livestreamed on the Council's YouTube channel www.youtube.com/GoreDC

Meeting Notice

The Gore District Council's Employment Sub-Committee met, in committee, on **Tuesday 9 November**. The nature of the business transacted at the meeting related to a confidential employment issue. The reason notification was not made before the meeting was that information to be considered became available after the deadline for publication in the previous edition of The Ensign.

This notice is according to Section 46 (6) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

