

## **Title: Draft Annual Plan adopted for consultation**

This Media Release has been prepared by:

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The Draft Annual Plan 2011-2012 was adopted by Timaru District Council on Tuesday and is released for public consultation on Saturday April 16, with submissions due by 5pm on 16 May 2011.

The Plan updates Year 3 of the LTCCP and outlines any changes to the proposed work programme.

The focus remains this year on keeping rates as affordable as possible and the progressing of two major projects – the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre and Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.

Timaru District Mayor Janie Annear says –

*“The Plan continues the exciting development of the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre and heralds work beginning in earnest on the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade which is essential to meet our environmental responsibilities. It provides a good balance between maintaining what the Council already provides and continuing projects that are important to our district’s future”.*

This year, Council plans to spend \$60.7M maintaining and providing its everyday services, with \$40.1M on capital projects, including:

- Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre
- Timaru District Wastewater Treatment plant upgrade
- Washdyke sewer pipe separation to separate industrial waste
- Ongoing upgrading of district parks and reserves, including playgrounds, park furniture and walkways
- Washdyke roading network improvements \$2.3m
- Nearly \$8m on transport network including resurfacing roads and footpaths, seal extension and bridge renewals
- Improvements of stormwater infrastructure in Timaru, Temuka and Geraldine

Financially, the Plan will increase the total amount of rates collected across the district by 5.8% including inflation (compared to a proposed 8.8% excluding inflation in the third year of the 2009 – 19 LTCCP). For the average Timaru residential ratepayer, the cost of your rates will work out about the same as that which a typical family might spend on bread/milk or power every week.

The impact on personal rate bills will vary, depending on your property value and type, where you live in the district and the services you receive.

### Timeline:

Saturday 16 April	Plan available and submissions open
Monday 16 May	Submissions close at 5pm
June 7	Hearings for those submitters wishing to be heard
June 28	Council adopts Annual Plan

Submissions can be made online or submission forms downloaded and sent free post to Timaru District Council at: Draft Annual Plan, Freepost 95136, PO Box 522, Timaru.

A summary of the draft Annual Plan is being sent to residents in the High Country Herald next Wednesday 20 April. Full copies of the draft plan, the summary and submission forms are also available from all Council offices and district libraries, or online at [www.timaru.govt.nz](http://www.timaru.govt.nz) from Saturday.

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