

**Title: Long Term Council Community Plan
released for community input**

This Media Release has
been prepared by
Communications
Timaru District Council

Email:
nevillec@timdc.govt.nz

2 King George Place
Timaru

P O Box 522
Timaru
New Zealand

Telephone 03 687 7200
Fax 03 687 7201
Website:
www.timaru.govt.nz

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FOR RELEASE: Embargoed until Saturday 18 April 2009

Timaru District Council is inviting feedback from residents on the 10 year Plan, to be released for public consultation tomorrow, Saturday 18th April.

Major projects in the Plan over the next ten years include the domestic and industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, Timaru Aquatic Leisure Centre, upgrading district water supplies to meet drinking water standards, extending Timaru and Temuka cemeteries, local road upgrading, and construction of a Timaru parking building. Further detail on these and other projects can be found in the Plan.

The Council plans on spending \$659m over the next ten years to meet day to day expenditure (e.g. paying the power bill) and \$268m on our capital work programme (e.g. building new facilities, rebuilding roads). This is funded from a variety of sources, of which rates will contribute around \$384m over the ten years. This will result in a proposed increase in total rates collected in 2009/10 of 2.88% (including inflation), 5.49% in 2011/12 and 8.77% in 2012/13. In the draft plan, debt levels are forecast to rise from around \$51m in 2009/10 to a peak of \$133m in 2015/16.

Mayor Janie Annear says "The council has worked hard to put together the Plan, which outlines the challenges the Council is facing over the next ten years and a summary of planned work for the Timaru District. It is now up to the community to share your views about the Plan, what services and facilities you want and how the council should pay for them".

Timaru District residents are invited to give feedback on the draft plan during the four week submission period with submissions closing on Monday, May 18. Submissions can be made online at www.timaru.govt.nz, by email to submission@timdc.govt.nz, by filling out a submission form or simply sending a letter to the Council.

A Summary of the Plan is being delivered to all district households with the High Country Herald on Wednesday 22 April. Copies of the Plan can be downloaded from the TDC website – www.timaru.govt.nz or contact the Council for a CD or printed copy of the Plan.

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For further information, contact:

**Mark Low
Strategic Planning Manager
Timaru District Council
DDI 03 687 7280**

**Neville Cross
Communications Officer
Timaru District Council
DDI 03 687 7233**