

FIRST RATE

Southland District Council rates news

023/24



Did you know?

You can now sign up to become a Southland District Council registered user. Being a registered user gives you full visibility of all your rates charges and payments, along with details of your other Council active accounts such as dog registration and applications. Visit the link below or scan the QR code to sign up, or feel free to give our friendly Customer Service team a call on 0800 732 732 for assistance.

<u>southlanddc.govt.nz/services/do-it-online/become-a-registered-user/</u>

Have you shifted recently?

Please inform us when you shift so that we can get your mail to follow you.

Go to southlanddc.govt.nz

- > Home & property
- > Change my address

Easy ways to pay

Online: Pay by Visa or Mastercard. **Go to southlanddc.govt.nz**

- > Services
- > Do it online
- > Payments

In person: At any Council office or SDC Book bus

What's the difference?

Automatic payments (AP) Funds need to be in the account the morning of the payment

- agreement between you and your bank
- need to ensure the payments clear each instalment
- need to be adjusted as rates change every year
- remember to cancel if property is sold
- need to ensure the correct property is noted.

Direct debit is Council's preferred option

Direct debit

Funds need to be in the account the morning of the payment

- agreement between Council and you
- no penalties on instalments
- automatically adjust each year and you are notified
- cancelled automatically if property is sold
- direct debits run over the full 12 months
- payment will go to the correct property.

Note: If you pay by automatic payment you need to make sure the full instalment amount is paid by the due date otherwise penalties may be applied.









Is your property info up to date?

Independent property valuers Quotable Value (QV) are preparing to revalue your property in 2024.

As you know, rating valuations are usually carried out every three years to help us set an equitable basis for rates. Improving the information that QV has about your property will help make this process easier.

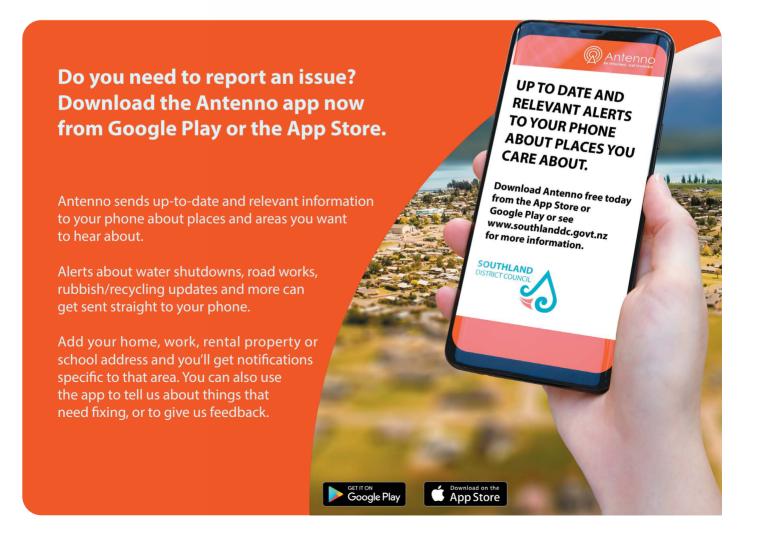
If you have recently completed some work on your property that didn't require a building consent, such as a deck, landscaping, or a new kitchen, it won't be reflected in your valuation unless you let QV know about it.



You can check that your information is up to date and submit changes online here: www.qv.co.nz/services/rating-valuations/update-my-property/ or by scanning the QR code.

If you find yourself in financially challenging circumstances, please ring 0800 732 732 or send an email to rates@southlanddc.govt.nz before the instalment due dates to avoid any penalties on your account.

Our friendly team is here to help set up a suitable payment option.



Rates rebate 2023/2024

A rates rebate is a partial rebate for eligible, low-income ratepayers who pay rates on their property to Council. If your property received a rates rebate last year 2022/2023, you will receive a 2023/2024 form in the post soon. Application forms are also available at any SDC area office or library. Find out if you are eligible by visiting,

www.govt.nz/browse/housingand-property/getting-help-withhousing/getting-a-rates-rebate/



Check out what's happening in and around your community

First Edition is distributed three times per year within the Southland district. First Edition provides an update on funding opportunities, what Council has been up to and what has been happening in your area.

<u>www.southlanddc.govt.nz/news-and-public-</u> notices/first-edition/



Why have my rates increased this rating year?

As you will be well aware costs of materials and services have increased over the past few years and especially within the last several months with no suggestion when or if this is going to change in the short term.

We have to strike a balance of replacing ageing infrastructure to avoid future issues and keeping the rates increase as low as possible for current ratepayers.

As advised in the May First Edition, the increase has also been affected by

- higher interest costs on loans to complete capital works projects (\$1.3 million)
- the removal of reserve subsidies for sewerage previously used to reduce rates during the Covid-19 downturn (\$1 million)
- an increase in overall waste costs (\$800,000).

Because sewerage, water and rubbish are mainly provided in townships, these cost increases will impact residential households the most.

Depending on where you live and other factors, the average increase in rates over all properties in the Southland district is 7.61%. Due to these factors, your rates could increase more than the average 7.61% or less than the average.

What it means?

Let's take a look at some of the rates you will notice on your rates assessment.

Roading Rate

You will see two charges. Roading UTR is a fixed charge to everyone in the district. There is also a roading charge based on your land use, which is charged on capital value. This is set on a differential basis to allow categories that may have more impact on roads to contribute more.

Rubbish and Recycling

Rubbish and Recycling relates to all residential properties inside the township rating boundary routes or those properties that have chosen to have the service where available.

Regional Heritage

Is used to fund heritage activities in the Southland region. The money is administered by the Southland Regional Heritage Committee and is used to promote and develop heritage in Southland. This is a fixed amount across the district.

District General Rate

There are two charges. One is a fixed charge to everyone and one is based on capital value. These rates pay for everything else not already mentioned that council does, generally activities with significant benefits to the wider community. These include; office buildings, some regulatory services that aren't funded by user fees and charges, emergency management, representation, community services, transfer stations, recycling centres, cemeteries and some grants and donations.

Community Board Rate

These rates are set by the local board and are used on local activities such as maintenance of parks and reserves, street lights and footpaths. These are a fixed amount and relate to all properties but can vary depending on which board area and the classification of urban, semi-urban and rural.



District Wastewater and District Water Rates

Relates to all properties that are or can be connected to the water and sewerage schemes throughout the district.

Stormwater

Used to maintain stormwater networks and repairs and upgrades. The rate is a fixed amount and you pay a full charge if you are within the boundary and a guarter charge for outside the boundary.

Halls, Community Centre and Pool Rates

Are a fixed amount set by the local board or hall committees. You will only be charged this rate if you live in the boundary.

SIESA Rate

Includes maintenance, renewals and capital improvements to the transmission networks and generating plant. This is a fixed charge and applies to all properties on Stewart Island/Rakiura that are or can be connected to the electricity network.

If you have any queries about your rates or why you are being charged, please ring 0800 732 732 or send an email to rates@southlanddc.govt.nz