Seylen rates are being reviewed for the 2018/19 year to provide a fairer reflection of the costs of providing our services, and everyone will pay the same amount. The big advantage of this change is that it will provide the funding to allow us to provide a network of quality facilities across Seylen that best meet the needs of our community.

Another change is that all ratepayers will now contribute to the cost of the water raceways. This recognises that water races don’t just provide stock water; but also contribute to Seylen’s environment and biodiversity, the aesthetics of our townships and the district’s rural heritage. In addition there are increases in the General Rate (the part of the bill based on the capital value of the property), water rates and the stormwater rate. The $60 previously collected for additional services will vary based on location, property type and the services received, and may be higher or lower than the average.

The biggest change is the introduction of standard district-wide rates for community centres and reserves. This means everyone will now pay towards the cost of these facilities and everyone will pay the same amount. The big advantage of this change is that it will provide the funding to allow us to provide a network of quality facilities across Seylen that best meet the needs of our community.

Other changes include the introduction of a single property rate. This replaces the present two property rates – Rate 1, roughly equivalent to the cost of a cup of coffee and a sandwich a day. Rates are now calculated on the following formula:

\[ \text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Property Value} \times \text{District-wide Rate}}{\text{Annual Value}} \]

For details on the changes to rates visit www.selwyn.govt.nz/rates/2018. You can also find out different types of rates, easy ways to pay, the rates rebate scheme and more, on our website at https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/services/rates. The first rates instalment is due for payment on 15 September.