

NEWS FROM THE CANTERBURY CHIEF EXECUTIVES FORUM

April 2016

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum meets at least quarterly and is chaired by Jim Palmer (Waimakariri).

Members are Andrew Dalziel (Ashburton), Angela Oosthuizen (Kaikōura), Bede Carran (Waimate), Bill Bayfield (ECan), David Ward (Selwyn), Hamish Dobbie (Hurunui), Dr Karleen Edwards (Christchurch), Michael Ross (Waitaki), Peter Nixon (Timaru) and Wayne Barnett (Mackenzie).

The secretariat (Steve Gibling, David Bromell, Lorraine Johns and Bernadette Sanders) is hosted by Environment Canterbury.



Current focus: how might Canterbury councils best work together and support each other during 2016–19 to deliver good quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance and regulatory functions?

CHIEF EXECUTIVES FORUM

The Forum met on 4 April 2016 and welcomed a presentation from Andrea Reeves of the Office of the Auditor-General. Key points were:

- plan time for consultation on 2018–28 Long-Term Plans (so get infrastructure and financial strategies ready by July 2017)
- focus on long-term sustainability as we address an ageing population, regional economic development and climate change
- integrate infrastructure and financial strategies – Waimakariri’s 2015 Long-Term Plan was a stand-out from the Canterbury region
- plan for timeliness in the adoption of annual reports (not an extraordinary meeting in the last week of October!)
- divergence between budgeted and actual capital expenditure, and renewals as a percentage of forecast depreciation, indicate a need for better information on the condition of assets and setting of realistic budgets
- declutter financial reporting – see Taranaki Regional Council and Genesis Energy annual reports for examples.

The meeting also:

- discussed further opportunities for collaboration and shared services in preparation for conversations between the Mayoral Forum, the Minister of Local Government and the Local Government Commission later this month
- discussed the identification and pre-consenting of appropriate sites for hotel developments to help attract capital investment to the Canterbury region
- received an update on the mapping of free WiFi spots around the Canterbury region, an initiative to support tourism in the region
- endorsed setting up a working group to address the impact of freedom camping across the region
- approved terms of reference for a Canterbury Engineering Managers Group that will focus on strategic engineering issues facing the region in light of ongoing Government policy development (asset management, engineering, utilities and roading services)
- received a progress report from Jim Palmer on the establishment of the new Joint Committee for public transport in greater Christchurch.

COMING UP

- The Chief Executives Forum next meets on 30 May 2016.

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