

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

*A strong regional economy with resilient, connected
communities and a better quality of life, for all.*

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

BOARD PACK

for

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Friday, 23 February 2024

8:30 am (NZDT)

Held at:

Commodore Hotel

449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch

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AGENDA

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 23 February 2024
Time:	8:30 am to 1:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Anne Munro, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Gary Kircher, Marie Black, Peter Scott, Phil Mauger, Sam Broughton
Attendees:	Alex Parmley, Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Dobbie, Hamish Riach, Jeff Millward, Mayor Monique Croon, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Stuart Duncan, Will Doughty, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor, Ann Fitzgerald, Maree McNeilly, Paul Eagle
Apologies:	Neil Brown

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Karakia, welcome, introductions and apologies

8:30 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Canterbury Mayoral Forum karakia

Ko Ngā Tiritiri o te Moana ngā maunga

Ko ngā wai huka ngā awa i rere tonu mai

Ko Ngā Pākihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha te whenua

Ko Marokura, ko Mahaanui, ko Araiteuru ngā tai

Tīhei mauri ora!

The Southern Alps stand above

The snow-fed rivers continually flow forth

The plains of Waitaha extend out

To the tides of Marokura, Mahaanui and Araiteuru

Behold, there is life!

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

8:35 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

8:40 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.3.a Minutes : Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 24 Nov 2023

8

1.4 Action List

Nigel Bowen

2. Guest speaker

2.1 Dr Rod Carr

8:45 am (60 min)

Nigel Bowen

3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea

9:45 am (15 min)

4. For Discussion

4.1 Refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

10:00 am (45 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

4.1.a	CMF Refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury Feb 2024.docx	17
4.1.b	Refreshed Mayoral Forum Plan for Canterbury 2023-25 Attachment 1 Feb 2024.docx	21

4.2 Engaging with Central Government

10:45 am (30 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

4.2.a	CMF Engaging with Central Government Feb 2024.docx	38
4.2.b	DRAFT CMF briefing to Prime Minister Feb 2024.docx	42
4.2.c	DRAFT CMF briefing to Minister of Finance Feb 2024.docx	46
4.2.d	DRAFT CMF briefing to Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Minister of Housing, Minister of Infrastructure.docx	51
4.2.e	DRAFT CMF briefing to Minister of Health Feb 2024.docx	56
4.2.f	DRAFT CMF briefing to Minister of Local Government, Transport, Energy Feb 2024.docx	61
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4.2.i	DRAFT CMF briefing to Minister of Emergency Management Feb 2024.docx	77
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4.2.m	DRAFT CMF briefing to Minister of Climate Change Feb 2024.docx	99
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Supporting Documents:

4.2.p	DRAFT CMF briefing to Minister for Rural Communities Feb 2024.docx	116
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5. For discussion

5.1 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update 11:15 am (15 min)

Peter Scott

Supporting Documents:

5.1.a	CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy update Feb 2024.docx	121
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5.2 Water Reform 11:30 am (30 min)

Hamish Riach

Supporting Documents:

5.2.a	CMF Water Reform Feb 2024.docx	137
5.2.b	CMF OIA request Three Waters information Feb 2023.pdf	142

5.3 Canterbury Climate Action Planning update 12:00 pm (10 min)

Dan Gordon

Supporting Documents:

5.3.a	CMF Canterbury Climate Action Planning update Feb 2024.docx	147
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5.4 Resource Management Reform 12:10 pm (10 min)

Hamish Riach

Supporting Documents:

5.4.a	CMF Resource Management Reform Feb 2024.docx	160
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6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update 12:20 pm (5 min)

Ben Clark

Supporting Documents:

6.1.a	CMF Regional Public Service Commissioner update Feb 2024.docx	163
6.1.b	CMF Regional Public Service Commissioner update Attachment 1 Feb 2024.docx	164

6.2 Chief Executives Forum report 12:25 pm (5 min)

Hamish Riach

Supporting Documents:

6.2.a	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Feb 2024.docx	166
6.2.b	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 1 Feb 2023.pdf	168

6.3 Mayoral Forum activities and engagements

Supporting Documents:

6.3.a	CMF Activities and engagements Feb 2024.docx	169
6.3.b	CMF letter to Kaiwhakahaere Justin Tipa Dec 2023.pdf	171
6.3.c	CMF letter to Minister of Local Government Dec 2023.pdf	172
6.3.d	Letter to submitters on Emergency Management Bill extension.pdf	174

7. General business

7.1 General business 12:30 pm (10 min)

7.2 Meeting review 12:40 pm (5 min)

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Closing karakia 12:45 pm (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Kia tau te rangimarie ki runga I nga iwi o te ao

Haumi e

Hui e

Taiki e

Let peace reign on all the people of the world

Fixed

Bound as one

8.2 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 31 May 2024, 8:30 am
to be held at Te Whare Whakaterere, Ashburton

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 24 November 2023
Time:	8:30 am to 1:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Anne Munro, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Gary Kircher, Marie Black, Neil Brown, Nigel Bowen (Chair), Peter Scott, Phil Mauger, Sam Broughton
Attendees:	Angela Oosthuizen, Bede Carran, Jeff Millward, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Amanda Wall, Maree McNeilly
Apologies:	Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Alex Parmley, Mayor Monique Croon, Stuart Duncan, Dawn Baxendale
Guests/Notes:	Apologies from Owen Pickles, CE Chatham Islands Council; Mary Richardson, Acting Chief Executive CCC, Ben Clark (Item 6.1) Carmin Beck, Secretariat, Patrick Lindsay (ECan), Boyd Becker (CCC), Sean Tully (Selwyn) for Items 2.1 & 4.1; Tim Davie, Convenor, Climate Change Working Group (item 5.1)

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Karakia, welcome, introductions and apologies

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting with a karakia.

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed with two items of general business

- Onsite wastewater matters
 - Update on recent Supreme Court judgement on the Cloud Ocean Water Limited Appeal
- Mayor Black raised the ongoing issue of gravel extraction, Stefanie offered to meet with Mayor Black and members of the Hurunui community to discuss this matter.

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

Canterbury Mayoral Forum 25 Aug 2023, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

Members noted that the August meeting was Rosa Wakefield's last meeting as part of the secretariat. Members wished to record their thanks to Rosa for all of her work supporting the regional forums in her time with the secretariat.



Decision

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023
Mover: Sam Broughton
Second: Craig Mackle

Outcome: Approved

1.4 Action List

There were no outstanding actions.

2. Workshop

2.1 Engagement with Central Government - workshop

Patrick Lindsay led a workshop focused on aligning the priorities of Canterbury with the priorities of central government, to work towards identifying what a regional deal that will serve the needs of Canterbury in both the short and long-term could look like. Boyd Becker shared insight that a strong way to approach this is to frame the desired projects through the lens of infrastructure – especially housing and transport. Canterbury and Christchurch can leverage post-earthquake projects to demonstrate it can work in partnership with central government. It was also noted that there may be less representation in the region than with the previous government.

National has indicated they have a 100-day plan they will begin implementing immediately after a government is formed. One matter included in the plan will be a new approach to three waters. The CEs Forum will meet later in December to start discussing this ahead of the February 2024 Mayoral Forum.

The members organised into four groups to brainstorm quick-fire responses to four prompts, spending about five minutes on each.

Question 1: What can Canterbury offer central government?

Results: A recurring thought was that Canterbury should focus on what the region has to offer, that makes it unique from the rest of the country. Some of these strengths are:

- Primarily strong, cohesive leadership working towards a collective goal
- High food production and agricultural science
- Strong city infrastructure
- Space for innovation and piloting programmes

Question 2: What does central government want from Canterbury?

Results: The incoming government will want to know that Canterbury is able and trustworthy to deliver their objectives. As a region, there is an existing relationship with Ngāi Tahu and local iwi. Canterbury would provide a great opportunity to pilot programs, such as mental health. National Party picked up several seats in the region and will want to reward and increase that result.

Question 3: What does Canterbury want from central government?

Results: A recurring objective was the importance of a developing a true partnership. It will be important to forward ideas where there is agreement between both levels about what the desired outcomes will be. In that case, central government could provide the funding and trust Canterbury to deliver. Additionally, a certainty of commitment is desired so that the region can make informed decision, with long-term funding such as ten-years rather than three. It is also essential to have access to public data so that the region can accurately assess what the problems are and where they are happening, so funding can be targeted efficiently. Canterbury wants at least it's fair share of central government funding.

It will be important to have a direct link to Ministers for the day-to-day communications while maintaining strategic focus on the shared goals and outcomes for Canterbury. It would be helpful to have certainty around regulations in order to maintain a consistent decision-making landscape.

Question 4: What governance and partnerships would enable us to deliver?

Results: The discussion included government departments, Ministers, NGOs, Federated Farmers, and more. As the goal will be to focus on projects that best covers the widest swath of the region, it will be important to have strong, accurate data. Ideally working towards flood protection, social outcomes, intergenerational economy, and building constructive partnerships.

There was a following discussion regarding how to shift the existing priorities and goals of the region to best find shared desired outcomes with the incoming government. It was discussed that the priorities and long-term vision of the region do not shift with a change in central government. Members discussed the following:

- Importance of bundling projects across the region. For instance, finding common ground with State Highway improvements, and widening that lens to include bridges and flood protection, both of which have fallen under Resilience in the past but are essential to maintaining transport infrastructure
- Local government needs to be trusted by central government as a key service deliverer
- Streamlining and clarity around regulations to best benefit Cantabrians
- Focus on areas for Canterbury to grow in, e.g. Aerospace centre of NZ (University and Dark Skies project), Healthcare (cancer treatment centres, mental health, etc – first Minister of Mental Health is from Canterbury)
- What does Canterbury want to do in the long term that the central government can invest in?
- Housing offers a big opportunity
- Sync timing of LTPs and central government transport funding decisions to create better flow
- Message tourism as sustainable growth and economic development, especially as visitors shift to want to understand a place
- Importance of focus on education and skills as part of economic development, including building good relationships with universities, tertiary institutes, and CRIs
- Agriculture sector is the primary production and backbone of economy, we need to support farmers and give them time to make changes that impact the environment
- Investing in innovation, not regulation
- Lowering greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture opens up international markets for environmentally friendly agriculture (e.g. Tesco in UK).

3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea

Before breaking for morning tea, the Forum celebrated Mayor Craig Mackle's birthday and acknowledged the valuable contributions Bede has provided over his tenure with the group. As it was his last meeting, he was presented with a small card and gift.

4. Workshop continued

4.1 Engagement with Central Government - workshop continued

Patrick shifted the conversation to focus on how and when the Forum wants to engage with central government, and what to do to prepare for engaging in the interim. Hon Matt Doocey will also be an essential contact. It would be wise to seek discussion with him regarding our engagement with the Government.

There is a proposed delegation from Te Uru Kahika attending Waitangi in February that Peter Scott may be joining and this as an opportunity for him to raise Canterbury matters with a wide range of central government representatives.

It was suggested that for an initial meeting with Central Government ministers, all members would attend and then consider smaller groups of CMF members taking a portfolio approach to engagement... It will be important to have consistent LTPs and messaging – focusing on the opportunities that bind the region. Members reiterated the point that it will be important to engage with key agencies and get on the same page so that there is some internal lobbying before going to ministers.

The Forum noted that it would be useful to identify and meet with key influencers in Canterbury to support the engagement with Government.

It will be important to have the “elevator pitch” ready before the end of the year so that at any given moment and with any given representative over the next few months, any member can have a conversation which quickly communicates the collective needs of Canterbury. This could cover 3-5 key themes (such as Tourism, State Highways, Infrastructure due to Tourism, Strategic Assets, etc). While not all regional/central communication will happen through the Mayoral Forum, it will be important to remain consistent in our shared goals and messaging through all channels of communication.

It is important to keep thinking about how to best represent the region in Wellington in the entirety of the picture. The Forum’s (as well as individual members’) relationship with ministers will be key, and understanding how this can be leveraged for the region. The timing of engagements will also be important, bearing in mind the Budget process and its associated timelines.

It will be important to communicate to ministers about the Long-Term Plans (LTPs) before they are released so there are no surprises. The incoming government has indicated they will make budget cuts in the public sector and it will be important to have the conversation on whether local government will have to pick up the funding bill in areas such as transport. It would be helpful to identify LTP priorities that might be a focus for the new government, and prepare some key messages on LTPs for members.

Members noted the importance of the Forum’s cohesiveness inside and outside this meeting room, and the value of the Forum’s one strong voice for Canterbury.

Members discussed the point that central government is looking for a partner they can trust to deliver on projects, and noted it would be useful to remain united as Canterbury even if certain projects help other districts disproportionately because a united front will overall create a better long-term outcome for the region as a whole. Marie mentioned that it is important to frame issues across districts in the regional lens – flip the narrative in individual communities to influence regional outcomes.

There was discussion around whether there would be a single deal for the region, or whether the deals might take a more subregional approach. Members discussed whether the case for a regional deal could be broken down into sections – an overall Canterbury story to provide a regional picture, then sections detailing cases for each subregion (North Canterbury, South Canterbury, Mid Canterbury and Greater Christchurch). Members noted that much work had already been done by councils and the Greater Christchurch Partnership that could be inserted into the case for a regional deal, and the first step in developing a case would be to bring this all together. The secretariat may need to bring in extra resource to bring the case for a regional deal together.

Members also discussed whether the current Plan for Canterbury is fit-for-purpose and agreed that the vision, values and three priority areas remain relevant. However, the actions may require some reconsideration in the way they are drafted and prioritised.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum noted the information provided in the paper to support a Mayoral Forum workshop on engaging with Central Government to progress city and/or regional deals for Canterbury.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved



Action

CEs to refine the outcomes of the workshop and the resulting opportunities and priorities, and report back to the Forum on next steps to:

- engage with ministers on the Forum's priorities
- develop a business case for a regional deal and engaging with ministers.

15 February - included with CMF Board pack for 24 Feb meeting

Due Date: 29 Jan 2024
Owner: Hamish Riach



Action

CEs to review the actions in the Plan for Canterbury to consider whether change is required to align with the Forum's approach to engaging with ministers and the concept of a regional deal.

29 Jan draft Plan for Canterbury will be on 23 Feb agenda, incl updated actions

Due Date: 29 Jan 2024
Owner: Hamish Riach



Action

Secretariat to survey members on LTP key messages to develop region-wide key messages.

18/12 draft messages to be developed following feedback from supporting forums

7 Feb - press release circulated to media

Due Date: 31 Jan 2024
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Secretariat to develop an 'elevator pitch' for members to use over the summer to promote Canterbury with MPs, ministers and key stakeholders.

13 Dec - Elevator pitch emailed to Mayoral Forum

Due Date: 8 Dec 2023
Owner: Maree McNeilly

5. For discussion

5.1 Climate Change Action Planning update

Tim Davie joined the meeting for this item.

Dan Gordon introduced the paper and noted it was a year ago that the Forum endorsed the development of the Climate Change Partnership Plan. It is now at the stage of identifying actions and related costs; this paper is to seek endorsement of an approach to funding regional actions.

Concern was raised about Waitaki sitting between both Canterbury and Otago and whether the working group was in touch with Otago counterparts. Tim noted there was engagement between the regions and he would continue to engage with them to ensure there is coordination.

Tim also agreed to follow up with Mackenzie District Council to ensure there was no duplication of effort between the development of the Plan and the work Mackenzie was doing on climate actions.

Members noted that the intention was for the final Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan to be presented to the Mayoral Forum for approval in August 2024.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. endorsed the recommended scale of investment for regional climate actions to fund years 1-3 implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan through councils' Long-Term Plan budgeting processes
2. noted that the regional actions in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan that are proposed to be collectively funded will complement or support (rather than duplicate) individual councils' climate change strategies and actions.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023
Mover: Dan Gordon
Seconder: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

5.2 Future for Local Government review - survey results

Nigel gave a quick overview of the survey results in the paper and then inquired the direction the Forum would like to take this work. Sam noted there will be a Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) meeting on 11 December which will be focused on passing agreement on items that have 75-90% agreement. Similarly to projects such as the LTP, the goal isn't complete agreement on the work but consensus on the direction of movement. This process has been very open the entire time.

Peter noted that this work has been a major project for the past two and a half years and applauded the efforts.

The Forum decided to wait until the update from LGNZ and speak to this again in early 2024.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum noted the summary of results from the survey of members on the Future for Local Government review panel's recommendations and consider next steps.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023
Mover: Peter Scott
Seconder: Nigel Bowen
Outcome: Approved

5.3 Future for Local Government review - shared services

Will spoke to the paper, sharing that the CEs Forum created a subgroup to investigate potential options for collaboration or shared services. The decision is to trial one service-based and one-system based opportunity. It will be important to create a coalition which is willing to work together to create quick wins between councils. The subgroup will report to the CEs Forum as its work progresses. There is a meeting scheduled for 18 December to discuss what regional water model options might be preferred.

Will shared that around thirty service options were initially considered including insurance, rate, finance, valuation, etc. Challenges identified were government contracts and differing systems between councils.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum noted the work of the Chief Executives Forum to investigate opportunities for Canterbury councils to improve collaboration and/or establish shared services.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023

Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconder: Neil Brown
Outcome: Approved

5.4 Canterbury Water Management Strategy

Peter presented the paper, noting that the review of Zone Committees would be undertaken in 2024. Neil noted Ashburton is looking to review their zone committee sooner.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum received the update on region-wide progress of Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) partners' work towards implementing the CWMS for July to September 2023.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023
Mover: Peter Scott
Seconder: Phil Mauger
Outcome: Approved

6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update

This paper was taken as read.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum received the update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner on the Regional Leadership Group Waitaha priorities

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023
Mover: Sam Broughton
Seconder: Craig Rowley
Outcome: Approved

6.2 Chief Executives Forum report

Bede shared an overview from the CEs Forum, noting that a number of forums sit below it which require council resources to complete much of the work. It is important to resource and support team members from each council to continue doing this work.

Members asked if the strategic workplan would be refreshed following a review of the actions in the Plan for Canterbury. It was noted the intention was for this to occur in time for the February meeting.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum received the quarterly report from the Chief Executives Forum and noted updates on work under way or completed on the key actions in the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023
Mover: Craig Rowley
Seconder: Anne Munro
Outcome: Approved

**Action**

Secretariat to refresh the strategic workplan following a review of the actions in the Plan for Canterbury.

30 Jan Updated workstream tracker provided with CE Forum update, taking into consideration new actions from refreshed Plan for Canterbury

15 Feb updated and reflects new actions - included in CMF meeting pack 23 Feb

Due Date: 29 Jan 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

6.3 Mayoral Forum activities and engagements

This item was taken as read.

**Decision**

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum received the update on Mayoral Forum activities and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 25 August 2023.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023

Mover: Craig Mackle

Seconder: Gary Kircher

Outcome: Approved

7. General business**7.1 General business****Onsite wastewater matters**

Peter Scott spoke on the issue of providing consenting to rural subdivisions for both wastewater systems and drinking water wells. The main issue is that buildings were consented, constructed, and sold before wastewater system and water rights were obtained from Environment Canterbury. Several properties have been denied consents due to groundwater concerns which leaves residents to bear the brunt of the frustration and expensive remedial options, sometimes ongoing.

It is the legal prerogative of the regional council to ensure both safe drinking water and source protection to Cantabrians. This is a frustrating situation for all involved. It was mentioned that these systems can be of equal destruction to groundwater quality as dairy and it is important to not undercut farmers who are having to make huge and expensive adjustments to better the groundwater quality. While other councils may be facing similar issues, the extremely high nitrate levels and shallow soil in Canterbury severely limits the solutions and options to proceed.

It does not seem like there is a quick solution in sight. Going forward, it was asked that councils engage with Environment Canterbury at the time they receive the initial subdivision consent application and also work with contractors to acquire consents for wastewater systems and drinking wells prior to building and selling new builds.

**Decision**

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum noted the overview of some recent challenges regarding onsite wastewater consenting for subdivided land across Canterbury.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023

Mover: Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Gary Kircher
Outcome: Approved

Update on recent Supreme Court water bottling decision

Peter Scott spoke on the recent Supreme Court judgement on the Cloud Ocean Water Limited appeal. The judgement from the Supreme Court was released on 20 November 2023 with thirty days for an appeal to be submitted. Environment Canterbury has not yet had a chance to brief council but planned to on 30 November. Overall, the council is pleased with the court's decision, particularly as it aligns with iwi wishes.

The council has indicated interest in a swift plan change which will cost more than the typical \$5-8m. This will also be affected by whether the incoming government will do an accelerated freshwater plan. Ministerial review would be the fastest path forward but since the Minister of the Environment will now sit outside cabinet, this may not be a good option. It is possible issue could be pursued by the Minister of Regulation.

This decision has been affected around 300 consents, twenty of which have no solution available under the ruling and will have to be withdrawn or returned. Those consents are often critical to industry relating to dust near quarries, roading consents, etc. Stefanie committed to keeping the Forum updated, and asked that the councils stand together on this issue.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum received the verbal update from Environment Canterbury on the Supreme Court's judgement on the Cloud Ocean Water Limited appeal.

Decision Date: 24 Nov 2023
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

7.2 Meeting review

The Forum suggested names for speakers for upcoming meetings and dinners, with emphasis on finding people around Canterbury.

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Closing karakia

The meeting was closed with a karakia at 12:11pm.

8.2 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 23 Feb 2024, 8:30 am

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 23 February 2024

Presented by: Nigel Bowen

Refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Mayoral Forum with a draft copy of the refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 for their review, feedback and final approval.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **provide final feedback and comments on the content of the refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025**
2. **delegate to the Chair and Deputy Chair final approval of the refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.**

Background

2. The Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 (the Plan) was finalised following the February 2023 Mayoral Forum meeting. At that time, it was agreed that the Plan needs to be agile and able to be updated as the triennium progresses.
3. The Mayoral Forum held a workshop in November 2023 to consider central government engagement and, as part of that workshop, how Canterbury might progress a city/regional deal, leveraging the Plan.
4. Following the workshop the Plan has been refreshed to update the actions to support the Forum's three priorities of sustainable environmental management of our habitats, shared prosperity for all our communities, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
5. The Chief Executives considered the draft refreshed Plan at their meeting on 29 January and made one suggestion that the pamphlet, with immediate priorities, was no longer required, as this was developed as a lobbying document for the 2023 general election.

What has changed

6. The pamphlet with immediate priorities has been deleted.
7. The Mayor's Foreword has been updated to reflect the changes made to the Plan, including a paragraph noting the opportunity to start and lead discussions on the drivers for change in Canterbury, which include our changing climate, regulations impact on the future of land use, including greenhouse gas emissions and water quality, and the need to capture more of the value from the diverse agricultural food and fibre production in Canterbury and retain that value in the region to create more prosperity for our communities and business. These points have also been reflected through the refreshed plan as noted in the following paragraphs.
8. The Background to the Plan has been updated to reflect the process that has been undertaken to refresh the Plan., including the need to lead discussions on the drivers for change.
9. Our shared future section has been updated to talk about the value of Canterbury and the Mayoral Forum to New Zealand and our communities, as opposed to the discussion on the previous government's reform process.
10. The priority issues have remained the same, however the text has been updated under the following sections to provide current context for the existing and new actions.

Sustainable environmental management

11. The discussion leading into the Canterbury Water Management Strategy has been updated to include the following paragraph.
 - *National and regional freshwater policy has changed since the inception of the CWMS, water is seen as an enabler for regional economic development, and more recently the relationship between water, food production and energy security and how these elements are linked to community resilience have surfaced. Consideration of water issues also needs to take place in the context of impacts/influences of climate change and how this may shape water and land management decisions going forward.*
12. The priority has been updated to be consistent with the above paragraph:
 - The Mayoral Forum will continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, taking into consideration the changing national and regional policies, along with the relationship between water, food production and energy security.

Shared prosperity

13. There is a new action related to the opportunity to develop a regional action plan to address barriers and harness opportunities to decarbonise our energy systems. There is an explanation to support this action in the preceding paragraph, in particular the

issue of energy security and the connection between this and water, food production and climate change.

14. The action for energy is also noted in the draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.
15. The transport action has been updated to reflect the discussion around funding opportunities for transport, and in particular advocating for legislation that empowers local authorities to develop local funding solutions.
16. The housing action includes a reference to the Greater Christchurch Partnership's Housing Action Plan and that the CMF strategy will build on this.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

17. The climate change mitigation and adaptation section has been updated to reflect the current status of government policy and the progress that has been made to date on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.
18. It was noted at the Chief Executive's Forum that this section, while noting that "climate change is the biggest challenge of our time" has only one action - to complete the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, which appears light. The draft partnership plan includes a number of regional actions that will likely result in a stronger focus on climate change, across all priority areas in future iterations of the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury.

Relationship engagement and management

19. This section has been updated to reflect the discussion at the Mayoral Forum workshop on the importance of engaging with key influencers within the region to progress, not only the specific actions in the Plan but also influencing and advocating for collective actions to create prosperity for the region.
20. A paragraph has also been provided to reflect the Government's policy announcements on regional/city deals.

Financial implications

21. Financial implications of implementing actions in the Plan have been taken into consideration by the Chief Executives Forum in adopting its regional forums budget for 2022/2023. Any additional funds required to implement actions in the Plan will be subject to consideration by the Chief Executives Forum. Most actions will primarily be implemented through the Forum's own leadership, facilitation and advocacy.

Communication

22. Subject to the Mayoral Forum's decision on the approval of the refreshed Plan and how they wish to publicise the Plan a communications plan will be prepared, which at a minimum will include:

- a media release to be prepared and sent to local media
- uploading to the Mayoral Forum website following formal approval
- included in briefings to Ministers and MPs

Next steps

23. The secretariat will update the draft plan to reflect feedback received today.
24. The final Plan will be provided to the Chair and Deputy Chair for final approval.
25. Following the Mayoral Forum's approval, the following will be prepared:
 - draft council briefing paper
 - draft media release
 - letters to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the chairs of the ten Canterbury Papatipu Rūnanga advising of the updates to the Plan, along with an invitation to meet
 - briefings for central government ministers (see item 4.2)
 - letters to all Canterbury MPs
 - an updated work programme to reflect the current actions

Attachments

- Attachment 1 - Refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury – update February 2024

Foreword

Ko Ngā Tiritiri o te Moana ngā maunga

Ko ngā wai huka ngā awa I rere tonu mai

Ko Ngā Pākihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha te whenua

Ko Marokura, ko Mahaanui, ko Araiteuru ngā tai

Tihei mauri ora!

The Southern Alps stand above

The snow-fed rivers continually flow forth

The plains of Waitaha extend out

To the tides of Marokura, Mahaanui and Araiteuru

Behold there is life

Picture of Mayor Nigel Bowen, Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Ki utu ki tai | From the mountains to the sea, Canterbury is an amazing place to visit, live, study, work and do business. We offer an abundance of opportunities in construction, agriculture, manufacturing, professional and technical services, the arts, culture, sport, outdoor and community activities.

This Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury builds on the 2020-2022 Plan, and includes all four aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural).

We have narrowed our focus and attention on three priority areas: sustainable environmental management, shared prosperity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Within these priority areas we have identified specific actions that we will focus on to make a difference through our leadership, facilitation and advocacy. In January 2024 we refreshed the priorities and actions in our Plan.

The Plan provides the opportunity to lead discussions on the drivers for change in Canterbury which include our changing climate; regulation impacting on the future of land use, including greenhouse gas emissions and water quality, the need to capture more of the value from the diverse agricultural food and fibre production in Canterbury and retain that

value in the region to create more prosperity for our communities and businesses. We also want to be at the forefront of discussions with central government on opportunities for regional and city deals that will benefit both Canterbury and New Zealand.

While we have refreshed parts of this Plan, the Mayoral Forum will continue its central focus on advocating for governance and decision-making to be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities.

Our Plan for Canterbury summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. It provides a basis for conversation and partnership with Ngāi Tahu, Government, tertiary education providers, and the business, community and volunteer sectors. Where our interests align, we can work together for the good of all.

Mā whero mā pango ka oti ai te mahi | With red and black the work will be complete.

We welcome the opportunity to work across our communities and with our partners to achieve our vision for Canterbury to develop sustainably while sharing prosperity and developing resilient communities who are proud of their identity.

About us – who we are – (Design Team: incl photo/map?)

The members of the Mayoral Forum are the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the chair of the Canterbury Regional Council.

The Forum is mandated by the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement and is the primary mechanism for communication, co-ordination and collaboration between councils in New Zealand's largest region.

The Forum is supported by the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum, Policy, Corporate, Operations, Economic Development and Communications and Engagement Forums, regional working groups and a permanent secretariat hosted by the Canterbury Regional Council.

For further information, see our website <https://canterburymayors.org.nz>

Background to the Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

Consistent with the purpose of the Local Government Act, the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury, takes into consideration the four independent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural), along with the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital). The Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2020-2022 had five priority issues

- sustainable environmental management
- shared economic prosperity
- better freight transport options
- climate change mitigation and adaptation
- three waters services.

We have summarised achievements of the Mayoral Forum during 2019-2022 on our website¹.

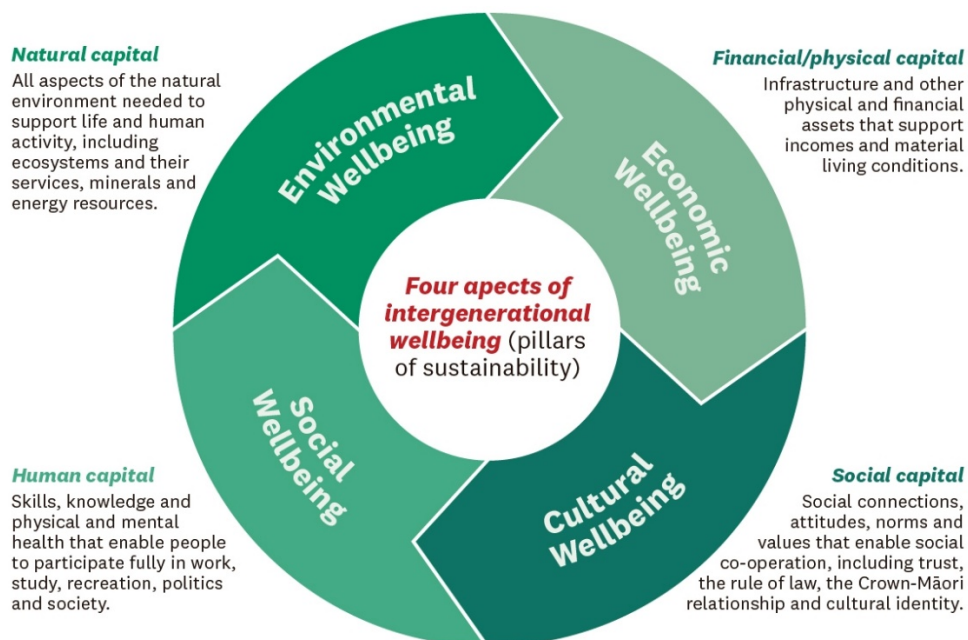
A wellbeing framework for sustainable development

Natural capital – All aspects of the natural environment needed to support life and human activity, including ecosystems and their services, minerals and energy resources.

Financial physical capital – Infrastructure and other physical and financial assets that support incomes and material living conditions.

Social capital – Social connections, attitudes, norms and values that enable social co-operation, including trust, the rule of law, the Crown-Māori relationship and cultural identity.

Human capital – Skills, knowledge and physical and mental health that enable people to participate fully in work, study, recreation, politics and society.



Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

At the first meeting of the triennium, the Mayoral Forum agreed that the Plan for Canterbury is fundamentally sound, with minor changes needed to the vision to widen 'shared economic prosperity' simply to 'shared prosperity' to ensure social prosperity is appropriately captured, and a sharper focus on priority areas for the Forum. The Plan has also been informed by Canterbury 2022: An Overview².

¹ [Mayoral Forum achievements 2019-2022 \(canterburymayors.org.nz\)](https://canterburymayors.org.nz)

² [Canterbury wellbeing overview 2022 - Canterbury Mayoral Forum \(canterburymayors.org.nz\)](https://canterburymayors.org.nz)

The Forum agreed that the Plan for Canterbury needs to be more agile and able to be updated (particularly the actions) as the triennium progresses.

With this agility in mind, the initial plan included both immediate priority actions, in light of the upcoming general election, and longer-term priorities for the full three years of this term and beyond.

This current version of the Plan for Canterbury has been refreshed to reflect updates to the priority actions to ensure that we are focused on priorities and actions that continue to support our communities now and into the future.

Outcomes from a Canterbury Mayoral Forum workshop, informed by current local government priorities and central government policies formed the basis for refreshing the Plan for Canterbury.

A key aspect in the consideration of the refresh was to lead discussions on the drivers for change in Canterbury which include our changing climate; regulation impacting on the future of land use, including greenhouse gas emissions and water quality, the need to capture more of the value from the diverse agricultural food and fibre production in Canterbury and retain that value in the region to create more prosperity for our communities and businesses.

We also want to be at the forefront of discussions with central government on opportunities for regional and city deals that will benefit both Canterbury and New Zealand.

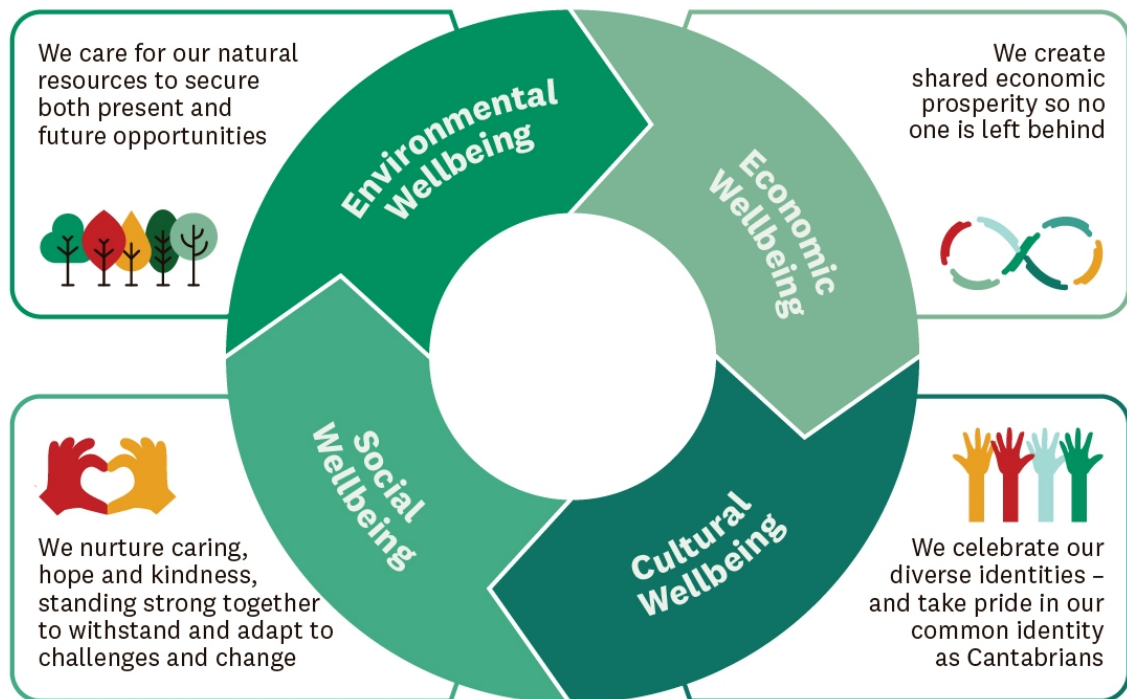
Our vision and values

Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity. We also want to make sure that sustainable development meets the needs of the present, while safeguarding the wellbeing of current and future generations.

In this we echo the guiding whakataukī of Ngāi Tahu: *Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei – for us and our children after us.*

To expand on this, our vision is that in Canterbury, all of us together:

- care for our natural resources to secure both present and future opportunities
- create shared prosperity so no one is left behind
- nurture caring, hope and kindness, standing strong together to withstand and adapt to challenges and change
- celebrate our diverse identities – and take pride in our common identity as Cantabrians.



We commit to prudent governance for the future that achieves balance between the four aspects of wellbeing. While we cannot tackle every aspect of wellbeing equally and everywhere at the same time, no single aspect of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social or cultural) is more important than any other.

We acknowledge our strength as Canterbury and strongly support the concept of localism and subsidiarity in that the function of governance and decision-making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities.

Standing together for Canterbury, we celebrate a win for any part of the region as a win for the whole region. And during hard times and when disaster strikes, we all pitch in to help. A wise and balanced approach to sustainable development requires 'gifts and gains', recognition of our diverse interests and values, and reaching agreement where we can without pushing for consensus where it does not exist.

Our shared future

Canterbury has much to offer residents, visitors, businesses and New Zealand. Our region is the largest by land area, with diverse landscapes, abundant water (over 78,000 kms of rivers and streams), and large areas of flat land. We have a strong agricultural base, with innovative farmers and agribusiness making a significant contribution to the country's GDP. We are also a strong base for tourism, with the region featuring some of New Zealand's most spectacular scenery, including mountains, braided rivers, lakes and beaches. Our economy contributes 13 per cent of New Zealand's GDP. As a region Canterbury is well connected nationally and internationally and is the main gateway to Antarctica. Canterbury has the South Island's major international airport (Christchurch), a regional airport (Timaru), two seaports (Timaru and Lyttelton) and inland ports at Rolleston.

Through the Mayoral Forum we have well established structures and an established coordinated approach to working for our communities. We want to use these to our advantage to support discussions on addressing the drivers for change in Canterbury.

Our councils are facing significant challenges and change over the coming years. The impact of inflation, central government policies and addressing climate change resilience will influence the shape and functions of local government and the communities we serve.

Ensuring a strong local voice through any changes and into the design of outcomes will be important to ensure the continued success of our local communities.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum will take every opportunity to influence central government policies and programmes to support local communities and to influence and shape local government's future for the Canterbury community. There is a willingness to work with neighbouring Mayoral Forums and groups to extend this to a Te Waipounamu/South Island collaborative governance future.

As part of our advocacy work, the Mayoral Forum makes considered submissions on government reform programmes and other legislation to provide a whole-of-Canterbury view. This will continue as the term progresses. Submissions on previous government reform legislation and *He mata whāriki, he matawhānui* (review into the future for local government draft report October 2022) are available on our website³.

A key priority for the Mayoral Forum this triennium is to work collectively, and with central government, to deliver positive and enduring outcomes for our communities, while ensuring that our communities can see the 'local', and in particular 'their local'.

Our priorities

To achieve its long-term vision, the Mayoral Forum has identified three priority issues for the Mayoral Forum's leadership, facilitation and advocacy in this local government term:

- **Sustainable environmental management** of our habitats (land, air, water and ecosystems) – focusing on land use and freshwater management
- **Shared prosperity** for all our communities – focusing on building on our economic strengths and developing emerging sectors, growing, attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, improving the transport network and coordinating strategies for housing our communities
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation** – reducing our carbon footprint, working together on climate action planning, building community resilience and making our infrastructure as strong as it can be.

Selection of these three priority areas does not mean that other issues are unimportant. Some have greater sub-regional than regional significance (for example public and active transport is primarily an issue for the Greater Christchurch Partnership), some issues are well on the way to being addressed through other avenues, and there are a number of

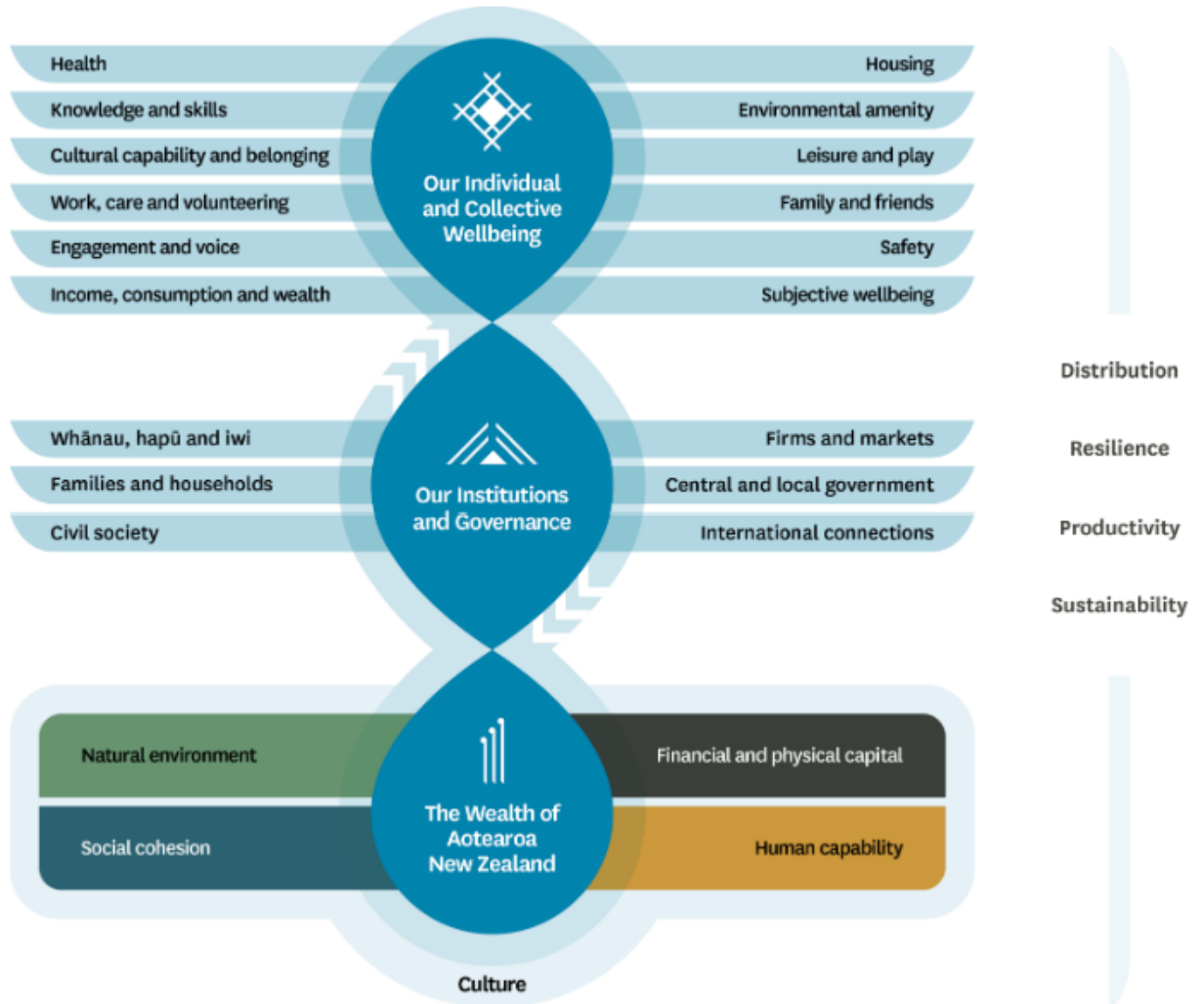
³ www.canterburymayors.org.nz

issues of importance that the Mayoral Forum care deeply about but have little or no ability to influence.

As in 2019, the Mayoral Forum used three sets of criteria to narrow a long list of issues.

Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this issue critical to the wellbeing of the region in 5-10 years' time? If we do nothing, will the issue still be important in 5-10 years' time? • Does this issue have sufficient scale, scope and complexity to require a regional focus? • Is this issue already being managed effectively by another agency or organisation?
Democratic mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there strong public concern about the issue? • Do our councils (elected members) care about the issue?
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the Mayoral Forum influence outcomes in a measurable way and if so, how?

In determining these priority areas, we have used Treasury's Living Standards Framework to prompt our thinking about wellbeing and policy impacts, and the interdependent nature of wellbeing across the four aspects that make up the wealth of Aotearoa New Zealand – the natural environment, financial and physical capital, social cohesion, and human capability. A copy of the framework is provided at Figure 1 below.



Why these are our priority issues?

Sustainable environmental management

Canterbury is New Zealand's largest region by land area. We have:

- 21% of New Zealand's highest quality soils
- 19% of the total area farmed in New Zealand
- Around 70% of New Zealand's groundwater
- 64% of the country's irrigated land area
- More than 4,700 lakes and tarns, over 78,000 km of rivers and streams, 800 km of coastline and 11,620 km² of coastal marine area.

Past land use decisions, agricultural intensification since the 1970s and increased urbanisation have, however, increased pressure on the region's rivers, streams and groundwater aquifers, and on indigenous biodiversity.

In 2009, the Mayoral Forum launched the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS)⁴ and continues to oversee its delivery. In 2019, the Forum commissioned the Fit for Future project to develop 2025 and 2030 goals for the ten target areas of the CWMS and a regional work programme to support delivery of the strategy.

National and regional freshwater policy has changed since the inception of the CWMS, water is seen as an enabler for regional economic development, and more recently the relationship between water, food production and energy security and how these elements are linked to community resilience have surfaced. Consideration of water issues also needs to take place in the context of impacts/influences of climate change and how this may shape water and land management decisions going forward.

A review of the zone committees, which support the delivery of the CWMS will take place over 2024. The review will focus on the evolution of zone committees and local leadership in freshwater management, taking into account the changes to national direction and freshwater management. Discussions will also need to take place to consider

The Mayoral Forum will continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, taking into consideration the changing national and regional policies, along with the relationship between water, food production and energy security.

Flooding is the leading most commonly occurring natural hazard in New Zealand – we only have to look across the country over the past few years to see this. Canterbury, with its more than 78,000km worth of rivers and streams, continues to be at huge risk of more events like those we saw in 2021. Future flood management solutions must consider ecological, environmental, whole of catchment and Te Mana o te Wai considerations, alongside spatial planning, managed retreat, building control and community preparedness responses.

⁴ [Canterbury Water Management Strategy | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](https://www.ecan.govt.nz/canterbury-water-management-strategy/)

The cost of improving the resilience of the protection provided by current river management schemes is significant, with regional councils estimating shortfall of investment to be in the order of \$150m per annum nationally⁵. Flood protection schemes protect local and national assets and contribute to more sustainable regional economies. Permanent co-investment in flood protection and river management shifts the focus from disaster relief and rehabilitation towards necessary top-of-the-cliff mitigation of flood risks, with reduced long-term costs.

The Mayoral Forum will continue to support the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa' business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection, an updated version of which was presented to the Government in 2022⁶.

A key part of sustainable environments is also enabling flourishing biodiversity. Native biodiversity in New Zealand is unique – many of our plants, birds, bats, insects, fungi, reptiles and fish are only found on our islands. We have a collective responsibility to safeguard our biodiversity for present and future generations. As part of this, in the last local government term the Mayoral Forum supported the formation of the regional Biodiversity Champions, an elected member group with representatives from all of Canterbury's councils, who work together to promote biodiversity and advocate for the role of councils and communities in weaving biodiversity through Canterbury's living and working landscapes.

The Mayoral Forum will continue to support the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework.

Shared prosperity

We want to build on Canterbury's strengths and create shared prosperity for all our communities.

Sharing prosperity amongst all of Canterbury's communities means all of us can benefit, ensuring better and more sustainable futures for ourselves and future generations.

Canterbury has many natural advantages, significant infrastructure, and a range of tertiary education providers and research institutes. We are well-placed for research-informed innovation in sustainable primary production and high-value manufacturing that lifts productivity and the prosperity of our region. There are opportunities to capture more of the value from the diverse agricultural food and fibre production in Canterbury and retain that value in the region to create more prosperity. These opportunities are also linked to the regional approach to water management, climate change mitigation and adaptation and energy security.

⁵ [Reports | Ko Tātou LGNZ](#)

⁶ [Reports | Ko Tātou LGNZ](#)

Despite this, Canterbury's GDP per person still lags behind the country as a whole. To lift wages and incomes, we need more skilled jobs and skilled workers to fill them – through 'growing our own' but also by attracting and retaining newcomers through internal and external migration.

The Mayoral Forum will continue to advocate with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury.

To build on our strengths, we need a sustained focus on the region's key industries, as well as an eye to transitioning the economy and developing emerging sectors. We know that agriculture plays a significantly more important role in Canterbury's economy than those of Auckland or Wellington, and generates a significant amount of economic activity from supporting industries including manufacturing, transport and warehousing, and financial and insurance services. Diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production improves market resilience and has potential to reduce environmental impact.

The Mayoral Forum will continue to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production.

Energy security will be critical for Canterbury to be able to continue to pick up and support opportunities for the region. There are strong connections in Canterbury between energy, water, food production and climate change. There are opportunities to support new technologies in the energy sector, as renewable energies become an increasingly important part of responding to climate change impacts. We need to be ready to pick up and support opportunities in these emerging sectors.

Canterbury has an opportunity to be at the forefront of an energy transition to attract and retain talent, investment and technologies.

The Mayoral Forum will support the region to foster partnerships, investigate barriers, and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community economy and environment.

In addition, Canterbury is home to a burgeoning aerospace industry because of its topography, infrastructure and proximity to international air- and sea- ports. There are exciting prospects ahead that will benefit us all.

Our region has a vast transport network. It is how we connect with each other, within Canterbury, the South Island, the rest of the country and internationally. Transport strongly influences economic development, supporting supply chains that are critical for getting our exports to market and imports back to us. The system faces a number of challenges; an increase in the number of severe weather events around the country means that the transport network needs to be more resilient than ever. Climate change effects highlight the importance of reducing transport emissions and encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport.

Maintaining and renewing our transport system to keep it fit for purpose requires significant investment, whether it be to maintain the existing network, develop new roading options or

support increased public transport. Current funding sources from local authorities and the National Land Transport Fund will not meet current needs, particularly when faced with resilience issues.

It is estimated that \$11 billion is required over the next 10 years to materially impact the range of issues transport is facing in the region. Although there is no simple solution, there are options to be investigated. The Mayoral Forum will continue to support the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee to investigate options to increase the level of funding available for the transport network in Canterbury.

The Mayoral Forum will advocate with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions

Prosperity is also about looking after ourselves and each other, celebrating our diversity and taking pride in our common identity as Cantabrians. We know that the pandemic has exacerbated demand for mental health services in Canterbury, which were already elevated following the 2010-11 earthquakes and the 2019 terrorist attack. Hearteningly, in the 2021 General Social Survey, 85% of Cantabrians rated their overall life satisfaction between 7-10 (on a scale where zero is completely dissatisfied and 10 is completely satisfied). This was higher than the national average, as well as higher than those in Auckland and Wellington respectively.

The Mayoral Forum maintains close and regular engagement with the Regional Public Service Commissioner, who is leading a joined-up work programme across Government on the following social wellbeing priorities:

- all tamariki and rangatahi in Canterbury reach their full potential (including actions focused around school engagement and attendance)
- transitioning Canterbury to become a more highly productive and sustainable economy
- equitable access to services, safe housing and tenure
- addressing family violence and sexual violence
- ensuring whanau have access to services, resources and live in healthy environments that support mental wellbeing.

The Forum has much to contribute to this work programme given how close local government is to its communities. We will continue to support and monitor progress on these critical priority areas.

Relatedly, one of the priorities for the Forum this term will be developing a regional housing strategy. Many councils own and manage social housing, as well as supporting trusts and other community organisations to build affordable housing. Safe, secure and affordable housing are key to enhancing wellbeing and therefore prosperity. We know that in some parts of Canterbury, the key issue is the quantity and/or quality of social housing, while in others it is access to affordable housing, and in other areas the issue is the volume of housing stock available – and in some places, it is a mix of all three.

Housing shortages can cause significant issues for the ability of businesses to employ the staff they need, particularly in rural and regional areas. The tight accommodation puts off prospective employees and in some areas employers have given up advertising roles because they know even if they can find the labour, they cannot find housing for them. The labour market, particularly for seasonal workers, is an incredibly tight labour market, which in some instances, is driven by the lack of affordable worker accommodation.

The Mayoral Forum will develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them⁷.

The Forum also recognises we live in a landscape with a range of natural hazards, particularly floods, fires and earthquakes. There is a 75% probability of an Alpine Fault earthquake occurring in the next 50 years, and there is a four out of five chance that it will be a magnitude 8+ event⁸. The Forum wants to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for such an event, and that people, homes, livelihoods and communities are protected from the worst impacts. The Mayoral Forum strongly supports the work of the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Climate change is the biggest challenge of our time and has systemic and intergenerational impacts. It affects our weather, health and wellbeing, natural environment, taonga species, mahinga kai, food production, biosecurity, infrastructure, and economy.

Responding to climate change is an urgent issue. We are already seeing its impacts in more frequent droughts, extreme weather events and flooding, coastal erosion, and increased fire risk. The May 2021 floods in Canterbury are a clear example of this.

As a region, we need to reduce our carbon emissions and do what we can to mitigate the effects of climate change. We also need to prepare for the changes that are ahead of us and respond to the social, environmental and economic effects of our changing climate.

The first Emissions Reduction Plan was released in 2022. It is the first statutory plan, under the Climate Change Response Act, to require the Government to act to reduce emissions right across the economy, support the transition, and seize the opportunity to lower the cost of living and improve living standards.

The National Adaptation Plan was released in 2022. The Plan sets out how New Zealand will build resilience for an uncertain future. It contains more than 120 actions, and the Ministry for

⁷ The Canterbury Mayoral Forum housing strategy will acknowledge and build on the work undertaken by the Greater Christchurch Partnership's Housing Action Plan ([Housing-Action-Plan-FINAL.pdf](https://www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/Housing-Action-Plan-FINAL.pdf) ([greaterchristchurch.org.nz](https://www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz))).

⁸ [AF8 \[Alpine Fault magnitude 8\]](#)

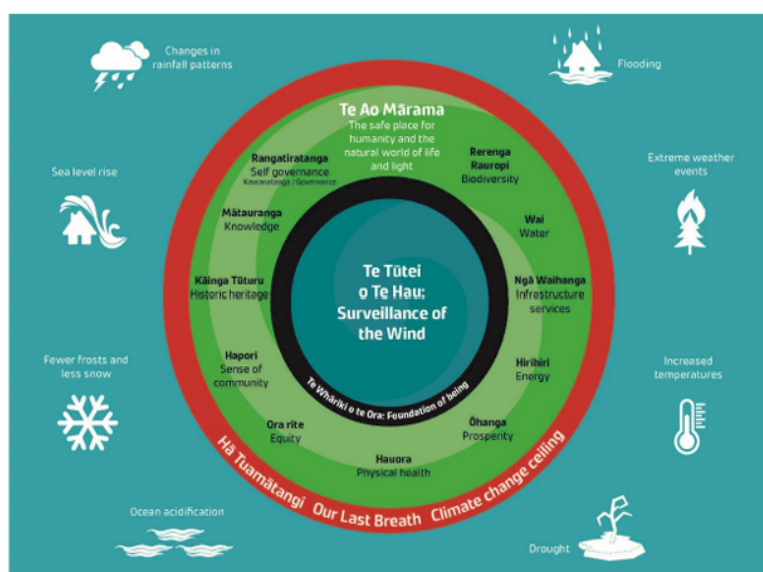
the Environment has published a summary of what the Plan will mean for local government more specifically.

Responding to climate change underpins the priority we give to environmental management and extends to:

- measuring and reducing our own carbon footprint as individual councils
- contributing to the design of Government policy and regulation and advocating for strong Government leadership through multi-party agreements to minimise political short-termism
- planning ahead in our Long-Term Plans and 30-year Infrastructure Strategies to make our infrastructure as resilient as it can be.

Regional response to climate change

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum published the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment in early 2022⁹, which has been designed to build a shared understanding of climate change risks across the region, and to help us prepare and respond effectively. The assessment centres around a framework that aligns both a Te Ao Māori worldview and the National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA) framework.



Te Whāriki o te Ora: The black ring represents whakapapa, or genealogical connection, that extends from the spiritual realm to that of the human domain. It recognises that humans cannot exist without basic needs and a social foundation.

Te Ao Mārama: The green ring represents the area in which humans can exist when we are functioning within the capacity of our ecosystems. Ngā pono (the values) identified within this circle are critical for us to understand and respond to when considering climate risk.

⁹ [Canterbury-CCRA-Report_FINAL_V5.0.pdf \(canterburymayors.org.nz\)](https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/Canterbury-CCRA-Report_FINAL_V5.0.pdf)

Hā Tuamātangi: The red ring represents the upper limit in which humans, environments and ecosystems can continue to exist. Beyond this boundary, it is no longer possible to respond to risks proactively.

Understanding the risks and opportunities from climate change now and into the future is a vital step in our efforts to curb its long-term impact in our region.

The next step following the risk assessment is to develop a regional climate change partnership plan, which will determine regional adaptation and mitigation actions and support the individual climate plans and strategies of our 11 councils. Work commenced on this at the beginning of 2023.

The Mayoral Forum will oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan, which will confirm a collaborative vision for regional adaptation planning, an 'urgency assessment' to support prioritising climate actions, and a funding plan laying out a regional/aligned approach for accessing finance for climate actions in Canterbury.

Relationship engagement and management

Building positive and enduring relationships with mana whenua, the business community, tertiary education providers, central government, and our wider communities will play a key part in achieving our goals this term.

In working alongside mana whenua, a joint understanding of what partnership means will be important. The Forum wants to grow its collaboration with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as the Treaty partner in the region, as well as with the 10 Canterbury Papatipu Rūnanga. We are keen to explore what enabling mechanisms we have to assist the 10 Rūnanga with engaging and collaborating with us on the key issues for our region and communities.

The Mayoral Forum recognises the need to work across business, government at all levels, mana whenua and communities. Engaging with key influencers across the region and beyond to work collectively to address the drivers for change in Canterbury will be one way to create more prosperity for our communities and businesses.

We must also focus on strengthening our relationships with Ministers and Members of Parliament. We can do this by:

- leveraging our individual relationships for the benefit of the whole region
- actively making the most of opportunities to engage with Ministers and our local Canterbury-based MPs
- making better use of advocates through our relationships with regional public sector officials
- take opportunities, to demonstrate the value and importance of local government
- showcase our successes and the resulting benefits to NZ Inc.

The Government's policy announcements about regional/city deals and a provincial growth fund affords us the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of Canterbury to New Zealand's economic prosperity and the significance of fit-for-purpose infrastructure to future-

proof our agricultural and tourism industries. We intend to engage with the Government at the earliest opportunity on this.

Our relationship with the business community and tertiary education providers is also crucial to achieving some of our economic development and climate resilience aspirations. We need to work closely with industry groups and representative organisations to understand what the issues are so we can target our advocacy appropriately.

Finally, we don't underestimate the importance of the relationship with our communities. Engaging Canterbury's communities in our work, and the work of local government more widely, can only serve to strengthen local democracy. One of the key things we can do is highlight and promote the importance of local government to everyday lives – people use a range of council services each and every day, from when they turn on the shower in the morning, use the transport network to get to and from work or school, borrow a library book, use a swimming pool or simply walk around a park.

Action Plan to address the priorities

1. The Mayoral Forum will continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, taking into consideration the changing national and regional policies, along with the relationship between water, food production and energy security.
2. The Mayoral Forum will continue to support the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa' business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection, an updated version of which was presented to the Government in 2022¹⁰.
3. The Mayoral Forum will continue to support the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework.
4. The Mayoral Forum will continue to advocate with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury.
5. The Mayoral Forum will continue to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production.
6. The Mayoral Forum will support the region to foster partnerships, investigate barriers, and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community economy and environment.
7. The Mayoral Forum will advocate with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions.
8. The Mayoral Forum will develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
9. The Mayoral Forum will oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan, which will confirm a collaborative vision for regional adaptation planning, an 'urgency assessment' to support prioritising climate actions, and a funding plan laying out a regional/aligned approach for accessing finance for climate actions in Canterbury.

¹⁰ [Reports | Ko Tātou LGNZ](#)

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 23 February 2024

Presented by: Nigel Bowen

Engaging with central government

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Forum with draft briefings for Central Government ministers and seek the Forum's approval to send the briefings to Ministers.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **approve the draft briefings to Central Government Ministers.**

Background

2. The Mayoral Forum held a facilitated workshop at its November 2023 meeting to look at how it might engage with the incoming government and prepare for future conversations about regional/city deals, which form a part of the National Party's plan for infrastructure. The workshop also reviewed the actions in the Plan for Canterbury to ensure they were fit-for-purpose.
3. The workshop focused on the following questions:
 - what can Canterbury offer central government?
 - what does central government want from Canterbury?
 - what does Canterbury want from central government?
 - what governance and partnerships would enable us to deliver?
4. It then looked at when and how the Forum should engage with the new government, what it could do in the interim, and what the contents of a regional or city deal might look like.
5. Some of the key themes arising from the workshop were:
 - Canterbury has connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers
 - Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the CREDS and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects

- good levels of trust need to be built between local and central government in the region so that there can be genuine partnerships
 - the Forum can help facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and so on
 - a recognition of the importance of building relationships with mana whenua, MPs, ministers and government departments, and supporting current engagements by others that are already under way, such as Te Uru Kahika, LGNZ
 - Plan for Canterbury vision and three key priority areas are still relevant and a good basis to begin engagement; some tweaking of action areas and focus areas within this, is needed.
6. The next steps were for the secretariat and workshop facilitator to analyse the workshop outputs and provide further advice on developing a plan to engage and the next steps to build a case for a regional/city deal.
 7. It was acknowledged that building a case for a regional/city deal will take time. Members discussed the possibility of either a regional deal business case, or a case that sets out the big picture for the region but has sections that focus on specific deals at the subregional level. This will be worked through as part of the next stage.
 8. Updates to the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury are discussed at item 4.1.

Proposed engagement approach

9. At the November workshop the Forum identified a range of options to build on its engagement with government and specifically with ministers:
 - connect with their local Government MP (electorate or list) to build relationships at the local level and seek their advice on improving engagement with ministers
 - support nationally-led conversations already under way; e.g. Te Uru Kahika
 - continue engagement with the Regional Public Service Commissioner to leverage connections into the public service
 - engage with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga
 - make initial connection with Hon Simeon Brown (Minister of Local Government and Transport)
 - identify key people of influence to build relationships and share the Forum's plans with – i.e. leaders of universities/tertiary institutes, key government departments or agencies, chambers of commerce, industry associations, non-government MPs
 - aim to lock in a regular meeting cycle with ministers, rather than one-offs
 - ensure the timing and focus of engagement is primed to influence Budget 2025
 - look for initial meetings in 2024, preferably in Wellington (same approach as May 2023 visit to Wellington)

- develop consistent regional messaging on LTPs to support engagement
 - bring together all existing information on potential projects that could be included in a regional deal as the basis to develop a business case.
10. Since the Forum's workshop, the following engagement actions have been completed or are under way:
- a letter was sent to the Minister of Local Government in December 2023 seeking a meeting with the Forum for an initial discussion about regional/city deals. The Minister's office has been in touch and a tentative date of 12 July has been set down for this meeting
 - regional messaging on 2024 LTPs has been completed, with the release of a press release on Wednesday 7 February (see item 6.3)
 - briefings to ministers have been prepared (see next section).
11. There is an opportunity to invite Canterbury's Government MPs to lunch following the May Forum meeting, or to arrange a meeting outside of scheduled Forums.
12. The Forum's view is sought on whether the approach outlined above is appropriate, and what other actions members might consider are necessary to achieve the level of engagement with ministers sought by the Mayoral Forum.

Ministerial briefings

13. The Mayoral Forum has previously agreed to write to a range of ministers with relevant portfolios briefing them on the key issues (and issues of mutual interest) for Canterbury. Each of these briefings will reference city/regional deals where appropriate and contain a request to meet to discuss the issues in more detail.
14. A high-level briefing to the Prime Minister has been prepared (see Attachment 1)
15. Briefings have been drafted for the following ministerial portfolios (see Attachment 2):
- finance (Hon Nicola Willis)
 - RMA reform, housing, infrastructure (Hon Chris Bishop)
 - health (Hon Shane Reti)
 - local government, transport, energy (Hon Simeon Brown)
 - immigration (Hon Erica Stanford)
 - science, innovation and technology (Hon Judith Collins)
 - emergency management and recovery (Hon Mark Mitchell)
 - agriculture (Hon Todd McClay)
 - tourism and hospitality, assoc.transport, mental health and assoc. health (Hon Matt Doocey)

- economic development (Hon Melissa Lee)
- climate change (Hon Simon Watts)
- tertiary education and skills, environment (Hon Penny Simmonds)
- regional development (Hon Shane Jones)
- rural communities (Hon Mark Patterson)

Next steps

16. Subject to any feedback on the draft briefings and the proposed approach, the secretariat will finalise the briefings.
17. Once briefings have been sent, follow-ups with ministers' offices will focus on securing a day trip to Wellington like the visit that occurred in May 2023.

Attachments

- draft briefing to Prime Minister Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
- draft briefings to Central Government Ministers

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

xx February 2024

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: C.Luxon@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Prime Minister

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

In our letter to you following the General Election, we noted the Forum would provide briefings for you and your ministers with background and context on the key issues for Canterbury and how these align with the government's policy agenda. This briefing covers the key matters at a high level we would like you to be aware of as Prime Minister. We will send more detailed briefings to your ministers, along with invitations for ministers to meet with us separately to talk about the key issues and how we will work together over the term.

We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you, either next time you are in Canterbury or we would be happy to travel to Wellington.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council, supported by our chief executives. The purpose of the Forum is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.

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The Forum was established to facilitate discussion and collaboration on matters of significance for Canterbury and its communities and enables all eleven local authorities to speak with one strong voice. The Forum's aspirations are to achieve sustainable development across the four interdependent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing) and the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital).

Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury

Each triennium the Forum prepares a strategy and action plan to guide its work. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025¹ summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity, and our Plan is focused on three priority areas:

- sustainable environmental management
- shared prosperity
- climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Within the priority areas, we have identified 9 key actions that make up our work programme. These are:

- ongoing oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
- continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection
- support of the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework
- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
- continued encouragement, support and advocacy for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production
- supporting the region to foster partnerships, to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment
- advocating with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
- developing a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- overseeing the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

For a useful background on Canterbury's economy, environment, and social and cultural wellbeing, we recommend reading *Canterbury 2022: An Overview*² – a document we developed to help inform the actions in the Plan for Canterbury.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

² <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/resources/canterbury-wellbeing-overview/>

City/regional deals

The Forum has noted with interest your Government's policy on city/regional deals. This is something we are very keen to engage on with you.

Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth that will benefit the whole of New Zealand – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation. We also have connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy from 2015-2019 and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects. The Forum also plays a role in helping to facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and so on, which would be useful in developing regional/city deals with the Government.

While we wait for further detail on this concept, and how your Government may implement proposed deals, we have written to the Minister of Local Government to suggest a meeting for an initial discussion on this topic. We will cover this matter in more detail in our briefing to Minister Brown.

Funding and financing of local government

The Mayoral Forum strongly supports the concept of localism and subsidiarity in that the function of governance and decision making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities.

One of our key areas of concern for local government's future relates to funding and financing. The current funding system for local government is not sufficient for the future – the continued reliance on rates, even following review and simplification, as the principal mechanism for funding local government is unlikely to address this issue. Local government's share of overall tax revenue has stayed at around 2 percent of GDP over the past 70 years, despite it having a growing number of roles and responsibilities. This is something we wish to partner with the Government on to ensure local government is sustainable for the future and can deliver on community needs and expectations. We would welcome a review of the current legislation to enable new funding mechanisms that sit alongside rates, along with the redesign of the long-term plan and rating provisions to enable a more simplified and streamlined process.

Local government in Canterbury has demonstrated its capability in so many ways to deliver positive health care, education, housing, and public safety outcomes based on a better understanding of our communities need. We seek to exploit our capability and experience in these areas with greater delegation of central government funding and responsibility to allow local government to deliver what is required, at the right level and at a faster pace than central government can deliver. Wellbeing stands at the heart of local government work and this contribution needs to be better understood and integrated with national systems and services.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection

schemes³. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged - the Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

Ongoing engagement with the government

We look forward to working with you and your government this term on delivering for our communities. While we will engage directly with your ministers on issues of mutual interest, we would welcome meeting with you whenever you visit the region in 2024.

Alternatively, our Forum meets on 31 May (in Ashburton), 30 August (in Christchurch), and 29 November (in Christchurch.). If you are available any of these dates meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

³ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

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xx February 2024

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: N.Willis@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Willis

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Finance. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to the Finance portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

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voice. The Forum's aspirations are to achieve sustainable development across the four interdependent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing) and the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital).

Plan for Canterbury

Each triennium the Forum prepares a strategy and action plan to guide its work. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025¹ summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity, and the Plan is focused on three priority areas:

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Within the priority areas, we have identified 9 key actions that make up our work programme. These are:

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- continued encouragement, support and advocacy for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production
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- advocacy with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing covers matters across our three priority areas.

Canterbury economy

Canterbury's economy is largely based in the primary industries. Agriculture contributed 6.7% of regional GDP in the year to March 2020, and manufacturing contributed 11%. Primary manufacturing contributed 64% of that. Agriculture and manufacturing industries are responsible for approximately 32% of all employment in the region.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

We have a burgeoning aerospace industry, and significant opportunities in science and innovation with a number of Crown Research Institutes and two universities in the region. Tourism is also a key driver in our economy, particularly for the Kaikōura, Hurunui and Mackenzie districts. Tourists can ski, snowboard, bungy jump, hike, jet boat, fish, mountain bike, raft, surf, swim, golf, see whales, dolphins, and seals, visit wineries and gardens, shop, and more, all within two hours of Christchurch².

For more details on Canterbury's economy, environment, and social and cultural wellbeing, we recommend reading Canterbury 2022: An Overview³ – a document we developed to help inform the actions in the Plan for Canterbury.

The region has a number of key infrastructure projects under way or planned across the region, including:

- a second bridge over the Ashburton/Hakatere river
- construction of a new \$344 million Antarctica research base in Timaru before being transported to Scott Base
- the road-rail freight hub in Ashburton
- Woodend bypass
- development of Wakatu Quay in Kaikōura
- completion of the multi-use arena and Parakiore recreation and sports centre in Christchurch.

City/regional deals

The Forum has noted with interest your government's policy on city/regional deals. This is something we are very keen to engage on with you.

As demonstrated above, Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth that will benefit the whole of New Zealand – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation. We also have connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy from 2015-2019 and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects. The Forum also plays a role in helping to facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and so on, which would be useful in developing regional/city deals with the Government.

While we wait for further detail on this concept and how your government may implement proposed deals, we have written to the Minister of Local Government to suggest a meeting for an initial discussion on this topic. We will cover this matter in more detail in our briefing to Minister Brown but wanted to bring it to your attention as Minister of Finance.

Funding and financing of local government

The Mayoral Forum strongly supports the concept of localism and subsidiarity in that the function of governance and decision making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities.

² <https://www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/choose-new-zealand/regions-cities/canterbury>

³ https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/7080_CMF_Canterbury_Wellbeing_Overview_SEP_2022.pdf

One of our key areas of concern for local government's future relates to funding and financing. The current funding system for local government is not sufficient for the future – the continued reliance on rates, even following review and simplification, as the principal mechanism for funding local government is unlikely to address this issue. Local government's share of overall tax revenue has stayed at around 2 percent of GDP over the past 70 years, despite it having a growing number of roles and responsibilities. This is something we wish to partner with the Government on to ensure local government is sustainable for the future and can deliver on community needs and expectations. We would welcome a review of the current legislation to enable new funding mechanisms that sit alongside rates, along with the redesign of the long-term plan and rating provisions to enable a more simplified and streamlined process.

Local government in Canterbury has demonstrated its capability in so many ways to deliver positive health care, education, housing and public safety outcomes based on a better understanding of our communities need. We seek to utilise our capability and experience in these areas through a greater delegation of central government funding and responsibility to allow local government to deliver what is required, at the right level and at a faster pace than central government can deliver. Wellbeing stands at the heart of local government work and this contribution needs to be better understood and integrated with national systems and services.

Investment in research, science and technology

Greater investment in science, research and innovation is needed to help the pastoral sector manage challenges of climate change and consumer expectation and take up new opportunities. Investment in science is required to help identify the potential benefits of diversifying land-use. In the examples of successful on-farm land-use diversification that we are aware of, partnership with a research provider appeared to be a critical component. Some land-use diversification is likely to be needed to achieve climate goals while minimising impacts on productivity. We view land-use diversification as one example of the applied research and partnership areas that should be invested in within research funding options that government and industry make, or have made, available.

Given the importance of agriculture to the region's economic development, the Mayoral Forum has had a sustained focus over the past few local government terms on supporting the diversification of the pastoral sector and adding value to agricultural production. The Forum has recently completed a multi-year project, led by ChristchurchNZ and the University of Canterbury, to boost value-added production focused on food, fibre and agritech and high-value manufacturing. The project included exploration of industry 'clusters' that exist and exploring how best to support and grow them; facilitating industry events, including the annual Food, Fibre and Agritech Challenge, many of whom that have entered are now being mentored to grow their businesses; and the production of industry roadmaps that will support new businesses in finding the right pathways to market.

The Forum wishes to continue to support and advocate for continued investment in diversifying and adding value to the sector and is interested in discussing how it can work more closely with central government on this.

Lincoln is home to Canterbury's science hub, where Lincoln University, AgResearch, Plant and Food Research, and Manaaki Whenua are based. As you will know, a key part of the work these research organisations are focused on is sustainable land use and moving the agricultural sector to a lower emissions future. Local government is keen to support improved government investment in the land-based CRIs,

particularly on technologies to help mitigate climate change impacts, so they can drive innovation and improve outcomes in the pastoral sector.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes⁴. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and as our economy relies on agricultural production and we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged - the Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

Conclusion

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

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Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
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xx February 2024

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: c.bishop@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Bishop

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Housing and Infrastructure. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in these roles and assisting you and the government with delivering great outcomes for our communities.

We recognise there is a strong link between housing, infrastructure and RMA reform, along with other government portfolios, on achieving the government's goals and we want to help you get there.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

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- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing covers our key priority areas as they relate to your particular portfolios.

Resource Management Reform

The Mayoral Forum recognises the need for a resource management system that works for our communities, supports growth in infrastructure, and safeguards the environment and reduces regulatory impacts.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

Resource management is a core business of local government, from developing plans to processing and monitoring consents and we have significant expertise in this area. We are also very aware of the cost implications for councils, businesses and the community through uncertainty and changes in planning systems.

The Forum generally supports the need for greater integration of the resource management and infrastructure legislative systems and sees regional spatial strategies in particular, as an important tool to enable that integration.

We want to work alongside you and your officials as you progress resource management reform to ensure that the system will work for our communities, safeguard the environment, and reduce regulatory impacts.

Freshwater regulations

The Forum notes that the Government will replace the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020. We understand that the process to do so is expected to take between 18 to 24 months and will include a thorough consultation process with stakeholders. Again, we want to work with you and your officials as you progress this and we look forward to hearing further details about this process.

We have also written to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture on this topic.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure to support economic growth

Good quality infrastructure is fundamental to economic development and community wellbeing. We need transport, water and energy systems, along with hospitals, schools and housing to keep our communities functioning, and to support our aspirations. The Forum is focused on ensuring the region has the infrastructure to support economic growth.

The region is cognisant that improved transport infrastructure is needed to support economic growth – so our communities and visitors can get around more easily and our goods can get to market more efficiently. While commitments at the central government level (though the ‘Transport for the Future’ policy) have been made for a second Ashburton bridge and the Woodend Bypass, the Forum is keen to see the Greater Christchurch Partnership’s mass rapid transit business case² be approved and funded. More generally, we want to see a review of transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions. This is something we will cover in more detail in our briefing to the Minister of Transport.

Improved tourism infrastructure would support our region’s economic growth. From smaller infrastructure like public toilets and EV and e-bike charging facilities through to improved and resilient infrastructure to manage cruise ships, tourist accommodation, road, walking and cycle trail maintenance, and events, there is an ongoing need for central government support. We are aware that as part of National’s ‘Boosting Tourism’ policy, the proposed National Infrastructure Agency will be asked to work with local councils to ensure destinations with high visitor numbers, but low ratepayer bases can access the funding they need to support tourism infrastructure. We look forward to hearing more from the Government on this policy.

² <https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz/urbangrowthprogramme/transport>

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum strongly supports the Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes³. Climate change is well and truly upon us. Our economy relies on agricultural production and we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Flood resilience infrastructure is vital to prevent losses and reduce recovery costs. Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged. The Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

City/regional deals

The Forum has noted with interest your government's policy on city/regional deals. This is something we are very keen to engage on with you.

Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth that will benefit the whole of New Zealand – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation. We also have connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy from 2015-2019 and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects. The Forum also plays a role in helping to facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and so on, which would be useful in developing regional/city deals with the Government.

While we wait for further detail on this concept and how your government may implement proposed deals, we have written to the Minister of Local Government to suggest a meeting for an initial discussion on this topic and also to the Minister for Regional Development on this matter. We will cover this matter in more detail in our briefing to Minister Brown but wanted to bring it to your attention as Minister for Housing and Infrastructure.

Housing

One of our key actions this triennium is to develop a housing strategy and action plan for the region. This will provide a whole-of-region overview of the various housing challenges experienced by our communities and the actions needed to resolve them, noting that because we have a mix of rural and urban areas, each part of Canterbury has different housing challenges and needs. The work will support, rather than duplicate, the housing action plans already in place by some councils and provide a regional overview of the issues and propose a range of options for the pathway forward to overcome current challenges. The strategy and action plan are currently at the scoping stage and we would welcome a conversation with you and your colleagues on how we can work together on improving housing outcomes for our communities as part of the Government's 'Going for Housing Growth' housing policy.

³ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

We consider safe, secure, and affordable housing is key to enhancing wellbeing and therefore prosperity of our communities. We know that in some parts of Canterbury, the key issue is the quality of social housing, while in others it is access to affordable housing, and in other areas, the issue is the volume of housing stock available. In some places, it is a mix of all three.

Housing challenges impact the prosperity and wellbeing of rural and regional areas particularly because shortages can cause significant issues for businesses to employ the staff they need. We know in some parts of our region, employers have simply stopped advertising for employees because they know there is nowhere for them to live.

The Forum will keep you and relevant ministerial colleagues updated on progress with our strategy and action plan.

Engagement with the government

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

xx February 2024

Hon Shane Reti
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: S.Reti@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Reti

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum: Health

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Health. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to this portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council, supported by our chief executives. The purpose of the Forum is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.

The eleven local authorities are: Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council.

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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C/- Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140 T: 03 345 9323

The Forum was established to facilitate discussion and collaboration on matters of significance for Canterbury and its communities and enables all eleven local authorities to speak with one strong voice. The Forum's aspirations are to achieve sustainable development across the four interdependent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing) and the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital).

Plan for Canterbury

Each triennium the Forum prepares a strategy and action plan to guide its work. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025¹ summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity, and the Plan is focused on three priority areas:

- sustainable environmental management
- shared prosperity
- climate change mitigation and adaptation.

It is also worth noting that the Forum governs the Canterbury Water Management Strategy². Given the importance of agriculture to the economy, the way our communities store and use water are critical. For us, water is therefore an enabler for regional economic development, but it also impacts on food production and energy security – which in turn links to community resilience and wellbeing. The intertwined nature of economic and social development is the basis for our key priority area in the Plan for Canterbury of shared prosperity for all our communities.

Within the priority areas, we have identified 9 key actions that make up our work programme. These are:

- ongoing oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
- continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection
- support of the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework
- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
- continued encouragement, support and advocacy for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production
- support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment
- advocacy with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

² <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-water-management-strategy/>

Our briefing focuses on our key priority area of shared prosperity.

Canterbury: health and local government

By way of background, Canterbury is New Zealand's largest region by land area, and second-largest by population, and has the largest tertiary, research and teaching hospital in the South Island.

Our region is home to a wide range of rural, remote and urban communities, all with differing health needs and challenges. While not a function of local government, many councils are directly and indirectly involved in health because we have a legislated role to promote the wellbeing of our communities³.

Many local authorities have included outcomes relating to healthy communities amongst the community outcomes within their long-term plans, despite not actually having a role in the delivery of "front-line" health services. This is because the impacts of health policies set at a national level, or investment decisions made by Te Whatu Ora impact the local level. A good example of this is that issues in the mental health system or with addiction services often manifest themselves in increases in crime, rough sleeping/homelessness and the like across local communities.

Despite local government having a legislated mandate to improve communities' wellbeing, at present, local authorities have limited opportunities to influence health outcomes at the community level. However, there are some ways in which we can, and do, impact health and health outcomes already. For example:

- councils provide recreation and leisure facilities intended to promote physical activity and to have a positive impact on community health including reducing the cost of health treatment for district health boards. Most of these facilities are heavily subsidised by council rates
- cycleways and walking facilities also provide health benefits in addition to being sustainable modes of transport
- council regulatory services are undertaken with a health perspective, including food premises licensing and inspection and building and resource consenting
- local authorities regularly advocate to central government and other providers for health resources and facilities. The 'Heartland Group' of Local Government New Zealand (rural and provincial councils) came out of the Health Action Group formed to combat the withdrawal of rural health services in the late 1980s and 1990s
- many local authorities support the local provision of medical services through funding, ownership of health facilities and other support.

Some local authorities have stepped in when Government provision of health services have been withdrawn. Waitaki District Health Services Limited, a council-controlled organisation wholly owned by the Waitaki District Council, has operated Oamaru Hospital since 1998 when Health Care Otago stopped providing health services in the area. The company reports to the Council as its shareholder. The Council's primary objective for continued ownership and control of the company is to ensure the healthcare needs and interests of its district are met through the provision of quality, locally based healthcare services.

Further, Selwyn District Council partnered with former Canterbury DHB on the Selwyn Health Hub, an integrated health centre in Rolleston, opened in mid-2022, that provides a full suite of health services for residents – including a birthing unit and dental services. The Council proposed the partnership in 2017 as a

³ In 2019 the purpose of local government was amended in the Local Government Act 2002 to include "to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future".

way to improve access to health services for Selwyn's rapidly-growing population. The Council owns the centre and Te Whatu Ora South Canterbury is the primary leaseholder.

Health workforce issues

As you'll be aware, accessing GP services is an increasing issue across the country, but particularly in rural areas. The problem is only going to get worse, with a 2022 survey by the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners finding that 37 percent of GPs intend to retire in the next five years, and 55 percent plan in the next 10 years. Sadly, 31 percent rate themselves as unlikely to recommend a career in general practice⁴.

Given the workforce issues, the Forum is interested in learning more about the Government's plans to train more doctors, nurses and midwives and will keep a watching brief on progress.

Health reforms

We were interested to see that in December you appointed a Crown observer to work with the board of Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand to overcome a range of issues with the 2022 reforms, including health workforce and hospital wait times.

When the health reforms were proposed and legislation developed, the Forum made a submission on the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill to ensure there was a Canterbury local government voice⁵. A number of points we made in that submission remain relevant and we wish to reiterate them to you:

- one of the objectives of Health New Zealand is to encourage community participation in health improvement and service delivery. This goes to first element of the purpose of local government – as an agent through which communities make decisions and take action. Local government has an important role to play in bringing together those who can influence results
- there is a need to strengthen the health prevention agenda already championed by local government, and an opportunity with the reform process to reinforce the 'Wellbeing First' focus of local government
- the reform process offers an opportunity to demonstrate that properly resourced local government health and wellbeing promotion reduces the burden on primary and public health
- the reforms offer a chance to establish an integrated partnership between central government, local government health and social service agencies and communities focused on promoting health outcomes.

In short, we see a need for a much stronger voice for local government in the new health structure. This goes back to our support for the subsidiarity principle, whereby that the function of governance and decision-making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities. Local government knows our communities and their challenges, and will provide valuable input into locality plans to ensure they are fit for purpose for all the diverse communities in a locality. This needs to be recognised.

⁴ <https://www.rnzcgp.org.nz/our-voice/data-and-statistics/>

⁵ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CMF-submission-Pae-Ora-Healthy-Futures-Bill-Dec-2021-1.pdf>

The Forum attempted to engage with the board of Te Whatu Ora following its establishment, met with the former Minister of Health last year on the topic, and sought information numerous times from the new agency about local government's role in determining locality boundaries and locality plans. We had little success with this engagement and are still relatively unclear on the process and the intended role for local government in the new structure. We would appreciate some clarity, as we would value working with central government in partnership to achieve the best outcomes possible for our communities.

Engagement with the government

We trust this briefing has been helpful. We would like to meet with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

The Forum is happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury. Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

xx February 2024

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Energy
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: S.Brown@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Brown

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Local Government, Transport and Energy. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to these portfolios and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We look forward to meeting with you, tentatively booked for 12 July 2024, to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. If the opportunity arises before July we would be happy to travel to Wellington to meet.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

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- advocate with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

For a useful background on Canterbury's economy, environment, and social and cultural wellbeing, we recommend reading *Canterbury 2022: An Overview*² – a document we developed to help inform the actions in the Plan for Canterbury.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

² <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/resources/canterbury-wellbeing-overview/>

Local government

City/regional deals

The Forum has noted with interest your government's policy on city/regional deals. This is something we are very keen to engage on with you, as noted in our December 2023 letter to you.

Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth that will benefit the whole of New Zealand – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation. We also have connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy from 2015-2019 and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects. The Forum also plays a role in helping to facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and so on, which would be useful in developing regional/city deals with the Government.

While we await further detail on this concept and how your government may implement proposed deals, we look forward to meeting with you to begin the conversation about what deals might look like, and how the policy intersects with the Regional Infrastructure Fund. We have also included this topic in our briefings to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Regional Development.

Funding and financing of local government

The Mayoral Forum strongly supports the concept of localism and subsidiarity in that the function of governance and decision making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities.

One of our key areas of concern for local government's future relates to funding and financing. The current funding system for local government is not sufficient for the future. The continued reliance on rates, even following review and simplification, as the principal mechanism for funding local government is unlikely to address this issue. Local government's share of overall tax revenue has stayed at around 2 percent of GDP over the past 70 years, despite it having a growing number of roles and responsibilities. This is something we wish to partner with the Government on to ensure local government is sustainable for the future and can deliver on community needs and expectations. We would welcome a review of the current legislation to enable new funding mechanisms that sit alongside rates, along with the redesign of the long-term plan and rating provisions to enable a more simplified and streamlined process.

Local government in Canterbury has demonstrated its capability in so many ways to deliver positive health care, education, housing and public safety outcomes based on a better understanding of our communities need. We seek to utilise our capability and experience in these areas through a greater delegation of central government funding and responsibility. This will allow local government to deliver what is required, at the right level and at a faster pace than central government can deliver.

Wellbeing stands at the heart of local government work and this contribution needs to be better understood and integrated with national systems and services.

Three waters

The Forum acknowledges that the previous government's three waters legislation has been repealed as part of the Government's 100-day plan, and that the proposed *Local Water Done Well* policy will set the direction for the future of three waters.

We note that *Local Water Done Well* proposes an approach that retains community ownership and delivers high water quality while ensuring there is sufficient investment in water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Our councils have begun discussing how we might arrive at the most appropriate model for Canterbury, or sub-regionally, for water service delivery that meets water quality and infrastructure investment rules, while being financially sustainable in the long-term.

We would welcome any updates from you regarding the planned implementation of *Local Water Done Well*.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes³. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged. The Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

Transport

Canterbury's transport network

Canterbury's current transport network is made up of a number of nationally and regionally significant transport routes connecting people and communities in the region to the north, south and west. Freight travels across the network via land (road and rail), sea and air. The main seaports at Lyttelton and Timaru are connected via the existing rail and state highway networks, while Christchurch International Airport is connected via the state highway network with opportunities for a future rail connection. Lyttelton Port Company operates the inland port at Rolleston, a major freight hub for the South Island with rail connection to the sea port.

Canterbury is the largest region in New Zealand by land area, with 44,508 square kilometres of diverse communities and landscapes, extending from north of the Clarence River to south of the Waitaki, and from the main divide of the Southern Alps to the South Pacific Ocean. We comprise some of the largest and

³ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

fastest-growing urban areas in New Zealand. Greater Christchurch is New Zealand's second most populous urban area and the decentralisation of people and jobs away from Christchurch's central city post-earthquakes has had a substantial impact on our transport networks.

Outside of the main urban areas, Canterbury is sparsely populated, and our rural communities often need to travel significant distances to access even basic services. This is particularly the case in our least populated districts; Kaikoura, Mackenzie and Waimate, which represent three of the four least populated districts in the country. There is effectively no transport choice in these areas other than private vehicle, which makes these parts of the region almost entirely dependent on improvements in our vehicle fleet to reduce transport sector emissions.

Transport strongly influences economic development, supporting supply chains and plays a key role as an enabler for each sector of the regional economy. Efficient and effective transport options are critical for our communities and businesses. Maintenance of the existing transport network, and additional investment to respond to changes in how roads are being used, is therefore critical to sustaining the region's prosperity.

Transport network funding issues

Current funding sources (a combination of council contributions and funding through the National Land Transport Fund) are not sufficient to ensure the region's transport network is fit for purpose. We have previously advocated that significant additional investment of \$1 billion is required to ensure road maintenance, network resilience, and emissions reductions are managed appropriately⁴.

The Canterbury region represents approximately 12 percent of New Zealand by population but 13 percent of national GDP and over 16 percent of the national roading network by length. However, in the 2021-24 NLTP Canterbury only received approximately 5-8 percent of forecast NLTP expenditure. Our expectation is that a higher share of the revenue generated from our region is returned to be spent in Canterbury this NLTP period.

The Forum wishes to work with the Government to find an integrated and more sustainable approach to transport funding to bridge this gap. This is reflected in our *Plan for Canterbury* - "to advocate with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions".

Key transport projects

We note that the Government's 100-day plan commits to beginning work on a new government policy statement reflecting the new Roads of National Significance and new public transport priorities. The Forum is interested in understanding when this work will begin and how local government might be involved⁵.

As you know, transport networks have a significant role in enhancing quality of life and supporting New Zealand's economic potential. We were pleased to see the Woodend Bypass and a second Ashburton

⁴ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/canterbury-mayoral-forum-revise-plan-for-canterbury/>

⁵ In September 2023 the Forum made a joint submission with the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee on the Ministry of Transport's draft transport GPS: <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CMF-CRTC-submission-on-Draft-2024-GPS-Land-Transport.pdf>

bridge reflected in the Government's transport commitments as we have long advocated for these. We are also strongly supportive of the mass rapid transit business case put forward for Greater Christchurch for a mass rapid transit system⁶. The business case sets out compelling reasons for why a mass rapid system is needed and the range of benefits – economic, environmental, and social – that would result from it. The Forum notes that the Government has committed to investigating the business case only at this stage; we urge you to commit funding to this important project.

Network resilience – natural hazards and climate change

Our transport network needs to have a long-term focus on ensuring it can continue to operate in times of stress or adversity, rather than one that focuses on recovery each time an event occurs.

Canterbury has a range of natural hazard risks that impact on the resilience of the transport network, most notably river flooding, surface flooding and coastal inundation. The severity and frequency of these events are increasing. The result can often be the isolation of communities and significant disruption to supply chains, as happened in the 2019 flooding of the Rangitata river, and the 2021 flooding that caused severe damage to the Ashburton bridge.

Earthquake risk also continues to be a key natural hazard risk for the region, particularly in relation to an alpine fault rupture. The damage, and resulting disruption, to road and rail networks following the 2010-11 earthquake sequence in the region, and the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake, are well-known.

Canterbury has a heavy reliance on bridges for river crossings on critical freight and visitor routes. The changing climate is expected to increase network vulnerability, with increased exposure to risks associated with sea level rise, coastal erosion and storm surges. Much of the region is low-lying, and key transport corridors (including State Highway 1 and the Main North rail line) are coastal.

The Mayoral Forum supports the Regional Transport Committee's target of a 30 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from land transport in Canterbury by 2030. There are a number of initiatives under way in the region to support this, including:

- Timaru's MyWay on-demand public transport system
- improving our existing Greater Christchurch public transport system through the delivery of the Public Transport Futures Programme (this includes better bus frequency and reliability, readily accessible real-time information, a fully electric bus fleet and more bus shelters and bus priority lanes)
- Greater Christchurch business case for a mass rapid transit system
- decarbonisation of the bus fleet
- Fairfield Freight Hub in Ashburton
- piloting the national ticketing solution for public transport
- community vehicle trusts in some rural areas
- increasing the number of cycleways in Greater Christchurch.

In addition, the current Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan has a headline target of 100% increase in tonnage of freight moved by rail in Canterbury. The Mayoral Forum supports the RTC's policies to

⁶ <https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz/urbangrowthprogramme/transport>

collaborate and coordinate planning to prioritise investment to optimise freight mode shift and support investment to provide a resilient freight network.

Energy

The Forum was pleased to read the Government's *Electrify NZ* policy. As the policy notes, 40% of New Zealand's emissions come from transport and energy; transitioning those sectors to clean electricity could deliver a significant reduction in emissions.

Renewable energies are therefore a recognised and important part of responding to the impacts of climate change. Canterbury's diverse landscape and climate has much potential to generate renewable energy through water, wind and sunshine.

In Canterbury some key renewable energy projects under way or proposed include:

- a solar farm located near Christchurch Airport that will span around 300 hectares on land just behind the airport's runways. It will consist of approximately 300,000 solar panels, making it among the largest solar farms in New Zealand
- Genesis Energy, as part of a joint venture with an Australian company, is developing and building a solar power farm (90,000 hectares) in Lauriston on the Canterbury Plains, due to be constructed in 2024
- a planned wind farm near Waipara, with 93 megawatt capacity
- Lodestar energy has plans to develop three solar farms at Clandeboye, Mt Somers and Dunsandel.

We have identified energy as an opportunity in the *Plan for Canterbury* because energy security will be critical for Canterbury as we look to the challenges ahead – there are clearly strong connections in Canterbury between energy, water, food production and climate change.

Canterbury has an opportunity to be at the forefront of an energy transition to attract and retain talent, investment and technologies. The Mayoral Forum will support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment.

Although this work is only at the very early stages, we would appreciate a discussion with you and your officials about how we can work with central government on this.

We are also interested in understanding the Government's intentions regarding the planned National Energy Strategy that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment was developing in the latter stages of 2023. We are supportive of this work, as guidance at a national level would help regions develop their own strategies.

Ongoing engagement with the government

We trust this briefing has been helpful. I look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail. Following that, we would look to engage with you further in a more regular series of meetings.

Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

xx February 2024

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Immigration
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Stanford

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Immigration. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to this portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We recognise there is a strong link between immigration and skills, housing, economic development, infrastructure and regional development. We are also providing briefings to ministers in these portfolios.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

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Plan for Canterbury

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- sustainable environmental management
- shared prosperity
- climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Within the priority areas, we have identified 9 key actions that make up our work programme. These are:

- ongoing oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
- continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection
- support of the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework
- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
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- advocacy with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
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- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing covers our key priority area of shared prosperity and the action outlined above of advocating for immigration policies that work for Canterbury.

Immigration settings

Immigration has a critical role in promoting Canterbury's economic and cultural well-being. With increasing global competitiveness for labour and skills, the Mayoral Forum considers New Zealand's need for well-

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

balanced immigration policies that enable employers and firms to maintain economic competitiveness has never been greater.

In Canterbury, immigration plays an absolutely crucial role in filling critical skills shortages, particularly in the primary industries. The current labour constraints due to the pandemic have demonstrated just how crucial, with anecdotal evidence showing that in some businesses, there is extreme stress on existing employees and owners and reports of increased burnout and retention issues. There has also been a loss of productivity because work has been physically unable to be completed, and more time being spent trying to recruit new staff.

These labour constraints have particularly affected the wellbeing of rural communities. In many rural areas, prior to the pandemic, immigrants have revived areas that were actually in decline, meaning that those areas were able to attract and/or retain businesses or services they would not have had otherwise.

The Forum is well aware that despite our advantages and economic contribution to New Zealand, Canterbury's GDP per person still lags behind the country as a whole. To lift wages and incomes, we need more skilled jobs and skilled workers to fill them – through 'growing our own' but also by attracting and retaining newcomers through internal and external migration.

We strongly support designing immigration settings that result in a more flexible system, rather than a one size fits all approach. Immigration policy needs to be able to better support rural and regional New Zealand, as well as the larger urban areas. We have previously advocated that the immigration system should be focused on:

- supporting economic growth and access for employers to skilled workforce
- supporting international connectivity
- responding to migrants' needs, providing clear and achievable pathways, and be easily navigable
- working in partnership across the country with employers, employees, government, and industry groups, enabling industry to provide solutions that are supported by Government.

We also consider it imperative that the immigration system reflects the need for 'low' and 'medium' skilled labour. Immigration policy should acknowledge the reality that there are jobs that New Zealanders are not able, skilled, or willing to do at every level.

From a Canterbury perspective, the CMF believes there is value in considering the development of regional skills and labour shortage lists. In a region as large as Canterbury, we also need sub-regional skills shortage lists – e.g. Mid-Canterbury, North Canterbury, South Canterbury, and Greater Christchurch, for example. This is because the employment environment in the provincial and rural hinterland is quite different to that of Christchurch. We also support regional visas.

Canterbury is also a strong supporter of the Welcoming Communities initiative, which Ashburton, Timaru, Waimakariri, Selwyn and Hurunui District Councils are participating members in.

The Forum made a comprehensive submission to the Productivity Commission in 2021 when it was reviewing New Zealand's immigration settings², which covers in greater detail the points we have made above.

² https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CMF_Submission_Productivity_Commission_immigration_settings-2021.pdf

The Forum is keen to understand whether the Government is intending to continue with the previous government's plans for an immigration Government Policy Statement, and how local government can feed into this process.

Canterbury's collaborative work on immigration

The Canterbury Economic Development Forum, an officer-level forum that sits under the Mayoral Forum structure, has work under way to support the Mayoral Forum's aspirations on immigration. This involves data collection through business surveys to support discussion of skills gaps and related problems with evidence. It is also exploring whether it would be worthwhile to do a regional analysis of Canterbury's future economy.

Engagement with the government

We trust this briefing has been helpful. We would like to meet with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

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Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
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xx February 2024

Hon Judith Collins
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: J.Collins@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Collins

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to this portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

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Our briefing covers matters relevant to all three of our priority areas.

Government policy approach

We are aware of the Government's policies to boost the technology sector and are supportive of initiatives that will see a more strategic approach to immigration and a focus on making it easier for start-ups and other early-stage companies to attract and retain talent.

Local government is keen to work with central government to help facilitate these changes, and would welcome a discussion with you on how we can approach this. Below is some information on science and

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

innovation areas that are of particular interest and importance to our region – agritech (and the wider primary industries) and aerospace.

Investment in the pastoral sector

In Canterbury, agriculture plays a significant role in the regional economy, contributing \$2.7 billion to Canterbury’s regional GDP in 2020 (by comparison, agriculture contributed \$359 million to the Auckland economy and \$274 million to Wellington’s economy in the same period). Agriculture also generates a significant amount of economic activity across the region from supporting industries, including primary manufacturing, other manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical services, owner-occupied property operation, transport and warehousing, and financial and insurance services. The agriculture and manufacturing industries are responsible for around 30% of employment in the region.

Almost 2.6 million hectares of land in Canterbury was used for farming in 2019 – 19% of the total area farmed in New Zealand. Dairy cattle farming is by far the largest generator of primary industries GDP in Canterbury, followed by sheep, beef and grain farming².

Greater investment in science, research and innovation is needed to help the pastoral sector manage challenges of climate change and consumer expectation and take up new opportunities. Investment in science is required to help identify the potential benefits of diversifying land-use. In the examples of successful on-farm land-use diversification that we are aware of, partnership with a research provider appeared to be a critical component. Some land-use diversification is likely to be needed to achieve climate goals while minimising impacts on productivity. We view land-use diversification as one example of the applied research and partnership areas that should be invested in within research funding options that government and industry make, or have made, available.

Given the importance of agriculture to the region’s economic development, the Mayoral Forum has had a sustained focus over the past few local government terms on supporting the diversification of the pastoral sector and adding value to agricultural production. The Forum has recently completed a multi-year project, led by ChristchurchNZ and the University of Canterbury, to boost value-added production focused on food, fibre and agritech and high-value manufacturing. The project included exploration of industry ‘clusters’ that exist and exploring how best to support and grow them; facilitating industry events, including the annual Food, Fibre and Agritech Challenge, many of whom that have entered are now being mentored to grow their businesses; and the production of industry roadmaps that will support new businesses in finding the right pathways to market.

The Forum wishes to continue to support and advocate for continued investment in diversifying and adding value to the sector, and is interested in discussing how it can work more closely with central government on this.

Lincoln is home to Canterbury’s science hub, where Lincoln University, AgResearch, Plant and Food Research, and Manaaki Whenua are based. As you will know, a key part of the work these research organisations are focused on is sustainable land use and moving the agricultural sector to a lower emissions future. Some key work under way of interest to the Forum includes:

² For a more detailed overview of agriculture’s economic contribution to Canterbury, see Canterbury 2022: An Overview - <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/resources/canterbury-wellbeing-overview/>

- mitigating methane emissions from sheep, cows, deer and goats, as well as developing animals that are better adapted to high temperature environments (including being first in the world to successfully develop low methane-emitting sheep genetic lines and methods for rapid screening of breeding stock)
- trialling the genetically modified technology High Metabolisable Energy (HME) ryegrass.

The Forum noted with interest that liberalising genetic engineering laws is contained in coalition agreements with both the Act Party and New Zealand First. The Forum supports a comprehensive national conversation on the risks, benefits and other impacts of changing our current stance on genetic engineering. Reviewing the rules on this could pave the way for New Zealand to be at the forefront of innovation for the pastoral sector, while ensuring that our health and environment remain protected.

Local government is keen to support improved government investment in the land-based CRIs, particularly on technologies to help mitigate climate change impacts, so they can drive innovation and improve outcomes in the pastoral sector.

Investment in aerospace

As you will be aware, Canterbury has a burgeoning aerospace industry, with Christchurch being the first area in New Zealand to have a formally established aerospace organisation. This part of our region has relatively low air traffic and quick access to an international airport and seaport, and a well-respected engineering school at Canterbury University, which now offers the only undergraduate aerospace degree in the country. Canterbury also has significant manufacturing capability, which is a key part of our regional economy.

The Forum strongly supports the Tāwhaki Joint Venture in Kaitorete, and trusts that the Government will continue its support for this as well. The joint venture will encourage investment, research and development for the industry, as well as high-skilled jobs.

Engagement with the government

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

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xx February 2024

Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: M.Mitchell@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Mitchell

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role and assisting you and the government to deliver great outcomes for our communities.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

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- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing covers our key priority area of shared prosperity.

Emergency management reform

Local government plays a key frontline role in civil defence emergencies.

The low-lying Canterbury Plains and the Southern Alps are iconic natural features but are also significant factors in the wide range of natural hazards and risks the region faces, including fire, flood, wind,

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

earthquakes, and tsunamis. As a region we have significant experience in recorded history of all of these hazards resulting in natural disaster events and giving rise to preparedness for and activation of emergency response and recovery activities.

Additionally, we face the prospect of a 75 percent probability of a vast Alpine Fault earthquake within the next 50 years with an 82 percent probability it will be above 8.0 in magnitude.

The devastating Canterbury earthquake sequence of 2010-2012, the Hurunui/Kaikōura earthquakes of 2016, the Port Hills fires of 2017, the mosque attacks of 2019 and the Canterbury floods of 2021 are but several recent examples. Through the Canterbury CDEM Group, regional capability, and capacity to regionally coordinate larger events and support local Councils in delivery of emergency management response is well established, as are emergency management resources at local levels.

The Mayoral Forum is interested in hearing from you about the Government's plans for the emergency management reform bill currently before Parliament. In November last year we made a joint submission with the Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Management Joint Committee on the bill's proposals². Some of the key, high-level points in this submission we wish to bring to your attention are:

- we are deeply concerned about the implications of the critical lack of consideration of and provision for funding to implement the Bill and the suite of regulations that follow from it
- while we regard most of the changes included in the Bill as appropriate and useful, the overall effect of the Bill is insufficient to ensure the emergency management system is ready for the future and foreseeable challenges we face in our region and country
- the emergency management system is deeply challenged by the lack of an integrated risk management framework for risk reduction, and a disjointed approach across statutes and between central and local government responsibilities.

Another matter we raised in 2023 with the then Minister for Emergency Management was that although there is a partnership agreement between NEMA and the CDEM Group Managers to work collaboratively together, NEMA appears to be prioritising its work to national agencies rather than supporting and working in partnerships with the CDEM Groups. Examples of this include no leadership or collaboration to produce or support geospatial tools across the sector and limited support being provided to create an agreed coordination centre training pathway and training packages. We would welcome a discussion with you on how we can progress more locally-led, regionally-coordinated and nationally-supported CDEM work.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes⁵. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and as our economy relies on agricultural production and we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged - the Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events

² <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CMF-CDEM-joint-submission-Emergency-Management-Bill-2023.pdf>

by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

Conclusion

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

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xx February 2024

Hon Todd McClay
Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: T.McClay@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister McClay

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Agriculture. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role, given the importance of agriculture to Canterbury's economy. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to this portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

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Our briefing focuses on our key action to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production.

Agriculture in Canterbury

Agriculture plays a significant role in Canterbury's economy, contributing \$2.7 billion to Canterbury's regional GDP in 2020 (by comparison, agriculture contributed \$359 million to the Auckland economy and \$274 million to Wellington's economy in the same period). Agriculture also generates a significant amount

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of economic activity across the region from supporting industries, including primary manufacturing, other manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical services, owner-occupied property operation, transport and warehousing, and financial and insurance services.

The agriculture and manufacturing industries are responsible for around 30% of employment in the region. Almost 2.6 million hectares of land in Canterbury was used for farming in 2019 – 19% of the total area farmed in New Zealand. Dairy cattle farming is by far the largest generator of primary industries GDP in Canterbury, followed by sheep, beef and grain farming².

Canterbury's underlying activity in the manufacturing, construction and agricultural sectors provided some protection for the regional economy from COVID-19 impacts during the worst of the 2020-2022 pandemic. However, the pandemic has also created major challenges for the pastoral sector, resulting in supply chain issues, severe workforce challenges and increased input costs and other production costs. All of this has been exacerbated by climate change impacts, primarily through floods and drought, and changes in the regulatory environment in recent years. The impact of all of this on the wellbeing of rural and pastoral communities is significant.

Investment in science and innovation

Greater investment in science, research and innovation is needed to help the pastoral sector manage the challenges of climate change and consumer expectations and to take up new opportunities. Investment in science is required to help identify the potential benefits of diversifying land-use. In the examples of successful on-farm land-use diversification that we are aware of, partnership with a research provider appears to be a critical component. Some land-use diversification is likely to be needed to achieve climate goals while minimising impacts on productivity. We view land-use diversification as one example of the applied research and partnership areas that should be invested in within research funding options that government and industry make, or have made, available.

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- mitigating methane emissions from sheep, cows, deer and goats, as well as developing animals that are better adapted to high temperature environments (including being first in the world to successfully develop low methane-emitting sheep genetic lines and methods for rapid screening of breeding stock)
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National conversation on genetic engineering

The Forum noted with interest that liberalising genetic engineering laws is contained in coalition agreements with both the Act Party and New Zealand First.

The Forum supports a comprehensive national conversation on the risks, benefits and other impacts of changing our current stance on genetic engineering. Reviewing the rules on this could pave the way for New Zealand to be at the forefront of innovation for the pastoral sector, while ensuring that our health and environment remain protected.

Freshwater regulations

The Forum notes with interest that the Government will replace the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020. We understand that the process to do so is expected to take between 18 to 24 months and will include a thorough consultation process with stakeholders. The Forum looks forward to hearing further details about this process.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes³. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and as our economy relies on agricultural production, we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged. The Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

³ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

Conclusion

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail and talk about how local government can support central government to increase investment in new technology and research in the pastoral sector.

Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

xx February 2024

Hon Matt Doocey
Minister of Tourism and Hospitality
Associate Minister of Transport
Minister for Mental Health and Associate Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: M.Dooey@ministers.govt.nz

Kia ora Matt

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your Ministerial appointments. The Forum looks forward to continuing to engage with you, not only in your ministerial roles, but also as one of our local Canterbury representatives in Parliament.

The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to your portfolios, in particular Tourism and Hospitality, Transport and Health, and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We recognise there is a strong link between your portfolios and housing, infrastructure, economic development, regional development, and immigration and skills. We are also providing briefings to ministers in these portfolios, along with briefings for the Minister of Transport and Minister of Health.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are home in Canterbury.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council, supported by our chief executives. The purpose of the Forum

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.

The eleven local authorities are: Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council. The Forum was established to facilitate discussion and collaboration on matters of significance for Canterbury and its communities and enables all eleven local authorities to speak with one strong voice. The Forum's aspirations are to achieve sustainable development across the four interdependent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing) and the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital).

Plan for Canterbury

Each triennium the Forum prepares a strategy and action plan to guide its work. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025¹ summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity, and the Plan is focused on three priority areas:

- sustainable environmental management
- shared prosperity
- climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Within the priority areas, we have identified 9 key actions that make up our work programme. These are:

- ongoing oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
- continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection
- support of the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework
- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
- continued encouragement, support and advocacy for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production
- support the region to foster partnerships and to investigate barriers, and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community economy, and environment
- advocacy with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing, as it relates to your portfolios covers all of our priority areas; sustainable environmental management, shared prosperity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

Tourism and Hospitality

While agriculture contributed 6.7% of regional GDP in the year to March 2020, and manufacturing contributed 11%, with primary manufacturing contributing 64% of that, tourism is also a key driver in our economy, particularly for the Kaikōura, Hurunui and Mackenzie districts. Tourists can ski, snowboard, Bungy jump, hike, jet boat, fish, mountain bike, raft, surf, swim, golf, see whales, dolphins, and seals, visit wineries and gardens, shop, and more, all within two hours of Christchurch².

There are significant challenges associated with the funding of growing tourism levels, which often places an onerous financial burden on the small ratepayer bases of those areas with significant tourist numbers, such as Mackenzie, Kaikoura and Hurunui, along with our other smaller council areas.

The impacts and challenging cost of servicing tourism requires an enduring equitable external funding source to be established with the assistance of central government.

Improved tourism infrastructure would support our region's economic growth. From smaller infrastructure like public toilets and EV and e-bike charging facilities through to improved and resilient infrastructure to manage cruise ships, tourist accommodation, road, walking and cycle trail maintenance, and events, there is an ongoing need for central government support. We are aware that as part of National's 'Boosting Tourism' policy, the proposed National Infrastructure Agency will be asked to work with local councils to ensure destinations with high visitor numbers, but low ratepayer bases can access the funding they need to support tourism infrastructure. We look forward to hearing more from the Government on this policy.

Canterbury's transport network

The region is cognisant that improved transport infrastructure is needed to support economic growth so our communities and visitors can get around more easily and our goods can get to market more efficiently. While commitments at the central government level (though the 'Transport for the Future' policy) have been made for a second Ashburton bridge and the Woodend Bypass, the Forum is also keen to see the Greater Christchurch Partnership's mass rapid transit business case² be approved and funded.

More generally, we want to see a review of transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions. This is also covered in our briefing to the Minister of Transport.

Canterbury's current transport network is made up of a number of nationally and regionally significant transport routes connecting people and communities in the region to the north, south and west. Freight travels across the network via land (road and rail), sea and air. The main seaports at Lyttelton and Timaru are connected via the existing rail and state highway networks, while Christchurch International Airport is connected via the state highway network with opportunities for a future rail connection. Lyttelton Port Company operates the inland port at Rolleston, a major freight hub for the South Island with rail connection to the sea port.

Canterbury is the largest region in New Zealand by land area, with 44,508 square kilometres of diverse communities and landscapes, extending from north of the Clarence River to south of the Waitaki, and from the main divide of the Southern Alps to the South Pacific Ocean. We comprise some of the largest and fastest-growing urban areas in New Zealand. Greater Christchurch is New Zealand's second most populous

² <https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz/urbangrowthprogramme/transport>

urban area and the decentralisation of people and jobs away from Christchurch's central city post-earthquakes has had a substantial impact on our transport networks.

Outside of the main urban areas, Canterbury is sparsely populated, and our rural communities often need to travel significant distances to access even basic services. This is particularly the case in our least populated districts; Kaikoura, Mackenzie and Waimate, which represent three of the four least populated districts in the country. There is effectively no transport choice in these areas other than private vehicle, which makes these parts of the region almost entirely dependent on improvements in our vehicle fleet to reduce transport sector emissions.

Transport strongly influences economic development, supporting supply chains and plays a key role as an enabler for each sector of the regional economy. Efficient and effective transport options are critical for our communities and businesses. Maintenance of the existing transport network, and additional investment to respond to changes in how roads are being used, is therefore critical to sustaining the region's prosperity.

Transport network funding issues

Current funding sources (a combination of council contributions and funding through the National Land Transport Fund) are not sufficient to ensure the region's transport network is fit for purpose. We have previously advocated that significant additional investment of \$1 billion is required to ensure road maintenance, network resilience, and emissions reductions are managed appropriately³.

The Canterbury region represents approximately 12 percent of New Zealand by population but 13 percent of national GDP and over 16 percent of the national roading network by length. However, in the 2021-24 NLTP Canterbury only received approximately 5-8 percent of forecast NLTP expenditure. Our expectation is that a higher share of the revenue generated from our region is returned to be spent in Canterbury this NLTP period.

The Forum wishes to work with the Government to find an integrated and more sustainable approach to transport funding to bridge this gap. This is reflected in our *Plan for Canterbury* - "to advocate with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions".

Key transport projects

We note that the Government's 100-day plan commits to beginning work on a new government policy statement reflecting the new Roads of National Significance and new public transport priorities. The Forum is interested in understanding when this work will begin and how local government might be involved⁴.

As you know, transport networks have a significant role in enhancing quality of life and supporting New Zealand's economic potential. We were pleased to see the Woodend Bypass and a second Ashburton bridge reflected in the Government's transport commitments as we have long advocated for these. We are also strongly supportive of the mass rapid transit business case put forward by the Greater Christchurch

³ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/canterbury-mayoral-forum-revise-plan-for-canterbury/>

⁴ In September 2023 the Forum made a joint submission with the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee on the Ministry of Transport's draft transport GPS: <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CMF-CRTC-submission-on-Draft-2024-GPS-Land-Transport.pdf>

Partnership for a mass rapid transit system⁵. The business case sets out compelling reasons for why a mass rapid system is needed and the range of benefits – economic, environmental, and social – that would result from it. The Forum notes that the Government has committed to investigating the business case only at this stage; we urge you to commit funding to this important project.

Network resilience – natural hazards and climate change

Our transport network needs to have a long-term focus on ensuring it can continue to operate in times of stress or adversity, rather than one that focuses on recovery each time an event occurs.

Canterbury has a range of natural hazard risks that impact on the resilience of the transport network, most notably river flooding, surface flooding and coastal inundation. The severity and frequency of these events are increasing. The result can often be the isolation of communities and significant disruption to supply chains, as happened in the 2019 flooding of the Rangitata river, and the 2021 flooding that caused severe damage to the Ashburton bridge.

Earthquake risk also continues to be a key natural hazard risk for the region, particularly in relation to an alpine fault rupture. The damage, and resulting disruption, to road and rail networks following the 2010-11 earthquake sequence in the region, and the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake, are well-known.

Canterbury has a heavy reliance on bridges for river crossings on critical freight and visitor routes. The changing climate is expected to increase network vulnerability, with increased exposure to risks associated with sea level rise, coastal erosion and storm surges. Much of the region is low-lying, and key transport corridors (including State Highway 1 and the Main North rail line) are coastal.

The Mayoral Forum supports the Regional Transport Committee's target of a 30 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from land transport in Canterbury by 2030. There are a number of initiatives under way in the region to support this, including:

- Timaru's MyWay on-demand public transport system
- improving our existing Greater Christchurch public transport system through the delivery of the Public Transport Futures Programme (this includes better bus frequency and reliability, readily accessible real-time information, a fully electric bus fleet and more bus shelters and bus priority lanes)
- Greater Christchurch Partnership business case for a mass rapid transit system
- decarbonisation of the bus fleet
- Fairfield Freight Hub in Ashburton
- piloting the national ticketing solution for public transport
- community vehicle trusts in some rural areas
- increasing the number of cycleways in Greater Christchurch.

In addition, the current Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan has a headline target of 100% increase in tonnage of freight moved by rail in Canterbury. The Mayoral Forum supports the RTC's policies to collaborate and coordinate planning to prioritise investment to optimise freight mode shift and support investment to provide a resilient freight network.

⁵ <https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz/urbangrowthprogramme/transport>

Health

Many local authorities have included outcomes relating to healthy communities amongst the community outcomes within their long-term plans, despite not actually having a role in the delivery of “front-line” health services. This is because the impacts of health policies set at a national level, or investment decisions made by Te Whatu Ora impact the local level. A good example of this is that issues in the mental health system or with addiction services often manifest themselves in increases in crime, rough sleeping/homelessness and the like across local communities.

Despite local government having a legislated mandate to improve communities’ wellbeing, at present, local authorities have limited opportunities to influence health outcomes at the community level. However, there are some ways in which we can, and do, impact health and health outcomes already. For example:

- councils provide recreation and leisure facilities intended to promote physical activity and to have a positive impact on community health including reducing the cost of health treatment for district health boards. Most of these facilities are heavily subsidised by council rates.
- cycleways and walking facilities also provide health benefits in addition to being sustainable modes of transport
- council regulatory services are undertaken with a health perspective, including food premises licensing and inspection and building and resource consenting
- local authorities regularly advocate to central government and other providers for health resources and facilities. The ‘Heartland Group’ of Local Government New Zealand (rural and provincial councils) came out of the Health Action Group formed to combat the withdrawal of rural health services in the late 1980s and 1990s
- many local authorities support the local provision of medical services through funding, ownership of health facilities and other support.

We see a need for a much stronger voice for local government in the new health structure. This goes back to our support for the subsidiarity principle, whereby that the function of governance and decision-making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities. Local government knows our communities and their challenges, and will provide valuable input into locality plans to ensure they are fit for purpose for all the diverse communities in a locality. This needs to be recognised.

The Forum attempted to engage with the board of Te Whatu Ora following its establishment, met with the former Minister of Health last year on the topic, and sought information numerous times from the new agency about local government’s role in determining locality boundaries and locality plans. We had little success with this engagement and are still relatively unclear on the process and the intended role for local government in the new structure. We would appreciate some clarity, as we would value working with central government in partnership to achieve the best outcomes possible for our communities.

Engagement with the government

We trust this briefing has been helpful. We would like to meet with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

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Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
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xx February 2024

Hon Melissa Lee
Minister for Economic Development
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: M.Lee@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Lee

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Economic Development. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to this portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

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The Forum's aspirations are to achieve sustainable development across the four interdependent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing) and the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital).

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- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
- continued encouragement, support and advocacy for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production
- support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community economy and environment
- advocacy with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing focuses on our key priority area of shared prosperity.

Canterbury economy

Canterbury's economy is largely based in the primary industries. Agriculture contributed 6.7% of regional GDP in the year to March 2020, and manufacturing contributed 11%. Primary manufacturing contributed 64% of that. Agriculture and manufacturing industries are responsible for approximately 32% of all employment in the region.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

We have a burgeoning aerospace industry, and significant opportunities in science and innovation with a number of Crown Research Institutes and two universities in the region. Tourism is also a key driver in our economy, particularly for the Kaikōura, Hurunui and Mackenzie districts. Tourists can ski, snowboard, Bungy jump, hike, jet boat, fish, mountain bike, raft, surf, swim, golf, see whales, dolphins, and seals, visit wineries and gardens, shop, and more, all within two hours of Christchurch².

For more details on Canterbury's economy, environment, and social and cultural wellbeing, we recommend reading Canterbury 2022: An Overview³ – a document we developed to help inform the actions in the Plan for Canterbury.

The region has a number of key economic development projects under way or planned, including:

- a second bridge over the Ashburton/Hakatere river
- construction of a new \$344 million Antarctica research base in Timaru before being transported to Scott Base
- the road-rail freight hub in Ashburton
- Woodend bypass
- development of Wakatu Quay in Kaikōura
- completion of the multi-use arena and Parakiore recreation and sports centre in Christchurch.

The Forum governs the Canterbury Water Management Strategy⁴. Given the importance of agriculture to the economy, the way our communities store and use water are critical. Water is therefore an enabler for regional economic development, but it also impacts on food production and energy security – which in turn links to community resilience and wellbeing.

The intertwined nature of economic and social development is the basis for our key priority area in the Plan for Canterbury of shared prosperity for all our communities.

Skills and immigration

The Forum is well aware that despite our advantages and economic contribution, Canterbury's GDP per person still lags behind the country as a whole. To lift wages and incomes, we need more skilled jobs and skilled workers to fill them – through 'growing our own' but also by attracting and retaining newcomers through internal and external migration.

During the last government term, the Forum engaged with the Canterbury Regional Skills Leadership Group to support its work on skills and workforce planning. Given the linkages between skills and immigration, we also advocated for immigration policies that work for Canterbury.

We are interested in learning more about the government's plan for growing skills and the future of vocational education in New Zealand.

² <https://www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/choose-new-zealand/regions-cities/canterbury>

³ https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/7080_CMF_Canterbury_Wellbeing_Overview_SEP_2022.pdf

⁴ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-water-management-strategy/>

In terms of immigration, we strongly support designing immigration settings that result in a more flexible system, rather than a one size fits all approach. Immigration policy needs to be able to better support rural and regional New Zealand, as well as the larger urban areas. We have previously advocated that the immigration system should be focused on:

- supporting economic growth and access for employers to skilled workforce
- supporting international connectivity
- responding to migrants' needs, providing clear and achievable pathways, and be easily navigable
- working in partnership across the country with employers, employees, government, and industry groups, enabling industry to provide solutions that are supported by Government.

We also consider it imperative that the immigration system reflects the need for 'low' and 'medium' skilled labour. Immigration policy should acknowledge the reality that there are jobs that New Zealanders are not able, skilled, or willing to do at every level.

From a Canterbury perspective, the Forum believes there is value in considering the development of regional skills and labour shortage lists. In a region as large as Canterbury, we also need sub-regional skills shortage lists –Mid-Canterbury, North Canterbury, South Canterbury, and Greater Christchurch, for example. This is because the employment environment in the provincial and rural hinterland is quite different to that of Christchurch. We also support regional visas.

Infrastructure to support economic growth

The Forum is focused on ensuring the region has the infrastructure to support economic growth.

One of our key actions this triennium is to develop a housing strategy and action plan for the region. This will provide a whole-of-region overview of the various housing challenges experienced by our communities and the actions needed to resolve them. The work will support, rather than duplicate, the housing action plans already in place by some councils. The strategy and action plan are currently at the scoping stage and we would welcome a conversation with you and your colleagues on how we can work together on improving housing outcomes for our communities as part of the Government's 'Going for Housing Growth' housing policy.

The region is also cognisant that improved transport infrastructure is needed to support economic growth – so our communities and visitors can get around more easily and our goods can get to market more efficiently. While commitments at the central government level (though the 'Transport for the Future' policy) have been made for a second Ashburton bridge and the Woodend Bypass, the Forum is keen to see the Greater Christchurch Partnership's mass rapid transit business case⁵ be approved and funded. More generally, we want to see a review of transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions. This is something we will cover in more detail in our briefing to the Minister of Transport.

Improved tourism infrastructure would support our region's economic growth. From smaller infrastructure like public toilets and EV and e-bike charging facilities through to improved and resilient infrastructure to manage cruise ships, tourist accommodation, road, walking and cycle trail maintenance, and events, there is an ongoing need for central government support. We are aware that as part of National's 'Boosting

⁵ <https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz/urbangrowthprogramme/transport>

Tourism' policy, the proposed National Infrastructure Agency will be asked to work with local councils to ensure destinations with high visitor numbers, but low ratepayer bases can access the funding they need to support tourism infrastructure. We look forward to hearing more from the Government on this policy.

City/regional deals

The Forum has noted with interest your Government's policy on city/regional deals. This is something we are very keen to engage on with you.

As demonstrated above, Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth that will benefit the whole of New Zealand – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation. We also have connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy from 2015-2019 and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects.

The Forum also plays a role in helping to facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and similar organisations, which we consider would be useful in developing regional/city deals with the Government.

While we wait for further detail on this concept and how your government intends to implement proposed deals, we have written to the Minister of Local Government to suggest a meeting for an initial discussion on this topic.

We will cover this matter in more detail in our briefing to Minister Brown but wanted to bring it to your attention as Minister for Economic Development.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes⁶. Climate change is well and truly upon us. Our economy relies on agricultural production and we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged. The Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

Canterbury Economic Development Forum

To support coordination across the region, the Mayoral Forum has established an economic development forum, which brings together the heads of each of the economic development agencies in Canterbury. The purpose of this group is to:

⁶ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

- support the Mayoral Forum to take a strong leadership role and provide strategic foresight for economic development in Canterbury
- maintain a regional overview of economic development opportunities to avoid duplication and provide support to all Canterbury councils
- understand gaps and opportunities for economic development in Canterbury
- work on joint collaborations for economic development in Canterbury.

Representatives from Kānoa attend these meetings. This provides a two-way conduit between central and local government for economic development initiatives.

Engagement with the government

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

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Nigel Bowen
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xx February 2024

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: S.Watts@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Watts

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum: Climate change

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Climate Change. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to this portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

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- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
- continued encouragement, support and advocacy for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production
- support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment
- advocacy with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing focuses on our key priority area of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Collaborative climate action in Canterbury

Our councils, under the auspices of the Mayoral Forum, are working together on climate action planning. Following completion of a climate change risk assessment for the region in 2022², a Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is under development. This will be complete later in 2024, and will detail how local government in Canterbury intends to work together to mitigate the causes and impacts of climate change in the region.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

² <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/canterbury-climate-change-risk-assessment-feb-2022/>

Actions in the Plan will cover both mitigation and adaptation and will be incorporated into council long term plans to ensure they are funded. The collective regional actions that will be in the Plan are intended to support or complement the climate actions of individual councils, and not duplicate those efforts. The Forum is happy to provide you with further detail on the Partnership Plan if you wish; we will also provide you with a copy of the Plan once complete.

Climate adaptation planning - managed retreat

The Forum has previously discussed climate adaptation and managed retreat with government ministers in the last term. Local government is keen to understand the Government's views on the roles and responsibilities of local compared with central government on adaptation, and managed retreat especially. We note that there have been a range of precedents set, including decisions made after the Canterbury earthquakes and the current retreat process following Cyclone Gabrielle, and we strongly consider that a national framework for managed retreat is needed to ensure fairness and consistency.

We made a comprehensive submission to the Environment Committee in November last year on its inquiry into adaptation³. The key points from that submission we would like to reiterate are:

General points:

- the Christchurch City Council and the Waimakariri District Council have experience in retreat and relocation following the Canterbury earthquakes. There are valuable lessons to be learned from these councils on retreat, relocation, use of land after retreat, and post-retreat roles and responsibilities
- we strongly support a strengthened partnership approach between central government, mana whenua, and local government to develop plans for how places will grow and change in the future in the context of the significant opportunities and challenges we face, with our response to climate change being the most significant challenge.

Risk assessments:

- the Forum would welcome improved national direction and guidance for undertaking risk assessments (both regionally and locally); and supports standardising the approach to categorising risks as tolerable or intolerable to help improve the accuracy of risk assessments and make it easier for communities to understand when a risk reaches a threshold that triggers action
- we consider councils should keep the primary responsibility to develop and review risk assessments to ensure these remain locally led; given the responsibilities and functions of regional councils, we envisage they would play a key support role for territorial authorities in the development of local risk assessments.

Planning and funding adaptation and retreat:

- greater support from the government for local adaptation planning is needed, as is clear and consistent guidance. An appropriate balance will need to be struck between setting national standards for adaptation planning, and enabling communities to develop an approach that suits their needs. The Forum would like to see due consideration given to planning and funding for all adaptation options, not just retreat

³ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CMF-submission-climate-adaptation-inquiry-Nov-2023.pdf>

- the Forum holds a strong view that sustainable finance arrangements for retreat must be established. We consider recent precedents that have been set for cost sharing of settlements on private properties between the Crown and local government are unsustainable and transfer private costs onto local ratepayers. Our preference is therefore for the Crown to retain responsibility for buy-out of private properties and local authorities to provide funding for community assets
- we support the development of a nationally consistent framework for retreat decision-making which allows for some local flexibility, and reflects the roles that councils, central government, iwi, hapū and Māori, communities, businesses and individuals will play. The framework will also need to consider the breadth of communities that will be impacted – in Canterbury, for example, this could range from isolated properties to rural communities, and large parts of some urban areas
- our preference at this stage is for a system that has a mix of voluntary and mandatory parts. This would provide affected people with some level of choice about when and possibly how they retreat, while ensuring that people do actually move away from the land at risk
- to ensure local government can implement managed retreat, an additional funding stream must be provided from a central source, rather than leaving authorities to raise funds from ratepayers or user pay services that are already under strain. The approach to funding and financing of adaptation and particularly retreat must be long-term in focus and enduring – not beholden to either yearly Budget processes or three-yearly election cycles.

Emissions Reduction Plan

The Forum made a submission last year to the Climate Change Commission on its draft advice on a second Emissions Reduction Plan⁴. We note that the finalised advice on the second Plan has recently been provided to the Government. For context, the key points we made in our submission, which we consider remain relevant, are:

- gross emissions must be reduced for enduring climate change mitigation, and indicative levels of gross emissions and CO2 removals from forestry out to 2050 must be communicated as soon as possible to guide policy development
- we strongly support the development of a more integrated approach to the role of forests alongside the strengthened focus on gross emissions
- the Forum is very keen to see climate change initiatives incentivise afforestation that complements the freshwater and biodiversity outcomes that New Zealand seeks to achieve.

We await the Government's Emissions Reduction Plan with interest.

Investment in science and innovation

Greater investment in science, research and innovation is needed to help the pastoral sector manage challenges of climate change. As well as new tools, some land-use diversification is likely to be needed to achieve climate goals while minimising impacts on productivity. We view land-use diversification as one example of the applied research and partnership areas that should be invested in within research funding options that government and industry make, or have made, available.

⁴ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CMF-submission-CCC-draft-advice-on-second-Emissions-Reduction-Plan-June-2023.pdf>

Lincoln is home to Canterbury's science hub, where Lincoln University, AgResearch, Plant and Food Research, and Manaaki Whenua are based. As you will know, a key part of the work these research organisations are focused on is sustainable land use and moving the agricultural sector to a lower emissions future. Some key work under way of interest to the Forum includes:

- mitigating methane emissions from sheep, cows, deer and goats, as well as developing animals that are better adapted to high temperature environments (including being first in the world to successfully develop low methane-emitting sheep genetic lines and methods for rapid screening of breeding stock)
- trialling the genetically modified technology High Metabolisable Energy (HME) ryegrass.

Local government is keen to support improved government investment in the land-based CRIs, particularly on technologies to help mitigate climate change impacts, so they can drive innovation and improve outcomes in the pastoral sector.

The Forum noted with interest that liberalising genetic engineering laws is contained in coalition agreements with both the Act Party and New Zealand First. The Forum supports a comprehensive national conversation on the risks, benefits and other impacts of changing our current stance on genetic engineering. Reviewing the rules on this could pave the way for New Zealand to be at the forefront of climate change innovation for the pastoral sector, while ensuring that our health and environment remain protected.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes⁵. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and as our economy relies on agricultural production and we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged - the Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

⁵ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

Engagement with the government

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

xx February 2024

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
Minister for the Environment
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: P.Simmonds@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Simmonds

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills and Minister for the Environment. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in these roles. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to these portfolios and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council, supported by our chief executives. The purpose of the Forum is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.

The eleven local authorities are: Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council. The Forum was established to facilitate discussion and collaboration on matters of significance for Canterbury and its communities and enables all eleven local authorities to speak with one strong voice.

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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The Forum's aspirations are to achieve sustainable development across the four interdependent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing) and the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital).

Plan for Canterbury

Each triennium the Forum prepares a strategy and action plan to guide its work. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025¹ summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity, and the Plan is focused on three priority areas:

- sustainable environmental management
- shared prosperity
- climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Within the priority areas, we have identified 9 key actions that make up our work programme. These are:

- ongoing oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
- continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection
- support of the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework
- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
- continued encouragement, support and advocacy for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production
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- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing covers our key priority areas of shared prosperity and sustainable environmental management.

Tertiary education and skills

Growing skilled workers

Canterbury's economy is largely based in the primary industries. Agriculture contributed 6.7% of regional GDP in the year to March 2020, and manufacturing contributed 11%. Primary manufacturing contributed

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

64% of that. Agriculture and manufacturing industries are responsible for approximately 32% of all employment in the region.

We have a burgeoning aerospace industry, and significant opportunities in science and innovation with a number of Crown Research Institutes and two universities in the region. Tourism is also a key driver in our economy, particularly for the Kaikōura, Hurunui and Mackenzie districts.

The Forum is well aware that despite our advantages and economic contribution, Canterbury's GDP per person still lags behind the country as a whole. To lift wages and incomes, we need more skilled jobs and skilled workers to fill them – through 'growing our own' and also by attracting and retaining newcomers through internal and external migration.

From 2015-2020, the Mayoral Forum implemented the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy, which had a key focus on education and training for a skilled workforce. As part of the education and training programme, the Forum:

- brought together central government, local government, universities, polytechnics, community colleges and economic development agencies into an education and training governance group
- oversaw the My Next Move youth transitions programme (funded through the CREDS by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD))
- Endorsed a MSD funded education-to-employment brokerage service (rolled out in 25 locations in 2019, and has since increased to 34)
- oversaw the development of the ChristchurchNZ-led Job Ready Programme for international students in Canterbury who are wanting to find employment in New Zealand after graduation, and subsequent rollout of the programme in South Canterbury
- contributed to the previous government's reform of vocational education programme, including developing a submission on the reform proposal
- advocated for newcomer and migrant settlement, specifically the issue of access to tertiary education and training for dependents of temporary work visa holders
- advocated for membership of the Canterbury Regional Skills Leadership Group to include an iwi co-chair and a representative of Ara Institute of Canterbury.
- provided opportunity for information-sharing, networking and collaboration on key issues such as the reform of vocational education and COVID-19 impacts.

During the last government term, the Forum engaged with the Canterbury Regional Skills Leadership Group to support its work on skills and workforce planning. Given the linkages between skills and immigration, we also advocated for immigration policies that work for Canterbury.

We are interested in learning more about the Government's plan for growing skills and the future of vocational education in New Zealand now that Te Pūkenga is being disestablished and the Regional Skills Leadership Groups have ceased their work. We note in the coalition agreement with New Zealand First that the government will train more doctors, nurses and midwives, and support the Apprenticeship Boost scheme. We would welcome any updates you are able to provide on these initiatives.

International education

The Forum understands that the Government will progress an international education policy to allow the sector to recover from the impacts of the pandemic, which will result in improving the financial situation of tertiary institutes. This will include fast track visa processing for international students who pay an

additional fee, increasing the hours international students are able to work each week, expanding work rights for international students and their partners to make New Zealand a more attractive destination, and expanding the countries from which Education New Zealand recruits international students. We look forward to hearing more about how this policy will be implemented.

Environment

Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS)

In 2009 the Forum launched the CWMS and continues to oversee its implementation. In 2019, the Forum commissioned the *Fit for Future* project to develop 2025 and 2030 goals for the ten target areas of the CWMS and a regional work programme to support delivery of the strategy.

National and regional freshwater policy has changed since the inception of the CWMS, and increasingly water discussions are seen as an enabler for regional economic development. More recently the relationship between water, food production and energy security and how these elements are linked to community resilience have surfaced. Consideration of water issues also needs to take place in the context of impacts from climate change and how this may shape water and land management decisions going forward.

A review of the water zone committees, which support the delivery of the CWMS, is now under way. The review focuses on the evolution of zone committees and local leadership in freshwater management and will take into account changes to national direction and freshwater management. We will keep you updated on the outcomes of the review.

Freshwater management

The Forum notes with interest that the Government is replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater.

As you will know, these freshwater regulations have been an ongoing concern for many of our communities across the region. It is imperative that a full and thorough engagement process on the new National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standards is undertaken with iwi, local government, farmers, rural communities and industry groups and other interested stakeholders so that the new regulations are sustainable, fit-for-purpose and pragmatic, while protecting our waterways.

We look forward to an update from your officials as this work progresses in the coming months.

Biodiversity

We are aware of the Government's policy announcements about controlling the spread of wilding pines, rehabilitating wetlands, and re-committing to Predator-Free 2050. These will have positive outcomes for Canterbury.

As you will be aware, wilding pines are a significant issue for some parts of our region and we appreciate continued government support to eradicate them. Support for Predator-Free is also appreciated. In parts of Canterbury wallabies are a significant issue and will need attention from central government if the

Canterbury Regional Council (working alongside the Otago Regional Council) is to complete its eradication and containment work.

We are also aware of the commitment to commence an urgent review into the implementation of the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity. We urge you to read our submission on this when the Policy Statement was being developed² - our key concerns relate to the impact on rural communities and implementation timeframes. Our perspectives may be useful as you commence the review.

As you may be aware, the Forum supports a collaborative approach to biodiversity matters in the region through the establishment and oversight of the Biodiversity Champions, a group of elected members with representation from each Canterbury council. The Champions work together to promote biodiversity and advocate for the role of councils and communities in weaving biodiversity through Canterbury's living and working landscapes.

Waste levies

The Forum notes the Government has plans to undertake a significant overhaul of the waste levy allocation system to better direct funds towards projects that promote waste minimisation and resource recovery.

We have previously advocated for changes to the waste levy system so that councils can be exempted from paying levies on relocating waste from closed landfills, particularly where it is necessary for climate change risk and adaptation. We ask that the Government consider this matter in your review.

We have advocated for this because councils are not creating new waste through this activity. Instead, we are relocating waste from closed landfills, many of which are in environmentally sensitive areas such as coastal areas and riverbeds (both at risk of erosion during adverse weather events), to appropriately located and designed landfills. The purpose of the levy is to discourage generation of new waste – we do not believe it was intended to capture moving waste from old or closed landfills to newer, more appropriately sited landfills.

We note that the Climate Change Response Act 2019 exempts all closed landfill contents being transferred and disposed to an operating landfill from incurring emissions trading scheme charges. It would be consistent if this policy approach also applied to waste levies.

The Forum acknowledges the importance of understanding the scale of past damage from landfills and the best approaches for remediating it. Many of the closed landfills councils are moving waste from were closed prior to the 2008 Waste Minimisation Act, or were landfills inherited by local authorities after the 1989 local government reforms. We are acutely aware of the hazards some of these sites pose, and the need for appropriate remediation. There is little ability to minimise this waste, outside of councils trying to recover any material that might be diverted (such as metals), but that would entirely rely upon no asbestos contamination or any heavy metals being present.

Exempting councils from paying levies on relocated waste will enable councils to spend this money on addressing the various issues relating to closed landfills and contaminated sites, which we consider a far better use of public money. For example, waiving the levy for relocating waste from the closed Peel Forest

² <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CMF-exposure-draft-NPSIB-submission-July-2022.pdf>

landfill, which was exposed after flooding in late 2019, could result in a 10 percent reduction in the cost of relocating the waste – for 20,000 cubic metres that could exceed \$1 million (depending on the weight).

We would welcome a discussion with you on this topic and would be happy to provide any further information your officials may need to consider the issue.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes³. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and as our economy relies on agricultural production and we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged - the Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

Engagement with the government

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail.

We recognise there is a strong link between your tertiary education and skills portfolio and immigration, housing, economic development, infrastructure and regional development. We are providing briefings to ministers in these portfolios as well. We are also covering climate change and resource management in separate briefings to the responsible ministers.

Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor, Timaru District Council

³ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

xx February 2024

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Development
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: S.Jones@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Jones

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Regional Development. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to brief you on key issues relating to this portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

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Plan for Canterbury

Each triennium the Forum prepares a strategy and action plan to guide its work. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025¹ summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity, and the Plan is focused on three priority areas:

- sustainable environmental management
- shared prosperity
- climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Within the priority areas, we have identified 9 key actions that make up our work programme. These are:

- ongoing oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
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- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
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- advocacy with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
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- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing focuses on our key priority area of shared prosperity.

Canterbury economy

Canterbury's economy is largely based in the primary industries. Agriculture contributed 6.7% of regional GDP in the year to March 2020, and manufacturing contributed 11%. Primary manufacturing contributed 64% of that. Agriculture and manufacturing industries are responsible for approximately 32% of all employment in the region.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

We have a burgeoning aerospace industry, and significant opportunities in science and innovation with a number of Crown Research Institutes and two universities in the region. Tourism is also a key driver in our economy, particularly for the Kaikōura, Hurunui and Mackenzie districts. Tourists can ski, snowboard, bungy jump, hike, jet boat, fish, mountain bike, raft, surf, swim, golf, see whales, dolphins, and seals, visit wineries and gardens, shop, and more, all within two hours of Christchurch².

For more details on Canterbury's economy, environment, and social and cultural wellbeing, we invite you to read *Canterbury 2022: An Overview*³ – a document we developed to help inform the actions in the Plan for Canterbury.

The region has a number of key economic development projects under way or planned, including:

- a second bridge over the Ashburton/Hakaterere river
- construction of a new \$344 million Antarctica research base in Timaru before being transported to Scott Base
- the road-rail freight hub in Ashburton
- Woodend bypass
- development of Wakatu Quay in Kaikōura
- completion of the multi-use arena and Parakiore recreation and sports centre in Christchurch.

The Forum governs the Canterbury Water Management Strategy⁴. Given the importance of agriculture to the economy, the way our communities store and use water is critical. Water is therefore an enabler for regional economic development, and it also impacts on food production and energy security, which in turn links to community resilience and wellbeing.

The intertwined nature of economic and social development is the basis for our key priority area in the Plan for Canterbury of shared prosperity for all our communities.

Infrastructure to support economic growth

The Forum is focused on ensuring the region has the infrastructure to support economic growth.

One of our key actions this triennium is to develop a housing strategy and action plan for the region. This will provide a whole-of-region overview of the various housing challenges experienced by our communities and the actions needed to resolve them. The work will support, rather than duplicate, the housing action plans already in place in some councils. The strategy and action plan are currently at the scoping stage, and we would welcome a conversation with you and your colleagues on how we can work together on improving housing outcomes for our communities as part of the Government's 'Going for Housing Growth' housing policy.

The region is also cognisant that improved transport infrastructure is needed to support economic growth – so our communities and visitors can get around more easily and our goods can get to market more efficiently. While commitments at the central government level (though the 'Transport for the Future'

² <https://www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/choose-new-zealand/regions-cities/canterbury>

³ https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/7080_CMF_Canterbury_Wellbeing_Overview_SEP_2022.pdf

⁴ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-water-management-strategy/>

policy) have been made for a second Ashburton bridge and the Woodend Bypass, the Forum is keen to see the Greater Christchurch Partnership's mass rapid transit business case⁵ approved and funded. More generally, we want to see a review of transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions. This is something we will cover in more detail in our briefing to the Minister of Transport.

Improved tourism infrastructure would support our region's economic growth. From smaller infrastructure like public toilets and EV and e-bike charging facilities through to improved and resilient infrastructure to manage cruise ships, tourist accommodation, road, walking and cycle trail maintenance, and events, there is an ongoing need for central government support. We are aware that as part of National's 'Boosting Tourism' policy, the proposed National Infrastructure Agency will be asked to work with local councils to ensure destinations with high visitor numbers, but low ratepayer bases can access the funding they need to support tourism infrastructure. We look forward to hearing more from the Government on this policy.

City/regional deals and Regional Infrastructure Fund

As demonstrated above, Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth that will benefit the whole of New Zealand – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation. We also have connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy from 2015-2019 and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects.

Our region has experienced the consequences of underinvestment in key infrastructure. The South Island was largely cut in two after the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake destroyed part of State Highway 1 and the main trunk line, and again at Ashburton in May 2021 following damage to the bridge after severe flooding. The impact of these events had long-lasting repercussions for freight traffic, tourism, as well as our communities simply being able to connect with each other. We need robust, resilient and well-maintained infrastructure to ensure we can realise our region's economic development potential and support strong social connections between our communities.

The Forum notes with interest the government's policy on city/regional deals. This is something we are very keen to engage on with you. We have written to relevant ministers to start a conversation on this topic and the opportunities for Canterbury at a regional and subregional level.

We would like to discuss the proposed Regional Infrastructure Fund with you and the Minister for Infrastructure. The Forum is interested in understanding the criteria that will need to be met to access the fund, how it will intersect with city/regional deals, and the timeframes for implementation. We would welcome an update from you on this.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. The Ashburton floods referenced above are a good example of the impact flooding can have on our infrastructure and economy. Flooding risk is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-

⁵ <https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz/urbangrowthprogramme/transport>

investment in flood protection schemes⁶. Climate change is well and truly upon us. Our economy relies on agricultural production, and we need to ensure our region and economy is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged. The Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

Canterbury Economic Development Forum

For context, to support coordination across the region, the Mayoral Forum has established an economic development forum, which brings together the heads of each of the economic development agencies in Canterbury. The purpose of this group is to:

- support the Mayoral Forum to take a strong leadership role and provide strategic foresight for economic development in Canterbury
- maintain a regional overview of economic development opportunities to avoid duplication and provide support to all Canterbury councils
- understand gaps and opportunities for economic development in Canterbury
- work on joint collaborations for economic development in Canterbury.

Representatives from Kānoa attend these meetings. This provides a two-way conduit between central and local government for economic development initiatives.

Engagement with the government

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail, particularly the implementation of the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum Mayor
Mayor Timaru District Council

⁶ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

xx February 2024

Hon Mark Patterson
Minister for Rural Communities
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: M.Patterson@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Patterson

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Rural Communities. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to this portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

A number of the issues we raise in this briefing impact on our portfolios, such as agriculture, environment and immigration. We have raised these matters in separate briefings to those respective ministers as well.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matters in this briefing in more detail. We would be happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council, supported by our chief executives. The purpose of the Forum is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.

The eleven local authorities are: Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council.

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

Secretariat, E: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz W: www.canterburymayors.org.nz
C/- Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140 T: 03 345 9323

The Forum was established to facilitate discussion and collaboration on matters of significance for Canterbury and its communities and enables all eleven local authorities to speak with one strong voice. The Forum's aspirations are to achieve sustainable development across the four interdependent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing) and the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital).

Plan for Canterbury

Each triennium the Forum prepares a strategy and action plan to guide its work. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025¹ summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity, and the Plan is focused on three priority areas:

- sustainable environmental management
- shared prosperity
- climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Within the priority areas, we have identified 9 key actions that make up our work programme. These are:

- ongoing oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
- continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection
- support of the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework
- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
- continued encouragement, support and advocacy for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production
- support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community economy and environment
- advocacy with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Our briefing covers matters relevant to all three of our priority areas.

Canterbury's rural communities

Although New Zealand is a highly urbanised country, its economy is clearly reliant on rural-based primary industry activity. As you'll be aware, the food and fibre sector accounted for 81.9 percent of New Zealand's

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

merchandise exports in the year to 30 June 2023, and 13.1 percent of employment². In Canterbury, agriculture plays a significant role in the regional economy, contributing \$2.7 billion to Canterbury's regional GDP in 2020 (by comparison, agriculture contributed \$359 million to the Auckland economy and \$274 million to Wellington's economy in the same period). Agriculture also generates a significant amount of economic activity across the region from supporting industries, including primary manufacturing, other manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical services, owner-occupied property operation, transport and warehousing, and financial and insurance services. The agriculture and manufacturing industries are responsible for around 30% of employment in the region.

Almost 2.6 million hectares of land in Canterbury was used for farming in 2019 – 19% of the total area farmed in New Zealand. Dairy cattle farming is by far the largest generator of primary industries GDP in Canterbury, followed by sheep, beef and grain farming³.

In recent years, rural communities are dealing with change on an unprecedented scale. The Mid-Canterbury Rural Support Trust has published a report⁴ on the social impact of these changes in the Ashburton district, which found increased levels of anxiety and uncertainty among farmers, as well as a significant decrease in farmer confidence about the sustainability and viability of farming.

The pandemic has also created major challenges for the pastoral sector, resulting in supply chain issues, severe workforce challenges and increased input costs and other production costs. All of this has been exacerbated by climate change impacts, primarily through floods and drought.

The Mayoral Forum is keen to understand what ongoing support the Government will provide to help rural communities navigate the challenges ahead.

Greater investment in research, science and innovation

To support pastoral communities to manage change, improve viability and sustainability and meet consumer expectations, greater investment in science, research and innovation is needed. Investment in science is required to help identify the potential benefits of diversifying land-use. In the examples of successful on-farm land-use diversification that we are aware of, partnership with a research provider appeared to be a critical component. Some land-use diversification is likely to be needed to achieve climate goals while minimising impacts on productivity. We view land-use diversification as one example of the applied research and partnership areas that should be invested in within research funding options that government and industry make, or have made, available.

Given the importance of agriculture to the region's economic development, the Mayoral Forum has had a sustained focus over the past few local government terms on supporting the diversification of the pastoral sector and adding value to agricultural production. The Forum has recently completed a multi-year project, led by ChristchurchNZ and the University of Canterbury, to boost value-added production focused on food,

² <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/60526-Situation-and-Outlook-for-Primary-Industries-SOPI-December-2023>

³ For a more detailed overview of agriculture's economic contribution to Canterbury, see Canterbury 2022: An Overview - <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/resources/canterbury-wellbeing-overview/>

⁴ <https://www.rural-support.org.nz/DesktopModules/EasyDNNNews/DocumentDownload.ashx?portalid=20&moduleid=2645&articleid=594&documentid=52>

fibre and agritech and high-value manufacturing. The project included exploration of industry 'clusters' that exist and exploring how best to support and grow them; facilitating industry events, including the annual Food, Fibre and Agritech Challenge, many of whom that have entered are now being mentored to grow their businesses; and the production of industry roadmaps that will support new businesses in finding the right pathways to market.

The Forum wishes to continue to support and advocate for continued investment in diversifying and adding value to the sector, and is interested in discussing how it can work more closely with central government on this.

Freshwater regulations

The Forum notes with interest that the Government is replacing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater.

As you will know, these freshwater regulations have been an ongoing concern and anxiety for our rural communities, and it is imperative that a full and thorough engagement process on the new National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standards is undertaken with iwi, local government, farmers, rural communities and industry groups and other interested stakeholders so that the new regulations are sustainable, fit-for-purpose and pragmatic, while protecting our waterways.

We look forward to hearing more from the Government as work on this progresses in the coming months.

Climate change – emissions reductions

We have previously raised concerns that New Zealand's emissions reduction plans do not currently allow for differences in rural settings, particularly regarding transport and the impacts on land-use change. For example, reducing emissions through increased public transport is almost exclusively an urban solution. In addition, we know that land-use change to forestry will affect employment in rural communities in a far greater way than urban areas. We implore you and your ministerial colleagues to carefully consider the significant range of effects on rural communities as part of the Government's emissions reduction and just transitions work.

Housing

The Mayoral Forum is developing a housing strategy and action plan for the region. Because we have a mix of rural and urban areas, each part of Canterbury has different housing challenges and needs. The strategy and action plan will sit alongside and support the housing strategies of our district and city councils, but will provide a regional overview of the issues and propose a range of options for the pathway forward to overcome current challenges.

We consider safe, secure and affordable housing key to enhancing wellbeing and therefore prosperity of our communities. We know that in some parts of Canterbury, the key issue is the quantity and/or quality of social housing, while in others it is access to affordable housing, and in other areas, the issue is the volume of housing stock available – and in some places, it is a mix of all three. Housing challenges impact the prosperity and wellbeing of rural and regional areas particularly because shortages can cause significant

issues for businesses to employ the staff they need. We know in some parts of our region, employers have simply stopped advertising for employees because they know there is nowhere for them to live.

The Forum will keep you and relevant ministerial colleagues updated on progress with our strategy and action plan.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes⁵. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and as our economy, and particularly our rural communities, rely on agricultural production we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged - the Forum considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

Engagement with the government

I trust this briefing has been helpful and look forward to meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail. Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

⁵ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 23 February 2024

Presented by: Chair Peter Scott, Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Canterbury Mayoral Forum with an update for October to December 2023 on:
 - a. region-wide progress of Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) partners' work towards implementing the CWMS
 - b. Environment Canterbury's work to progress freshwater outcomes for Canterbury.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receive the update on:**
 - a. **the region wide progress of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy partners' work towards implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy for October to December 2023**
 - b. **Environment Canterbury's work to progress freshwater outcomes for Canterbury.**

Update on region-wide progress towards implementing the CWMS

Review of CWMS zone committees

2. At its meeting in August 2023, the Mayoral Forum agreed to a review of Zone Committees to enable and support local leadership and ownership of freshwater management issues into the future.
3. Environment Canterbury has commenced planning the 2024 zone committee review. This review will focus on what structure, function and resourcing are needed to support local freshwater leadership into the future.
4. The CWMS is underpinned by a collaborative approach between Environment Canterbury, territorial authorities, Ngāi Tahu, sector groups and communities. While the aim is to keep this review simple, it will reflect this collaborative ethos by engaging with

key partners and stakeholders under the auspices of the Mayoral Forum (as 'owner' of the CWMS).

5. The review's objectives are to answer the following main questions:
 - a. what local freshwater leadership is required in the future?
 - b. for which actions will key partners (Environment Canterbury, Territorial Authorities and mana whenua) need local leadership to deliver freshwater management outcomes in the future?
 - c. what resourcing is required to support local leadership?
6. Environment Canterbury is leading the review and will report back to the Mayoral Forum, following engagement with Mayors, zone committee members, and mana whenua representatives. The below table provides key actions and milestones.

Table 1: CWMS Zone Committee review – key actions and milestones

August 2023	Mayoral Forum agrees to a review of Zone Committees
December 2023	Initial engagement with Zone Committee Chairs and Deputies
February – April 2024	Engagement with Mayors, mana whenua and key partners
May 2024	Preliminary report to Mayoral Forum and agreement to next steps
August 2024	Progress update to Mayoral Forum
November 2024	Final report with recommended options for Mayoral Forum decision

7. Initial engagement with Zone Committee Chairs and Deputies was held on 13 December 2023 to inform them of the proposed approach to the zone committee review in 2024. All committees were represented at this engagement.
8. Zone Committees will have further discussions on the review at their first sessions in 2024. The Ashburton Zone Committee held a workshop on 30 January 2024, and Selwyn Waihora and Banks Peninsula Zone Committees met on 12 and 20 February 2024 respectively.

CWMS zone committee updates

9. Zone committees continue to focus on implementing actions on the ground to support the delivery of the CWMS targets and goals. To support this, Environment Canterbury increased funding to \$75,000 per committee for the 2023/2024 year through its

2023/2024 Annual Plan. Most committees have fully allocated the available funding to support the implementation of their action plans.

10. Hurunui District Council continues to lead the establishment of a new Hurunui Water and Land Committee in conjunction with Environment Canterbury, and Kaikōura and Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga.
11. The second phase of community engagement on the review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) was completed in December 2023. Environment Canterbury staff ran several all-day events seeking community feedback. Zone committees attended and, where needed, helped facilitate table discussions at these events.
12. Attachment 1 provides an update on key regional projects and campaigns.
13. Attachment 2 provides a summary of the last three months' progress of Zone Committee projects. Note that although the Hurunui Water and Land Committee is yet to be formed, a CWMS Action Plan project on the Waiau Uwha River supporting braided river birds nesting sites has continued with the support of Kaikōura Rūnanga, Hurunui District Council, and Environment Canterbury.

Update on Environment Canterbury's work to progress freshwater outcomes for Canterbury

Engagement with central government on freshwater policy

14. Since December 2023 the Environment Canterbury Chair, Chief Executive, and staff have engaged with Ministers, Ministries, and industry leaders to influence and understand potential changes the new Government may intend for freshwater policy settings. Meetings have included:
 - a. Chair Scott met Minister Hoggard in Wellington on 25 January 2024 to discuss farm-facing freshwater instruments and planning requirements
 - b. the Chief Executive met the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, and agriculture industry leaders on 25 January 2024 to discuss freshwater planning
 - c. staff and the Chief Executive have engaged with the Ministry for the Environment via the Local Government Steering Group and Ministry focus groups.

Freshwater planning

15. On 14 December 2023 Government announced a review of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) and has given councils until December 2027 to notify freshwater plan changes. Environment Canterbury is reflecting these changes in our intent to notify an integrated regional plan in 2028.
16. Minister Hoggard has indicated to Environment Canterbury that he will be working with sector groups and regional representatives to review freshwater farm plan provisions to

determine how they can support good law-making and economic efficiency. He has requested insights on how the freshwater farm plan system can work for the farmers of Canterbury while also delivering improved environmental outcomes where these are needed. Staff are preparing this advice and will seek to ensure previous work with our farming communities remains uncompromised.

17. Environment Canterbury continues to advocate for an approach that offers tangible environmental benefit in the region, provides increased certainty to the community, and respects investment that Canterbury farmers have already made in freshwater planning and action.

Fast-track consenting

18. Minister Bishop has confirmed Government's intent to develop a permanent fast-track consenting process for locally, regionally and nationally significant infrastructure and developments. A new bill is expected by 7 March 2024 with the Select Committee process running for approximately 6 months.
19. Criteria to determine locally, regionally and nationally significant infrastructure and developments is yet to be defined. Applications to use the fast-track process will be assessed by Ministers of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development. An expert consenting panel will be convened to consider proposals.
20. The Chair and Chief Executive are meeting Ministers Bishop and Simmonds on 29 February 2024 to discuss these proposals. Environment Canterbury staff will work with the Ministry for the Environment to understand intended approaches, opportunities and risks.

Resource Management Act reform

21. The Government has indicated intent to amend the Resource Management Act to remove consideration of the current Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy of obligations from consenting decisions. These changes are likely to come directly after the fast-track process. In the interim the rest of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 remains in place for consent decisions.
22. Environment Canterbury has been engaging with the Ministry for the Environment via the Local Government Steering Group and Ministry focus groups on these proposals, which are part of the second phase of the Resource Management Reform. The third phase will include the development of replacement resource management laws. The timing of this work has yet to be confirmed, but Government has signalled an intent to table a bill by the end of this Government term.

AWA water bottling decision – implications and next steps

23. A decision from the Supreme Court in November 2023 confirms Environment Canterbury's current practice which is to consider both take and use of water together when processing consent applications.

24. This decision has also resulted in unintended consequences that are posing challenges for some significant projects, such as constructing basins for stormwater management which may require the ongoing passive take of groundwater by stormwater basins. Environment Canterbury understands the unintended consequences are presenting economic implications and minimal environmental benefit.
25. Environment Canterbury is considering several avenues to resolve the unintended consequences of this issue as quickly as possible. A Streamlined Planning Process is being investigated to address “take and use” consenting issues including those impacting infrastructure activities. The Minister for the Environment will need to endorse this approach and Environment Canterbury will need to follow the steps set out in a direction issued by the Minister (including provision for a consultation and submission process allowing those affected by the proposal to be involved).
26. A paper seeking Council’s decision on options to address the unintended consequences of this Supreme Court decision will be provided to Environment Canterbury’s Council meeting on 28 February 2024. In addition, an overview of Environment Canterbury’s plans in this regard have been provided to Territorial Authority Chief Executives and Mayors directly.

Update on a new planning framework

27. Environment Canterbury continues to progress the review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). A review is due as the Regional Policy Statement is now over ten years old. Progressing this review now will provide opportunities to incorporate relevant changes in central government policy direction that may arise in the coming years.
28. Community consultation to inform the Regional Policy Statement review was run over two campaigns in July and October 2023. The first campaign, called ‘*What’s our future, Canterbury?*’ focused on understanding the visions and outcomes the community is seeking from the Regional Policy Statement review. The second campaign, called ‘*Let’s pick a path*’, sought feedback on broad policy direction.
29. Environment Canterbury is working with each of the councils’ planning teams to ensure District and City Councils are informed and able to influence the development of the Regional Policy Statement. Environment Canterbury staff have been working with territorial authority staff to ensure elected members can hear about the Regional Policy Statement review. Environment Canterbury staff have met with staff at Christchurch City Council in January and Selwyn, Hurunui, and Waimate District Councils in February. Time has been tentatively booked in with Waimakariri District Council staff later in February. Further information is provided on the Environment Canterbury [website](#)¹.
30. Environment Canterbury intends to notify an integrated regional plan in 2028. This aligns closely with the Government’s timeframe for implementing NPS-FM 2020 provisions by the end of 2027 and will provide opportunities to incorporate any changes arising from

¹ <https://haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz/about-our-future-canterbury>

the Government's NPS-FM 2020 review which is expected to take between 18 and 24 months.

31. The recent change in national direction has reinforced Environment Canterbury's decision to focus initial efforts on a review of the RPS over a review of the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP). Given the significant cost to Council and the community associated with the development of the LWRP, there was limited benefit in immediately reviewing the LWRP following the release of the NPS-FM 2020. Existing timeframes mean that further national direction can be developed and then inform the development of the regional integrated plan for notification in 2028.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Update on key regional projects/campaigns October to December 2023
- Attachment 2: Zone Committee Action Plan overview October to December 2023

Attachment 1: Key regional projects/campaigns October to December 2023

1. The CWMS is implemented in the Canterbury region by the CWMS partners through a range of statutory and non-statutory obligations and by working with agencies and community groups.
2. This section of the update provides information on the delivery of actions by CWMS partners to meet the 2025 goals under the 10 CWMS Targets Areas², although not all 10 Target Areas are intended to be covered each quarter. Progress against the CWMS Targets is reported on Environment Canterbury's [website](#)³.

Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes

3. Key agencies, organisations and landowners continue to work together to address the health of the Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes. This work is a key priority for the agencies, organisations and landowners working in this catchment in 2024 and supports progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target.
4. In November 2023, Environment Canterbury issued notices of consent review to the two landowners in Ōtūwharekai with existing consents. Environment Canterbury is also working with the two landowners in the catchment who have consent applications under consideration. Work is underway on potential consent conditions to ensure the consents appropriately protect the health of the ecosystems in Ōtūwharekai.
5. The Ōtūwharekai Working Group's integrated catchment plan is now close to completion, with the final draft expected in late March. The plan will set out a collaborative strategy and clear path forward to restore biodiversity and ecosystem health in the area. It is being prepared by an independent contractor with the engagement and input of the organisations, agencies and landowners working in Ōtūwharekai.
6. Restoring the mauri of the Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes continues to be a high priority for Environment Canterbury and mana whenua. The most recent water quality monitoring results, as well as progress updates on other actions, are available at www.ecan.govt.nz/otuwharekai.

² There are ten target areas within the Canterbury Water Management Strategy each with a number of more specific goals. The target areas are: Environmental Limits, Ecosystem Health/Biodiversity, Natural Character of Braided Rivers, Kaitiakitanga, Drinking-water, Recreational and amenity opportunities, Water use efficiency, Irrigated land area, Energy security and efficiency and Indicators of Regional and National Economies.

³ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/measuring-cwms-progress/>

Te Mōkihi Programme

7. The Te Mōkihi Programme is a programme focused on improving environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes in Te Manahuna/ Mackenzie Basin (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target). It is a partnership between Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Te Rūnanga o Waihao, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, Land Information NZ, Mackenzie District Council, and Waitaki District Council.
8. Te Kura Taka Pini (Ngāi Tahu Freshwater Group) and Rūnanga chairs presented the draft findings of the Scoping Report on Strategic Partnership in Te Manahuna & Waitaki Catchment to the Mackenzie Chief Executives and Mana Whenua Forum on 3 October 2023. A full day wānanga is planned for 1 March 2024 to progress discussions on strategic partnership options and next steps for the Te Mōkihi Programme.
9. The Te Mōkihi Programme continues to provide fora for agencies to communicate and work across organisational boundaries. These include:
 10. the Interagency Steering Group, who met on 30 October 2023 to discuss the Strategic Partnership Research, the Ōmarama Reserve, and hot topics for the Mackenzie Basin (including wilding conifer control and solar farms)
 11. the Mackenzie Interagency Officers Forum and the Interagency Communications and Engagement Group, who have been working on consent applications for solar farms on the Mackenzie Basin, and the re-consenting of the Waitaki Power Scheme.
 12. For Ngā Rūnanga projects, discussions continue about the future use of Ōmarama Reserve. Waitaki District Council have asked for assistance from the other agencies with developing this work. LINZ have agreed to work with them on the next steps.

Whakaora Te Waihora Programme

13. The Whakaora Te Waihora Programme is an operational programme of the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group to restore and rejuvenate the mana, mauri and ecosystem of Te Waihora/ Lake Ellesmere (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity and Kaitiakitanga Targets). The Co-Governance members are Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council, and Department of Conservation.
14. The programme includes Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai, a project to restore the mid-lower stretches of Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream which is led by Te Taumutu Rūnanga, co-managed between Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Environment Canterbury, and funded by Environment Canterbury and the Government's Freshwater Improvement Fund.
15. Over the last quarter mātauranga Māori and water quality monitoring work continued, and riparian sites have been prepared for planting in the autumn.

16. The Te Waihora GIS Platform project is developing a digital platform of projects around Te Waihora.
17. The team have been working across organisations to compile data on multiple project sites. This platform is independent of any organisation, allows organisations control over their data and to choose the data they share and displays project sites in both a 2D and 3D digital map. The platform will support a range of users to identify priorities, project planning and development, and improving communication and cooperation with partner organisations.

Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme

18. The Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme is designed to improve the environmental and cultural values of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target). It is a partnership between Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council, and Lyttelton Port Company to action the Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Catchment Management Plan.
19. Within this programme, the Whaka-Ora Pest Project (WOPP) has recently been expanded to include Governors Bay providing strong links to Summit Road Society and Living Springs. The WOPP has begun to train volunteers and a co-ordinator for areas outside the work of the Kaimahi for Nature team.
20. Also, within this programme, the *Whakaraupō Sediment Control*: stock have been removed to ensure planting above Rāpaki for managing sediment flow can be maintained. A proposal is in place for student support to identify and map out sediment sources for Lyttelton to Cass Bay, with the work to be carried out over the coming year to identify solutions.

Attachment 2: Zone Committee Action Plan overview October to December 2023

Kaikōura Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Natural Character of Braided Rivers</p> <p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga wahi taonga & biodiversity</p>	<p>Support “ki uta ki tai” projects and identify future projects</p> <p>Enhance biodiversity, and improve amenity and recreation values</p> <p>Facilitate understanding of catchment systems within the zone, build community knowledge and connection to these systems and increase public participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At their October meeting, the Committee made recommendations to support an additional project using the Kaikōura Zone Committee Action Plan budget for this financial year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tirohanga Wetland Stage 2 – a collaborative project with the landowner, involving supporting “on the ground” actions at Waitaha’s most northern coastal wetland. This includes permanent fencing with a generous buffer between the wetland and grazing, allowing wetland vegetation to continue flourishing. This work will allow substantial filtration of run-off prior to entering the wetland area, providing habitat for waterfowl. The project will also include weed control of Black Alders & willow. • The committee also heard from the Wai Connection project team, with further workshopping to occur in February 2024. • Planning is also underway to roll out a mini Stormwater Campaign early 2024, in conjunction with Kaikoura District Council and the Committee. This will lead into a collaborative programme of activities during Seaweeek 2024. • At the November meeting the committee received the Zone Delivery Quarterly update from the Kaikoura / Hurunui Zone Delivery Team. • ‘Let’s Pick A Path’ Summit was held in Kaikoura on 14 November. This was a well-attended event including community groups, Kaikoura Youth Council, Department of Conservation, Te Korowai, Kaikoura Coastal Guardians, farmers, Kaikoura District Council, Amuri Irrigation, Kaikoura Dark Skies and the Kaikoura Water Zone Committee. • On its’ successful end of year field trip on 1 December, the committee visited 3 Action Plan funded wetland sites near Kaikoura. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the end of a busy year, connect over kai in the field, visualise the good mahi many of the local landowners have underway and hear about the specialties of these sites, with Senior Biodiversity Officer, Heath Melville.

Hurunui Waiau Uwha Zone		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
	To be developed once the Water & Land Committee is established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC
Waimakariri Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Drinking Water Natural Character of Braided Rivers Recreation and Amenity Opportunities Kaitiakitanga	Improve monitoring of water resources Biodiversity improvements Braided Rivers Recreation resources Mahinga kai improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee's Biodiversity Working Group supported the selection process for three inaugural environmental awards at the Waimakariri District Council's 2023 Community Awards ceremony on Wednesday, 18 October 2023. The awards were presented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cust School for the work undertaken to improve a stream feeding into the Cust River. The school plan to work with local farms to plant trees to improve water quality. ○ Oxford Dark Sky project for its work in supporting the application to become a Dark Skies site. The project has identified a number of benefits including improved human health, protected wildlife and ecosystems and lower use of energy and energy costs as well as a boost in astro-tourism to the region. ○ Noelene Francis for her work coordinating the restoration of the Silverstream Reserve. • The Committee held a workshop in December to consider funding of action plan projects for this year.

Christchurch-West Melton		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga</p> <p>Recreation and Amenity opportunities</p>	<p>Enhance mahinga kai</p> <p>Engage with community</p> <p>Enhance ecosystem health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At their November meeting, the Committee received a joint report and presentation from Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury. Presenters informed the Committee on progress made by each council on the erosion and sediment control resolutions passed by the respective councils in April, May and June 2023. <p>In November, the Committee held the Stormwater Superhero Awards 2023 at the Christchurch City Council. The 2023 awards were to celebrate businesses that are being a Stormwater Superhero – doing their best to keep chemicals and contaminants out of the drain, rivers and sea. A secondary category was added this year seeking entries from industrial sites. Awards went to Cleanco Truck Wash, Oji Fibre Solutions (NZ) Ltd, Resource Recycling Technologies (NZ), IAG NZ Repairhub Ltd, Redmund Spur Ltd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee held a workshop to consider projects to support using the Action Plan Budget and at their November meeting, made recommendations to support the full allocation of \$75,000 towards various projects. Involved in the “Let’s pick a path” engagement session in Christchurch which supports the development of the Regional Policy Statement.

Banks Peninsula Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga</p>	<p>Enhance ecosystem health</p> <p>Engage with community</p> <p>Supporting new and existing catchment groups</p> <p>Consider mahinga kai</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued supporting the Wairewa Catchment Group which involves the major farmers in Wairewa Catchment and was formed in partnership with Wairewa Rūnanga. • In October, the Committee held a workshop to consider projects to support using the Action Plan Budget and made recommendations to support five projects with focusses on supporting catchment groups and community group operations and erosion and soil control. The full \$75,000 is now allocated. • Collaborated with Christchurch Envirohub and hosted the Stormwater Superhero trailer at five community events to help the community understand simple actions they can take to reduce pollution in waterways. The events attended were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lyttelton Market in both October and November ○ Governors Bay Fete in October ○ Orton Bradley Park Spring in October ○ A drop-in session for the Akaroa Bays Forum and wider Akaroa community in December • Involved in the “Let’s pick a path” engagement session in Christchurch which supports the development of the Regional Policy Statement.

Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Drinking Water Natural Character of Braided Rivers Recreation and Amenity opportunities Kaitiakitanga	Raising awareness of private drinking water supply risks Healthy Waikirikiri/Selwyn River Enhance mahinga kai, recreation and amenity values Catchment nutrient targets and water quality outcomes Healthy Te Waihora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October, the Committee held a planning workshop for a Huritini/Halswell bus trip. The Huritini/Halswell Stakeholder Bus Trip would improve understanding of the current context, create and tell the story of the catchment and identify next steps for a catchment and community engagement. • The Committee held two briefing sessions in October and November to consider projects and initiatives to support using the Action Plan Budget. Recommendations were made at the November meeting to several projects with funding going towards projects that support school efforts, restoration and community planting projects, project mapping in Te Waihora catchment and zone committee led initiatives including well water testing days and bus trips. Environment Canterbury have now approved funding for all projects. Just under \$75,000 of the budget has now been allocated. • In October, the Committee co-hosted a Farmers Curiosity Day alongside Quorum Sense. This was followed by a visit to the Near River Recharge site. The focus was on regenerative farming principles with presentations on soil, plant health and water quality, bale grazing research; and wintering cost comparisons and a farm visit to see trials being undertaken and the results yielded. The event was attended by farmers, industry representatives, and zone committee members. • Lincoln High School undertook six fieldtrips for their Te Pā o Moki and Waikēkēwai Year 9 taking action work which ZCAP funding went towards student transport costs. The fieldtrips enable students to learn about the mana of Waikēkēwai, Oraki and Te Waihora, and the importance of increasing and managing riparian margins through learning about mahinga kai and activities including weeding and releasing. • Involved in the “Let’s pick a path” engagement session in West Melton which supports the development of the Regional Policy Statement.

Ashburton Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Environmental Limits Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity opportunities	Support measures to enhance recreation and amenity opportunities Improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets Supporting Hakatere / Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek) and Hekeao Hinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October, Committee members attended the Staveley Camp's Weed Wrangling Weekend, an event to help tackle the weeds within the 10-ha forest remnant which surrounds the camp. This remnant is the last eastern-most patch of mountain beech left in the Ashburton District, and a rare reminder of what forests in the area once looked like. • In November, the Committee received a presentation from the Mid-Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC). An update was provided on the work undertaken by MCCC and various catchment groups to engage, educate and empower their communities which included events such as field days on biocontrol, and education on monitoring and analysis. • Involved in the "Let's pick a path" engagement session in Ashburton which supports the development of the Regional Policy Statement. • In November, the Committee received an update from Environment Canterbury planning staff on the Regional Policy Statement and Freshwater Management Unit development. This provided an opportunity for the committee and Mid Canterbury Vision Group to discuss and provide additional feedback.
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Kaitiakitanga Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity Opportunities	Protect, enhance and restore mahinga kai and tuhituhi nehera sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October the Committee visited Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) wetland and riparian restoration, and subsequently recommended Action Plan funding for maintenance and purchasing more native plants.

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Recreation and Amenity opportunities</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga</p>	<p>Support catchment groups taking collective action to reduce losses of contaminants, prioritised where they are addressing identified at-risk areas</p> <p>Explore opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways, such as the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee held a workshop in October to consider funding of action plan projects for this year. • Following the discussions in August and September on the Trophic Lake Index (TLI) of the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore for 2022/23 exceeding the early warning trigger in some irrigation consents in the catchment, the Committee organised a meeting with farmers in the Ahuriri Catchment in October to discuss this concerning TLI trend, and options to support local farmers in addressing this impact on the water quality of Lake Benmore. • The October meeting was well attended with participants agreeing that actions were needed to reduce impacts on the lake. A second meeting with local farmers is being planned for March 2024.
Lower Waitaki Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Recreation and Amenity opportunities</p>	<p>Strive for increased engagement to identify and support improvement opportunities in water quality across the wider community.</p> <p>Improve water quality of the Waihao river and catchment area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November the committee recommended funding for willow control on the upper Waihao river and tributaries, and at the Kurow wetlands. • In December the Committee hosted a stall at Waimate Strawberry Fare to highlight positive environmental work being done in the Zone. They were joined by representatives from two catchment groups and four community groups doing great mahi in the zone.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 23 February 2024

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chair Chief Executives Forum

Water Reform

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on Chief Executive discussions to date on water reform proposals and background information to support a discussion on the water reform process proposed under the National Party's *Local Water Done Well* policy.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the information provided in the paper to support a discussion on the water reform process proposed under the National Party's *Local Water Done Well* policy.**

Background

2. The Coalition Government has repealed all legislation relating to water services entities, and reinstated previous legislation related to the provision of water services (including local government legislation) to restore continued council ownership and control of water services and responsibility for service delivery.
3. Following the repeal, the government will be introducing two pieces of legislation to progress their *Local Water Done Well* policy, with the first to be introduced and enacted by mid-2024 and the second introduced in December 2024 and enacted by mid-2025.

Local Water Done Well

4. The Government's *Local Water Done Well* (National Party policy) proposes an approach that keeps community ownership and delivers high water quality while ensuring there is sufficient investment in water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.
5. The policy requires councils to deliver a plan on how they will transition their water services to a new model that meets water quality and infrastructure investment rules, while being financially sustainable in the long-term.
6. The Minister of Local Government will sign off on councils' proposals once satisfied that they meet these requirements.

7. It will be up to individual /collective councils to determine their own model for water service delivery, the government will not mandate a model.

Water quality and infrastructure investment rules

Water Quality

8. The Government will amend the existing governing legislation for the Water Quality Regulator (Taumata Arowai) to exclusively target water quality. They will be responsible for the quality of potable water.
9. The new legislation will also cover wastewater and stormwater, with a goal to reduce or eliminate contamination of local beaches and waterways.

Infrastructure Investment

10. A new independent Water Infrastructure Regulator, within the Commerce Commission, will be established to work alongside the Water Quality Regulator.
11. The Water Infrastructure Regulator will have three main functions:
 - monitor councils to ensure they are investing adequately in maintaining pipes and upgrading their water infrastructure to accommodate growth. Assets will be required to be restored to meet minimum standards
 - ensure water pricing or charges for connection are fair for communities and councils, water assets should be self-funding, but communities should not be overcharged
 - set quality standards for water infrastructure so communities receive safe, reliable services.

Water services that are financially sustainable

12. The Government will introduce a requirement for water service delivery models to be financially sustainable and have defined this as:
 - revenue sufficiency – water services earn sufficient revenues, either directly from users or rates, to cover maintenance and depreciation of infrastructure
 - ringfencing – water services stand on their own two feet and do not put pressure on funding for other council services
 - funding for growth – water services can access borrowing to invest in infrastructure wherever users are willing to pay the costs of services.
13. Councils will have to show that they can meet their costs of infrastructure, including maintenance, depreciation and expected growth. It will be up to councils to decide what model they opt for to achieve financial sustainability.
14. Councils will not be able to propose water service models that involve privatisation.

Ability to pay for water services

15. It is expected that some councils will not need to change, as their current model is already working, others may just need to increase council borrowing, whereas others may need a new model that involves the ability to access long-term borrowing, such as through a regional Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) with other councils that can achieve balance sheet separation.
16. Should councils need transitional support the Water Infrastructure Regulator will provide expert advice to the Government on council proposals for the delivery of water services. Where the Government determines that a council cannot achieve financial sustainability by, for example long-term borrowing, it will provide limited one-off funding to bridge the gap.
17. This support will be determined on a case-by-case basis and not be able to be used for day-to-day delivery of water services, rather for projects needed to transition to a sustainable footing.
18. The Government will retain the allocated \$1 billion in Crown Funding for Three Waters, however councils will be required to use this for making the transition to a financially sustainable model, e.g. by upgrading water infrastructure, rather than unrelated activities. Funding will be allocated on a needs basis.

Submission on new water legislation

19. It is expected that following the introduction of the legislation to implement the Government's water reform that the Mayoral Forum will submit on the draft legislation. Details of any submission will be shared following the introduction of the new legislation.

Canterbury discussions

PWC Report

20. In 2020, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum commissioned PWC to undertake a three waters service delivery review for Canterbury. The review was undertaken in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.
21. The purpose of the review was to provide a clear understanding of the Three Waters assets within the region, and the options available for service delivery and funding arrangements.
22. At the time of the report it was noted that Christchurch City Council dominates the region in terms of scale, expenditure and debt. Councils were forecasting expenditure of \$4.6 billion over the next ten years (\$3.2 billion capex and \$1.4 billion opex) and these costs were driving increased debt levels and high cost per serviced property.

23. The report noted that there are large variations in cost per serviced property across the region and while aggregation would result in cost efficiencies for some councils, others could experience increased costs per serviced property.
24. The report evaluated three options, alongside the status quo, for service delivery: a CCO, joint governance model (Canterbury), and joint governance model (Ngāi Tahu Takiwa). At the time of the study, it was noted that both the status quo and CCO models were not part of the Department of Internal Affairs potential models.
25. The weighted average score for each of the models resulted in the joint governance model (Ngāi Tahu Takiwa) scoring the highest against the criteria used for the assessment, followed by the joint governance model (Canterbury).
26. Given the change in focus with the Government's Local Water Done Well policy it is reasonable to expect that different criteria for assessment would be used going forward.
27. The Chief Executive Forum has agreed to review the PWC report, noting that the financials will have changed and that the draft 2024 Long-Term Plans will contain the most up to date financial information.

Collective discussions

28. A number of councils are already in discussions with their neighbouring councils on various water reform and broader shared service options. Chief Executives have agreed to keep Forum members informed of these discussions.

Official Information Request

29. The Chief Executive Forum has made an official information request to the National Transition Unit (NTU) and Department of Internal Affairs for data, analysis, tools, templates etc (see Attachment 1).
30. The request notes that it is critical that the information held by the NTU be made available to councils to avoid unnecessary duplication and expense for communities as councils transition to the Local Water Done Well policy.

Wider South Island interest

31. At the end of 2023, the Canterbury Chief Executives had an initial discussion on what next steps for water reform in Canterbury may be. At that time, it was agreed to write to the other South Island Chief Executives to gauge their interest in participating in these discussions with Canterbury.
32. Chief Executives from across the South Island have responded that they would be interested in being involved in discussions with Canterbury. At this stage these wider discussions have not progressed.

Next steps

33. Consider how Canterbury councils may wish to proceed with discussions on the water reform, based on the Government's Local Water Done Well policy, including at what stage to extend the discussions to include other South Island council Chief Executives.
34. Keep a watching brief on new water legislation, with the intention of preparing a Mayoral Forum submission.

Attachment

- Attachment 1: Official Information Request

CANTERBURY Chief Executives Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

13 February 2024

Heather Shotter
Executive Director
National Transition Unit
Department of Internal Affairs
Wellington

Email: Heather.shotter@dia.govt.nz
OIA@dia.govt.nz

Kia ora Heather

Official Information Act Request – Water Services Reform data

On behalf of the Canterbury local authorities, I would like to submit this Official Information Act request for the following data and information related to the water services reform programme, as it relates to Canterbury specifically, and New Zealand more broadly, as we prepare to meet the requirements of any water reform legislation following the repeal of the Three Waters legislation.

Please consider this Official Information Act request singularly and collectively from all Canterbury territorial authorities: Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate, Waitaki District Councils and Christchurch City Council. We would appreciate receiving this information collectively, however if some information must be provided directly to individual councils can you please advise accordingly.

We believe that it is critical that this information held by the National Transition Unit be made available to councils. Not just data that councils have provided to the NTU, but also the modelling, templates, tools, approaches, plans etc that the NTU has been developing for the transition to the Entities to avoid unnecessary duplication and expense for our communities.

We are aware that as Entity I was proposed to be stood up towards the end of the schedule there may be information that was completed for Entities A and G that would be of value for Canterbury councils that we are including in this request, in particular approach, planning, templates, and tools.

We have structured our information request by the workstreams that you have been providing information and updates to councils.

Secretariat, E: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz W: www.canterburymayors.org.nz
C/- Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140 T: 03 345 9323

*Ashburton District Council • Canterbury Regional Council • Christchurch City Council • Hurunui District Council
Kaikōura District Council • Mackenzie District Council • Selwyn District Council • Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council • Waimate District Council • Waitaki District Council*

Asset Management, Operations and Stormwater (AMOS)

1. Draft Asset Management Plan for Entity D (in 4 entities model) – latest version.
2. Draft Asset Management Plan for Entity I (in 10 entities model) – latest version.
3. All other background data gathered for preparation of Strategic Asset Management Plan (at National level from work either done at national level or for Entity A).
4. Project Plans, approach, templates etc for the completion of Asset Management Plans.
5. National Engineering Data Standards (NEDS). Confirmation of the status of this work, the final outputs from it (assuming updates were done after the last version was provided to councils) and what is required for it to be finalised.
6. Any outputs that can be taken from the Operational Stocktake including the approach, scope, outcomes, and results for Canterbury councils.
7. Any templates and tools that can be re-used by Canterbury councils so that an operational readiness assessment could be developed maximising the value from the work the operations workstream has already done.
8. Any planning information including templates, gantt charts etc. that could be used to develop a Transition Plan.
9. Any outputs developed from the Trade Waste sub-workstream including bylaw reviews.
10. The stormwater modelling tool and any other tools developed within the Asset Management, Operations and Stormwater workstream.
11. Any other outputs produced by the Stormwater team that have not already been shared with councils.
12. Any other templates, project plans and approaches from the various sub workstreams including Compliance and Incident / Emergency Management.
13. Any draft strategies developed to support the setup or on-going operations for new Entities.

People and Workforce

14. Any modelling/analysis performed on data gathered in the Staffroom / information requests for staff that would be transitioned or required in Entity I
15. The approach for Organisational Design development and any plans and learnings from the work completed for Entity A that could be relevant outside of their Entity and geographic area.
16. Any draft outputs that support the development of an Organisation Design for Entity I and the base information, approach and analysis performed or expected to develop outputs.

17. Outputs from work on position descriptions including any updates from position descriptions provided by councils as well as any analysis on position descriptions that could be useful to inform a new water organisation.
18. Draft templates for national level union agreements and individual agreements.
19. Training plans - including people and digital change / preparedness.
20. Any feedback / useful learnings from the training plans that were delivered.

Finance

21. Any draft Funding and Pricing Plans / other models produced that include Canterbury councils or could be easily adapted for their use along with clarity on assumptions made and where all base information has been taken from.
22. Any learnings / insight from completing the Entity A Funding and Pricing Plan that could be of national interest (not just useful for Entity A).
23. Any other outputs from Water Industry Commission for Scotland (WICS) / Treasury or other bodies that provided input that contain insight, advice, risk awareness etc. from work completed in the Finance stream.

Legal and Commercial

24. Outputs and analysis completed from the Legal RFIs and any relevant templates, plans etc. for how the information was expected to be validated and used to develop an Allocation Schedule.
25. Any legal / commercial advice provided to the NTU that would be relevant to Canterbury councils / was based on information provided by canterbury Councils.
26. Any stocktake results.

Customer

27. Customer Strategy, outputs from the customer workstream including key customer journeys / insights and draft customer agreements. For all outputs, confirm the status of the agreements (including external reviews/engagement that has occurred or was planned with customer groups) and what is still outstanding.
28. Any outputs from analysis of council customer data for Canterbury councils and for all councils where it would be considered nationally relevant/useful.

Constitution Development

29. Approach, plan, templates and any other draft information that would have been used to support the development of a Constitution for a Regional Representative Group for Entity I.

Data and Digital

30. Information on the status of the Digital Platform that has been developed. The latest update to councils prior to Christmas suggested it was almost fully operational and your updates suggest there are conversations about its on-going use.
31. If it is not going to be used, what can be shared and what can be reused, either using Infor or not, including the data cleaning platform and approach, processes and systems behind them to respond to Customer Journeys.

Instruments and Operating Elements

32. Templates, relevant analysis, outputs developed for the creation of the Instruments that were to be developed (where not already noted above - like Constitution and Asset Management Plans) including their status, for example, have they been legally reviewed.
33. Learnings from the development and attempted implementation for Entity A where relevant to others.
34. Any other relevant information on the development of operating elements.

Other

35. Risk registers including Transition Risks.
36. Overall Programme plan – generic and specific to Entity I – including confirmation of what was and was not completed to provide a summary of the status of the programme at the point it was stopped.
37. Anything else not already directly referenced above, that has been gathered or developed by the National Transition Unit that could be useful for councils that may look to work together on a regional approach to water services delivery. This could be outputs including from all the various Requests for Information that Canterbury councils responded to as well as approaches, templates, project plans and the learnings, particularly from Entity A as they were closer to go-live when the programme initiated shut-down.

Summary

38. Thank you for considering this request and we look forward to receiving the information that we have requested.
39. As noted above we would appreciate receiving the information for all of Canterbury, however if any of the data must be returned to specific councils, please advise.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hamish Riach', is positioned below the Māori phrase. The signature is written in a cursive, fluid style.

Hamish Riach
Chair, Canterbury Chief Executives Forum
Chief Executive, Ashburton District Council

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 23 February 2024

Presented by: Dan Gordon, Chair Climate Action Planning Reference Group

Canterbury Climate Action Planning update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on regional climate action planning and the development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the updated draft actions in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan to be discussed and endorsed by the Climate Action Planning Reference Group on the 29th February 2024.**

Background

2. A partnership approach to climate action planning was agreed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in November 2022, including agreement that funding for implementation of climate actions would be provided for in members' 2024-2034 long term plans.
3. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan will show how councils will work together on specific climate actions to help minimise the impacts of climate change on Canterbury's communities and ecosystems.
4. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum endorsed the vision and principles of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan on 2nd June 2023, and the Reference Group endorsed the strategic framework (vision, principles, strategic outcomes and objectives) of the Plan in October 2023 (Appendix 1).
5. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum also endorsed an initial list of draft actions and recommended scale of investment to fund regional climate actions in November 2023.
6. This paper provides an updated list of actions which has been refined by the Climate Change Working Group following feedback from various councils and regional fora.

Draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan actions

7. The Climate Change Working Group has been iteratively developing climate actions over a series of workshops in 2023 and early 2024. Actions are focused on addressing the priority risks identified in the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment (2022), as well as the collaborative opportunities that climate change presents.

8. These actions will support or complement the climate actions of individual councils, and not duplicate those efforts.
9. The draft actions associated sub-actions and key benefits identified by the Working Group are in Appendix 2. These are a work in progress and are due to be reviewed and endorsed by the Climate Action Planning Reference Group on 29th February 2024.
10. Further work is being done to refine costs and sequence the actions over the next three years and beyond. The Working Group is mindful of the fiscal constraints and cost burdens faced by councils and continues to work towards the indicative costs provided to you in November 2023.
11. There are currently 8 draft primary actions, some with sub-actions. The 8 key actions relate to the following themes:
 - Understanding climate risks and improving resilience
 - Emissions reduction
 - Adaptation planning
 - Nature-based solutions
 - Climate change education and advocacy (It's Time, Canterbury)
 - Supporting papatipu rūnanga
 - Integrating climate change considerations in council processes
 - Climate action funding and finance
12. There are currently two supporting actions relating to:
 - Monitoring and evaluation
 - Resourcing implementation

Working with Papatipu Rūnanga

13. The CCWG and Reference Group continue to welcome involvement from Papatipu Rūnanga both at a governance and implementation level and are mindful of the capacity challenges faced by Papatipu Rūnanga.
14. A letter is being drafted to the Chairs of the Papatipu Rūnanga to update them on progress on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan and extend an open invitation for input on the draft actions, particularly the key action relating to Papatipu Rūnanga which is listed in the table in Appendix 2.

Engagement Feedback and Communications Plan

15. Engagement on climate action in Canterbury was undertaken through Environment Canterbury's *Let's Pick a Path* engagement campaign across the region in late 2023. The updated draft actions have been reviewed against this community feedback.
16. There is consensus amongst districts at a high level on some climate change priorities, including on the need to increase renewable energy, support communities to become

more resilient and adaptable, regenerate ecosystems through native planting, pest control and river restoration, and foster collaboration and participation.

17. There is also a clear consensus across the region on the importance of collaborative climate leadership and community action. Districts emphasised the need for strong leadership from local government, businesses, and community leaders to drive innovation, implement solutions, and provide clear direction. Enabling community participation in decision-making and providing resources for community-led initiatives was a recurring theme, and several districts highlighted the importance of taking a science-based approach. Districts voiced that there needs to be a balance between national guidance and coordination and enabling regional and community-level adaptation and implementation.
18. The CCWG secretariat is currently developing a communications plan which will be brought to you at your next meeting on 31st May 2024. It will focus on tactics and channels for sharing the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan following endorsement by the Mayoral Forum.

Next steps

19. The Reference Group and Working Group will meet in-person on 29th February to finalise the draft actions proposed by the Working Group.
20. In March/April, members of the Working Group will brief their councils to seek their buy-in on the Partnership Plan actions.
21. Drafting of the Plan will commence following the workshop on the 29th February and will be brought to the Mayoral Forum for adoption in the first quarter of the 2024-25 financial year.

Attachments

- Appendix 1: Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Strategic Framework (endorsed by the Reference Group in October 2023)
- Appendix 2: Draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan actions and benefits

Appendix 1: Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Strategic Framework (endorsed by Reference Group October 2023)

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan - Strategic Framework

Canterbury Mayoral Forum project - led by the Climate Change Working Group and Reference Group, December 2023



A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life for all.

Vision

Our collective purpose and guiding star for climate action in Canterbury

A thriving, climate resilient, low emissions Canterbury

Principles


The values by which we will approach climate action in Canterbury



Treaty based




Solutions focused




Collaborative



Equitable




Bold



Informed



Intergenerational



Inclusive

Outcomes

The desired future state for Canterbury in a changing climate

<p>A healthy environment</p> <p>Our healthy environment enables our communities to thrive.</p>	<p>An equitable and inclusive transition</p> <p>Our communities are empowered through an equitable and inclusive transition to a low emissions and climate resilient future.</p>	<p>Prosperity</p> <p>Our environmental, cultural, economic, and social wellbeing is improved by identifying and taking early opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>Adapted and resilient communities</p> <p>Our communities are resilient and have the necessary infrastructure, knowledge, and tools they need to adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>Emissions reduction</p> <p>Greenhouse gas emissions reductions are achieved in line with our national and international commitments at a minimum.</p>	<p>Climate action leadership</p> <p>Canterbury is a leader in climate change mitigation, adaptation and inclusive climate action planning and promotes the four wellbeings.</p>
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Strategic Objectives

What we want to achieve through regional joint climate action

<p>OBJECTIVE #1</p> <p>To work with science, nature and Mātauranga Māori to reduce climate vulnerability and improve resilience.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE #2</p> <p>To enable transformational action in an inclusive and equitable way.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE #3</p> <p>To maximise co-benefits and identify opportunities for co-funding and financing climate actions.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE #4</p> <p>To inform and empower communities to be prepared, improve their resilience and adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE #5</p> <p>To collaborate with communities to use available solutions and encourage behaviour change to achieve a smart, innovative, low emissions future.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE #6</p> <p>To ensure climate change is prioritised in all local government decision making processes in Canterbury.</p>
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Appendix 2: Draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan actions and benefits (pending review by Reference Group 29th February)

Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Key Benefits at regional & district level (refer to Strategic Framework for outcomes)
<p>Understanding Climate Risks and Improving Resilience</p>	<p>Understand and communicate climate hazards and risks in Canterbury in order to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Canterbury-wide visualisation tool for use by councils to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience. • Update the Canterbury climate change risk and urgency assessment to ensure a comprehensive and up to date understanding of key risks under different climate change scenarios. 	<p>Actions will help contribute to Climate Partnership Plan outcomes:</p> <p>Adapted and Resilient Communities; An Equitable and Inclusive Transition, Climate Action Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables a consistent regional approach to risk and hazard information, understanding climate scenario impact on vulnerable communities, critical infrastructure and ecosystems. • A regional approach provides cost savings including reduced set-up fees and annual licensing, and especially benefits smaller less-resourced councils in Canterbury. • Supports evidence-based decision-making around infrastructure, land-use planning, service provision, civil defence and emergency management, climate adaptation, including any climate-related opportunities. • Information can be used to develop and enhance climate policies and local adaptation strategies, providing a robust basis for community engagement and awareness raising. • Raises awareness among the public and fosters community engagement. Informed communities are better prepared to take collective action. • Provides the basis for a public-facing visualisation tool which could be completed in a secondary phase to support engagement with communities on risk and resilience. • Helps to fulfil statutory responsibilities to avoid or mitigate natural hazards and to have regard to the

Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Key Benefits at regional & district level (refer to Strategic Framework for outcomes)
<p>Emissions Reduction</p>	<p>Work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Canterbury and support an equitable and inclusive transition to a thriving, low-emissions and resilient future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess baseline greenhouse gas emissions sources and sinks for the region and for districts. • Develop consistent, robust greenhouse gas emissions modelling tools to support decision-making including emissions reduction pathway modelling. • Undertake a regional transition risk and opportunities assessment, including an economic impact assessment, for Canterbury to inform an equitable and inclusive transition to a low emissions region. • Foster partnerships and co-develop a regional action plan to address barriers and harness opportunities to decarbonise our energy systems in ways that maximise energy security and benefits for our community, economy and environment. 	<p>effects of climate change when making certain decisions.</p> <p>Actions will help contribute to Climate Partnership Plan outcomes:</p> <p>An Equitable and Inclusive Transition; Prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundational actions enable a coordinated and consistent approach to a planned transition which maximises opportunities and minimises disruption and inequities. • Enables councils to identify how best to help communities cope with change and realise opportunities. • Helps proactively identify and develop initiatives tailored to taking advantage of the transition's opportunities and addressing the challenges that different groups may face. • An opportunity to work together to improve the four wellbeings, become more productive, increase resilience and reduce inequality. <p>Emissions reduction; Climate Action Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the opportunity for a planned, equitable, and strategic approach to regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction, supported by robust data and evidence.

Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Key Benefits at regional & district level (refer to Strategic Framework for outcomes)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with partners and key stakeholders to investigate the issues and opportunities for creating a circular economy in Canterbury. • Work together to build a regional low-emissions transition strategy that supports equitable, inclusive local pathways to a thriving, climate-resilient region meeting emissions reduction targets. • Build local government capability and identify best practice approaches to determining and assessing greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate adaptation/resilience impacts of council projects. 	
<p>Adaptation Planning</p>	<p>Develop enabling frameworks to support best practice local adaptation planning by councils throughout Canterbury.</p>	<p>TBC. Sub-actions still in development.</p>	<p>Action will help contribute to Climate Partnership Plan outcomes:</p> <p>Adapted and Resilient Communities; Climate Action Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures a regionally consistent and coordinated approach to adaptation, providing for information sharing and less duplication of effort. • Enabling frameworks establish mechanisms for developing and monitoring local adaptation plans.

Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Key Benefits at regional & district level (refer to Strategic Framework for outcomes)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency ensures that councils across Canterbury use best practices and work together towards a unified strategy. • A framework can help councils allocate resources more efficiently by providing guidance on priority communities and areas for adaptation planning. • Will guide councils in integrating climate resilience into infrastructure planning and development.
<p>Nature Based Solutions</p>	<p>Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature-based solutions to climate change effects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Canterbury-wide ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment. • Collate and utilise available data to inform a blue-green network. • Revise the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy to incorporate climate change risks and sequestration. • Collaborate and align with the Greater Christchurch blue-green network strategy. • Develop a spatial approach and guidance for locally-led establishment of a blue-green network and implementation of nature-based solutions suited to the Canterbury region to reduce vulnerability and adapt to climate change. 	<p>Actions will help contribute to Climate Partnership Plan outcomes:</p> <p>Healthy Environment; An Equitable and Inclusive Transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved environmental outcomes through natural ecosystem protection and restoration. • Offers an opportunity for mātauranga Māori knowledge to be incorporated and may enable mana whenua to revitalise cultural practices (e.g. food gathering). <p>Prosperity; Emissions Reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for economic development through physical works programmes, recreation, and tourism. • Blue-green infrastructure (wetlands, forests, soil-stabilising vegetation) has proven to be a more cost-effective alternative for mitigating hazards compared to grey infrastructure (dams, water facilities, retaining walls, irrigation) with other benefits such as ecosystem services. • Provides increased opportunity for place-making, enhanced identity, ownership and public connection to waterways and nature. • Improved amenity, recreation opportunities and liveability in urban areas.

Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Key Benefits at regional & district level (refer to Strategic Framework for outcomes)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish blue-green infrastructure on council-owned land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased potential for blue-green carbon sequestration. Potential for future carbon or biodiversity credits <p>Adapted and Resilient Communities; Climate Action Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future proofed flood mitigation leading to increased community safety and resilience. Councils are well-placed to coordinate the efforts of others around the region to maximise the co-benefits for nature, climate change mitigation and adaptation and the four well-beings. Enables implementation at a local level. Implements a holistic approach to planning around waterways (blue) and greenspaces (green).
<p>Climate Change Education and Advocacy to support communities</p>	<p>Increase awareness of climate change hazards and promote individual and collective climate action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop the "It's Time, Canterbury" initiative into a comprehensive resource hub for climate education and collective action across Canterbury. Collaborate with CDEM to produce communications materials that integrate climate action and resilience to natural hazards. 	<p>Actions will help contribute to Climate Partnership Plan outcomes:</p> <p>Adapted and Resilient Communities; Climate Action Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's time, Canterbury (ITC) provides a centralised and easily accessible source of information on climate change, its impacts, and climate action in Canterbury. ITC can help communicate complex climate concepts in an engaging manner. ITC serves as a hub for climate education, helps raise awareness, fostering a better understanding and increased resilience. Allows for the sharing of resources, including successful case studies, best practices, and community and district climate actions. Provides a platform to share communications material that integrates climate actions and resilience to natural

Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Key Benefits at regional & district level (refer to Strategic Framework for outcomes)
			<p>hazards to raise create a better understanding about the interconnectedness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITC provides an opportunity to empower individuals, organisations, and communities with the knowledge and skills needed to actively participate in climate-related conversations, initiatives and projects. • The platform could be used as a tool for advocating climate-friendly policies and practices, and engagement.
<p>Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga</p>	<p>Support papatipu rūnanga with climate action at place and provide continuing opportunity for their involvement with Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan projects to the extent they so wish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to understand the climate action needs and aspirations of papatipu rūnanga and how councils can individually and collectively best support these needs and aspirations at place. • Establish partnerships and through them, with their mātauranga Māori experts, to understand how indigenous knowledge can be incorporated into local climate action. 	<p>Actions will help contribute to all Climate Partnership Plan outcomes:</p> <p>Healthy Environment; An Equitable and Inclusive Transition; Prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides space for inclusive and equitable climate action planning and opportunities for mana whenua to be involved with councils and part of the CAPP implementation (to the extent they wish to be involved). • Acknowledges the importance and necessity of indigenous knowledge for effective and sustainable climate action planning and implementation. <p>Emissions Reduction; Adapted and Resilient Communities; Climate Action Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows commitment from councils to honour their relationship with mana whenua, strengthening Partnerships and upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi. • Provides collaboration opportunity for increased emissions reduction and adaptation outcomes.
<p>Integrating climate change considerations in council processes</p>	<p>Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations into council policies, projects, procurement</p>	<p>No sub-actions.</p>	<p>Actions will help contribute to Climate Partnership Plan outcomes:</p> <p>Emissions reduction; Climate Action Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for reduced council costs and emissions, contributing to financial sustainability.

Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Key Benefits at regional & district level (refer to Strategic Framework for outcomes)
	<p>processes, and infrastructure development to reduce council emissions and enhance resilience to climate impacts.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking the walk - councils display climate leadership leading by example. • Showing leadership by taking proactive steps to increase knowledge and address climate change impacts. • Integrating climate considerations into various aspects of local government operations ensures a holistic approach to decision-making and sustainability planning. • Opportunity to build internal capacity within councils and raise awareness of climate change considerations
<p>Climate Funding and Financing</p>	<p>Identify and leverage co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate to central government for funding to be made available for the climate-related actions that need to be taken by local government to address the gap between current local government funding and what is needed for the comprehensive climate action that is required in the future. • Explore the feasibility of a Canterbury Climate Commitment that inspires and unites businesses and communities to accelerate climate action. 	<p>Actions will help contribute to all Climate Partnership Plan outcomes:</p> <p>A Healthy Environment; Adapted and Resilient Communities; Emissions Reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased and accessible financial resources enable up-scaling of climate-related actions, leading to more significant impacts on emissions reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable development. • A 'commitment' could encourage businesses and communities to develop and implement climate adaptation- and mitigation plans, ensuring they are prepared for the impacts of climate change on their operations and communities, and emissions reduction. <p>Prosperity; Climate Action Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A climate commitment or pledge can serve as a catalyst for innovation, encouraging businesses to develop and implement new technologies, strategies, and solutions that contribute to climate resilience and sustainability.

Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Key Benefits at regional & district level (refer to Strategic Framework for outcomes)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong, united, and audible local government voice in Canterbury. • Increased financial resources to implement climate actions. • A climate commitment or pledge can expedite the adoption of sustainable practices and initiatives, as businesses and/or communities collaborate to meet shared goals. • Demonstrates a commitment to environmental stewardship, enhancing relationships with stakeholders, including customers, investors, and communities. • A unified commitment can have a greater influence on local and regional policies, advocating for regulatory frameworks that support sustainable practices and climate-friendly initiatives.
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p>	<p>Develop a monitoring and evaluation plan and report on climate-related indicators for the region to monitor progress towards achieving a thriving, climate resilient, low emissions Canterbury.</p>	<p>No sub-actions.</p>	<p>Actions will help contribute to all Climate Partnership Plan outcomes:</p> <p>A Healthy Environment; An Equitable and Inclusive Transition; Adapted and Resilient Communities, Emissions Reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides essential information and data for informed decision-making and a basis for reviewing climate actions to achieve the outcomes of the Partnership Plan • Helps assess the region's vulnerability to various climate-related risks. • Reporting on climate-related indicators can raise public awareness about the importance of climate action and its impacts. <p>Prosperity; Climate Action Leadership</p>

Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Key Benefits at regional & district level (refer to Strategic Framework for outcomes)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments, businesses, and communities can use climate-related indicators to allocate resources efficiently. • Provides valuable data for decision making and can inform the development of effective climate policies, regulations and incentives. • Enables policymakers to assess the effectiveness of policies and interventions. • Ability to learn from Climate Change Commission’s experiencing in developing indicators and metrics for climate adaptation.
<p>Implementation</p>	<p>Assemble an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.</p>	<p><i>NB this action needs further discussion and scoping depending on final list and endorsement of CCPP actions. May include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>CCPP implementation manager</i> • <i>CCWG Secretariat</i> • <i>Council project leads or contributors</i> • <i>Project coordinator(s) for significant/key projects</i> 	<p>Action will help contribute to all outcomes and ensure successful delivery of partnership plan actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures continuation of collaborative approach. • Options to right-size implementation team depending on final list of endorsed actions. • Reduces pressure and demands on individual councils who do not have staff capacity to manage project delivery of individual actions.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 23 February 2024

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chair Chief Executives Forum

Resource Management Reform

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the current status of the resource management reforms.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the information provided in this paper on the current status of the resource management reforms.**

Background

2. One of the commitments in the Government's coalition agreements was to repeal the Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 (NBA) and Spatial Planning Act 2023 (SPA) in its first 100 days in office.
3. Both pieces of legislation were repealed through the Resource Management (Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Repeal and Interim Fast-track Consenting) Act 2023. The Act received Royal Assent on 22 December 2024 and is now in force.
4. The Government has indicated that it will develop new legislation to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) during its term. The development of replacement resource management laws based on the "enjoyment of property rights", will take place over the next 24 months, with a Bill expected to be introduced in late 2026.
5. The Resource Management Act remains in force as the principal Act that guides all resource management decisions.

Natural and Built Environment Act repeal

Fast-track consenting

6. The repeal legislation carries through the NBA's fast-track consenting process into the Resource Management Act. Any consent issued under the NBA will be treated like a consent under the RMA.

7. The Government intends to develop replacement fast-track consenting legislation and introduce it in Parliament on 7 March 2024, and referred to a select committee for consideration.
8. The fast-track process will form part of a new standalone Act, with proposals for projects of national, regional or local significance able to apply to Ministers for approval to use the fast-track process. If approved, applications will be referred to an Expert Panel who will make the decision on the proposal.

Freshwater

9. The NBA amended the RMA to introduce a shorter maximum duration for certain freshwater consents.
10. Freshwater consents applied for since 24 August 2023 that have not yet been decided, will now have their duration determined in accordance with standard criteria set out in the RMA. The RMA allows for a maximum duration of up to 35 years.
11. Replacement freshwater consents applied for after 24 August 2023 that have not had a notification decision made will now be eligible for public notification under the RMA.
12. Any resource consents granted in accordance with the shorter duration consent provisions are still valid under the RMA.
13. The NBA also made an amendment to the RMA which extends the date by which councils must publicly notify their freshwater plans (previously 31 December 2024, now 31 December 2027).

Requiring authorities

14. A requiring authority is an entity that can designate land for a specified purpose (such as schools and roading) for planning and consenting. Requiring authorities also have access to the process for compulsory land acquisition under the Public Works Act.
15. The NBA gave council-controlled organisations (CCOs) the same automatic requiring authority status as councils. This has been reversed and CCOs no longer have automatic status.
16. Any in-progress applications to become a requiring authority under the NBA will not be processed and any granted applications will be revoked.
17. Notices of requirement lodged by requiring authorities granted their status solely under the NBA (this is likely to apply to CCOs only), will not be processed and any notices of requirement that have been confirmed will not be able to be exercised.
18. On 23 November 2023, the NBA also broadened the scope and number of 'non-network' entities that could apply to become a requiring authority.

19. Any applications that have been submitted will cease to be processed, although where an applicant meets the RMA definition of a network utility operator, they can re-apply under the RMA.
20. If any application has been approved, approvals will be revoked, except where an applicant meets the RMA definition of a network utility operator. In that event, the approval is treated as an approval under the RMA.

Treaty settlements

21. The NBA required information about consent applications to be provided to Post Settlement Governance Entities with statutory acknowledgements, even where equivalent requirements under Treaty settlements were time bound or had expired.
22. The repeal legislation amends the RMA to retain this provision.

Compliance and Enforcement

23. The repeal of the NBA reverses all of the compliance and enforcement amendments that applied under the RMA from 24 August 2023, and reverts to the compliance and enforcement provisions of the RMA in effect prior to the NBA's enactment.

Impact of repeal and reform process on Canterbury Mayoral Forum

24. Current resource management activities will continue under the RMA, continuing business as usual practices for local councils.
25. Once the Ministry for the Environment start the process for replacing the RMA there will likely be requests for working groups and expertise from local government.
26. It would be expected that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum will make submissions on any future discussion papers and/or legislation for resource management, through the usual stages. This would likely be led by the Canterbury Planning Managers Working Group.

Communication

27. This paper has been prepared from information provided in the Government's coalition agreements and the Ministry for the Environment website. As further information becomes available it is proposed that the Policy Forum and Planning Managers Working Group keep a watching brief on the reform process and provide timely updates to the Chief Executives Forum.

Next steps

28. Request the Policy Forum and Planning Managers' Working Group to keep a watching brief on the Resource Management reform process and provide updates to the Chief Executives Forum as required.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 23 February 2024

Presented by: Ben Clark, Regional Public Service Commissioner

Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner on the Regional Leadership Group: Waitaha Priorities (RLG) – Regional Leaders operating under the Regional Systems Leadership Framework (RSLF).

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receive the written update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner on the Regional Leadership Group Waitaha priorities.**

Background

2. The Regional Leadership Group was established to ensure the region's system response to the COVID Protection Framework (CPF) is well prepared and has been meeting weekly. Given the lifting of the CPF the final meeting of this group was on 6 October 2022. Should the need arise the group is prepared to quickly reconvene.
3. The Regional Public Service Commissioner is also responsible to identify shared priorities that the public service can jointly work towards for Canterbury. The shared plans and priorities are to be locally-informed, regionally-led and centrally-supported.

Regional Public Service Commissioner Update

4. A written report is attached.

Attachment

- Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Attachment 1: Regional Public Service Commissioner (RPSC) Update

Mayoral Forum February 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner (RPSC - Ben Clark) on:

- the Regional Leadership Group (RLG) for Canterbury - Regional Leaders operating under the Regional Systems Leadership Framework (RSLF).

Priorities

When the Regional System Leadership Framework was introduced, regions were required to develop regional priorities - ones that cut across many agencies' work programmes and required an increased level of collaboration for improved outcomes.

Whilst the region has priorities, this does not limit the focus and leadership across areas not specifically defined as a Regional Public Service (RPS) priority. RSLF also provides the opportunity to convene, resolve and escalate issues across social, economic, skills & workforce, and environmental sectors.

Updates on current priorities

Tamariki and Rangatahi

The six children agencies of Police, Education, Te Whatu Ora, Oranga Tamariki, Justice and Ministry of Social Development, with support from the Regional Public Service Team, signed a Statement of Intent with Ngā Maata Waka as part of the Enabling Communities Initiative under the Oranga Tamariki Action plan. This was dated 28 November 2023. Ngā Maata Waka took the opportunity to engage with Enabling Communities because of the overlap with some of their existing workstreams. Other NGOs may wish to do the same in the future, which would be welcomed. The intent of this initiative is to promote and support a community led response to emerging issues impacting youth.

Next steps for this piece of work include meeting with a service designer to explore the shape this initiative will take in consultation with Oranga Tamariki. Ngā Maata Waka have signalled an interest in exploring housing as a core determinant of wellbeing.

Housing

As mentioned in the November 2023 Mayoral update, a working group co-led by MSD and Kāinga Ora is focused on wrap around cross-agency support for whānau with tamariki transitioning through emergency housing. This is in line with the government's 100-day plan, including the item:

- Establish a priority one category on the social housing waitlist to move families out of emergency housing into permanent homes more quickly.

This also aligns with the Engagement and Attendance mahi undertaken by the Ministry of Education. Increasing school attendance has been a concern of the RLG, and has been mentioned on several occasions by the Prime Minister, including at Rātana. The RPSC team are connecting



with Education to explore how best to support theirs and other agencies' efforts in this space. At a presentation by one of the Ōtautahi Initiative providers in December 2023 it was shared that of the 10 – 13 year olds who were arrested and put through the Fast-Track process, the vast majority were in emergency housing and had been disengaged from school for up to two years.

Impact of Government priorities on public services

Whilst the Government's 100 Day Plan is mainly related to policy and legislative changes to enable the new agenda, the new government has made some clear statements that are likely to have significant impacts on government agencies over the coming months. Statements have included references to:

- A review of Kainga Ora
- The intent to disestablish Te Aka Whai Ora
- A reduction in public sector expenditure and a signal that government agencies will be operating under significant fiscal constraint
- Realigning the welfare system towards employment
- Youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET)
- Reducing serious youth offending
- A focus on health and education including better school attendance and achievement
- A focus on localism and devolution.

The latter point is an encouraging one for regional collaboration we are aware that Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand, are keen to explore greater alignment, especially on how we support the community voice.

The next Regional Leadership Group meeting is approaching at the end of February. This provides an opportunity to check in with members on any significant changes to their focus areas or ways of working, given the identified government priorities.

Chathams update

The Chatham Islands Strategy has been completed by Kāhui Manu Tāiko, the four entities on island comprised of the Chatham Islands Council, Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust, Hokotehi Moriori Trust and Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri. The role of this group is to provide strategic direction and speak with one voice for the Islands across a range of outcome areas. On island community and stakeholder launches of the Strategy have been scheduled for April and May 2024, with the support of the Department of Internal Affairs and the RPSC.

RPSC Team changes

Some good news for the team: we have confirmation of the continuation of the regional leadership framework until 30 June 2025. Specifically, that means ongoing funding for a team of three – a Director, a Senior Advisor and an Advisor. Unfortunately, Eamon will be finishing as Director to start a new role within Corrections, from 1 April. This is a big loss given his skills, senior leadership experience and enthusiasm. This means that we will be recruiting for a new Director for a 15 month fixed-term, and a new Senior Advisor to fill an existing vacancy. These roles are a good opportunity to develop professionally in a cross-agency role. The intention is to re-focus the team on one or two key deliverables over this period that reflect critical system gaps.



Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 23 February 2024

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chief Executives Forum

Chief Executives Forum report

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to report on the work of the regional forums since November 2023.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. receive the quarterly report from the Chief Executives Forum
2. note updates on work under way or completed on the key actions in the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

Regional Forums activity

2. Since the Mayoral Forum's November meeting:
 - the Communications and Engagement Forum met on 8 December.
 - the Operations and Corporate Forums met on 11 December.
 - the Policy Forum met on 15 December.
 - the Chief Executives Forum met on 29 January.
3. The Economic Development Forum did not meet as planned on 15 December, awaiting the appointment of a new Chair.
4. Forum meetings were not well-attended in December. This appears to be due to the impact of LTP development.

Chief Executives Forum

5. Key agenda items discussed at the 29 January meeting included:
 - Long-term plans – particularly each Councils' position on water infrastructure, roading and NZTA subsidies, and debt levels
 - Mayoral Forum media release on LTP key messaging ahead of public consultation
 - draft refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2022-2025

- engagement with central government and the draft briefings to Ministers
 - water reform options in the light of the new government direction, and a decision to retain the \$35,000 funding set aside for three waters related projects
 - an update on discussions regarding shared services amongst some Canterbury councils
 - an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy
 - the draft Mayoral Forum agenda for February
 - council approaches to Representation Reviews
 - confirming Sharon Mason as chair of the Economic Development Forum
6. Chief Executives will meet next on 6 May 2024.

Triennium strategic workplan

7. The refreshed Plan for Canterbury highlights nine specific actions against the three priority issues of sustainable environmental management, shared prosperity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. A strategic work plan has been developed to monitor progress on the actions and will be updated with high-level commentary and reported quarterly to the Mayoral Forum (see attachment 1).
8. To support the strategic workplan, the Chief Executives Forum uses a workstream tracker to track and report on progress of the range of initiatives under way that sit under each of the Plan for Canterbury's action areas. The workstream tracker also tracks progress against key projects and programmes from the regional forums. The workstream tracker is updated and reported quarterly to the Chief Executives Forum.
9. The strategic work plan and workstream tracker are both living documents with the ability for additional items to be added as issues for regional collaboration arise.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 Strategic workplan

Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2023-2025

Updated 15 February 2024

#	Workstream	Plan for Canterbury priority	Key updates	Planned outcomes	Outcomes achieved
1	Strongly advocate with Government on the regional councils' business case for permanent co-investment from the Government on flood protection	Climate change	Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May and opposition members in June.	Government provides permanent co-investment for flood protection	
1b	Continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection	Sustainable environment Shared Prosperity Climate Change	Included in draft briefings to Ministers	Government provides permanent co-investment for flood protection	
2	Advocate with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury	Shared prosperity	Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May. Economic Development Forum members undertaking Canterbury wide business survey to gather detailed evidence Included in draft briefings to Ministers	Government adopts a more regional approach to immigration policies	
3	Seek to partner and collaborate with central government to develop an integrated approach to transport funding in Canterbury in order to increase in the level of funding available for Canterbury transport network	Shared prosperity	Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May	Future funding/investment distribution reflects the contribution of Waitaha/Canterbury to NZ's GDP	
3b	Advocate with Government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions	Shared prosperity	Included in draft briefings to Ministers	Ability for local councils to access additional transport funding	
4	Continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy	Sustainable environment	Updates provided to Chief Executives and Mayoral Forums	CWMS remains fit for purpose and the region retains a shared understanding of water management issues	
5	Continue to support the Biodiversity Champions this term as the key conduit to facilitate work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework and implementation of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity	Sustainable environment	First meeting of Biodiversity Champions proposed for June 2023; next meeting held December 2023	A new (refreshed/updated) Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, including the regional biodiversity monitoring framework	
5a	Support the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework	Sustainable environment			
6	Continue to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production	Shared prosperity	Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May Included in draft briefings to Ministers	Investment in research and technology for the pastoral sector reflects the sector's importance to Canterbury and New Zealand's economy	
7	Develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them	Shared prosperity	Investment Logic Mapping exercise undertaken in September. Housing Steering Group to meet in February to confirm scope of work	The Forum has clarity on housing issues affecting communities in Waitaha/Canterbury and understands pathways for improvement	
	Support the work of the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee on preparing for major natural hazard incidents, including an Alpine Fault rupture	Shared prosperity	Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May. Undertook joint submission with CDEM Joint Committee on Emergency Management Bill.	The Forum has supported enhancement of Canterbury's capacity to deliver effective and sustainable emergency management response and recovery activities	This action is still referenced in the Plan for Canterbury, but is no longer referenced as a specific action.
8	Oversee a Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan, which will confirm a collaborative vision for regional adaptation planning, an 'urgency assessment' to support prioritising climate actions, and a funding plan laying out a regional/aligned approach for accessing finance for climate actions in Canterbury	Climate change	Vision and high level principles provided to June Mayoral Forum meeting for approval. Approach for collective funding of regional actions agreed Nov 2024, Actions to be confirmed Feb 2024.	Completion of the Climate Change partnership plan and agreement on action planning	
9	Support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment	Shared prosperity Environmental Sustainability Climate Change	TBC	TBC	

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 23 February 2024

Presented by: Secretariat

Mayoral Forum activities and engagements – December 2023 to February 2024

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of activities, engagements and correspondence since the last Mayoral Forum meeting in November 2023.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receive the update on Mayoral Forum activities and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 24 November 2023.**

Background

2. A number of activities, meetings, submissions and correspondence occur between Mayoral Forum meetings. Meeting notes, correspondence and copies of submissions are currently circulated to members throughout the quarter between meetings. This paper compiles these in one place for the Mayoral Forums' convenience.

Meetings and engagements

3. There were no meetings or engagements outside of the regular quarterly meeting schedule.

Correspondence

4. Since the November 2023 meeting the Mayoral Forum wrote to:
 - Justin Tipa congratulating him on his election as Kaiwhakahaere of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
 - Hon Simeon Brown Minister of Local Government requesting a meeting with the Mayoral Forum.
5. The Mayoral Forum received the following correspondence:
 - Email advice from the Minister of Local Government tentatively accepting a request to meet with the Mayoral Forum and suggesting Friday 12 July 2024 in Christchurch

- Acknowledgement of receipt of the submission on the Emergency Management Bill and advice that the committee's report back deadline has been extended from March 2024 to December 2024.

Submissions

6. No submissions have been made since the November 2023 meeting.

Briefings

7. A number of briefings to newly elected Ministers are being prepared and are included in this meeting agenda (see item 4.2) for consideration.

Media Releases

8. Since the November 2023 meeting the following media releases have been issued:
 - Progress towards Canterbury's climate action plan
 - Long Term Plan media release

Attachments

- Correspondence
- Media Releases

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

*A strong regional economy with resilient, connected
 communities and a better quality of life, for all.*

1 December 2023

Justin Tipa
 Kaiwhakahaere
 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

By email: justin.tipa@gmail.com

Tēnā koe Justin

Kaiwhakahaere election

On behalf of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, I am writing to congratulate you on your recent election as Kaiwhakahaere of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

The Mayoral Forum acknowledges your significant work over the last two years representing Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, and thanks you for your engagement with us over that time.

The Forum values its relationship with the ngā Papatipu Rūnanga o Waitaha and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and would welcome the opportunity to continue to build on this with you in your role as Kaiwhakahaere.

We would warmly welcome you to attend any of our quarterly meetings next year as a starting point for kōrero – our Forum meets on 23 February, 31 May (in Ashburton), 30 August, and 29 November. Alternatively, please let me know when a hui might be convenient for you.

Ngā mihi



Nigel Bowen
 Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum
 Mayor, Timaru District

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

Secretariat, E: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz W: www.canterburymayors.org.nz
 C/- Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140 T: 03 345 9323

*Ashburton District Council • Canterbury Regional Council • Christchurch City Council • Hurunui District Council
 Kaikōura District Council • Mackenzie District Council • Selwyn District Council • Timaru District Council
 Waimakariri District Council • Waimate District Council • Waitaki District Council*

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life, for all.

6 December 2023

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Energy
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

By email: s.brown@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister

Congratulations and invitation to meet from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

On behalf of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Local Government, Transport and Energy. We are very pleased that a minister with local government experience has been appointed to the local government role, and we look forward to working alongside you on the challenges and opportunities ahead for our local government in our region.

As you will know, Canterbury is New Zealand's largest region by land area, spanning the territory of 10 local authorities from Kaikōura in the north to Waitaki in the south and the rohe of 10 Ngāi Tahu papatipu rūnanga. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum enables leadership, communication, co-ordination and collaboration between our councils, and provides an aligned and strong voice for Canterbury with government, communities, partners and stakeholders.

In preparation for engaging with the Government, the Mayoral Forum recently met to consider the issues around regional/city deals, and to refresh some areas of our Plan for Canterbury¹. Once we have progressed this work further in the new year, we will provide briefings to you and your Ministerial colleagues to begin this important conversation.

¹ See our website at this link: <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

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In the interim, we understand you are meeting with various councils in the coming weeks, and would very much value the opportunity to meet with you as part of your visits. We appreciate it is a busy time of year, and the Forum would be happy to work in with whenever or wherever might suit you. Please contact our secretariat on secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or phone Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924 to discuss some possible dates/times. We look forward to hearing from you.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Local Government.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor, Timaru District



GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE KOMITI WHAKAHAERENGA

31 January 2024

Emergency Management Bill

Thank you for your submission on the Emergency Management Bill, which the Governance and Administration Committee considered in the 53rd Parliament.

Since we received your submission last year, the committee's report back deadline for the bill was extended from March 2024 to December 2024. The extension follows a request from the Minister for Emergency Management, as the new Government may wish to make changes to the bill to reflect updates to its policy direction, address issues raised by submissions, and respond to the upcoming report on the Government Inquiry into the North Island severe weather events.

In due course, we will contact submitters with any relevant updates on the committee's consideration of the bill.

If you have any further questions, please contact the committee secretariat at Governance.Administration@parliament.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Boyack'.

Rachel Boyack
Chairperson
Governance and Administration Committee