

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, 24 November 2023

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, 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, 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

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

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!

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 - 25 Aug 2023	8
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1.4 Action List

Nigel Bowen

2. Workshop

2.1 Engagement with Central Government - workshop 8:45 am (75 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

2.1.a	CMF Engagement with Central Government Nov 2023.docx	18
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3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea 10:00 am (15 min)

4. Workshop continued

4.1 Engagement with Central Government - workshop continued 10:15 am (30 min)

Nigel Bowen

5. For discussion

5.1 Climate Change Action Planning update 10:45 am (20 min)

Dan Gordon

Supporting Documents:

5.1.a	CMF Climate Change Action Planning update - Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Funding Nov 2023.docx	36
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5.2 Future for Local Government review - survey results 11:05 am (30 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

5.2.a	CMF Future for Local Government review - survey results Nov 2023.docx	41
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5.3 Future for Local Government review - shared services 11:35 am (10 min)

Will Doughty

Supporting Documents:

5.3.a	CMF Future for local government review - shared services Nov 2023.docx	49
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5.4 Canterbury Water Management Strategy

11:45 am (10 min)

Peter Scott

Supporting Documents:

5.4.a	CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy Nov 2023.docx	51
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6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update

11:55 am (5 min)

Ben Clark

Supporting Documents:

6.1.a	CMF Regional Public Service Commissioner update Nov 2023.docx	64
6.1.b	CMF Regional Public Service Commissioner update Nov 2023 Attachment 1.docx	65

6.2 Chief Executives Forum report

12:00 pm (5 min)

Bede Carran

Supporting Documents:

6.2.a	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Nov 2023.docx	67
6.2.b	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Nov 2023 Attachment 1 - Strategic workplan.pdf	69

6.3 Mayoral Forum activities and engagements

Supporting Documents:

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7. General business

7.1 General business 12:05 pm (10 min)

Supporting Documents:

7.1.a	CMF - General Business - Onsite wastewater system consenting Nov 2023.docx	134
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7.2 Meeting review 12:15 pm (10 min)

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Closing karakia 12:25 pm (1 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 - 23 Feb 2024, 8:30 am

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 25 August 2023
Time:	8:30 am to 1:00 pm (NZST)
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:	Alex Parmley, Angela Oosthuizen, Bede Carran, Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Jeff Millward, Stefanie Rixecker, Stuart Duncan, Will Doughty, Monique Croon, Amanda Wall, Maree McNeilly, Rosa Wakefield
Apologies:	Dawn Baxendale, Sharon Mason
Guests/Notes:	Owen Pickles, Chief Executive, Chatham Islands Council Lynn McLelland, Assistant Chief Executive, Strategic Policy & Performance, Christchurch City Council (for Dawn Baxendale) Tim Harris, Acting CE Selwyn District Council (for Sharon Mason)

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Karakia, welcome, introductions and apologies

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting with karakia.

He welcomed Mayor Monique Croon and CE Owen Pickles from the Chathams to their first meeting with the Forum and welcomed the other guests, and noted that due to an issue with flights Minister Shaw is now unable to attend the meeting. Hon Eugenie Sage will still be joining members for lunch.

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed with three items of general business:

- Environment Canterbury consenting
- the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport
- the LGNZ Future for Local Government discussion in Wellington on 17/18 September.

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

Canterbury Mayoral Forum 2 Jun 2023, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

1.4 Action List

Updates were provided on the two outstanding actions:

1. Stefanie advised that multiple meetings have been held or scheduled to ensure the Regional Policy Statement review is shared with and through councils, and noted that planning managers have all been updated on this throughout the process.
2. South/Mid Canterbury mayors provided an update on their progress on health localities. They advised that they have met with Te Whatu Ora, Arowhenua and Waihao, and that all parties support the same approach, which is essentially the model recommended by South Canterbury DHB. Fiona Pimm's strong vision and energy on this work was noted as a key reason for the progress here, and it was noted that reaching agreement with rūnanga and driving from the bottom up have been effective.
 - o Anne and Craig Rowley noted that they are keen to be included in future meetings to provide the rural perspective
 - o Sam met with the Minister of Health in his LGNZ role, noting that local government has been left out of discussions on health localities to date and communicating that we want to be part of this discussion
 - o there are limits on how much progress can be made until the iwi/Māori partnership board confirms boundaries, but it was noted that if there's agreement on a solution the board is unlikely to stand in the way
 - o Dan suggested inviting the new Te Whatu Ora Chair, Dame Karen Poutasi, to the Forum at some stage.

2. For discussion

2.1 Future for Local Government review - final report

The chair spoke to the paper, noting that following the brief meeting the Forum had in July, the Chief Executives Forum is investigating how the region can maximise the benefits of shared services.

Both major political parties have indicated that progress on the review panel's recommendations will not occur before the October general election. At the CEs Forum members discussed system design and how the Forum might feed into the work currently being undertaken by LGNZ. They agreed to consider shared services, and to look at how regional planning might work. A small working group has formed to progress this and will report back to the next CEs Forum. The CEs Forum agreed this discussion needs to sit with the CEs, not the sub-forums.

Sam noted that at the LGNZ AGM the intention to hold recommendations together as package of change was discussed. The LGNZ advisory group has met twice, and has discussed what kind of processes are needed to enable all voices to have their say. Two meetings are planned for September and December, as this discussion will take time. This is intended to be as participatory as possible and Sam encouraged all to attend both sessions. It was noted that these sessions should be available virtually but collaboration might be limited for those online.

Members discussed issues around the Future for Local Government, including:

- the need to consider the best future for Canterbury, whether or not this aligns with the report's recommendations, and then to share this with central government, rather than waiting for change to be made by central government
- that we should take a regional approach rather than trying to compete within Canterbury as we have different strengths
- the importance of having the right policy settings around infrastructure and housing
- the need to look to the extensive international research on place and wellbeing of communities, and not just focus on the report
- the need for a framework for discussion to achieve outcomes, whether this is the FfLG report or something else

- that we should seek to find where the common views are around what we want local government to be
- that regional development planning may be a key area to seek opportunities
- that North Canterbury and South Canterbury mayors have respectively started discussions on how they might work together
- whether there is a need to make governance roles more appealing to get better representation
- the need to consider how best to influence the incoming central government, and be very clear as a sector on what we want
- the need to set a clear strategic programme of how we will influence across Ministers, ministries, and policy makers as a region, and to schedule another meeting with Ministers in Wellington, once we have confirmed our strategic direction
- the importance of being open minded around the potential to improve
- that if there is a change of government we will need to reevaluate the approach for three waters, which will absorb capacity
- that councils can take action on these things now
- the potential for councils to have shared services without sacrificing identity
- that the recommendations have been proposed as a complete package; but also that this does not always hold when it comes to implementation
- that if we take the localised lens off we can do better for the region
- the need to support the recommendation for stronger relationships between central and local government
- that it would be good to agree on two or three things all members agree on to find a way forward
- that the funding model is broken, but that resolving this needs to come after determining the path forward.

Members discussed the potential of regional growth deals, as used in the UK, and noted that these could be a real opportunity for Canterbury and it could be timely to consider what such a deal might look like for the region.



Action

CEs to report back to the Forum on their work around the Future for Local Government and collaboration across the region.

Due Date: 24 Nov 2023

Owner: Hamish Riach



Action

Survey mayors and councils on the Future for Local Government report recommendations to determine areas of agreement and what is important.

30/10 Reminder email sent to Mayors - responses due 27 October

6 Nov - remaining responses due 10 November

Due Date: 29 Sept 2023

Owner: Maree McNeilly

**Action**

Plan a strategic workshop for members post-election to discuss planning for a regional growth deal.

6 Nov: On CMF Agenda for 24 November

Due Date: 27 Oct 2023

Owner: Maree McNeilly

**Decision**

The Forum agreed to note that the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum is exploring greater cooperation between Canterbury councils and the opportunities for collaboration and shared services across the region.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023

Mover: Nigel Bowen

Seconder: Marie Black

Outcome: Approved

2.2 Affordable Water - Entity I: go live timing

Hamish Riach spoke to the paper, noting that the CEs Forum and West Coast CEs discussed Entity I go live timing. Operationally having certainty and not being last is preferable but all CEs recognise the political aspect as well. Some councils could not indicate a preference but CEs had a majority (not unanimous) view that 1 July 2025 was preferred.

It was noted that advice was due from the NTU to CEs later this afternoon on a proposed schedule. Members discussed transition timing and agreed that 1 July 2025 was preferred, though this was a majority view and not a unanimous one. Members agreed to advise the NTU and West Coast CEs of this preference.

**Decision**

The Forum agreed, by majority, that 1 July 2025 is the preferred go-live date for Entity I.

Craig Rowley and Neil Brown voted against this decision. Peter Scott abstained from voting on this decision.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023

Mover: Dan Gordon

Seconder: Craig Mackle

Outcome: Approved

**Decision**

The Forum agreed:

1. to advise the West Coast of the Mayoral Forum's majority view of the preferred go-live date for Entity I
2. to advise the National Transition Unit of the Mayoral Forum's majority view of the preferred go-live date for Entity I.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023

Mover: Nigel Bowen

Seconder: Marie Black

Outcome: Approved

2.3 Future of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committees

Peter Scott spoke to the paper, noting that this recommendation sits in the context of the discussion this morning around FfLG and in the context of RM reform. He noted the need for a strong network of people in communities to help us through these issues, and that Te Mana o te Wai and the Regional Policy Statement: Indigenous Biodiversity are putting considerable pressure on TAs. He noted the need to evaluate the structure of these committees, but that there is too much uncertainty to confirm the approach currently.

Members discussed the paper, noting:

- some zone committees are not working currently, and whether it may be appropriate to pause funding while the review is underway
- some zone committees are working well, and though the review of structure and purpose is valuable these groups would go backwards if paused during the review
- the need for greater support for community catchment groups
- the value of the funding to support ongoing engagement with mana whenua
- that it would be good for this review to complete as early as possible

Stefanie noted that the Mayoral Forum owns the CWMS, and that the leadership of the Forum has set the CWMS in good stead. She noted that it took 10 years to establish the CWMS well, and it has the most sophisticated, advanced and real framework in the country. There is frustration that the framework created by central government over the past three years is based off the CWMS framework but will be implemented in a way that creates great cost for our communities.

The paper seeks endorsement to take this proposal into the LTP process. The review would seek input from the Forum and papatipu rūnanga via wānanga and regular updates.

She noted that funds could go elsewhere but first we need to understand how to engage communities and how best to disperse funds. Mana whenua are being asked for different representation in many different groups.



Decision

The Forum agreed to:

1. agree to an evaluation and review of the CWMS structures by 2025
2. endorse ongoing commitment to the CWMS zone committees until a proposed review is concluded in 2025.

Mayor Marie Black abstained from voting on this decision.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Craig Rowley
Outcome: Approved

2.4 Regional Public Service Commissioner

Ben Clark joined the meeting and provided an update. He noted that the intention for priorities from a social and health perspective is to narrow them further, and seek to understand system barriers to what's happening on the ground. He noted the development of the OI table in response to youth crime, and that young people referred to police are also captured in this table for rapid response. The table tries to identify what long-term support is needed by whānau to move rangatahi away from the criminal justice system. This has been in place for a few weeks and has already filled gaps in support for some rangatahi, for example young people coming to the table who are found to have a traumatic brain injury, and are then able to get more health support. Ben noted that his hope is that this information will give a clearer picture of what we're doing and not doing and how this could make a difference.

Monique noted that the Regional Leadership Group and Regional Public Service Commissioner has been very effective for the Chathams as a smaller community.



Decision

The Forum agreed to note the update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner on the Regional Leadership Group Waitaha priorities.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023
Mover: Marie Black
Seconder: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved

3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea

4. For discussion

4.1 Climate Change Action Planning Reference Group update

Dan Gordon spoke to the paper, noting that the reference group met at the end of June and endorsed the strategic framework. The group agreed to invite Canterbury councils to endorse the framework to build wider political support for it. The framework has been endorsed by Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Councils, with other councils considering it at their meetings through September and October.

The secretariat is exploring the possibility of a visit for the Reference Group to the Ngāi Tahu Centre at the University of Canterbury, as the Centre is doing a lot of work in the climate change space. If this goes ahead an invitation will be extended to Forum members.



Decision

The Forum agreed to note the update on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan including next steps for engagement and funding.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023
Mover: Dan Gordon
Seconder: Anne Munro
Outcome: Approved

4.2 Regional biodiversity monitoring plan update

Peter Scott spoke to the paper noting the considerable implementation action needed from TAs, and that there is work being done at a governance level, led by Environment Canterbury Deputy Chair Craig Pauling, to work out how to best support TAs with this.

Anne noted that the Biodiversity Champions group requested that the Mayoral Forum consider the potential of doing an initial desktop process in regard to SNAs. It was noted that SNAs are specific to the communities they are in and authority for these sits with individual TAs, but that Environment Canterbury is happy to progress background work and then share its planning on these.

Members noted concerns around this being another unfunded mandate, and costs to councils of implementation.

Stefanie noted that the Natural and Built Environment Act and the Spatial Planning Act have received Royal Assent. Underneath the Acts sit tier two directives, including the NPS, which

requires a monitoring framework. The national planning framework was meant to be released with the Acts, but timing did not allow, so will come out following election. This will provide clarity.



Decision

The Forum agreed to:

1. note the ongoing process being led by Environment Canterbury to scope a regional biodiversity monitoring plan, as required by the recently released National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
2. note that opportunities to collaborate on the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity will be brought to a future Mayoral Forum meeting for consideration.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023
Mover: Peter Scott
Seconder: Nigel Bowen
Outcome: Approved

4.3 Briefing incoming Prime Minister and ministers after the General Election

Hamish Riach spoke to the paper, noting that there may be an opportunity to make the briefing papers more specific for each Minister and Prime Minister, or we could continue with the process from three years ago.

Members considered a targeted approach was better than a generalised briefing, noting that individual letters to ministers could refer to past meetings with Forum members, matters that were campaigned on, etc.

Members agreed these letters should focus on the Plan for Canterbury and seek an engagement with Ministers early in the term, perhaps early 2024.



Decision

The Forum provided feedback on the approach for and content of letters/briefings to the Prime Minister and incoming ministers following the 2023 General Election.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023
Mover: Neil Brown
Seconder: Marie Black
Outcome: Approved

5. For information

5.1 Chief Executives Forum report

Hamish Riach spoke to the paper, noting the new way of tracking the work programme, and the focus on strategic items.

Members discussed how the regional forums were working and whether these provide value. Hamish Riach noted that engagement fluctuates and it can be challenging to get people in the room, but feedback from attendees is that the connections they make are valuable.

Stuart noted that the Operations Forum is struggling to get engagement, possibly partly because a number of members are also in the Engineering Managers Group. Stuart intends to propose to those members a different way of operating at their next meeting.

**Action**

Discuss issues relating to the regional forums at the next CEs Forum.

3 October: Included in regional forums update for CE Forum

Due Date: 6 Nov 2023

Owner: Hamish Riach

**Decision**

The Forum agreed to:

1. receive the quarterly report from the Chief Executives Forum
2. note updates on work underway or completed on the mayoral Forum's key actions in the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023

Mover: Nigel Bowen

Seconder: Neil Brown

Outcome: Approved

5.2 Mayoral Forum activities and engagements

The paper was taken as read.

**Decision**

The Forum agreed to receive the update on Mayoral Forum activities and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 2 June 2023.

Decision Date: 25 Aug 2023

Mover: Craig Rowley

Seconder: Sam Broughton

Outcome: Approved

6. General business**6.1 General business**

There were two items of general business:

Environment Canterbury Consenting

Members sought an update on this.

Peter noted that there are two aspects to this: the AWA decision, where Environment Canterbury is constrained by statutory demands and case law; and the historical backlog, which it is working its way through.

Stefanie provided an update, noting that she recognises the frustration and impacts, and is very concerned about the backlog. Environment Canterbury is putting significant organisational effort into resolving it. She noted:

- that the impact of the AWA decision and how far reaching it would be was previously flagged to this Forum, and that this is now sitting with the Supreme Court, where it has been delayed as it will be bundled with a similar North Island case, both cases with iwi interests. Environment Canterbury has chosen not to appeal
- that Environment Canterbury has to follow the most recent Court of Appeal decision when processing consents, which is that where the phrase "take and use" is included in the rule it applies to both takes and uses of water, even if only a "take" or a "use" applies, despite differing legal opinions others have been provided

- a memo on this issue was shared following the last Mayoral Forum which highlighted options available to TAs
- that NPS-FW 2020 has added many additional consents which has hit regional councils hard
- that Environment Canterbury has commissioned a review to clear the backlog. It has hired 13 new staff, lifted remuneration, and has just approved funding for a further 11 staff. It is also looking at different tools, including the permitted activities tool, to speed up processing
- that Environment Canterbury has 1000 active consents every month, and processing was at 40%; the above actions have brought current processing to 77% and projections are that this will be above 100% by December 2024
- under the new RM changes fast track consenting will continue
- that with 70% of Aotearoa's freshwater in Waitaha/Canterbury, Environment Canterbury processes four times as many freshwater consents than the rest of the country
- there are also many large consented works Environment Canterbury is handling, including hydroelectricity, the South Canterbury waste processing plant, the cathedral reinstatement, accelerated infrastructure for Kainga Ora, as well as supporting other South Island regional councils through shared service arrangements
- that she has asked the government to what extent it is appropriate to have elected members involved in consenting processes, and that all of this information has been shared with the Secretary for the Environment, MPI, the EPA, and others
- that under the RMA discounts must be given on consents when delayed, but this will be reversed once the backlog is cleared.
- Stefanie asked for the backing of the Forum, noting that members are welcome to seek further legal advice if appropriate.

Members noted concerns, including:

- that legal views provided to Christchurch City Council and Waimakariri District Council differ from that provided to Environment Canterbury
- that the backlog will cause a shortage of housing sections in the longer term
- the inability to clean up waterways due to delayed consents.

Members noted willingness to support Environment Canterbury where possible.

Government Policy Statement on Land Transport

Nigel and Peter will work with staff to put something together around this.

6.2 Meeting review

There was no time for this item.

7. Minister James Shaw

7.1 Visit by Minister James Shaw

Minister Shaw was unable to attend so this item was not discussed.

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Closing karakia

The meeting was closed at 12.32pm with karakia.

8.2 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 24 Nov 2023, 8:30 am

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 24 November 2023

Presented by: Nigel Bowen, Chair

Engaging with Central Government - workshop

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide background information in support of a Mayoral Forum workshop on central government engagement. The workshop is proposed to focus on how Canterbury might progress a city and/or regional deal, leveraging the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Background

2. The general election was held on 16 October 2023, and a new government will be formed following coalition negotiations. At time of writing it is expected to be a National led government with some form of coalition with the ACT Party and New Zealand First.

City and regional deals

3. At the August 2023 Mayoral Forum meeting members asked that a strategic workshop be arranged to discuss planning for a regional growth deal (Regional and City deals).
4. The National Party [Infrastructure for the Future](#) policy document includes a commitment to partner with local government to create City and Regional deals, establishing long-term pipelines of projects to increase economic growth and prosperity (see figure 1 below).
5. Place-based city and regional deals have been used in many other jurisdictions, including Australia and the UK. Attachment 1 provides background information on city and regional deal models used overseas, including information collected by a Hamilton City Council delegation that visited Australian jurisdictions undertaking city deals earlier in 2023.

3. National City and Regional Deals

Addressing New Zealand's infrastructure deficit cannot be done by central government alone. Local government has an important role to play. But, too often, councils are an after-thought for central government.

National will fundamentally reshape the relationship between central government and local government through long-term partnership agreements called City and Regional Deals. These models have proven successful overseas, including in the United Kingdom and Australia.

Each City and Regional Deal will be bespoke, but will share common features including:

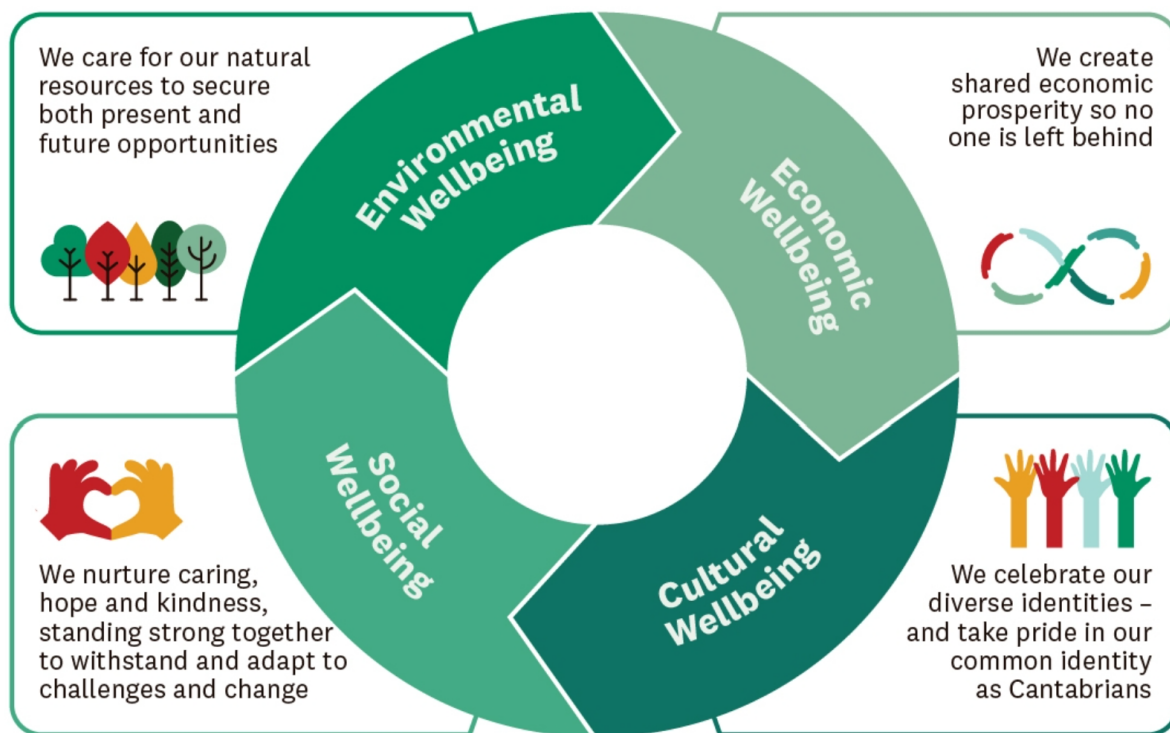
- Shared strategic objectives, developed in partnership and reflecting the particular local characteristics of each city and region.
- Long-term funding commitments by both central and local government to enable certainty of planning.
- A portfolio approach encompassing road, rail, public transport, housing (including public housing), and environmental resilience investments.
- Ongoing monitoring and auditing, milestone agreements, and regular engagement at senior Ministerial and local government leadership level.

Negotiations for City and Regional Deals will begin shortly after the election, with councils and regions urged to begin identifying priority projects immediately.

Figure 1: National Party – National City and Regional Deals

Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury

6. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum has agreed the [Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury](#) (the Plan) will form the basis for letters of introduction and briefings to incoming Ministers.
7. Commentary on the alignment between themes from the National, ACT and New Zealand First's party manifestos and the priorities and actions from the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury is provided at Attachment 2. These may change once a coalition agreement is reached between the three parties.
8. Now is a good opportunity to review the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury in preparation for engagement with the new central government, so it may be used as a springboard for conversations, including those about City and/or Regional deals.
9. It is considered that the Plan's vision and values (see figure 2) and priorities (see box 1) are fit for purpose, but other areas of the Plan, such as the actions, may require review, including a reprioritisation of the immediate actions given the change of focus of the new government.



Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and a proud identity.

Figure 2: Mayoral Forum’s Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 Vision and Values

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.

Box 1: Mayoral Forum’s Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 priorities

Workshop plan

10. The workshop will seek to provoke discussion about how the Canterbury Mayoral Forum might leverage the Mayoral Forum’s Plan for Canterbury to progress a Regional and/or City deal with the incoming National-led government.

11. A high-level agenda for the workshop is provided at Attachment 3.

Next steps

12. Staff will take the outputs of the Mayoral Forum workshop and advise on next steps, which could include:

- introductory letters to incoming Ministers
- a Canterbury consensus position to discuss city / regional deals with incoming Ministers or officials
- revisions to content or positioning in the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Background on City and Regional Deals
- Attachment 2: Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury priorities and actions
- Attachment 3: Draft workshop agenda

Attachment 1: Background on City and Regional Deals

What are city regional deals?

The [Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute](#) (AHURI) notes that City Deals or “place-based deals” are:

deliberate policy packages focussed on encouraging economic development in specific geographical areas. Their aim is to bring together separate powers, responsibilities, funds, programs and expertise into a cohesive ‘package’ designed to reflect place-based conditions and priorities.

What observations or lessons about city deals have other Councils gathered?

During the week of 21-27 August 2023, a delegation of representatives from Hamilton City, Tauranga City and Queenstown Lakes District Councils, Future Proof¹, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Internal Affairs, and the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission visited several local government organisations and state government departments in Australia. The purpose of the visit was to study the Australian experience of city deals, infrastructure funding and financing, and how councils can stimulate development.

The delegation met with the following organisations over the course of the week in New South Wales and Victoria, supported by Iron Duke Partners and SEC Newgate:

- a. Infrastructure Partnerships Australia
- b. Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue
- c. NSW Department of Planning and Environment
- d. Parramatta City Council
- e. Liverpool City Council
- f. City of Newcastle Council
- g. Hunter Water
- h. City of Greater Geelong Council
- i. Ballarat City Council
- j. National Growth Areas Alliance.

¹ A joint project set up to consider how the Hamilton, Waipā and Waikato sub-region should develop into the future

Initial observations and recommendations from this visit were reported to the Hamilton City Council's Strategic Growth and District Plan Committee on 10 October 2023. Observations from the delegation include:

- **Politics:** The delegation observed that Australian city deals are often highly political. While these projects may have merit, they risk becoming politically motivated rather than community-led initiatives
- **The Central Role of Government:** Australian state governments play a more significant role in planning and transport outcomes compared to central government in New Zealand. Conversely, local councils in Australia have less power and influence over infrastructure decisions than those in New Zealand
- **Innovation and Creativity at the Local Council Level:** Despite their limited responsibilities, Australian local councils have demonstrated innovation in encouraging new developments by collaborating closely with developers, and using design competitions to drive excellence
- **New Zealand has advantages:** The study revealed that New Zealand excels in several areas, including our relationships with mana whenua / iwi communities, our national land transport funding model, and our initiatives in affordable housing and climate change adaptation.

Recommendations made by the delegation for progressing with city or regional deals include:

- **Partnerships with Clear Outcomes:** New Zealand should prioritise outcomes and establish clear rules of engagement in city deals or partnerships between central and local government. Accountability, both political and practical, should be a central focus
- **Effective Governance:** Differentiating between strategic and operational governance is crucial. Independent monitoring should ensure accountability, and clarity in governance structures should be maintained to avoid confusion
- **Simplicity in Partnerships:** Avoiding overcomplication by starting with a relatively tight partnership structure is advisable, with a gradual introduction of complexity
- **Alignment of Investment Timeframes:** Prioritize aligning investment timeframes between central and local government to ensure effective coordination and prevent delays
- **Leverage Existing Economic Advantages:** Building upon existing economic strengths and industries can supercharge local economies and encourage development; and
- **Focus on Outcomes Before Projects:** City deals should prioritise defining the partnership structure and desired outcomes before selecting specific projects, ensuring clarity, integration, and certainty.

What are some examples of how City and Regional Deals worked overseas?

AHURI provide an overview of international place-based deals, with a focus on housing. They also provide a focused list of Australian City Deals (to July 2020):

International place-based deals (AHURI analysis)

	UK City deals	France Contrats de Développement Territorial (CDT)	Canada Urban Development Agreements (UDA)	US Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	US Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (SCRPGP)
Role of housing	Varies significantly—housing ‘on the menu’ for some	Objective to build significant housing near new metro stations	Varied—but regeneration without displacement is a goal	One of multiple objectives; focus is on rehabilitation as well as new supply	Focus is on ensuring housing is planned sustainably and with strong transit and active walking connections
Role of affordable housing	Concrete strategies lacking; housing packages announced for some in 2018	Under national law 25% of new housing must be social housing	Varied - preserving low-cost housing and providing new single-room occupancy units was integral to the Vancouver UDA	Critical as funds must benefit those on lower incomes	Equity was a core objective of the program, with guidelines requiring affordable housing planning
Levels of government involved	Central government and combined authorities of local governments, some with elected mayor	Communes and central government the region (e.g. Île-de-France) sets the CDT boundaries, which can be amended by the communes	Federal, provincial, local	Most grants are awarded by federal government (HUD) to local government some grants administered by states	Joint grant administered by federal departments (HUD, EPA and DOT), awarded to local government
Local government power	Devolution of certain powers, complicated by austerity measures	No change	No change	No change	No change—seeking to encourage local government regional collaboration
Total budget	£2 billion (first wave)	Metro cost: €30 billion	Varied—Vancouver Agreement total budget: CAD\$28 million	US\$3 billion per annum	US\$100 million (2010)
Timeframe	30 years for each City Deal, first-wave deals signed 2012	2010–30 (metro construction period)	5 years+ (discontinued 2010)	Annual allocation since 1974 real-terms budget has diminished significantly over time	2010–11

List of Australian City Deals to July 2020 (AHURI analysis)

Australian City deals (to July 2020)	Key initiatives
<p>Adelaide City Deal</p> <p>A ten-year agreement between the Australian Government, the Government of South Australia, and the City of Adelaide</p> <p><i>Signed: 19 March 2019</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in Lot Fourteen, the former site of the Royal Adelaide Hospital as a hub for research, innovation, and entrepreneurialism in technology and the arts • Put in place investment and strategies to connect Lot Fourteen to the rest of the Adelaide city centre and metropolitan Adelaide, so that investment at Lot Fourteen benefits the whole of the Adelaide community • Support growth of South Australia's skilled workforce and industries at the forefront of innovation and cutting-edge technologies • Support cultural and environmental projects in Adelaide's suburbs through new facilities and technology that grow the local tourism sector
<p>Darwin City Deal</p> <p>A ten-year plan between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments, together with the City of Darwin</p> <p><i>Signed: 16 November 2018</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Education and Civic Precinct, including a new Charles Darwin University city campus, to transform the city centre, attract more international students to Darwin, boost retail activity and increase vibrancy in the CBD • A redeveloped and greener State Square to cool the city, making it more livable and increasing space for outdoor events and festivals, ensuring Darwin is a vibrant tropical capital • Innovations to cool and green the city, along with promoting climate-appropriate design, to help change the face of Darwin, transforming it into a best-practice example of tropical urban living • Support for the Larrakia people as the traditional owners of Darwin • Activation of Darwin's harbour foreshore unlocking the potential of dormant sites in Darwin, such as the Stokes Hill 'Tank Farm', to better activate the harbour foreshore
<p>Geelong City Deal</p> <p>A ten-year plan with the Australian and Victorian Governments, together with the City of Greater Geelong, to deliver \$370 million in investment to the region</p> <p><i>Signed: 11 March 2019</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalise Geelong • Unlock the potential of the Great Ocean Road visitor economy • Support Geelong's continued economic diversification, growth of the visitor economy and a thriving city centre

<p>Hobart City Deal</p> <p>A ten-year vision between the Australian and Tasmanian Governments and the Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough councils</p> <p><i>Signed: 24 February 2019</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the Hobart Airport's role as a direct international gateway • Solidify Hobart's world class standing as a gateway to the Antarctic and Southern Ocean • Establish a reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective transport system • Deliver a diverse range of affordable housing options • Establish governance to support better strategic planning for the city and • Invest to support Hobart as a smart, liveable and investment ready city
<p>Launceston City Deal</p> <p>A ten-year plan between the Australian and Tasmanian Governments and the City of Launceston</p> <p><i>Signed: 20 April 2017</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalise the city • Improve access to education and employment opportunities • Innovation and industry engagement • Create a healthy Tamar Estuary
<p>Perth City Deal</p> <p>The Australian Government will work with the Western Australian Government and the City of Perth to settle the commitments</p> <p><i>Announced: 15 December 2019</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Australian Government committing \$30 million towards the revitalisation of the WACA • Create an energised CBD for people to work, live and play through higher population density and an economic boost to city businesses
<p>City Deal for South East Queensland (SEQ)</p> <p>The Australian Government in partnership with Queensland Government and the Council of Mayors (SEQ)</p> <p><i>Signed: 12 February 2019</i></p>	<p>The Statement of Intent is centred on six priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting infrastructure • Jobs and skills • Liveability and sustainability • Housing and planning • Digital • Governance and leadership
<p>Townsville City Deal</p> <p>A 15-year commitment between Australian Government, Queensland Government) and Townsville City Council</p> <p><i>Signed: 13 June 2016</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the North Queensland Stadium • Water supply improvements • Port of Townsville Channel Upgrade project • Opening of the Townsville City Bus Hub

<p>Western Sydney City Deal</p> <p>A partnership between the Australian Government, NSW Government, and local governments of the Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith and Wollondilly</p> <p><i>Signed: 20 June 2016</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realise the 30-minute city by delivering the Sydney Metro–Western Sydney Airport (formerly the North South Rail Link) • Create 200,000 jobs by supercharging the Aerotropolis and agribusiness precinct as catalysts. • Skill residents in the region and initiating an Aerospace Institute • Respect and building on local character through a \$190 million Liveability Program • Coordination and innovation through a Planning Partnership • Deliver for the Western Parkland City with enduring tri-level governance
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Focus on the Western Sydney City Deal

The Western Sydney City Deal (WSCD) provides a 20-year framework for coordinating existing and new investment, planning and infrastructure provision across federal and state governments and the eight local councils within the Western Parkland City.

Commitments	Financial commitments
Connectivity (infrastructure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100 million (\$50 million each from Australian/NSW governments)
Connectivity (digital and smart technology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20,000 per council for Digital Action Plan • Existing agency resources/future government budget processes
Jobs for the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12 million (NSW Government) • Staffing by NSW Department of Industry (Investment Office) • \$5 million Investment Attraction Fund (NSW Government) • \$8 million Indigenous small business and skills package (NSW Department of Industry)
Skills and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing agency resources/future government budget processes
Liveability and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$150 million (\$60 million each from Australian/NSW governments, \$30 million from councils) • \$60 million for Centre of Innovation in Plant Sciences at Mt Annan (NSW Government)
Planning and Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 million 'housing package' (\$15 million each from Australian/NSW governments)
Implementation and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing agency resources • Long term governance led by the NSW Government in cooperation with the Australian and local governments

Attachment 2: Priorities and Actions in Mayoral Forum’s Plan for Canterbury & related central government policies²

PRIORITY: Sustainable environmental management of our habitats (land, air, water and ecosystems) – focusing on land use and freshwater management

ACTION: The Mayoral Forum will continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy

National Party

- Empower local communities through regional councils to define their catchment-level limits.
- Improve sediment management and reduce nutrient loss
- Support the efficient allocation of freshwater:
- Encourage collection of real-time catchment data:
- Support Freshwater Farm Plans with clear standards to improve the consistency of Freshwater Farm Plans across the country and potential integration with other farm management systems to avoid duplication.
- Make water storage on land a permitted activity so no consent is required to build water storage infrastructure.
- Resource consents for water take will still be required.

ACT Party

- Give control of water resources back to regional and local councils, allowing them to work with their local communities to develop acceptable standards and rules for nitrates, sedimentation run off, and freshwater quality.
- Stipulate that environmental standards must focus on outcomes based on science.
- Liberalise water storage requirements to increase farmer resilience to climate and seasonal pressures whilst maintaining aquifer health.

² Policies have been taken from National, ACT and NZ First manifestos, it is not a complete summary of all policies and policies may be amended following any coalition agreement between the parties.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow councils to opt into a system in which water resource consents would be converted into time-based tradable water permits. This would allow farmers to trade surplus water allocations among each other according to a sensible pricing system. <p>NZ First</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a freshwater plan that works for the productive sector and the environment by replacing the Te Mana O te Wai in RMA planning and reinstate the ‘Four Wellbeing’ provisions. • Supports Farm Environment Plans administered by Regional Councils and targeted at a catchment-by-catchment level. • Slash red tape and regulatory blocks on irrigation, water storage, managed aquifer recharge and flood protection schemes through the Regional Infrastructure Fund. • Address pollution of streams, rivers, and beaches as an absolute priority in the improvement of New Zealand’s environment, and work in cooperation with local government and employment agencies to affect this outcome.
<p>ACTION: The Mayoral Forum will strongly advocate with Government on the regional councils’ business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in flood protection</p> <p>(immediate priority)</p>	<p>No specific policies re co-investment for flood protection, all parties have various policies related to resilient infrastructure.</p>
<p>ACTION: The Mayoral Forum will 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 monitoring framework and implementation of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity</p>	<p>National Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommit to Predator Free 2050 • Promote Predator Free data standards • Work to control spread of wilding pines, using measurable targets • Eliminate consents for new wetlands, consider including wetlands in the ETS, investigate biodiversity credits to reward the creation of new wetlands <p>ACT Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrap SNAs and restore private property rights

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a fund to support local government and communities protecting biodiversity, such as the work undertaken by the Queen Elizabeth II Trust. <p>NZ First Put Property Rights into the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act and require full commercial compensation where any right is affected or taken.</p>
<p>PRIORITY: Shared prosperity for all our communities – focussing 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</p>	
<p>ACTION: The Mayoral Forum will continue to engage with the Canterbury Regional Skills Leadership Group as it develops workforce plans for the region, and advocate with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury</p> <p>(immediate priority)</p>	<p>National Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow skills and attract talent • Reviving International Education <p>ACT Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide all occupations on the ‘Green List’ a fast-track to residency by removing the ‘work to residence’ divide • Simplify the Accredited Employer Work Visa scheme by abolishing labour market tests, wage rules, and make it easier for migrants to move between accredited employers • Remove the cap on the number of places under the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme. • In the longer-term, ACT will undertake significant reform of the immigration system, putting more power in the hands of employers and providing simple pathways to residency <p>NZ First</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the Accredited Employer Worker Visa with a Critical Skill and Labour Shortage Visa to ensure that Kiwi workers are at the front of the job queue • Guarantee that immigration policy is based on New Zealand’s interests such as meeting critical skill gaps

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies that encourage regionally dispersed immigration so that it lessens the burden on already overloaded urban cities • Introduce a 'rural visa scheme' that will apply to communities of less than 100,000 residents, while placing into law an obligation for migrants to stay in their specified place of settlement until, and two years after, they have secured permanent residency.
<p>ACTION: The Mayoral Forum will continue to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production</p>	<p>National Party <i>Primary Sector Growth Plan</i> Deliver smarter rules for the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a 2-for-1 rule – for every new agriculture regulation, two must be removed. • Establish a Rural Regulation Review Panel to consider all regulations affecting farmers. • Require new rules to be assessed for their costs to farmers with findings published. <p>Supercharge the rural economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the RSE worker cap. • Ban foreign farm-to-forest conversions for carbon farming. • Allow normal rural activities on Highly Productive Land. <p>Get Wellington out of farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace one-size-fits-all rules with local decision-making. • Focus environmental protection on areas of high environmental value. • Improve stock exclusion rules • Change the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land to allow a broader range of productive rural activities such as on-farm storage ponds and sheds and off-farm dairy factories and vegetable processing • End the effective ban on GE and GM in New Zealand • Streamline approvals for trials and use of non-GE/GM biotechnologies <p>ACT Party Allow farmers access to emissions reductions technologies Recognise sequestration occurring on farm</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift the responsibility of managing, regulating, and verifying farm plans from central government to regional councils. • Ensure farm plans have a consistent template across different regional councils. Existing plans, such as those provided by processors or industry bodies, can still be used. • Make regional councils or approved third party verifiers responsible for verifying farm plans. If a farm plan is verified as compliant, and no significant changes occur on the property, or no changes occur within a specified period, no further verification will be necessary. • Require regional councils to monitor environmental impacts of farming, stipulating that a decline in environmental standards must be detected before actions is taken. • Give regional councils the authority to determine when a breach is acceptable, such as when a natural disaster occurs. <p>NZ First</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back the primary industry sector and help it grow sustainably by supporting value driven innovation and enterprise • Review the CRI (Crown Research Institute) model to ensure primary industry scientists have the resources to give New Zealand a productive advantage over peer competitors focussed upon practical farm extension.
<p>ACTION: The Mayoral Forum will seek to partner and collaborate with Government to develop an integrated approach to transport funding in Canterbury in order to increase the level of funding available for Canterbury transport networks</p> <p>(immediate priority)</p>	<p>National Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New draft GPS on transport reflecting roads of significance • City and Regional Deals • Ashburton Bridge • SH 1 Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass <p>ACT Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-private partnerships and toll roads to bring accountability and revenue to a 30-year plan, supercharging development and maintenance. <p>NZ First</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No roads to be privatised or corporatised • All cycle lane funding resourced by local government – not the NLTF • Cancellation of Road to Zero • Select Committee Inquiry on the use of Road User Charges instead of fuel excise • Support quality affordable public transport in urban and rural areas • Complete a full rebuild and improvements to the Christchurch-Picton rail corridor
<p>ACTION: 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</p>	<p>National Party Going for Housing Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlocking land for housing • Infrastructure financing tools • Housing performance incentives for councils <p>Improving the rental market Resource Management Act reform Building Act reform Supercharging social housing</p> <p>ACT Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhaul RM laws • Infrastructure funding – including sharing GST revenue based on building consent activity • opt out of building consent regime • building insurance instead of building consent authorities • Codes of practice to reduce consents <p>NZ First</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeal the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) • Support social housing especially for seniors housing and public rental housing projects • Establish a Housing Commission • Ministry of Infrastructure to unlock land close to major population centres where houses are better than productive land use

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce greater planning certainty
<p>ACTION: The Mayoral Forum will support the work of the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee on preparing for major natural hazard incidents, including an Alpine Fault rupture</p>	<p>National Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a cyclone and flood recovery ombudsman • Expediate consenting process and remove red tape to speed up cyclone and flood rebuild • Unblock EQC assessment pipeline
<p>PRIORITY: 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</p>	
<p>ACTION: The Mayoral Forum will 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.</p>	<p>National Party</p> <p>Climate change policies included in a range of policies such as infrastructure (resilience); farming (ETS, GE/GM); transport; energy (new NPS for renewable energy).</p> <p>ACT Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeal Zero Carbon Act, including the Climate Change Commission • Scrap emission reduction targets • Support efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change

Attachment 3 – Draft workshop agenda

Timing	Topic	Lead	Materials required
3 mins	Introduction	Nigel Bowen	N/A
2 mins	Overview of workshop approach	Patrick Lindsay	N/A
10 mins	UK experience of Regional City Deals	Dawn / Alex	N/A
5 mins	What we currently know about the government's view regional / city deals	Boyd Becker	N/A
25 mins	<p>Going wide: Split into four groups, 5 mins at each station, to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? 	Patrick Lindsay	Markers, post-its, large paper
30 min	<p>Coming back in: How does this align with the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision • Action plan to address priorities • Governance and partnerships 	Patrick / Maree	Vision and action plan areas printed out on paper
15 min	Morning tea		
25 min	<p>Where to next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What opportunities do we have to engage with the incoming government as the Canterbury Mayoral Forum? • What can we do to prepare, while a government forms and receives advice from officials? <p>Include a question – do we commit to only engaging on city / regional deals as a CMF? Or are people going to angle for other ones for cities / sub-regions?</p>	Patrick	Whiteboard / big paper
5 min	Wrap up and next steps	Patrick	

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 24 November 2023

Presented by: Dan Gordon, Chair Climate Action Planning Reference Group

Climate Change Action Planning update: Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Funding

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek endorsement on the recommended scale of investment to fund implementation of regional climate actions as part of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **endorse 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. **note 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.**

Background

2. All Canterbury councils acknowledge climate change as a significant and long-term challenge and that we all share a role in driving solutions and adapting.
3. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum endorsed the development of a Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan in November 2022 and supported the approach that funding for implementation of climate actions would be provided for in members' 2024-2034 LTPs.
4. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan aims to lay out how Canterbury councils will partner on climate actions to reduce the causes and impacts of climate change on Canterbury's communities and ecosystems.
5. The Partnership Plan's strategic framework (vision, principles, strategic outcomes and objectives) has been endorsed by Environment Canterbury, the Christchurch City Council, and the Ashburton, Hurunui, Mackenzie, Selwyn, Waimakariri, Waimate, Waitaki and Kaikōura district councils. Timaru District Council noted the strategic framework. The Mayoral Forum is anticipated to adopt the Partnership Plan in the first quarter of the 2024-25 financial year following completion of the councils' long-term planning processes.

6. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan's strategic framework calls for bold and transformational action in Canterbury. To deliver collective and meaningful local government climate actions, joint funding is required through council contributions.

Benefits of collective climate action

7. The following key benefits for each council and district can be achieved by jointly undertaking climate action across the region:
 - **Sharing of knowledge and resources** – many councils are facing similar challenges and opportunities. Collaboration provides the ability to tackle larger scale projects that individual councils might struggle to address alone as well as delivering cost advantages.
 - **Unified approach and collective voice** – enables the development of consistent climate policies and strategies, reducing fragmentation and ensuring a more coordinated response to climate challenges, increasing the chances of securing wider funding opportunities.
 - **Transition Canterbury to a well-adapted and low-emissions region** – collaboration, sharing of best practices and capacity building can accelerate climate actions to transition Canterbury towards becoming a well-adapted and low-emissions region. This is especially important given the pace and scale of change needed to adequately respond to climate risks.
 - **Demonstrate leadership and engage our communities** – climate change will have significant physical, economic, and socio-cultural impacts on our communities. Partnering on climate action allows for joint leadership to address these issues and collectively improve the four wellbeings for Canterbury communities.

Process to develop draft collective climate actions

8. The Climate Change Working Group has been iteratively developing climate actions over a series of workshops in 2023 with a focus on identifying actions to address the priority risks identified in the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment (2022), as well as the opportunities that climate change presents.
9. The Working Group will further refine the actions, seeking feedback and endorsement from the Reference Group in early 2024, following stakeholder and community engagement feedback currently underway through Environment Canterbury's *Let's Pick a Path* engagement campaign across the region.
10. Members of the Working Group and Reference Group are responsible for seeking feedback and socialising the proposed collective actions within their councils to ensure widespread buy-in for implementation.
11. The Canterbury Policy Forum considered an earlier draft of the actions and costings at its September 2023 meeting. Members supported in principle the concept of collective funding for the regional actions, provided the level of contributions considered councils' fiscal constraints, and that there are tangible outputs from delivering the actions. Since that time, the actions have been further revised and the costings have reduced.

12. The Chief Executives Forum considered this matter at its 6 November meeting. Members discussed the importance of collective action and the need for strong collaboration to achieve the Partnership Plan's objectives while bearing in mind the financial challenges for all councils in developing their Long-Term Plans.
13. The Chief Executives Forum also wished to make it clear that the collective actions proposed would support or complement the climate actions of individual councils, and not duplicate those efforts.
14. Members also discussed the action proposed that would establish a Canterbury Mayoral Forum Climate Change Response Fund to enable and support community-led climate action (see Appendix 1 – last action). Some chief executives noted some councils may prefer to manage this individually and a joint fund may not be required or could be phased in or out over time. If this were the case, funding contributions would be amended to reflect this decision. It was also noted that the action on developing an energy transition strategy was only in the very early stages and may change. Both matters will be the subject of further refinement by the Working Group in early 2024.

Recommended scale of investment for regional climate actions

15. To secure joint funding for implementation of the Partnership Plan while aligning with LTP timeframes, the Climate Change Working Group proposed that council staff use placeholder bids for Partnership Plan funding contributions in their LTP budgeting processes.
16. The attachment outlines the current draft collective Partnership Plan actions and estimated costs over the first three years of implementation. Some actions will require in-kind contributions from members of the Climate Change Working Group, and some will require joint funding contributions from councils for consultants/contractors.
17. Based on the draft collective climate actions in the attachment, the Climate Change Working Group recommends the following scale of investment over the first three years of LTPs, i.e., the placeholder bids needed for consideration in LTP budgeting processes.
18. For consistency, it is recommended that the Mayoral Forum funding ratios used for the regional forums levy be applied to fund the collective actions.

Table 1: Recommended scale of joint funding, ie placeholder bids.

	CMF contribution ratios (%)	Y1 LTP	Y2 LTP	Y3 LTP	Total Y1-Y3 LTP
Environment Canterbury	20.5	38,950	151,700	110,700	301,350
Christchurch	20.5	38,950	151,700	110,700	301,350
Selwyn	10.7	20,330	79,180	57,780	157,290
Waimakariri	10.7	20,330	79,180	57,780	157,290
Ashburton	9.8	18,620	72,520	52,920	144,060
Timaru	9.8	18,620	72,520	52,920	144,060
Hurunui	5.2	9,880	38,480	28,080	76,440
Waimate	3.9	7,410	28,860	21,060	57,330
Waitaki	3.9	7,410	28,860	21,060	57,330
Kaikōura	2.5	4,750	18,500	13,500	36,750
Mackenzie	2.5	4,750	18,500	13,500	36,750
TOTAL estimated costs	100	190,000	740,000	540,000	1,470,000

19. As at 8 November, ten Canterbury councils (Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council, and Waimakariri, Selwyn, Timaru, Ashburton, Waimate, Waitaki, Mackenzie and Kaikōura district councils) have submitted placeholder bids for Partnership Plan funding contributions in their draft Long-Term plans.

Next steps

20. Parallel to individual councils' discussions on contributions through LTP funding debates, the Working Group will continue to refine the collective climate actions in early 2024 following stakeholder and community engagement feedback currently underway.
21. Once the actions have been completed, the Reference Group will meet in early 2024 (date TBC) to consider the draft actions proposed by the Working Group.
22. Drafting of the plan will commence in early 2024 and will be brought to the Mayoral Forum for adoption in the first quarter of the 2024-25 financial year.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan collective actions and costs (LTP Year 1-3)

Attachment 1: Draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan actions and costs (LTP Year 1-3)

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan draft actions	Funded by	Collective Y1	Collective Y2	Collective Y3	Y4 onwards
Outcome #2 An equitable and inclusive transition Our communities are empowered through an equitable and inclusive transition to a low emissions and climate resilient future.					
Action: Undertake a regional transition risk and opportunities assessment (evidence base)	collective funding	\$50,000			
Action: Develop a regional transition strategy (strategy/policy) including a framework for planning local just-transitions to a low emissions region	in-kind				
Outcome #3 Prosperity Our cultural and economic wellbeing is improved by identifying and taking early opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.					
Develop a economic impacts assessment of transition risks and opportunities (phase two of regional transition risk and opportunities assessment)	collective funding		\$50,000		
In collaboration with partners and key stakeholders, investigate the issues and opportunities for creating a circular economy in Canterbury	in-kind				
Outcome #4 Adapted and resilient communities Our communities are resilient and can access the knowledge and tools they need to adapt to climate change.					
Develop a Canterbury-wide Resilience Explorer for use by councils and the public to understand climate hazards and risk in Canterbury, support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.	collective funding		\$400,000		
Sub-action: Develop, monitor and report climate related and transition indicators for the region	collective funding	\$25,000			
Primary action: Develop a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Implementation Plan (following completion of the Resilience Explorer)	in-kind				
Outcome #5 Emissions reduction Greenhouse gas emissions reductions are achieved in line with our national and international commitments.					
Primary action: Develop a regional energy transition plan for Canterbury	collective funding	\$50,000			
Sub-action: Identify how councils can develop, deliver and support local and regional renewable energy solutions	collective funding		\$50,000		
Outcome #6 Climate action leadership Canterbury is a leader in climate change mitigation, adaptation and inclusive climate action planning and promotes the four wellbeings.					
Establish partnerships with mana whenua and Māturanga Māori experts to understand how indigenous knowledge can be incorporated into local climate action	collective funding	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	
Establish a Canterbury Mayoral Forum Climate Change Response Fund to enable and support community led climate action	collective funding	\$25,000	\$200,000	\$500,000	
	TOTAL Estimated Cost of collective actions	\$190,000	\$740,000	\$540,000	
				\$1,470,000	

Please note actions under Outcome 1- a healthy Environment are currently envisioned from LTP Year 4 onwards and therefore not included in this overview table. All actions are subject to change based on public engagement feedback and action refinement by the Climate Change Working Group.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 24 November 2023

Presented by: Nigel Bowen

Future for Local Government review – survey results

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of the results from the survey of members on the Future for Local Government review panel's recommendations.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the summary of results from the survey of members on the Future for Local Government review panel's recommendations and consider next steps.**

Key points

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum surveyed members on their support for each of the 17 recommendations from the Future for Local Government review panel's final report to determine areas of agreement and what is important for Forum members.
3. Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) is currently running a process to develop a consensus position/s on the report's recommendations from its members.
4. All eleven Forum members responded to the survey. Some responses followed council workshops while others were completed by individual members, taking into consideration their councils' views.

Background

5. The Future for Local Government review panel released their final report, [He piki tūanga, he piki kōtuku](#), on 20 June 2023.
6. The final report builds on two reports released by the panel during the two-year review - [Arewa ake te Kaupapa](#), an interim report released in September 2021 and [He mata whāriki, he matawhānui](#), the draft report that was consulted on.
7. [A technical report](#) has been released with the final report that includes links to many documents that provide insight into the thinking, analysis and evidence that underpin the final report as well as a [submissions summary](#).
8. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's submission can be accessed [here](#).

9. Following discussions on the report and its recommendations at the August meeting it was agreed to survey members to understand where the common views are across Canterbury.

Survey

10. Members were sent a survey which set out each of the recommendations, reference to the CMF submission to *He mata whāriki, he matawhānui*, and comments regarding where responsibility for the recommendation would sit.
11. Analysis from the September LGNZ workshop was included to provide additional background information.
12. Members were asked to use a five-point scale for each recommendation from strongly support (5) – no opinion (3) – strongly oppose (1). There was also provision for comments.

Survey analysis

13. All eleven members responded to the survey. Not everyone responded to every recommendation and not everyone provided comments.

Embedding local government’s purpose and wellbeing focus

14. There was strong support (2) and support (4) for entrenching the purpose of local government, with 2 opposing and 2 not expressing an opinion.
15. There was both support and opposition to the recommendation to introduce statutory provisions for councils to set wellbeing goals – those in support noted that this already occurs, as did those opposed to this recommendation (see chart 1 below).

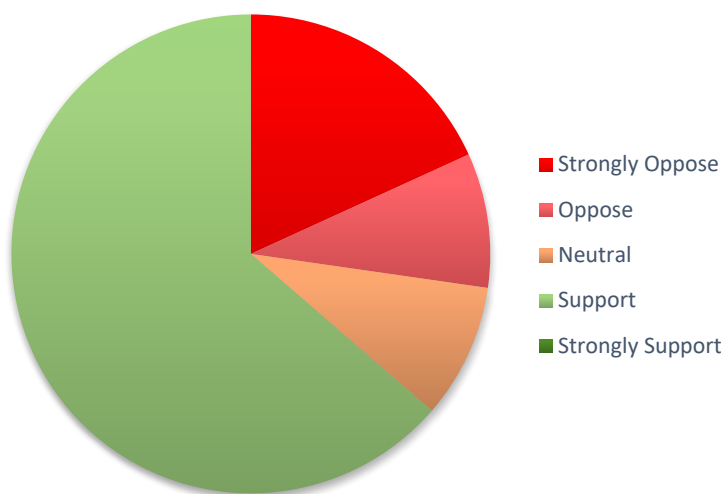


Chart 1: Introducing statutory provisions to reinforce and give effect to the purpose of local government

Growing authentic Te Tiriti-based partnerships

16. Three responses strongly oppose the recommendation for legislation to recognise local government as a partner to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, noting their desire to develop strong local rūnanga based relationships.
17. Those that supported (7) this recommendation noted the importance of developing local relationships, the need for greater understanding of what this would mean for councils and communities.
18. There is support (7) for central government to lead a comprehensive review of requirements for engaging with Māori across legislation, however some responses questioned why central government would do this and not local government (see chart 2 below)

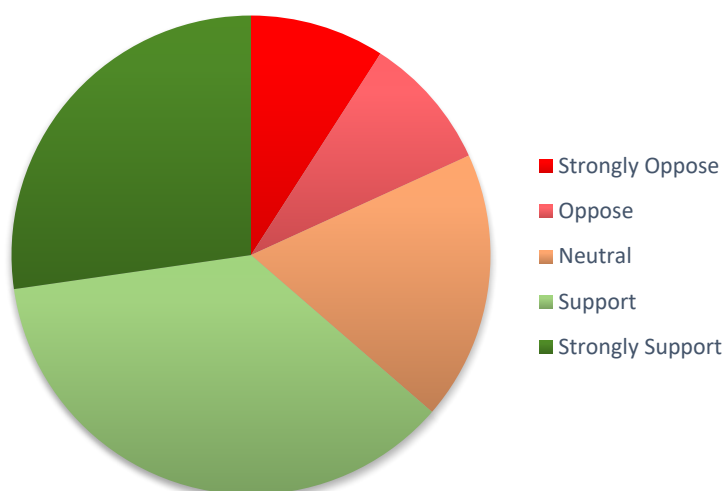


Chart 2: Central government to lead a comprehensive review of requirements for engaging with Māori across legislation.

19. Recommendation 6 to amend the local government act 2002 to require councils to prioritise and invest in developing and strengthening their capability and capacity in the areas of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, te ao Māori values, mātauranga Māori, tikanga, and the whakapapa of local government to make local government a better Te Tiriti partner was neither supported nor opposed (5); supported (3) and opposed (3). Most respondents, whether in support or opposition, noted the value of improving this capability and capacity, a number of councils already do this and rather than legislation funding assistance would be of more value.

System renewal

20. Four respondents strongly support, 3 support and 4 strongly oppose reorganisation. Christchurch City proposed a unitary authority model, adapted to suit local needs and preferences. Others noted that any reorganisation should be led from the ground up and would need community support (see chart 3 below).

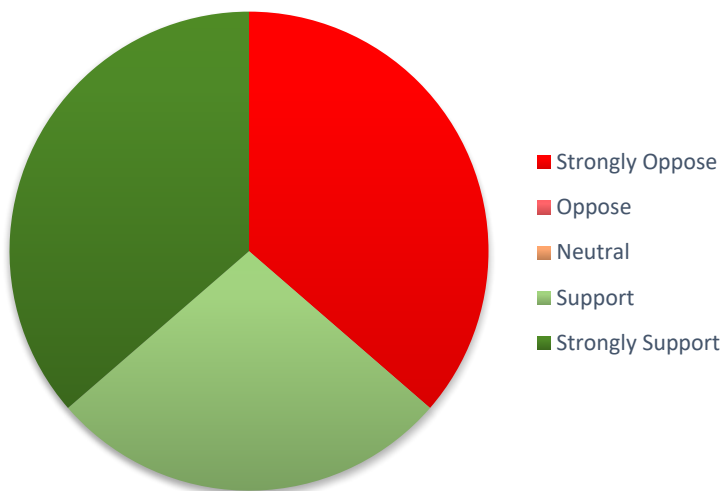


Chart 3: Initiate a reorganisation of local government

- 21. Five strongly oppose, 2 neither oppose or support, 2 support and 2 strongly support the establishment of a dedicated Crown department to facilitate a more effective working relationship between local and central government. Opposition notes the potential for increased bureaucracy, however some of the support notes that this should take local government out of DIA and have it as a stand-alone entity, with reach right across central government.
- 22. There is support for a relational-based operating model, the brokering of place-based approaches and agreements and research, development and innovation.
- 23. There is little support for recommendation 9 – establish a new local government stewardship institution, although it is noted that LGNZ and Taituarā need to be sufficiently resourced to support local government (see chart 4).

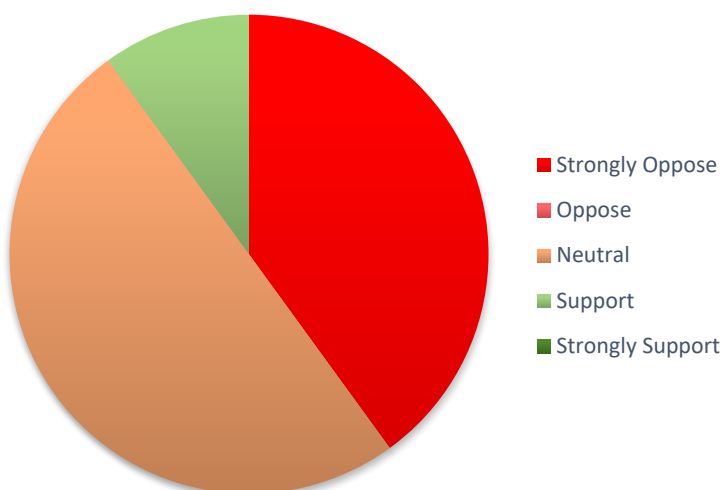


Chart 4: Establish a new local government stewardship institution

Strengthening local democracy and leadership

- 24. Responses to the recommendation to develop and invest in democratic innovations, including participatory and deliberative democracy, note that most councils already do this, in particular through long-term plan processes.
- 25. There is strong support for a 4-year local electoral term, noting however that it should also apply to central government elections.
- 26. Most are opposed to the adoption of STV for local government elections., with 2 having no view and 1 in support (see chart 5 below).

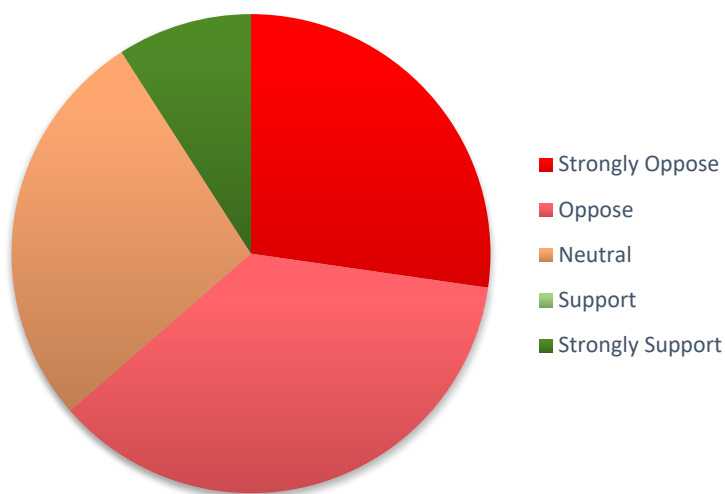


Chart 5: adopting ranked voting (STV) nationwide for local government elections

- 27. Most respondents did not have an opinion on lowering the threshold for the establishment of Māori wards, however 2 did support this.
- 28. Three members do not support Te Tiriti-based appointments to councils, however others noted that this already happens, in Timaru’s case they have an appointed position on their environmental services committee and have done for six to seven years. Others noted concerns about local rūnanga being able to resource such appointments (see chart 6 below).

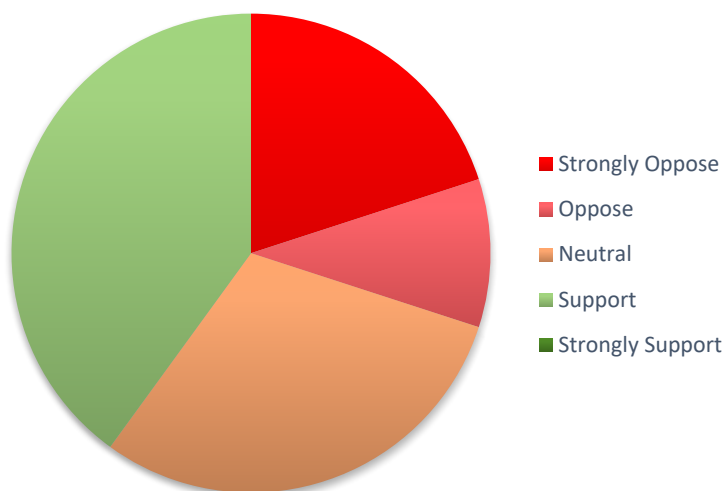


Chart 6: Te Tiriti-based appointments to councils

29. Responses to the recommendation on lowering the voting age were mixed, however most reflected that if it was to happen should happen at local and central government elections, would require civics to be taught in schools but regardless of the voting age councils should be proactive in engaging with youth.
30. There was majority support for local and central government co-investing to build adaptive leadership capability focusing on leading change and system renewal; valuing civic leadership and public service; partnership and collaboration; and innovation and experimentation. Some responses noted that this this already happens in some areas, although the different timelines for budget preparation between central and local government can make this challenging.

Increasing funding

31. As expected, all responses either strongly support or support increasing funding to the local government sector, every response supported central government paying rates on Crown property and for Cabinet to consider the funding impact on local government of proposed policy decisions (see charts 7 and 8 below).
32. Members strongly support or support the annual transfer of revenue from GST, however it was noted by some that this needs to be done in a way that is fair and equitable, which may include weighting based on need or deprivation. Mackenzie noted the challenge when you have residents paying for tourism services and infrastructure to cater for peak tourism population.

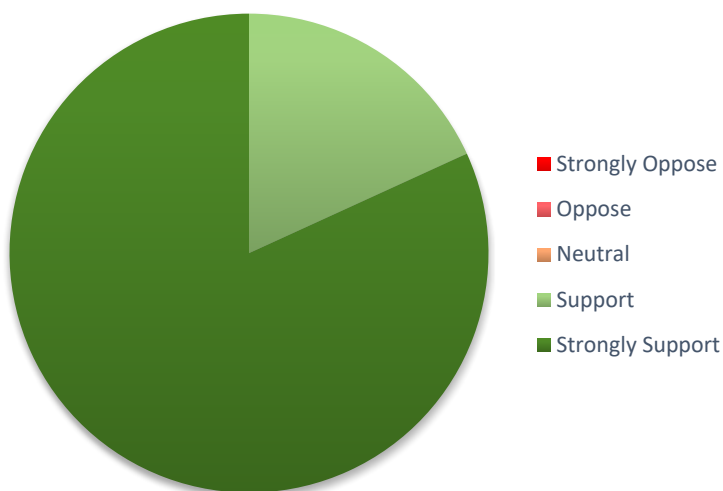


Chart 7: Central government pays rates on Crown property

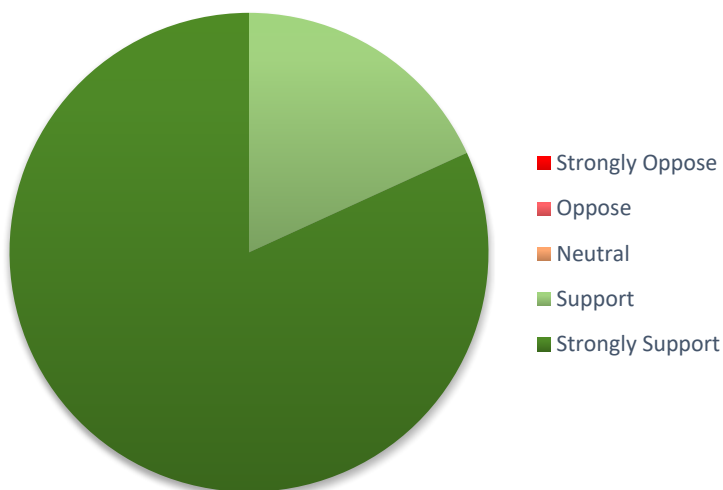


Chart 8: Cabinet considers the funding impact on local government of proposed policy decisions

- 33. Members support an intergenerational fund for climate change given that this issue is much larger than local and regional councils, with the caveat that it needs to be done collaboratively between central and local government.
- 34. There are mixed responses to central government resourcing a transition unit to support change and system renewal, some strongly supporting (4), others supporting (3), 2 with no opinion and 2 opposed. There is a question on what DIA's role would be if there is a new unit and one comment that all help for a new way of working would be welcome.
- 35. Five responses strongly support and 3 support central government committing to funding to support councils to build Te Tiriti and te ao Māori capability and grow hapū/iwi and Māori relationships; lift capacity and capability to innovatively deliver wellbeing priorities for their communities; and trial and grow participatory democracy practices (see chart 9 below). A number of responses note that councils are already doing work in these

spaces. It was also noted that financial support will also be required for Māori along with councils.

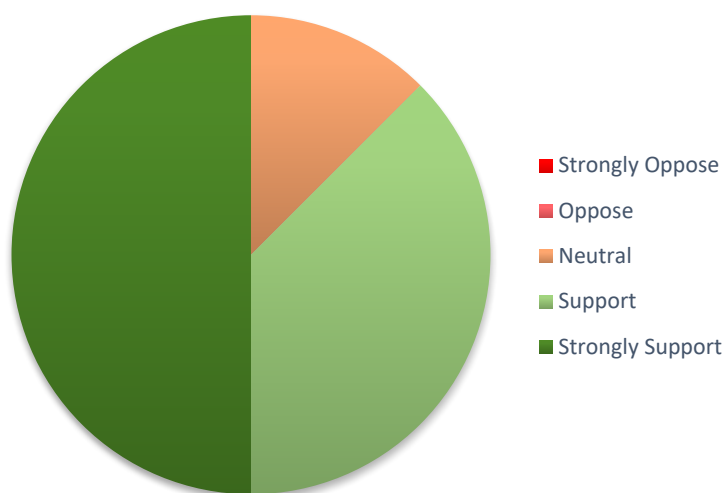


Chart 9: central government funding to support councils to build Te Tiriti and te ao Māori capability

Conclusion

36. There is clear support for increased funding for local government through a range of mechanisms, such as central government paying rates on crown land, the transfer of revenue from GST and for cabinet to consider the funding impact on local government of their proposed policy decisions.
37. There is general support for improving Te Tiriti and te ao Māori relationships, however mixed views on how this should occur, including consideration of iwi/hapū and Māori capacity.
38. There is opposition to the establishment of additional central government agencies and/or institutions to oversee local government.
39. There are a number of recommendations that have a range of responses.

Next steps

40. LGNZ is going through a process to determine consensus across the themes, with results to be released today.
41. The Mayoral Forum may choose to wait until the outcome from the LGNZ process is known, and if necessary, pick this up again to review where the Forum can reach consensus on those recommendations where there is not currently consensus.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 24 November 2023

Presented by: Will Doughty, Sharon Mason and Dawn Baxendale, Chief Executives Forum

Future for Local Government review - shared services

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update the Mayoral Forum on the work of the Chief Executives Forum to explore areas for collaboration and shared services between Canterbury councils.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the work of the Chief Executives Forum to investigate opportunities for Canterbury councils to improve collaboration and/or establish shared services.**

Background

2. Following the release of the Future for Local Government Review Panel's report and recommendations, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum confirmed that it wanted to look at shared services as a way of working more closely together and potentially achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.
3. The Chief Executives Forum shared the view that it is critical that they take the lead in driving shared services across the region and to that end established a subgroup to look into greater cooperation between Canterbury councils and the opportunities for collaboration and shared services across the region. The subgroup is Sharon Mason (Selwyn), Dawn Baxendale (Christchurch), Hamish Dobbie (Hurunui) and Will Doughty (Kaikōura).

Process

4. The sub-group formulated a long list of potential services for discussion and applied these to an assessment criteria to help refine to a shortlist. The outcome of this process was that there was very little difference between many of the services. Because of this, the subgroup agreed the best way forward was to further investigate one system-based and one-service-based opportunity for now.

5. At this stage the subgroup is considering rates collection and water quality testing. Once an initial investigation has occurred on these opportunities, another one or two from the long list would be investigated in order to build momentum.
6. Any recommended outcomes of the shared services investigations would be based on a 'coalition of the willing', rather than an approach that would require all councils to participate.
7. The Chief Executives Forum supported this approach, noting that sometimes greater collaboration might occur regionally, and for other services or systems this might be better at a subregional level.

Water services

8. As members are aware, National intends to repeal the Water Services Entities Act in its first 100 days, replacing it with a new policy titled "Local Water Done Well". The Act Party has also announced that it would repeal the legislation.
9. Based on National's policy there will be a requirement for councils to deliver a plan for 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, within a year of the legislation being repealed.
10. The need to deliver these plans will need to be taken into consideration when determining which services warrant further collaboration/shared services investigations.
11. The Chief Executives Forum has scheduled a meeting on 18 December to start this conversation in more detail.

Next steps

12. The subgroup will continue to progress the opportunities for shared services with those councils who elect to be involved. The subgroup will report regularly on progress to the Chief Executives Forum.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 24 November 2023

Presented by: Chair Peter Scott, Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Water Management Strategy

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Canterbury Mayoral Forum with an update on region-wide progress of Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) partners' work towards implementing the CWMS for July to September 2023.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receive the update on region-wide progress of Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) partners' work towards implementing the CWMS for July to September 2023.**

Update on region-wide progress towards implementing the CWMS

CWMS committee updates

2. The CWMS Regional Committee was discharged by Environment Canterbury at its 20 September 2023 Council meeting. This followed advice to the Mayoral Forum at its August meeting that sought both the Mayoral Forum's agreement to an evaluation and review of the CWMS structures by 2025, and to ongoing commitment to the CWMS zone committees until this review is concluded.
3. A review of the zone committees is warranted for several reasons:
 - ongoing questions from mayors and councillors around the future role of zone committees
 - changes to national direction and freshwater management, along with increased support of catchment groups, and the implications of these on zone committees.
4. The review of the zone committees will occur over 2024. Further information will come to the Mayoral Forum once planning for the review is initiated.
5. The Regional Committee was disestablished due to the shifting approach to freshwater management and given the Committee had not formally met since June 2021 due to a lack of appropriate representation.

6. 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.
7. Zone committees continue to focus on implementing actions on the ground to support the delivery of the CWMS targets and goals. Through its 2023/2024 Annual Plan, Environment Canterbury agreed to increase this funding to \$75,000 per committee for the 2023/2024 year. Committees have begun identifying projects in their zones that support the implementation of their action plans.
8. The first phase of community engagement on the review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) began in July and has now been completed. Zone committees provided meaningful feedback on the visions and priorities to be included in the RPS.
9. Attachment 1 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 Waiiau Uwha River has continued with the support of Kaikōura Rūnanga, Hurunui District Council, and Environment Canterbury.

Key regional projects/campaigns

10. The CWMS is implemented in the Canterbury region by the CWMS partners through a range of statutory and non-statutory obligations and working with agencies and community groups.
11. This section of the update provides information on the delivery of actions by CWMS partners to meet the 2025 goals under the 10 Targets, although not all 10 Target areas are intended to be covered each quarter. Progress against the CWMS Targets is reported on Environment Canterbury's [website¹](#).
12. Key agencies, organisations and landowners continue to work together to address the health of the **Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes**. This work supports progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target.
13. Recent reports on the health of Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes (State of the Takiwa, Lessons Learnt and Environment Canterbury's own environmental monitoring) have shown that, despite concerted effort by many parties, the lakes in this catchment are in poor health and many continue to decline. Environment Canterbury is progressing work in this area, channelling its efforts into two distinct workstreams:
 - supporting the development of an integrated catchment plan which will summarise the research to date and set out a clear path forward to restore biodiversity and ecosystem health in the area. This work is already underway through an independent contractor in collaboration with the Ōtūwharekai Working Group

¹ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/measuring-cwms-progress/>

- ensuring surrounding landowners have the appropriate authorisations in place to farm.
14. 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.
 15. The **Te Mōkihi Programme** 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 focused on improving environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes in Te Manahuna/ Mackenzie Basin (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target).
 16. The agencies have been working together on consents for solar farming, re-consenting the Waitaki hydroelectricity scheme, and freedom camping controls. The agencies, via the Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Group, are working more collaboratively in dealing with non-compliance issues in the Mackenzie Basin that are having a significant impact on the environment. 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.
 17. The **Whakaora Te Waihora** Programme is an operational programme of the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group (members are Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council, and Department of Conservation) 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).
 18. The Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project 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, to restore the mid-lower stretches of Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream.
 19. Key milestones for the quarter included landowner agreements and procurement plans to fence and install riparian planting along Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream, and the completion of a wetland design for Te Repo Papatahora.
 20. The Te Waihora GIS Platform project is under to develop a map of projects around Te Waihora. The map will support a range of users to identify priorities, project planning and development, and improve communication and cooperation with partner organisations.
 21. The **Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme** 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, to improve the environmental and cultural values of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target).

22. The Whaka-Ora Programme has completed two years of funding and staff support for the Ki Uta Ki Tai sediment control and biodiversity enhancement of Foleys Creek, in the Allendale catchment. This project was given priority for funding due to existing native bush, and the landholder's strong working relationships with local conservation groups. The project will now be an example for other catchments in the harbour.
23. Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and Environment Canterbury are working together on a Whakaraupō mapping project to show environmental and cultural restoration projects in the catchment, including projects run by community groups and other key organisations.

Update on a new planning framework

24. Earlier this year, community consultation on 'What's our future, Canterbury?' took place to inform the development of a revised Regional Policy Statement. The consultation resulted in a wide range of views and so the next phase of engagement provides an opportunity to get a clearer sense of priorities. The 'Let's pick a path' campaign runs from 21 October to 3 December and covers climate actions, the impact of freshwater visions, and the main environmental issues for the region.
25. Environment Canterbury is working with councils' respective planning teams to ensure feedback is received from all councils, including elected members, with options to meet virtually and/or in person. Environment Canterbury has presented to several councils and continues to work with staff to ensure councils are kept informed of the process and opportunities to engage. Further information is provided on the Environment Canterbury [website²](#).

Central government policy

26. Ministry for the Environment's amended **National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water (NES-DW)** was expected to be introduced this year; however, the timeframe has been extended due to the need to respond to severe weather events. Key amendments include:
 - nationally consistent methods for mapping Source Water Risk Management Areas (SWRMAs). These are identified areas around sources of drinking water where some activities may need to be restricted to minimise risks to the drinking water source

² <https://haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz/about-our-future-canterbury>

- stronger management of activities in SWRMAs that pose a high risk to drinking water.
27. [SWRMAs mapping guidelines](#)³ outline recommended methods to delineate source water risk management areas and work with both the existing NES-DW and amended version. N.B. The Canterbury Land & Water Regional Plan already delineates SWRMAs (Community Drinking Water Protection Zones); once the NES-DW is introduced there will be a piece of work to review how much the existing Protection Zones may need to change under the new direction.
 28. The **Spatial Planning Act** and **Natural and Built Environment Act** passed into law on 23 August.

Essential Freshwater implementation

29. Alongside reviewing the regional land and water planning framework, Environment Canterbury continues to develop its approach to implementing the Essential Freshwater requirements with regular updates provided on the [Environment Canterbury website](#)⁴. To date this has included developing campaigns to help landowners understand the requirements of the Essential Freshwater National Environmental Standards and included key messages, factsheets and resources for wetland protection, synthetic nitrogen cap and intensive winter grazing.
30. Regulations require all farms with grazed land to not exceed 190kg/ha/year of synthetic nitrogen. Dairy farmers must report their use annually to Environment Canterbury by 31 July. As of 25 September 2023, Environment Canterbury had received reports from approximately 58% of dairy farms (an increase of 12% on last year).
31. New winter grazing rules came into force on 1 November 2022. Under these rules, Canterbury farmers who cannot meet the Permitted Activity rules will need to apply for a resource consent for intensive winter grazing (IWG). A suite of information for farmers around IWG is available on the [Environment Canterbury website](#)⁵.
32. As part of IWG monitoring, Environment Canterbury undertook four flyovers in the Ashburton and Waimakariri districts. Environment Canterbury followed up with farmers to support improvements and also commended farmers where good practice was noted in preparing paddocks for intensive winter grazing. The focus for IWG implementation for the next 12 months is to identify those who require consent and support them to become compliant with new regulations.

³ <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/delineating-source-water-risk-management-areas/>

⁴ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/essential-freshwater-package>

⁵ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/farmers-hub/essential-freshwater-package-farmers-guide/intensive-winter-grazing/>

33. An implementation programme is underway at Environment Canterbury in preparation for the regional implementation of Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations (part of the Essential Freshwater package) in Canterbury, expected in 2025.
34. This programme focusses on planning the switch from existing Farm Environment Plans to Freshwater Farm Plans, developing catchment context, challenges and values (CCCV), establishing a certifier and auditor training and appointment process, and developing systems to manage farm plan data. Communication and engagement with the rural sector will be a key part of the implementation programme.
35. In the interim, audits of existing Farm Environment Plans are still required. Information on Freshwater Farm Plans is available on the Environment Canterbury [website](#)⁶.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Zone Committee Action Plan overview July to September 2023

⁶ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/farmers-hub/freshwater-farm-plans/>

Attachment 1: Zone Committee Action Plan overview July to September 2023

Kaikōura Zone Committee		
Target	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</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 July meeting, the Committee made recommendations to support several projects using the Kaikōura Zone Committee Action Plan budget for this financial year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hāpuku Catchment Collective Year 3 – builds on the success of Years 1 and 2 which has led to good landowner engagement and collaboration in addressing some of the key issues in the Hāpuku area. This has been achieved through an incentivised weed control and riparian management programme alongside educational community events. Year 3 aims to engage new landowners and broaden the programme of works. ○ Waiau Toa/Clarence Hāpua Protection 2023/34 – this project aims to improve the fledging success of black-billed gulls and other endemic shorebirds at the Waiau Toa/Clarence hāpua / river mouth. The Waiau Toa/Clarence is a priority waterway for the Committee and supports existing biodiversity efforts in the catchment. ○ Waikōau/Lyell Creek Stream and Beach Clean-up - a community event supporting the health of the Waikōau Lyell Creek and its surrounds. This has been a successful recurring event for the Kaikōura community supported by the Committee. Community planting days are also often organised alongside which support the health of waterways. • In August, the Committee ran a workshop to progress their action to investigate establishing a community watercress garden and identify communications and engagement opportunities to support healthier waterways. The outcomes of the workshop included the identification of necessary considerations when identifying a suitable location for a watercress garden and potential sites, and campaigns which support education around cleaning up waterways including stormwater management. • In May, the annual Waiau Toa/Clarence stakeholders hui on the collective weed and pest control efforts was held and involved Toitū Te Whenua LINZ, Environment Canterbury, Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura, Marlborough District Council, Main Power and DOC. Following on from this, the Waiau Toa/Clarence community hui held in September provided the community with an overview of the collaborative work carried out in the catchment under the

		Waiau Toa Weed Management Strategy. It also covered the proposed works for next year, with the opportunity for community to provide feedback.
Hurunui Waiau Uwha Zone		
Target	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"> Environment Canterbury's Water and Land Committee received a written update from Hurunui District Council Mayor, Marie Black, on the formation of the Hurunui Water and Land Committee. She noted early preparations for a Hurunui Water and Land Committee had taken a backstep with the heavy workload of government reform, and the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mayor Black also noted the regular liaison with Environment Canterbury, and that Hurunui District Council is looking to further develop the Hurunui Water and Land Committee proposal in collaboration with Environment Canterbury and Rūnanga.
Waimakariri Zone Committee		
Target	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"> At its July meeting, the Committee confirmed its continuing support of the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group's shorebird monitoring on the Rakahuri estuary over the 2023/24 summer nesting season. This is the first project supported utilising the 2023/24 CWMS Action Plan Budget for the Waimakariri Water Zone. In July, the Committee received the final report for the Inanga Spawning Habitat Improvement project on Taranaki Stream, supported through the CWMS 2021/22 Action Plan Budget. Six bays were created with earthwork on the true right bank of the Taranaki Stream, just upstream of the floodgate at Waikuku Beach. These bays have a reduced slope to increase the area of flooded vegetation available for inanga spawning. The planting of 800 native grasses and low shrubs within the six bays was carried out in winter 2022. A fence was installed to prevent stock grazing on the native planting. Surveys of this inanga spawning area were completed by Aquatic Ecology Ltd in 2019, 2021, and 2022 to provide a baseline for comparison against the outcome of the earthworks.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee's Biodiversity Working Group has been busy this quarter with the promotion and selection process for the three inaugural environmental awards to be granted for local projects aligned to the Committee's 2021-24 Action Plan priorities. Nine applications were received in September, with the awards presented at the Waimakariri District Council's 2023 Community Awards ceremony on Wednesday, 18 October 2023.
Christchurch-West Melton		
Target	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga	Enhance mahinga kai Engage with community Enhance ecosystem health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banks Peninsula Zone Committee, Christchurch-West Melton Zone Committee and Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour have been following up several initiatives that were identified at the Erosion and Sediment Control workshop in April. Stormwater Superhero Awards 2023 was launched and entries were received. Regional stormwater awareness and education campaign was rolled out in August. In August, the Committee's Chairperson and Deputy facilitated a conversation about water and coastal issues with community groups as part of a special Regional Policy Statement engagement day. Committee members took part in a Community Waterways Partnership hui in September. The "Pick up 5" (clean up litter) engagement campaign was launched by community groups at the hui.
Banks Peninsula Zone Committee		
Target	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga	Enhance ecosystem health Engage with community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several initiatives from the Erosion and Sediment Control workshop held in April are being followed up, in collaboration with Christchurch-West Melton Zone Committee and Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour. A meeting on recreational water quality was held in September and a related engagement plan was confirmed for the Committee's involvement. They will be engaging with the community about stormwater superhero key messages using the trailer at five events during October and November in Whakaraupō and Akaroa Harbours, with support from Christchurch Envirohub.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A catchment group involving the major farmers in Wairewa Catchment was formed in partnership with Wairewa Rūnanga.
Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee		
Target	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Drinking Water</p> <p>Natural Character of Braided Rivers</p> <p>Recreation and Amenity opportunities</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga</p>	<p>Raising awareness of private drinking water supply risks</p> <p>Healthy Waikirikiri/Selwyn River</p> <p>Enhance mahinga kai, recreation and amenity values</p> <p>Catchment nutrient targets and water quality outcomes</p> <p>Healthy Te Waihora</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee received several presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater survey results and the nitrate lag report – provided by Environment Canterbury and included an overview of the groundwater system in the zone, challenges and issues, and actions taken to improve water quality in the zone. Selwyn District Council Biodiversity Strategy and Projects update - noting progress made to develop the Selwyn District Biodiversity Strategy and key biodiversity projects led by the District Council. The presentation reflected the good work being undertaken to restore Tārerekautuku Lagoon including projects to enhance biodiversity and habitat restoration and target areas for weed control. Greendale Primary School - and their Enviroschools outdoor classroom work at the Near River Recharge site which the Committee has committed to supporting through its Action Plan. Central Plains Water Ltd - provided an annual progress update on the scheme's operations and performance over the last year. Whakaora Te Waihora project mapping proposal – an update was provided as project mapping is a key focus for the Committee this year. Several project proposals for consideration using the Committee's Action Plan Budget for 2023/2024. In July, the Committee recommended an allocation from the 2023-2024 Action Plan budget to a Quorum Sense Curiosity Day to be held in the Selwyn Waihora zone. The Curiosity Day will be a free field day for participants to learn about regenerative farming principles with the aim to increase community understanding and encourage application of the principles on farms. The day will connect like-minded farmers and others with a similar interest with the wider network and knowledge hub on regenerative pathways. Planning for the day is underway.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July, Committee members attended and provided feedback at the Northern Zone Committees webinar as part of the Regional Policy Statement engagement organised by Environment Canterbury. • In August, the Committee supported a community meeting in Glentunnel organised by Selwyn District Council Councillor Lydia Gliddon and NZ Landcare Trust. The purpose was to discuss opportunities for the community to work together on projects that encourage collaboration and deliver environment outcomes, and the possibility of forming a catchment group. The Committee provided funding to cover costs of the meeting. The Committee also presented on the work of the Zone Committee and support it could provide this community. • In September, Committee members attended Te Ara Kākāriki’s Kids Discovery Plant-out Day with Lincoln Primary School. The Committee funded the event using some of last year’s Action Plan Budget. The Committee saw students connecting with their taiao/environment through engaging activities from learning about rongoā Māori, how mōkihi were used for transport across wetlands and building their own, storytelling and getting hands on experience by planting almost 400 plants at the Te Moto o Ahuriri site along the Huritini/Halswell River. • The Committee continues to pursue community engagement opportunities which align to its Action Plan and supports collaboration. These include drafting several funding proposals for discussion at an upcoming workshop including community drinking water testing days to improve education and awareness, opportunities to support catchment group formation including the Glentunnel mahi, a Huritini/Halswell bus trip, and educational events to help deliver freshwater outcomes which will be considered at an upcoming workshop.
Ashburton Zone Committee		
Target	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Environmental Limits Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity	Support the Ōtūwharekai Ashburton Lakes recovery Support measures to enhance recreation and amenity opportunities Support the Carters Creek Catchment Group by assisting with community engagement,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August, the Committee recommended \$10,000 funding for a portable nitrate sensor for the Ōtūwharekai Ashburton Lakes Catchment Group to improve monitoring of streams in their area. • The Committee received a report from the Carters Creek Catchment Group on flooding issue with the creek, which runs through the township of Tinwald. The issues are complex, and the Committee has requested Environment Canterbury and Ashburton District Council work with the Carters Creek Catchment Group to find solutions. It is challenging to gain

<p>Recreation and Amenity opportunities</p>	<p>education and communications, to encourage behaviours that positively impact water quality in Carters Creek</p> <p>Hakatere / Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek)</p>	<p>traction with other water quality improvement actions while the flooding issues are front of mind for the community.</p>
<p>Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee</p>		
<p>Target</p>	<p>Focus of the Action Plan</p>	<p>Highlights of practical work underway</p>
<p>Kaitiakitanga</p> <p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Recreation and Amenity Opportunities</p>	<p>Commitment to raising understanding of Te Mana o Te Wai (the importance of water and the importance of our waterways) in a rural, urban and industrial context</p> <p>Protect, enhance and restore mahinga kai and tuhituhi nehera sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August, the Committee agreed to promote a more inclusive tone around Te Ao Māori by noting the meanings of key te reo words in English in its Action Plan. • In September, the Committee visited the Department of Conservation restoration at Opihi Lagoon where more than 50,000 native plants were planted. Funding (Jobs for Nature) will finish at the end of this financial year and there is concern about meeting the cost of ongoing maintenance, yet alone further expansion of the wetland and potential mahinga kai area.
<p>Upper Waitaki Zone Committee</p>		
<p>Target</p>	<p>Focus of the Action Plan</p>	<p>Highlights of practical work underway</p>
<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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August, the Committee received updates from Environment Canterbury's Science and Operations staff on the water quality in the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore, and consent conditions relating to the Trophic Level Index (TLI) of relevant lake sites and instream nutrient limits for local streams. • The conditions in some irrigation consents within the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore catchment contain an early warning TLI trigger of 2.75 that requires consent holders to reduce their nutrient discharge and submit a report on the cause of the breach. These conditions were included to control the effects of diffuse pollution/eutrophication resulting from land use intensification in the catchment.

	<p>as the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key message from this meeting was the Trophic Lake Index (TLI) of the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore for 2022/23 is 2.90, thereby exceeding the early warning trigger in some irrigation consents in the catchment. The committee discussed this issue at its September briefing session and is planning to meet 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.
<p>Lower Waitaki Zone Committee</p>		
<p>Target</p>	<p>Focus of the Action Plan</p>	<p>Highlights of practical work underway</p>
<p>Environmental Limits</p>	<p>Strive for increased engagement to identify and support improvement opportunities in water quality across the wider community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July, the Committee agreed on minor changes to their Action Plan providing a sharper focus for them. In August, the Committee received an overview of the Our Land and Water National Science Challenge “Catchment Synthesis” project and agreed to support its implementation in the Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone. This research is seeking to estimate (through a complex GIS model) the scope of land practice and land use change over a 20-year time horizon that might be required to achieve the agreed water quality outcomes for those catchments. It will then attempt to validate if such changes are achievable at an individual farm business level.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 24 November 2023

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 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.

Attachments

- Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Regional Public Service Commissioner (RPSC) Update:

Mayoral Forum 24 November 2023

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

Since our last update in August 2023, the information below outlines the key activities underway by RLG on its regional priority areas to focus our collective efforts on tamariki and rangatahi, housing, and strengthening connections with local government.

Tamariki and Rangatahi

The six children agencies of Police, Education, Te Whatu Ora, Oranga Tamariki, Justice and Ministry of Social Development, with supporting the Regional Public Service Team, have commenced engagement with Ngā Maata Waka as part of the Enabling Communities initiative under the Oranga Tamariki Action plan. The intent of this initiative to promote and support a community led response to emerging issues impacting youth.

Housing

As mentioned in the August 2023 Mayoral update, a working group co-led by MSD and Kāinga Ora has been established. As our collective efforts at WPG is on tamariki and rangatahi, the focus for this working group will be on wrap around cross-agency support for whānau with tamariki transitioning through emergency housing. This will also align with the Engagement and Attendance mahi undertaken by Ministry of Education.

The working group has shared agency data and responsibilities across this focus area. The next working group meeting in December will focus on 'pain points' (disconnect between



agencies/services). This will allow the working group to move into ideation phase and potential implementation of place-based initiatives.

Other:

Strengthening connections with Local Authorities

The RLG is working with Selwyn District Council to explore new ways of partnering that supports community wellbeing. In September, the RPS team convened a meeting between Selwyn District Council and relevant government agencies to discuss ideas intended to strengthen the relationship and partnership between local and central government. As a result of this meeting, there is a collective agreement to work collaboratively on an Older People and Youth Strategy for Selwyn District. There is also a commitment to support the upskilling of council staff in central government services that are frequently requested by Selwyn residents.

The RPSC's for Canterbury and Otago have also met with Waitaki District Council to discuss how we could strengthen connections between Runaka, Waitaki District Council and key Government Agencies. Based on the initial conversations, there is an opportunity to explore several areas of need in the local area. The Waitaki District Council and other local agencies have identified the below areas for discussion and refinement:

- Housing
- Family violence/sexual violence
- Education/employment opportunities
- Library Heartlands initiative
- Mental Health & Addiction

The next step is to convene a meeting with key stakeholders in the first quarterly of 2024. If there are other councils seeking support to convene central government agencies to discuss localised issues, please let me know.



Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 24 November 2023

Presented by: Bede Carran, 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 August 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 August meeting:
 - the Communications and Engagement Forum met on 15 September
 - the Corporate and Operations Forums met on 18 September
 - the Policy and Economic Development Forums met on 22 September
 - the Chief Executives Forum met on 6 November.
3. The last round of quarterly meetings of the regional forums for 2023 is scheduled to occur over 8 – 15 December.
4. The Chief Executives Forum will next meet on Monday 29 January.

Chief Executives Forum

5. Key agenda items discussed at the 6 November meeting included:
 - the draft Regional Land Transport Plan
 - funding collective actions as part of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (see item 5.1)
 - implications and opportunities arising from the outcome of the General Election

- an update on the work a subgroup of chief executives is undertaking on collaboration and shared services amongst Canterbury councils (see item 5.3)
 - an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy
 - the draft Mayoral Forum agenda for November
 - confirming Hamish Raich to continue as chair of the Chief Executives Forum for 2024, and selecting Hamish Dobbie as deputy chair
 - confirming the terms of reference for the regional forums, and forum chairs for 2024.
6. Chief executives will meet on 18 December to begin an initial conversation about three waters and the change of direction following the election of a new government.

Triennium strategic workplan

7. The 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

- Strategic workplan

Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2023-2025

Updated 16 November 2023

#	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	
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	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	
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 planned for December 2023	A new (refreshed/updated) Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, including the regional biodiversity monitoring framework	
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	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 December to discuss next steps to develop the strategy	The Forum has clarity on housing issues affecting communities in Waitaha/Canterbury and understands pathways for improvement	
8	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	
9	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 on agenda for 24 November meeting.	Completion of the Climate Change partnership plan and agreement on action planning	

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 24 November 2023

Presented by: Secretariat

Mayoral Forum activities and engagements – August to November 2023

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of activities, engagements and correspondence since the last Mayoral Forum meeting in August.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receive the update on Mayoral Forum activities and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 25 August 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 August meeting the Mayoral Forum wrote to:
 - the Minister of Local Government about the go-live date for Entity I
 - a letter of congratulation to Christopher Luxon following the General Election and an invitation to attend a Mayoral Forum dinner
 - letters of congratulation to 18 Canterbury-based MPs following the General Election.
5. The Mayoral Forum received the following correspondence:

- response from Ministry for the Environment to our letter about the first tranche regions process for resource management reform implementation
 - letter from the Minister of Local Government in response to the Forum's letter about the Entity I go-live date
 - letter from the Minister of Transport regarding the delays to the release of the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport
 - letter from Nicola Grigg thanking the Forum for the letter of congratulation following the election.
6. The correspondence is provided at attachment 1.
7. Emails from Stuart Smith, James Meager and Matt Doocey were also received thanking the Forum for the letters of congratulation.

Submissions

8. During this period the Mayoral Forum made the following submissions:
- a joint submission with the Regional Transport Committee to the Ministry of Transport on the draft Government Policy Statement for Land Transport
 - a submission to Parliament's Environment Committee on its inquiry into climate adaptation
 - a joint submission with the CDEM Joint Committee to Parliament's Government and Administration Committee on the Emergency Management Bill.
9. These submissions are available on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website: www.canterburymayors.org.nz.

Attachments

- Correspondence

**CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum**

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

30 August 2023

Hon Kieran McAnulty
Minister of Local Government
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: k.mcanulty@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister

Entity I – go-live date

We are writing to you in response to your letter of 25 August to our territorial authority members on the proposed go-live date for Entity I.

The majority of mayors of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum support the go-live date of 1 July 2025 for Entity I.

We have conveyed this support to our West Coast colleagues.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum

cc Michael Brewster
National Transition Unit
michael.brewster@dia.govt.nz

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

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

19 October 2023

Christopher Luxon
National Party Leader
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: christopher.luxon@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Christopher

Congratulations from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

On behalf of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, I write to congratulate you on the General Election result. The Mayoral Forum, comprising the mayors of the Kaikoura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki districts, Christchurch City and the chair of the regional council, looks forward to working with you.

Once you have formed a government and ministers have been appointed, the Forum will 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. The briefings will also contain an invitation for ministers to meet with us separately to talk about the key issues and how we will work together over the coming term.

Invitation to attend Mayoral Forum working dinner

The Forum wishes to invite you to be our guest at our next working dinner, to be held on the evening of Thursday 23 November in Christchurch. This is a great opportunity to meet with the region's local government leaders together and for us to begin the conversation with you about working alongside each other for the benefit of our communities. Details for the dinner are below:

Date: Thursday 23 November

Time: 6.30pm (for 7pm dinner)

Location: Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Ave, Burnside, Christchurch

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

We look forward to receiving your RSVP. Please let our secretariat know if you can attend by emailing secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or phoning Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Once again, congratulations on the election result.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Mayor, Timaru District
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

9 November 2023

Ms Nicola Grigg
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: nicola.grigg@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Nicola

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum congratulates you on winning the Selwyn seat in the recent General election and looks forward to working with you to advance the interests of the Canterbury region.

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- 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.

To achieve this vision, we have identified three priority issues we want to influence through our leadership, facilitation and advocacy:

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- **sustainable environmental management of our habitats** (land, air, waters and ecosystems), focusing on land use and freshwater management
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Our three immediate priorities are:

- advocating with Government for permanent co-investment in flood protection to protect local and national assets and contribute to more sustainable regional economies
- advocating with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
- seeking to collaborate with Government to develop an integrated approach to transport funding and increase the level of funding available for Canterbury transport networks.

We look forward to engaging with you over this parliamentary term as we work towards achieving our vision and priorities for Canterbury. We warmly welcome you to make contact at any time as you identify issues, opportunities and common interests (a directory follows). If you require any further information about us or our work, please do not hesitate to contact our secretariat (Maree McNeilly, secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz, 0273818924).

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Mayor, Timaru District
Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum

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CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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9 November 2023

Mr Reuben Davidson
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: reuben.davidson@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Reuben

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum congratulates you on winning the Christchurch East seat in the recent General election and looks forward to working with you to advance the interests of the Canterbury region.

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9 November 2023

Mr Stuart Smith
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: stuart.smith@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Stuart

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum congratulates you on winning the Kaikōura seat in the recent General election and looks forward to working with you to advance the interests of the Canterbury region.

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9 November 2023

Mr Tākuta Ferris
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: takuta.ferris@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Tākuta

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum congratulates you on winning the Te Tai Tonga seat in the recent General election and looks forward to working with you to advance the interests of the Canterbury region.

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Nāku iti noa, nā



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9 November 2023

Hon Gerry Brownlee

National Party
Canterbury List MP

Email: **gerry.brownlee@parliament.govt.nz**

Tēnā koe Gerry

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9 November 2023

Mr Jamie Arbuckle

NZ First Party
Canterbury List MP

Email: **jamie.arbuckle@parliament.govt.nz**

Tēnā koe Jamie

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9 November 2023

Hon Jo Luxton

Labour Party
Canterbury List MP

Email: jo.luxton@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Jo

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Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Mayor, Timaru District
Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Canterbury Mayoral Forum directory

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CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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9 November 2023

Ms Kahurangi Carter

Green Party
Canterbury List MP

Email: **kahurangi.carter@parliament.govt.nz**

Tēnā koe Kahurangi

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9 November 2023

Ms Lan Pham
Green Party
Canterbury List MP

Email: **lan.pham@parliament.govt.nz**

Tēnā koe Lan

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9 November 2023

Ms Laura Trask
ACT Party
Canterbury List MP

Email: **laura.trask@parliament.govt.nz**

Tēnā koe Laura

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9 November 2023

Hon Rino Tirikatene

Labour Party
Canterbury List MP

Email: **rino.tirikatene@parliament.govt.nz**

Tēnā koe Rino

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Dr Vanessa Weenink
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: vanessa.weenink@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Vanessa

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Mr Hamish Campbell
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: hamish.campbell@parliament.govt.nz

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CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

9 November 2023

Hon Dr Duncan Webb
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: duncan.webb@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Duncan

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum congratulates you on winning the Christchurch Central seat in the recent General election and looks forward to working with you to advance the interests of the Canterbury region.

As you will know, the Mayoral Forum comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the chair of the regional council. We meet quarterly, and are supported by the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum, other regional forums and working groups, and a permanent secretariat. Our work delivers on the Canterbury local Authorities Triennial Agreement 2022-25. Further information is available on our website at www.canterburymayors.org.nz.

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

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Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Mayor, Timaru District
Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum

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9 November 2023

Mr James Meager
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: james.meager@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe James

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum congratulates you on winning the Rangitata seat in the recent General election and looks forward to working with you to advance the interests of the Canterbury region.

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Nāku iti noa, nā



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CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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9 November 2023

Mr Matt Doocey
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: matt.doocey@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Matt

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum congratulates you on winning the Waimakariri seat in the recent General election and looks forward to working with you to advance the interests of the Canterbury region.

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CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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9 November 2023

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: megan.woods@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Megan

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum congratulates you on winning the Wigram seat in the recent General election and looks forward to working with you to advance the interests of the Canterbury region.

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9 November 2023

Mr Miles Anderson
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: miles.anderson@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Miles

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum congratulates you on winning the Waitaki seat in the recent General election and looks forward to working with you to advance the interests of the Canterbury region.

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Nāku iti noa, nā



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Maree McNeilly

From: Andrea Szujo <Andrea.Szujo@mfe.govt.nz> on behalf of Nadeine Dommissie <Nadeine.Dommissie@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 August 2023 10:03 am
To: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz
Cc: Janine Smith; First Tranche Regions
Subject: RE: Resource Management Reform – scoping for first tranche region
Attachments: CMF Ltr MfE re First Tranche Regions Aug 2023.pdf

Categories: Maree

nadeine.dommissie@mfe.govt.nz appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person.
[Learn why this could be a risk](#)

Caution: This is an email from an external party. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Tēnā koe Nigel

Thank you for your letter of 18 August on behalf of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

I want to acknowledge the time and effort you have committed to discussing the First Tranche Region opportunity and the potential for Canterbury to participate.

One of the key aspects of the First Tranche Regions (FTR) project is to capture insights and lessons learned from those Regions who transition to the new system first, to help inform those that follow and the types of support and guidance we can provide. We look forward to sharing this knowledge as it is gathered as Regions move into the new system.

Thank you again for your ongoing interest in Resource Management Reform. My team and I look forward to continued opportunities to engage with the Canterbury Mayoral forum as we move into the new system.

Ngā mihi

Nadeine

Nadeine Dommissie (she/her)

Tumuaki Tuarua | Deputy Secretary Policy Implementation and Delivery

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

027 549 7733 | nadeine.dommissie@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

Ministry staff work flexibly by default. For me this means, you may receive an email from me outside of usual working hours. Please respond at a time that is convenient for you.



Ministry for the
Environment
 Manatū Mō Te Taiao



A flourishing environment
 for every generation.
 He taiao tōnui mō ngā
 reanga katoa.



Hon Kieran McAnulty

Minister for Emergency Management
Minister of Local Government
Minister for Racing
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Rural Communities
Deputy Leader of the House



12 October 2023

COR4145

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayor Forum
secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz

Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your email of 30 August 2023 conveying the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's support for the Entity I go-live date of 1 July 2025.

I want to acknowledge the recent period of uncertainty for many councils, who are in the process of preparing their 2024-34 long-term plans. I understand the process for local government planning cycles is extensive and requires a long lead-in time. Feedback received from councils around the motu is that the certainty of the go-live dates has been critical to their future planning.

Sharing this information provides you with the certainty you need ahead of the election period, with a view for an engagement process being undertaken post-election prior to the Order in Council.

Receiving feedback from mayors and councils is critical to ensuring a successful outcome for this work. I appreciate the time and engagement that has been undertaken as we move towards improving water quality and services for all New Zealanders.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. McAnulty'.

Hon Kieran McAnulty
Minister of Local Government

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister of Transport

Associate Minister of Finance

**13 SEP 2023**
M230095

Peter Scott
Chair
Canterbury Regional Transport Committee
Councillor.Scott@ecan.govt.nz

Nigel Brown
Chair
Canterbury Mayoral Forum
secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz

Dear Peter Scott and Nigel Brown,

Thank you for your letter of 7 July 2023 regarding the release of the Draft Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024 (GPS 2024).

I would like to first acknowledge your concerns around the delays to the release of the Draft GPS 2024. The delays were due to the need to adjust the Draft GPS in response to the extreme weather events earlier this year, and also the need to develop and agree the overall funding package that supports GPS 2024.

The Draft GPS 2024 was released for consultation on 17 August 2023. Consultation will close on 15 September 2023. You can find more information on the consultation on the Ministry of Transport's website at <https://www.transport.govt.nz/>. I expect that, now the Draft GPS 2024 has been released, Waka Kotahi will be able to provide an indication of the funding levels for local projects, and priorities of the Government, to assist with the development of your Regional Land Transport Plan.

I look forward to receiving your feedback. Should you have any questions about the Draft GPS 2024 I encourage you to contact officials on GPS@transport.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Hon David Parker
Minister of Transport



Nigel Bowen

Mayor, Timaru District

Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Email: nigel.bowen@timdc.govt.nz

13 November 2023

Dear Nigel,

Re: Your letter

Thank you for your letter to me and the kind words you have expressed.

I am looking forward to continuing to serve and work for the residents of Selwyn for the next three years.

I acknowledge the interests and priorities of the local government leaders in Canterbury as outlined in the Plan for Canterbury 2023 – 25 and recognise the vision for sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity. In fact, over the past three years I have done everything I can to represent our region in Wellington. I have worked hard to deliver solutions to the issues impacting our local communities like pushing for better management of our flood-prone waterways, for investment in our local schools, for better telecommunication infrastructure, and championing a new social services hub to serve the needs of our rapidly growing community.

Selwyn relies on our agricultural industry and I will continue to back our farmers to be world-leaders in what they do.

We need future-proofed infrastructure and housing, and our community-owned assets must remain in local ownership.

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NICOLA GRIGG
MP for Selwyn

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I will continue to advocate for policies that will crack down on crime, bolster our health services, rebuild our economy, drive down inflation, lower interest rates and, I will do everything I can in parliament to help solve the cost-of-living crisis that is impacting so many people across our district. Depending on the makeup of the new government, I will:

- Work with local social service providers and NGOs to find a local facility for them to work from;
- Lobby the new Minister of Transport to begin construction work to four-lane SH1 from Rolleston to Ashburton;
- Advocate to ensure Selwyn has investment in Education and Health services to meet the demands of our rapidly growing population; and
- Continue to advocate to telecommunication companies to build infrastructure and improve connectivity services across Selwyn.

I look forward to meeting with the members of the Mayoral Forum in the forthcoming Parliamentary term.

Kind regards,

Nicola Grigg

MP for Selwyn

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Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 24 November 2023

Presented by: Peter Scott, Chair, Environment Canterbury

Onsite wastewater system consenting

Purpose

1. To provide the Canterbury Mayoral Forum visibility of onsite wastewater system consenting issues.
2. This paper comes at the request of the Chair of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, following a meeting between Timaru District Council and Environment Canterbury on Friday 17 November 2023.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

- 1. notes this paper provides an overview of some recent challenges regarding onsite wastewater consenting for subdivided land across Canterbury.**

Background

3. Environment Canterbury is obligated to receive and consider consent applications for onsite wastewater systems in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991.
4. Over recent years, there has been an increase in applicants seeking consent for wastewater systems on small lot sizes (less than four hectare) that are related to subdivisions with multiple properties being developed. These sites are often without reticulation, meaning every individual site requires its own wastewater system and related resource consent. This is frequently further complicated when there is also no access to reticulated drinking water supply on these lots.
5. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 directs the health of the waterbody and its ecosystems to be placed above other considerations. Many areas of Canterbury have degraded water bodies. As onsite wastewater systems can negatively influence groundwater nitrate-nitrogen concentrations, this can result in the need to notify wastewater consent applications in some situations.
6. Regional councils do not have discretion in this regard as it stems from the implementation of a national direction.

Opportunities to alleviate pressure in wastewater consenting process

7. It is recognised that, in general, notification adds additional expense and stress to the consenting process.
8. This could be alleviated in future by ensuring that consents for the disposal of wastewater are resolved at the same time as the consent for the subdivision is progressed. Rather than leaving the wastewater consent to the subsequent purchaser to resolve at a later date. This would create more certainty for purchasers.
9. To reduce this issue in future, territorial authorities may also wish to consider:
 - a. using their statutory tools to align consent applications in a way that reduces uncertainty for future purchasers of subdivided land
 - b. contacting Environment Canterbury's Consenting team when they receive a subdivision proposal
 - c. ensuring future district planning frameworks align with regional and national direction for wastewater systems.
 - d. explore how they plan for the provision of reticulation of both wastewater and drinking water services where they want communities to grow.
10. A number of other opportunities have been identified to ensure proactive communication and understanding of this issue:
 - a. Communication with developers, lawyers and real estate agents to ensure due diligence and ability to make informed decisions.
 - b. Engagement with onsite wastewater sector (manufactures, suppliers installers) to explore future technologies.
11. Attachment One provides a deeper overview of these issues and potential opportunities territorial authorities might consider to address them. Mayors may wish to share Attachment One with their Planning Managers.

Attachment

- **Attachment 1:** Detailed overview of consenting issues

Attachment 1: Detailed overview of wastewater consenting issues

Context and background

1. Historical land uses in Canterbury mean there are parts of the region where water quality is degraded, particularly in terms of nitrate-nitrogen. To address this, Environment Canterbury has been progressively implementing limits, targets, policies, and rules relating to freshwater quality as part of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP). These have been developed via a series of plan changes (the most recent, Plan Change 7, was recently made partially operative) to give effect to the outcomes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and various versions of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2011, 2014 and the amended version in 2017).
2. In 2020 the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM 2020) came into force. It defined the concept of Te Mana o te Wai (emphasising the fundamental importance of water (wai) and the need to restore and preserve balance between wai, the wider environment and the community) and included a hierarchy of obligations which requires, when managing freshwater, the prioritisation of:
 - a. first, the health and wellbeing of freshwater ecosystems
 - b. second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)
 - c. third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, now and in the future.
3. While the LWRP has progressively implemented plan changes to address degraded water quality (e.g. through requiring reductions in nitrate-nitrogen losses from farming activities), those plan changes largely pre-date the NPS-FM 2020 and were not prepared to “give effect” to the hierarchy of obligations.
4. While a planning process to give effect to the NPS-FM 2020 is scheduled to be notified in 2028, consent decision makers must “have regard” to the NPS-FM 2020 now when consideration applications that may affect freshwater. Where there is inconsistency in policy direction between the NPS-FM 2020 and our plan(s), as later-in-time national direction, the NPS-FM 2020 has considerable ‘weight’ in consent decision making.
5. Environment Canterbury are continually receiving consent applications for onsite wastewater systems for lots within new subdivisions consented by Territorial Authorities, but where there has been minimal consideration of how wastewater will be addressed. Rather than reticulation or a communal system being proposed (with higher treatment), lot owners are being expected to consent and install their own individual onsite systems.
6. It is concerning those subdivisions have been granted consent without the relevant territorial authority contacting Environment Canterbury and/or requiring applications for the associated wastewater systems prior to granting subdivision consent. This is

creating problems for purchasers of those lots as the approach has not considered the state of the receiving environment, and whether consenting individual systems is viable for the development.

Short term issues

7. Environment Canterbury is obligated to receive and consider consent applications for in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). This is resulting in issues with the consenting of onsite wastewater systems which are required for lot sizes that are less than 4ha in size where people cannot meet permitted activity criteria.
8. The main short-term issue relates to the notification of consent applications for domestic wastewater in areas with degraded water quality. This results primarily from the legal constraints of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) which requires two main decisions in consent processing:
 - a. firstly, whether an application needs to be notified; and
 - b. subsequently, whether it can be granted.
9. Importantly a decision to notify an application does not predetermine or preclude the ability to grant an application. The two decisions are distinct and subject to different limitations and considerations.

Notification Decision

10. In practice, it is the notification decision that is causing concern. This is because notification decisions are legally only able to consider the adverse effects of a proposal. Relevantly, the RMA defines effects as including “any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects”.
11. In situations where an effect on the environment is more than minor, public notification is required by the RMA (limited notification to specific persons may be required where effects on that person are minor or more than minor). This determination is guided by plan limits and policy direction on what is likely to be a significant adverse effect. Given the direction of the NPS-FM 2020 to improve degraded water quality, where water quality is not meeting plan limits and targets and/or is nearing or exceeding drinking water standards, discharges that add further contaminants will have an additional adverse cumulative effect and may require notification.
12. Each application needs to be considered case-by-case on a first in, first served basis. As such, in making that determination, decision makers must consider whether the discharge from an onsite wastewater system, in combination with other sources of contaminants, will ensure that the health and wellbeing of degraded waterbodies is improved or (at minimum) maintained.

13. This is dependent on the scale and significance of the discharge, and the state of the receiving environment, and the proposed mitigation (e.g. level of treatment). This means that in some areas (e.g. where above a plan limit, but below the drinking water standard) best-practice systems with high levels of treatment may be able to proceed non-notified, while in others (e.g. if drinking water limits are exceeded), any increase in contaminant discharge may trigger the need for notification, for example:
- a. A single onsite domestic wastewater away from sensitive or degraded receiving environments, and/or with a high level of proposed treatment which ensures no degradation is likely to be able to proceed non-notified;
 - b. An application for a collective consent for a new subdivision, with each lot to have a primary treatment system, and/or which occurs in an area of degraded water quality may led to further deterioration of water quality. This will likely need to be notified;
 - c. A 'drip-fed' series of applications for each individual lot in a new subdivision may see the first applications able to proceed non-notified (assuming they will not individually degrade water quality) but, due to the resulting cumulative effects of multiple discharges, later-in-time applications needing to be notified with associated costs falling to the later-in-time applicants;
 - d. An application for an individual or collective consent for a new subdivision which is replacing an intensive farming activity may be able to proceed non-notified if it can demonstrate an improved level of loss relative to the historic farming activity, particularly if it is consistent with the plan direction for reducing losses from farming activities.
14. Where a decision is notified, then those notified can make a submission, either in support or opposition, to the proposed activity. This is of concern to applicants as it results in additional costs, particularly if there is a need for a hearing. If no submissions are received, or submitters do not wish to be heard, then there is no need for a hearing.

Grant/Refuse Decision

15. Following the notification decision (and if submissions are to be heard, a hearing), a decision on whether to grant or refuse an application can be made. Unlike a notification decision, the decision to grant or refuse an application is not limited to the adverse effects but can also consider the positive effects that may arise and any policy direction in relevant planning documents. Importantly this means the decision to notify an application does not affect the decision on whether to grant an application.
16. While decision makers must still have regard to policy direction within the NPS-FM 2020, they can also have regard to the policy direction in the LWRP which supports grant onsite wastewater systems in areas with degraded water quality, so long proposed system minimises the amount of the contaminant discharged. This means

that there is still a pathway for high-treatment systems to be granted even where notification is required.

17. In saying that, the need to notify systems only to subsequently recommend grant is not ideal, and a longer-term solution to this issue is required. Environment Canterbury apply pragmatic approaches wherever possible, however this is only appropriate short term and where applicants have the ability to alter their proposals.

Working towards a longer-term solution

18. As each consent application must be considered case-by-case, there is no one size fits all approach to resolving this issue in the short term. There are, however, several things that could be improved to assist in managing expectations and making sure applicants are not surprised by this issue.
19. In the first instance, consideration of how wastewater will be dealt with at the point in time when the subdivision is proposed is encouraged, rather than waiting to address matters on a site-by-site basis. This recognises that good-practice resource management requires a holistic approach and there is a need to know that wastewater discharges from a subdivision can be appropriately addressed. The RMA provides tools for all consent authorities to request additional applications to better understand a proposal (e.g. s91 RMA). This could be used to require applications to be made to Environment Canterbury for wastewater systems so that this can be resolved at the same time as the subdivision. It is noted that some territorial authorities have already started using these statutory tools.
20. In addition, where subdivisions are granted based on requiring onsite wastewater systems, information on water quality being included on LIMs may be a useful tool to ensure that prospective landowners are aware of the need to ensure that they are proposing best-practice systems.
21. Having better public-facing information on water quality would also be useful to developers, wastewater system suppliers, and territorial authorities so they can be properly informed about the issues and investigate appropriate options. Environment Canterbury is currently working on making information on water quality more accessible to the public.
22. It is recognised that in many cases new subdivisions are replacing existing farming activities. Applicants can consider how their proposal compares to previous activities at the site, and what the plan might consider appropriate (e.g. will the proposal result in overall reductions in nitrate-nitrogen loss consistent with plan outcomes?). Importantly however, while an individual system may be lower than previous farming activities, the combined effects of several onsite wastewater systems can be comparable, or even greater, depending on the previous intensity of the farming activity and the level of treatment proposed. Not considering all systems together can result in a situation where the systems for individual lots are processed at different times, with the first few systems being able to proceed and later in time applicants being disadvantaged by the

prior grants due to the first-in, first served nature of the RMA. This also has the added disservice to the community of appearing inconsistent and makes it harder to set applicants' expectations.

23. As a longer-term solution, Environment Canterbury's 2028 planning process to give effect to the NPS-FM 2020 can investigate what the community thinks is appropriate to give effect to the NPS-FM 2020 in relation to onsite wastewater including appropriate densities of systems, levels of treatment and whether notification is inappropriate in some situations.
24. There may also be opportunities for territorial authorities, when reviewing their district plans, to align their provisions with regional and national planning direction in relation to wastewater systems.
25. We have identified the need to create an opportunity to engage with the manufacturers and installers of onsite wastewater systems regarding the need for higher performing systems and general lift in technology currently available.