



Canterbury Mayoral Forum

BOARD PACK

for

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Friday, 31 May 2024

8:30 am (NZST)

Held at:

Te Whare Whakaterere, Ashburton District Council

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

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AGENDA

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 31 May 2024
Time:	8:30 am to 1:00 pm (NZST)
Location:	Te Whare Whakatare, Ashburton District Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton
Board Members:	Craig Rowley, Nigel Bowen (Chair), Marie Black, Anne Munro, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Gary Kircher, Neil Brown, Sam Broughton, Craig Pauling
Attendees:	Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Alex Parmley, Nigel Trainor, Angela Oosthuizen, Jeff Millward, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Mary Richardson, Maree McNeilly
Apologies:	Phil Mauger, Stuart Duncan, Ann Fitzgerald, Mayor Monique Croon, Paul Eagle
Guests/Notes:	Councillor Pauline Cotter attending for Mayor Phil Mauger; Ewa Jankowska for Ann Fitzgerald Cameron Smith (Senior Strategy Manager); Dann Olykan (Team Leader Strategy & Planning, Canterbury Water Management Strategy), Martin Espig (Principal Strategy Advisor, Canterbury Water Management Strategy) (Item 4.2) Jesse Burgess (Senior Strategy Manager) (Item 5.3) Marie Ward (Director Regional Public Service Commissioner); Rebecca Hibbert (Senior Advisor Regional Public Service Commissioner) (Item 6.1) Wayne Scott, Chief Executive Aggregate and Quarrying Association & Ross Copland, Chief Executive NZ Infrastructure Commission-Te Waihangā (Item 8.1)

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

Tīhei mauri ora!

The Southern Alps stand above

The snow-fed rivers continually flow forth

The plains of Waitaha extend out

To the tides of Marokura, Mahaanui and Araiteuru

Behold, there is life!

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

8:35 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

8:40 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.3.a	Minutes : Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 23 Feb 2024	8
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1.4 Action List

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.4.a	Action List	16
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2. Te Whare Whakaterere

2.1 Tour - Te Whare Whakaterere

8:45 am (60 min)

Neil Brown

Tour of the new Te Whare Whakaterere Ashburton District Council site

3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea

9:45 am (20 min)

4. CWMS Workshop

4.1 Canterbury Water Management Strategy - update

10:05 am (5 min)

Craig Pauling

Supporting Documents:

4.1.a	CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy - update May 2024.docx	17
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4.2 Canterbury Water Management Strategy Workshop

10:10 am (60 min)

Cameron Smith, Senior Strategy Manager Environment Canterbury

Supporting Documents:

4.2.a	CMF Canterbury Water Mangement Strategy workshop May 2024.docx	37
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5. For discussion

5.1 Water Reform - scoping options for a future delivery model 11:10 am (10 min)

Hamish Riach

Supporting Documents:

5.1.a	CMF Water Reform - scoping options for a future delivery model May 2024.docx	38
5.1.b	CMF Water reform scoping options for a future delivery model May 2024 - Attachment 1.pdf	40

5.2 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update 11:20 am (10 min)

Dan Gordon

Supporting Documents:

5.2.a	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update May 2024.docx	47
5.2.b	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update May 2024 Attachment 1.pdf	51

5.3 Regional Energy Inventory 11:30 am (10 min)

Sharon Mason

Supporting Documents:

5.3.a	CMF Regional Energy Inventory May 2024.docx	95
5.3.b	CMF Regional Energy Inventory May 2024 Attachment 1.pdf	100
5.3.c	CMF Regional Energy Inventory May 2024 Attachment 2.docx	106

6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update 11:40 am (10 min)

Marie Ward, Director Regional Public Service Commissioner; Rebecca Hibbert, Senior Advisor
Regional Public Service Commissioner

6.2 Chief Executives Forum report 11:50 am (10 min)

Hamish Riach

Supporting Documents:

6.2.a	CMF Chief Executives Forum report May 2024.docx	113
6.2.b	CMF Chief Executives Forum report May 2024 Attachment 1.pdf	115

6.3 Mayoral Forum activities and engagements

Supporting Documents:

6.3.a	CMF Activities and engagements May 2024.docx	116
6.3.b	CMF Invitation Mayoral Forum lunch 31 May 2024.docx	118
6.3.c	CMF CCPP letter to Chairs Papatipu Rūnanga March 2024.docx	120
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6.3.i	CMF Submission Fast-Track Approvals Bill.pdf	137

7. General business

7.1 General business 12:00 pm (10 min)

7.2 Meeting review 12:10 pm (5 min)

8. For Discussion

8.1 Infrastructure Discussion 12:15 pm (40 min)

Nigel Bowen

Wayne Scott - Chief Executive Aggregate and Quarrying Association

Ross Copland - Chief Executive, New Zealand Infrastructure Commission Te Waihanga

Supporting Documents:

8.1.a	CMF Infrastructure Discussion May 2024.docx	144
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9. Close Meeting

9.1 Closing karakia 12:55 pm (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

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

Haumi e

Hui e

Taiki e

Let peace reign on all the people of the world

Fixed

Bound as one

9.2 Close the meeting

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

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



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

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Karakia, welcome, introductions and apologies

Marie Black (Deputy Chair) welcomed participants to the meeting, particularly Paul Eagle and Mary Richardson to their first Mayoral Forum meeting, and the meeting was opened with a karakia.

Apologies from Nigel Bowen (Chair), Gary Kircher, Neil Brown, Stuart Duncan and Ben Clark (item 6.1), and Sharon Mason for lateness were received.

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed, and no items of general business were raised.

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

Canterbury Mayoral Forum 24 Nov 2023, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Decision

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2023 were confirmed as presented.

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024
Mover: Sam Broughton
Seconder: Dan Gordon
Outcome: Approved

1.4 Action List

There were no outstanding actions.

2. Guest speaker

2.1 Dr Rod Carr

Dr Rod Carr was welcomed to the meeting and invited to discuss his perspective on Canterbury's future, and how our leadership could help the region meet the challenges and opportunities that lie in front of us.

Dr Carr noted that the world is changing, and the accumulation of evidence means it is changing more rapidly than expected. There will be more frequent and more severe weather events.

We are at the risk of tipping points, and things are not linear, we will be facing setbacks and changes.

Globally there are significant and strategic investments in alternative technologies underway in the areas of renewable energy and low emissions ways of generating energy.

New Zealand can benefit from adopting new technology, if we chose. New Zealand's challenge is to determine our place in the changing world.

There is a need to change the narrative around climate change from disaster to opportunity.

Key topics discussed included:

- leadership
- water
- transport
- energy
- food production
- insurance and finance
- why can't Canterbury set a task of being net zero by 2040?

Marie Black then invited questions and discussion from the Mayoral Forum. These included:

- central government role
- ETS and forestry settings
- making Canterbury attractive for energy solutions
- soil sequestration
- roading and transport
- role of waste in alternative energy
- property rights and insurance

Notes have been circulated separately.

3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea

4. For Discussion

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

Marie Black presented the paper, noting the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury has been updated following the workshop held in November 2023. Hamish Dobbie outlined the changes made at the CE Forum meeting on 29 January.

Mayoral Forum feedback included:

Climate Change section – in the light of discussions with Dr Rod Carr earlier in the meeting, questions were asked if the climate change section is aspirational enough. It was noted that a lot of this work is occurring in the development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (see item 5.3) and the CE Forum will review and refine this section, with a view to expressing more aspirational goals in future iterations of the Plan for Canterbury.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. provided final feedback and comments on the content of the refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 be incorporated in the Plan
2. delegated to the Chair and Deputy Chair final approval of the refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024
Mover: Sam Broughton
Seconded: Dan Gordon
Outcome: Approved

4.2 Engaging with Central Government

Marie Black presented the paper, noting that the approach to engaging with Government was first discussed at the November 2023 meeting and was further developed and considered by the CE Forum, along with draft briefings.

It was noted that changes to the briefing papers since consideration by the CE Forum included:

- Adding an "invitation to meet" in the subject line
- Adding redevelopment of South Bay at Kaikōura in the list of projects in the Finance, Economic Development, Regional Development briefings

The meeting suggested the following additional changes:

- Check reference to Heartland Group in the Health briefing
- Include a reference to health workforce issues in Health and Rural Communities briefings, noting that this is also an issue in provincial areas, and cross check across other relevant briefings, e.g. immigration.

Action: Secretariat to finalise briefings and arrange a meeting for Forum members with Ministers in Wellington.

Action: A meeting with Canterbury Coalition MPs to be arranged. Send invitations for a lunch meeting following the Mayoral Forum meeting in Ashburton in May. If uptake is not sufficient an invitation following the September Forum meeting in Christchurch will be considered.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. approved the draft briefings, incorporating the changes requested at the meeting, to Central Government Ministers

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024
Mover: Peter Scott
Seconded: Anne Munro
Outcome: Approved



Action

Secretariat to finalise briefings and arrange a meeting for Forum members with Ministers in Wellington.

1 March - briefings sent to Ministers

4 March - secretariat has been in contact with Matt Doocey's office and will continue to liaise with them on setting up a meeting in Wellington.

Due Date: 8 Mar 2024
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

A meeting with Canterbury Coalition MPs to be arranged. Send invitations for a lunch meeting following the Mayoral Forum meeting in Ashburton in May. If

uptake is not sufficient an invitation following the September Forum meeting in Christchurch will be considered.

Due Date: 8 Mar 2024
Owner: Maree McNeilly

5. For discussion

5.1 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Peter Scott presented the paper highlighting a number of key points. Discussion followed on:

- Water Management Zone Committees – noting the review timetable, and that Ashburton District Council has commenced a review of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee. The review team will meet with all Mayors regarding the Zone Committees' review ahead of a workshop in May. The assumption is that Zone Committee funding will continue as status quo in Long Term Plan 2024-34 while the review is underway.
- Resource Management Reform and fast track consenting - understanding the new governments plans, waiting legislation before any changes can be made, and an expectation that the CMF will make a submission on the Bill once it is introduced.

Sharon Mason joined the meeting.

- AWA water bottling decision and the significant implications of the Supreme Court decision confirming that take and use of water is considered together in consent application processing. Environment Canterbury's efforts to obtain clarity were noted, including discussions with local MPs. Environment Canterbury is progressing a Plan Change to address all the issues that the court decision raised for both urban and rural communities, seeking Ministerial approval for a streamlined process, with the expectation of a plan change being introduced this year. It was noted that Environment Canterbury would need the support of all Canterbury councils in their request to the Minister for a streamlined process to address the issues. There may also be an opportunity to address infrastructure and stormwater issues through the upcoming fast track consenting bill.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024
Mover: Marie Black
Seconder: Phil Mauger
Outcome: Approved

5.2 Water Reform

Hamish Riach briefly outlined Chief Executives discussions on the water reform process, noting that as a group they are open to all conversations on how best to deliver water services. There has been interest from CEs across the South Island to be involved with conversations at Chief Executive level.

The CE Forum agreed to review the PWC report, noting that the criteria used at the time to come to a preferred option may not be that which would be used under any new legislation.

The CE Forum sought CMF views on the next steps, including the option of the CMF stepping back and leaving individual Councils to have conversations. Some members indicated that their councils do not support a Canterbury wide option but are having conversations with their neighbouring councils.

The issue of “orphan council’s” was acknowledged. It was noted that further government direction is to come.

It was agreed that Mayoral Forum does not require a further paper on options but should maintain a watching brief and that a verbal update on the various discussions is sufficient for the next meeting.

Dan Gordon noted that a Government Official has agreed to provide a briefing on water reform progress at the Zone 5 and 6 meeting.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024
Mover: Craig Rowley
Seconded: Dan Gordon
Outcome: Approved



Action

CMF agenda item water reform – to be verbal update going forward.

1 March - agenda item added to future meeting agendas

Due Date: 8 Mar 2024
Owner: Maree McNeilly

5.3 Canterbury Climate Action Planning update

Dan Gordon provided an update on the regional climate action planning and the development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, noting the importance of including regional collective actions in council’s LTPs, while acknowledging individual Councils may also have their own individual actions, .

Dan noted that there has been a letter prepared, which will be shared with Forum members, to be sent to the Papatipu Rūnanga chairs, copied to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, to update them on the progress of the action plan.

Marie raised the opportunity for the Chatham Islands to be involved with the Climate Action Planning reference group. Dan will engage with Monique Croon.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the updated draft actions in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan that are to be discussed and endorsed by the Climate Action Planning Reference Group on the 29th February 2024.

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024
Mover: Dan Gordon
Seconded: Anne Munro
Outcome: Approved

**Action**

Draft letter to Papatipu Runanga will be circulated to the Mayoral Forum.

4 March Letter circulated, waiting on 3-4 responses

Due Date: 8 Mar 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

**Action**

Mayor Dan Gordon to engage with Monique Croon regarding the Climate Action Planning Reference Group.

Due Date: 8 Mar 2024

Owner: Dan Gordon

5.4 Resource Management Reform

Hamish Riach presented the paper on Resource Management Reform, noting a correction to the date in paragraph 3 – to read Royal Assent on 22 December 2023. The impacts of the legislative change are beginning to be felt, such as Ashburton Council now being faced with a District Plan review.

**Decision**

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the information provided in the paper on the current status of the resource management reforms.

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024

Mover: Craig Rowley

Seconder: Dan Gordon

Outcome: Approved

6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update

The paper dated 23 February was taken as read.

**Decision**

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the written update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner on the Regional Leadership Group Waitaha priorities.

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024

Mover: Craig Rowley

Seconder: Craig Mackle

Outcome: Approved

**Action**

CMF to send a letter of support for continuation of the position of Regional Public Service Commissioner, including specific examples of benefits to Canterbury Councils, including the Chatham Islands.

1 March - have been advised that funding has been approved for an additional 12 months - no need to write a letter at this time.

Due Date: 8 Mar 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

6.2 Chief Executives Forum report

Hamish Riach presented the quarterly report from the Chief Executive Forum.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024

Mover: Marie Black

Second: Sam Broughton

Outcome: Approved

6.3 Mayoral Forum activities and engagements

The paper dated 23 February 2024 was taken as read, noting that following a meeting between GCP and Hon Matt Doocey MP, the Minister has offered to assist with arranging meetings with Ministers.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the update on Mayoral Forum activities and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 24 November 2023.

Decision Date: 23 Feb 2024

Mover: Dan Gordon

Second: Phil Mauger

Outcome: Approved

7. General business

7.1 General business

- Ashburton District Council is looking forward to welcoming the May Mayoral Forum (and CDEM & RTC) meetings to their new council buildings in May.
- Suggestion to invite the Kaiwhakahaere and Deputy Kaiwhakahaere to the next Mayoral Forum meeting.
- The May meeting focus on infrastructure was confirmed. Options for a suitable speaker will be investigated.
- A request from the Motor Caravan Association to address Canterbury Councils was raised. Dan Gordon will discuss with the Secretariat.

7.2 Meeting review

Members appreciated the discussion on how Canterbury Councils can continue to work together effectively.

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Closing karakia

The meeting closed with a karakia at 12.05pm.

8.2 Close the meeting

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

Signature:_____

Date:_____

Action List

Canterbury Mayoral Forum



As of: 23 May 2024

Action

In Progress

Secretariat to finalise briefings and arrange a meeting for Forum members with Ministers in Wellington.

1 March - briefings sent to Ministers

4 March - secretariat has been in contact with Matt Doocey's office and will continue to liaise with them on setting up a meeting in Wellington.

Due Date: 8 Mar 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

Meeting: 23 Feb 2024 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 4.2 Engaging with Central Government

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 31 May 2024

Presented by: Acting Chair Craig Pauling, Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Mayoral Forum with an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee review (Part One) and region-wide progress towards improved freshwater management outcomes (Part Two).

Recommendations

That the Mayoral Forum:

1. **notes the ongoing importance of a Canterbury-led approach to freshwater management**
2. **notes the work underway to ensure the Canterbury Water Management Strategy continues to be relevant for our communities.**
3. **receives the update on:**
 - a. **the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee review including initial high-level insights**
 - b. **partners' work towards implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy for January to March 2024**

Ongoing importance of a Canterbury-led approach to freshwater management

2. The Mayoral Forum plays a key role in championing freshwater management through endorsement of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) and maintaining oversight of the strategy, supported by key partners.
3. Over the past decade, the CWMS has demonstrated that Canterbury can move from laggard to leader. Water management issues, especially around nitrate reduction have emerged and been tackled head on by the community through the CWMS. Much of the national policy direction we are now seeing for freshwater management emerges from the leadership shown in Canterbury.

4. Throughout this, the Mayoral Forum's oversight and leadership within the community has been key. The Mayoral Forum was unified behind the CWMS and recognised that improving our approach to freshwater management was fundamental to maintaining a prosperous regional economy.
5. The current challenges we face across Canterbury, such as maintaining economic prosperity in the context of climate change and water quality pressures, mean water management is going to get harder. This will require an evolution in approach, supported by local government, iwi and industry, owned by the community, and enabled by the Mayoral Forum.
6. This includes strong endorsement for communities themselves to continue to find and develop solutions locally. There is still a need for catchment-level leadership – reflecting the Mayoral Forum's stated commitment to *advocate for keeping governance and decision-making devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities*.
7. There are opportunities for Mayors to continue to lead in water management. The Mayors' Plan for Canterbury commits the Mayoral Forum to having ongoing oversight of the CWMS, taking into consideration the changing national and regional policies, along with the relationship between water, food production and energy security. As part of this, the Mayoral Forum has agreed to a review of zone committees to identify what local freshwater leadership is needed into the future.
8. The zone committee review is now progressing, and an update is provided below. Alongside this, there is also merit in considering changes to the CWMS Targets reporting to ensure reporting on freshwater management is fit-for-purpose and clearly articulates outcomes for the community. Further advice on this will come to the Mayoral Forum later in the year.

Part One – Update on the CWMS Zone Committees Review

9. This work focuses on what local freshwater leadership is needed in the future and what corresponding enabling structures, functions and resourcing are needed.
10. The review includes engagement with current members of each zone committee, Canterbury mayors, and rūnanga representatives. The review's focus and approach were detailed to key CWMS partners, including a briefing to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on 24 February 2024.
11. Workshops were held with nine zone committees between March and April 2024. Individual meetings with each Mayor and relevant Environment Canterbury lead Councillors commenced in mid-April 2024. Interviews with Mayors are ongoing, with the last interview scheduled for 27 May.
12. On 6 May 2024 a workshop was held with past and present zone committee rūnanga representatives.
13. Preliminary high-level insights from these workshops and interviews are presented below, and will be discussed via a workshop with Mayors as part of the 31 May meeting.

The workshop will include a presentation on the feedback received from Zone Committees, Mayors, and rūnanga representatives and a discussion on how the Mayoral Forum can continue to provide freshwater leadership into the future. Initial insights will then also be provided to zone committee members and rūnanga in June 2024.

14. Concurrent to the region-wide Zone Committee review, Ashburton District Council completed their own review of the Ashburton Zone Committee. A report was tabled at the 15 May Ashburton District Council meeting, and findings will be incorporated into the ongoing review of all CWMS zone committees.
15. Guidance on next steps over the next six months will be sought from the Mayoral Forum following the workshop discussions. See Table 1 below for agreed key actions and milestones.

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

August 2023	Mayoral Forum agrees to a review of Zone Committees
December 2023	Initial engagement with ZC Chairs and Deputies
Feb – May 2024	Engagement with Mayors, mana whenua and ZC
31 May 2024	Workshop with Mayoral Forum
August 2024	Progress update to Mayoral Forum
Nov 2024	Final report to Mayoral Forum

Preliminary insights from the Review

Views on Zone Committees' current function

16. Participants stressed that Zone Committees have been an integral part of collaborative freshwater management in Canterbury over the last decade, including substantial involvement in several plan changes, the development of zone implementation programmes, and enabling a range of local community-led initiatives.
17. Additionally, participants reflected on the benefits of zone committees, including:
 - being a unique shared forum for diverse community voices, local and regional councils, and mana whenua
 - providing a formalised structure for constructive discussion, functional disagreement, and effective collaboration to establish shared targets, with the support from facilitators and local and regional council staff
 - offering opportunities for shared learning about local freshwater issues, capability building (including for emerging community leaders), and in some cases inter-cultural learning
 - influencing local environmental efforts through setting priorities, allocating and coordinating funding, connecting interested community members, and liaising with the local and regional council.

18. Participants also recognised that the context for zone committees has changed in recent years, partly due to:

- a shift from the 'strategic phase' of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (e.g., planning) towards a stronger implementation focus
- more directive national legislation limiting (sub)regional flexibility (e.g., National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020)
- the increased activity of catchment groups and collectives, supported by national funding (e.g. Jobs For Nature), which leads to overlaps in function.

19. In line with anecdotal knowledge and findings from previous reviews (e.g., CWMS Fit for the Future review 2018-2020), participants consequently expressed a range of concerns about zone committees in their current form and function, including:

- many committee members feeling a loss of purpose and (political) mana with councils, frustration over limited progress with implementation and their inability to influence this (e.g. insufficient funding), their role reduced to allocate funding, and significant uncertainty over their future
- several participants acknowledging that, for various reasons, some zone committees are disconnected from councils (e.g., limited links to operational activities or lacking guidance on emerging issues), local community activities, and/or mana whenua
- some participants questioning zone committees' efficacy and 'value for money' in achieve desired environmental outcomes.

Views on the future of Zone Committees and local leadership

20. While further analysis of completed and forthcoming engagements is required, participants have outlined broad considerations over the future of local freshwater leadership and the role of zone committees. These considerations include:

- a need to maintain the holistic and strategic focus of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and Zone Committees
- a need to maintain oversight over a range of on-the-ground activities, including but also going beyond catchment groups, and to address gaps where applicable, especially if current funding may not be available in the future
- a need to sustain lasting connection and coordination among groups and individuals involved in on-the-ground activities, with a concern that losing zone committees could disrupt relationships formed over many years (internally and externally)
- a need to maintain or establish effective mechanisms to influence direction of on-the-ground activities, achieve outcomes, and create accountability where required
- a lot of current on-the-ground activities across the region, especially by catchment groups and collectives, being led by rural farming communities with limited participation from urban, non-farming communities and mana whenua
- a need for safe forums that bring together diverse local community voices, council staff and mana whenua in a collaborative and inclusive manner

- a potential gap resulting from the loss of Zone Committees' independent voice and their role as trusted mediators between councils and local communities
 - a need for shared learning spaces that help to build capability and capacity.
21. Views significantly diverge on whether Zone Committees (or similar groups) are required in the future, ranging from participants advocating for their disestablishment while others prefer them to be refreshed and strengthened. Another potential option raised is integrating Zone Committees with other regional committees looking at biodiversity, river resilience, and other environmental issues that are of interest to communities, mana whenua and regional and local government.
22. There is, however, widely shared agreement that certainty over Zone Committees' future role is required, including adequate commitment and support from Environment Canterbury, territorial authorities, and other key parties.
23. Participants outlined a diverse set of ideas for achieving effective future local freshwater leadership and engagement, with or without Zone Committees. The Review's next steps will focus on investigating these ideas and proposing options that adequately address concerns and incorporate considerations for the appropriate structure, function and resourcing of local freshwater leadership.

Part Two – Update on national and regional freshwater policy

24. Attachment 1 provides an update on national and regional freshwater policy.

CWMS zone committee updates

25. Zone committees continue to focus on implementing actions on the ground to support the delivery of the CWMS targets and goals. To support this, Environment Canterbury increased funding to \$75,000 per committee for the 2023/2024 year through its 2023/2024 Annual Plan. Most committees have fully allocated the available funding to support the implementation of their action plans.
26. Attachment 2 provides an update on key regional projects and campaigns.
27. Attachment 3 provides a summary of the last three months' progress of Zone Committee projects.
28. Note the \$75,000 available in 2023/24 from the CWMS Action Plan Budget for the Hurunui Waiau Zone is planned to be used for projects supporting CWMS Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity and Kaitiakitanga Targets. These proposals will be presented to Councils and Rūnanga before the end of the financial year.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Update on national and regional freshwater policy
- Attachment 2: Update on key regional projects/campaigns January to March 2024
- Attachment 3: Zone Committee Action Plan overview January to March 2024

Attachment 1: Update on national and regional freshwater policy

Resource Management Act reform

1. Government has indicated it will progress the RMA reform programme in three stages:
 - a. **Phase 1:** Repeal the Natural and Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act (completed December 2023)
 - b. **Phase 2a:** Progress fast-track approvals process (Bill introduced in March 2024)
 - c. **Phase 2b:** Make targeted amendments to the RMA with two separate Bills:
 - i. **Bill one:** to clarify how the hierarchy of obligations in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management applies to resource consenting, extend the duration of marine farm consents, and cease the implementation of new Significant Natural Areas for three years (introduction expected May 2024)
 - ii. **Bill two:** more substantive changes to support housing and renewable energy, and to make other short-term amendments (introduction expected in late 2024)
 - d. **Phase 3:** Replace the RMA altogether (expected in 2026).
2. Government's RMA reform programme will have a variety of impacts for freshwater management and may create opportunities to achieve the environmental outcomes sought by the CWMS.

Fast-track Approvals Bill

3. The Government introduced the Fast-track Approvals Bill to Parliament on 7 March 2024 for review by the Environment Committee.
4. The Bill would enable a fast-track decision-making process for infrastructure and development projects that are considered to have significant regional or national benefits. To access the fast-track approvals process, project owners would need to apply to the joint Ministers. A project would then be referred to an expert panel to assess the project and make a recommendation to the joint Ministers, who would then determine whether the approvals should be granted or declined.
5. Submissions to the Committee closed on 19 April 2024. The Mayoral Forum made a submission, with Ashburton District Council not in support.

Possible changes to national freshwater direction

6. On 14 December 2023 Government announced a review of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) and has given councils until December 2027 to notify freshwater plan changes. Environment Canterbury is reflecting these changes in its intent to notify an integrated regional plan in 2028.
7. Earlier this year, Minister Hoggard invited Environment Canterbury to provide insights on making the Freshwater Farm Plan system workable for Canterbury. This advice reinforced the need to take a risk-based approach, to find a balance that enables regional determinism, and to respect the investment Canterbury farmers have already made into Farm Environment Plans.
8. On 10 April 2024, Ministers McClay and Hoggard announced their intent to improve freshwater farm plans so that they are more cost-effective and practical for farmers. As part of this officials are looking at ways to integrate existing farm environment plans or industry assurance programmes in the system.
9. On 23 April 2024, Ministers Bishop, McClay and Hoggard announced that changes to amend stock exclusion regulations in relation to sloped land and to repeal intensive winter grazing regulations would be included in a Bill to be introduced to Parliament in May 2024.

High Court decision impacting discharge consents

10. In March 2024, the High Court found that a material error of law had been made in the Commissioner's decision to grant a discharge consent to Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd (ALIL). The decision will have wide-ranging impacts on future applications for all types of discharge consents where water quality is degraded.
11. This decision has significant repercussions for the way freshwater improvements are achieved across New Zealand, and particularly policy direction and regional planning frameworks that have focused on the need to deliver improvements over time.
12. These frameworks have been at the centre of engagement with communities, through the development of the various iterations of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, and through the significant body of regional RMA plan making. This includes the significant effort made here in Canterbury.
13. Environment Canterbury and the wider regional government sector has engaged with the Government on this matter to support a considered response.

AWA water bottling decision – implications and next steps

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

15. This decision has also resulted in unintended consequences that are posing challenges for some significant projects, such as constructing basins for stormwater management which may require the ongoing passive take of groundwater by stormwater basins. Environment Canterbury understands the unintended consequences are presenting economic implications and minimal environmental benefit.
16. Some of the more immediate problems have been resolved with Land and Water Regional Plan Plan Change 7 adjustments to groundwater allocation limits in the Waimakariri District for takes associated with infrastructure development and Christchurch City Council getting approval to use their existing water takes to take and use water for the purposes of infrastructure. Environment Canterbury continues to progress work on plan changes to address long-term the “take and use” consenting issues including those impacting infrastructure activities.

Update on a new planning framework

17. Environment Canterbury continues to progress the review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). A review is due as the Regional Policy Statement is now over ten years old.
18. Community consultation to inform the Regional Policy Statement review was run over two campaigns in July and October 2023. The first campaign, called *‘What’s our future, Canterbury?’* focused on understanding the visions and outcomes the community is seeking from the Regional Policy Statement review. The second campaign, called *‘Let’s pick a path’*, sought feedback on broad policy direction.
19. Environment Canterbury is working with each of the councils’ planning teams to ensure District and City Councils are informed and able to influence the development of the Regional Policy Statement. Environment Canterbury staff have been working with territorial authority staff to ensure elected members can hear about the Regional Policy Statement review. Environment Canterbury staff have met with staff at Christchurch City Council in January and Selwyn, Hurunui, and Waimate District Councils. The meeting with Waimakariri District Council were provided information via email as the meeting was cancelled due to illness. Further information is provided on the Environment Canterbury [website](https://haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz/about-our-future-canterbury)¹.
20. Environment Canterbury intends to notify an integrated regional plan in 2028. This aligns closely with the Government’s timeframe for implementing NPS-FM 2020 provisions by the end of 2027 and will provide opportunities to incorporate any changes arising from the Government’s NPS-FM 2020 review which is expected to take between 18 and 24 months.
21. The recent change in national direction has reinforced Environment Canterbury’s decision to focus initial efforts on a review of the RPS over a review of the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP). Given the significant cost to Council and the community associated with the development of the LWRP, there was limited benefit in immediately

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

reviewing the LWRP following the release of the NPS-FM 2020. Existing timeframes mean that further national direction can be developed and then inform the development of the regional integrated plan for notification in 2028.

Attachment 2: Key regional projects/campaigns January to March 2024

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

Water flows in Greenstreet Creek, Ashburton

3. The dry conditions and low flows we have been experiencing across the region are the result of the current El Niño weather pattern along with the impacts of climate change. In March 2024 Environment Canterbury became aware of low flows and fish strandings in Greenstreet Creek, Ashburton.
4. Ashburton River is also an over-allocated catchment with significant challenges, including natural changes in modified environments. Environment Canterbury recently undertook water take consent reviews on this part of the Ashburton River, precisely because of these challenges but were remiss in ensuring the community was kept aware of how these changes would impact local waterbodies.
5. Given this, on 21 March the Environment Canterbury's Chief Executive made the call to allow water to temporarily be diverted into Greenstreet Creek as an immediate action to remediate this situation. Environment Canterbury is working with the community to ensure the impacts of the diversion (e.g reduced flows in O'Shea Creek) are mitigated. This includes planning for ongoing dry periods which will continue to impact many waterways. This will likely include fish rescue planning in conjunction with the community, local Rūnanga, Fish and Game Council and Department of Conservation. Fish salvage operations for Greenstreet Creek were developed in conjunction with the community, Fish and Game Council and local Rūnanga.
6. The Ashburton Zone Committee has been involved in this process and will continue to work with the Greenstreet community. However, given these impacts were identified in the 2022 Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment and will continue to be felt across the region into the future, there may also be opportunities for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to lead proactive conversations with communities across the region in the face of climate risks that have become climate realities.

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

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

Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes

7. Key agencies, organisations and landowners continue to work together to address the health of the Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes. This work is a key priority for the agencies, organisations and landowners working in this catchment in 2024 and supports progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target.
8. The Ōtūwharekai Working Group's Draft Integrated Catchment Plan is taking shape with stakeholders now working to determine the specific actions and timelines that will form their contribution to the shared vision of restoring water quality and ecosystems at Ōtūwharekai. A future stage of the process will involve seeking input from the wider community in Ōtūwharekai about how they would like to be part of the work to enhance the health of the lakes.
9. In November 2023, Environment Canterbury issued notices of consent review to the two landowners in Ōtūwharekai with existing consents. We are now working with these landowners to determine consent conditions that will appropriately protect the health of the ecosystems in Ōtūwharekai. Environment Canterbury is also working with the two landowners in the catchment who have consent applications under consideration.
10. 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.

Te Mōkihi Programme

11. The Te Mōkihi Programme is a programme focused on improving environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes in Te Manahuna/ Mackenzie Basin (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target). It is a partnership between Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Te Rūnanga o Waihao, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, Land Information NZ, Mackenzie District Council, and Waitaki District Council.
12. The Rūnanga Chairs, Mayors, Chief Executives, and Steering Committee members met for a full day wānanga on 1 March to look at the future of Te Mōkihi, and how the work of the partnership can be improved. This will be followed by another wānanga in July, where a new vision, purpose, geographic boundary, and structure for the programme will be developed.
13. The Te Mōkihi Programme interagency fora have continued to meet regularly with the following topics being discussed:
14. The Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Group have been working together on ongoing issues with stock in waterways. This has been exacerbated by the extremely dry conditions, with alternative sources of stock water unavailable.

15. The Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Group are also focused on education on winter grazing rules, as this type of land use has become increasingly common in the Mackenzie Basin.
16. The dry conditions have been the main discussion topic for the Interagency Operations Managers Group, with ongoing fire risk, and extremely low water levels in lakes and rivers. Agencies are collaborating on education campaigns, and the Communications and Engagement Group have been providing support with disseminating information.

Whakaora Te Waihora Programme

17. The Whakaora Te Waihora Programme is an operational programme of the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group to restore and rejuvenate the mana, mauri and ecosystem of Te Waihora/ Lake Ellesmere (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity and Kaitiakitanga Targets). The Co-Governance members are Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council, and Department of Conservation.
18. The programme includes Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai, a project to restore the mid-lower stretches of Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream which is led by Te Taumutu Rūnanga, co-managed between Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Environment Canterbury, and funded by Environment Canterbury and the Government's Freshwater Improvement Fund.
19. The Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project made significant advances from January to March. With landholder agreements in place, the project has been able to start preparations for riparian planting, with the installation of fences and site preparation. In addition, the project finalised the design for an enhanced wetland, and continued to deliver a mātauranga Māori and water quality monitoring programme.
20. The programme continued to co-fund the Weed Strikeforce, which is delivered by the Department of Conservation. The Weed Strikeforce controls willows and woody weeds around Te Waihora that results in natural regeneration of lakeshore wetlands. It is a model for 'delivering more for less', as, with modest investment, the team are achieving transformational landscape change around the Te Waihora lakeshore.
21. The development of the Te Waihora GIS Platform progressed with the development of a reporting tool for the interface of the Platform. To note: this platform displays project sites across multiple organisations, and so can support strategic decisions (e.g. priorities, funding allocation), operational decisions (e.g. project planning, the development of partnership projects), and communication; and, as it is independent of any organisation, it allows organisations control over their data and to choose the data they share.

Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme

22. The Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme is designed to improve the environmental and cultural values of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target). It is a partnership between Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council,

and Lyttelton Port Company to action the Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Catchment Management Plan.

23. Targeted coastal erosion control fencing was completed for Ship and Wreck Bay in Purau. This will be complimented with planting efforts planned for early winter.
24. The project presented on the marine enhancement activities as part of Sea Week celebrations.
25. A pamphlet was co-created with Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, which serves as a household guide to the worst weeds in Whakaraupō and how to control them. This has been tremendously successful, and the template is likely to be used by other local councils and community groups for their own high-profile weeds.

Attachment 3: Zone Committee Action Plan overview January to March 2024

Kaikōura Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Natural Character of Braided Rivers Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga wahi taonga & biodiversity	Support “ki uta ki tai” projects and identify future projects Enhance biodiversity, and improve amenity and recreation values Support our community to respond to changing requirements, and share resources for good management practice Facilitate understanding of catchment systems within the zone, build community knowledge and connection to these systems and increase public participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At their February meeting, the committee recommended support for an additional project for weed control in the Waiau Toa Clarence River within the wider Waiau Toa Clarence Braided River Weed Strategy work. The committee heard from the Wai Connection Project which will supporting the committee's freshwater goals and integrating freshwater-based engagement programmes into local schools. The project will also provide a 'focus catchment map series', to support the committee's catchment conversations with the Kaikōura community. A second 'Weedy Workshop' was held in February by the 'Hapuku Catchment Collective' supported by Environment Canterbury Biodiversity and Biosecurity staff with a focus on information and eradication of the Cathedral Bells vine. It was well attended by the local community. In March, a collaborative approach to Seaweed saw many engagement & learning opportunities available to the community, including a stormwater campaign working with Kaikōura District Council and Environment Canterbury, guided walk to the Hutton's Shearwater colony, guided kayak trip for youth, activities at the local Museum, Library and the 'Lyell Creek & Beach Clean-up, involving all schools and the wider community. The Committee also participated in CWMS Zone Committees Review workshop to provide feedback to Environment Canterbury on freshwater leadership requirements. In memory of the late Environment Canterbury Commissioner David Bedford, the Committee arranged a Memorial Seat, at the mouth of the Waikoau / Lyell Creek. A small unveiling service was held, attended by Mrs Bedford and her son Sam, Committee members, Environment Canterbury and Kaikōura District Councillors and staff. The seat was hand-made by Cr Tony Blunt from native timbers and will have a plaque describing David and his mahi.

Waimakariri Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity	Improve monitoring of water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee started 2024 with a site visit in late January to four wetland projects in the Sefton and Kaiapoi area. The Sefton wetland is a project already supported through the CWMS Action Plan Budget, while the three wetlands north of Kaiapoi are on adjoining properties and have applied for CWMS Action Plan Budget support in 2023/24. These wetlands are part of the 1% of remaining coastal wetland habitat in the Waimakariri Water Zone. In March, the committee held its first meeting of the year which focused on an overview of the 11 applications received for the CWMS Action Plan Budget for 2023/24. The committee has endeavoured to visit all projects in advance of making a final decision on recommendations at their 6 May meeting. The committee held a workshop in mid April to provide feedback into the CWMS Zone Committee Review currently underway.
Drinking Water	Biodiversity improvements	
Natural Character of Braided Rivers	Braided Rivers	
Recreation and Amenity Opportunities	Recreation resources	
Kaitiakitanga	Mahinga kai improvements	

Christchurch-West Melton		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga Recreation and Amenity opportunities	Enhance mahinga kai Engage with community Enhance ecosystem health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee held its first meeting of 2024 on 22 February and received an update on the Christchurch City Council's consultation on the Stormwater Management Plan for the Avon Ōtākaro catchment. It also received an update on the wetland restoration proposal for the Ōtukaikino Catchment. This project, led by the Water & Wildlife Habitat Trust and WGA NZ is focused on preservation and climate change resilience of groundwater dependent wetlands, streams and lakes of the Ōtukaikino. The committee provided feedback on the proposal to re-establish the Urban Waterways and Estuaries Joint Catchment Working Group. The committee also farewelled longstanding committee member and Chair, Annabelle Hasselman, alongside Clare Piper who has moved to Nelson. Annabelle was given a warm send off by the committee in appreciation of her contribution as Chair over several years. Oscar Bloom, the committee's Youth Representative, was appointed as the committee's Chair for 2024. The committee held a workshop in March to provide feedback into the CWMS Zone Committee Review currently underway.

Banks Peninsula Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga	Engage with community Supporting new and existing catchment groups Advocate for and be engaged in improved erosion and sediment control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January, the Committee had a stall at the Little River A & P Show focussing on increasing visibility of the Committee to enable better community engagement on issues of relevance and on raising awareness of the newly formed Wairewa Catchment Group, which the Committee recommended funding as it aligns with their action of 'supporting new and existing catchment groups'. In February, the Committee continued discussions to on the merits of a soil conservation programme in the Banks Peninsula ecological region. The Committee intends to continue to collaborate with the Christchurch West Melton Zone Committee on the issue. The Committee concluded a soil conservation programme on Banks Peninsula is needed. <p>In March, the Committee participated in CWMS Zone Committees Review workshop to provide feedback to Environment Canterbury on freshwater leadership requirements.</p>

Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Natural Character of Braided Rivers Recreation and Amenity opportunities Kaitiakitanga	Catchment nutrient targets and water quality outcomes Enhance mahinga kai, recreation and amenity values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February, the Committee confirmed amendments to its Action Plan which will form the starting point for the 2024-2027 Action Plan. • In March, the Committee had a workshop to create greater impact in the zone by improving the way the Committee works and the actions it delivers including having a more active community engagement programme, improving connections with stakeholders, and playing a greater advocacy role on issues such as climate change. Discussions will continue in April. • In March, the Committee had a workshop on fish passage and fish screens to discuss how the Committee can support fish passage issues being addressed. The Committee agreed develop relevant communications to increase community visibility and understanding of the issue.

Ashburton Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Environmental Limits Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity opportunities	Support measures to enhance recreation and amenity opportunities Improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets Supporting Hakatere / Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek) and Hekeao Hinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January, the Committee confirmed amendments to the Action Plan to form the starting point for the 2024-2027 Action Plan. • In February, the Committee heard from three Ashburton consent holders about the negative impact the Ashburton consent review (to bring consents into line with the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan minimum flows) has had on their farms. The Committee agreed to seek Environment Canterbury's view on whether the intended outcomes of the plan and the review are being met. • The Committee also received a presentation from the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes Catchment Group on monitoring they have undertaken using the nitrate tester the Committee funded. The monitoring will support understanding of the current state to inform future actions to improve freshwater outcomes in the catchment. • In March, the Committee received a delegation from the Greenstreet group raising concerns about Greenstreet Creek drying up. Dr Tim Davie from Environment Canterbury spoke to the issue. Environment Canterbury staff will be working with the Greenstreet group to find solutions. • The Committee also recommended two projects (enhancing a wetland and removing weeds and increasing native vegetation) adjacent to the river. These support the Committee's focus on the Hakatere/Ashburton river and its tributaries • The Committee participated in CWMS Zone Committees Review workshop to provide feedback to Environment Canterbury on future freshwater leadership requirements.
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity	Lowland Stream health	To improve lowland stream health, in March the Zone Committee recommended funding to Barkers Creek Catchment group to undertake a trial of introducing Dung Beetles into their catchment to improve soil structure and reduce phosphorus runoff into waterways.

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity opportunities Kaitiakitanga	Support catchment groups taking collective action to reduce losses of contaminants, prioritised where they are addressing identified at-risk areas Explore opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways, such as the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At its February meeting the committee confirmed follow-up actions and next steps from the first Ahuriri Farmers meeting held in October 2023. The committee received an update from Felicity McMillan (Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa Ltd) on a project supported by the committee focused on establishing biodiversity demonstration plots in Twizel and Omarama. The committee also received a presentation on Mt Cook Alpine Salmon's environmental programme. In March the committee held a workshop to provide feedback into the CWMS Zone Committee Review currently underway. The Committee also discussed the Mackenzie Basin Catchment Group establishment meeting on 14 March in Twizel and the Ahuriri Farmers meeting on 9 April focussed on farmer resilience with the extended dry period in the Mackenzie. The committee also discussed the Love Our Lakes Facebook trial and options for utilising the 2023-24 CWMS Action Plan Budget.
Lower Waitaki Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity opportunities Kaitiakitanga	Identifying and championing new and existing riparian, stream and wetland projects providing the most benefit for water quality in the zone Growing support and resources to achieve five rūnaka Mahika kai projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To see progress on previously funded projects and discuss new projects the Committee visited the Waitaki Valley in February. They met with the Hakataramea sustainability Collective and Waitaki Valley School at the Hakataramea river and had a tour of the Kurow Wetland and Duntroon Wetlands. At Te Puna a Maru (Bortons Pond) they met with te Rūnaka o Moeraki 'Whiria te Waitaki' team who provided an overview of their mahika kai project and discussed future development.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 31 May 2024

Presented by: Cameron Smith, Senior Strategy Manager Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Water Management Strategy workshop

Purpose

1. The purpose of this workshop is to test with the Forum what it sees as the functions of local freshwater leadership into the future and the Mayoral Forum's role in supporting this. This will inform later discussions in August and November on what form of local freshwater leadership would best achieve this function

Two key questions for the workshop:

2. What's the future role/need of local freshwater leadership in Canterbury?
3. What role do Mayors/Chair want the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to play in supporting local freshwater leadership?

Workshop outline

4. First half – a history of the CWMS and the rationale for investing in local leadership, and key themes from recent engagement.
5. Second half – workshop the two key questions with Mayors/Chair, with a report back from small groups for the final ten minutes.

Outcomes sought:

6. An understanding of why the Mayoral Forum invested in the CWMS Zone Committee approach.
7. An understanding of views around the table on local freshwater leadership.
8. Information for staff to then develop advice for August and November Mayoral Forum meetings.

Environment Canterbury staff leading the workshop:

- Cam Smith, Senior Strategy Manager, Water and Land
- Dann Olykan, Team Leader, CWMS Strategy
- Martin Espig, Principal Strategy Advisor, CWMS Strategy

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 31 May 2024

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chair Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Water Reform – scoping options for a future delivery model

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to support a discussion to seek agreement from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to use Forum resource to review the PWC three waters reports, with up-to-date 2024 LTP information, to inform potential options for future three water service delivery, in line with the emphasis in the government's *Local Water Done Well* approach.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **approve the allocation of regional forums budget to review the PWC three waters reports (April 2021), with up-to-date 2024 LTP information, and information received from the NTU / DIA Official information Request, and other relevant data for regional TA consideration of potential options for future three waters service delivery.**

Background

2. At the Chief Executive Forum meeting in January 2024, Chief Executives agreed to develop a scope of work, through the Operations Forum, to review the PWC three waters reports (April 2021), with up-to-date 2024 LTP information, in particular looking at a regional approach in line with the emphasis in the government's *Local Water Done Well* policy.
3. Following the Chief Executives Forum an official information request was sent to the National Transition Unit (NTU) and Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) for data, modelling, templates, tools, approaches, plans etc that was held by the NTU related to the water services reform programme. The response from DIA is provided at attachment 1.
4. At the February Mayoral Forum meeting two councils indicated that they were not looking at any Canterbury-wide option and did not see the merit in doing any additional regional work in this space.
5. Chief Executives have since met and, while acknowledging the two councils who expressed their view that they would not be looking at Canterbury-wide regional option,

consider that there is still merit in reviewing the PWC work, along with the information received from the official information request, to provide a common set of data and to assist each TA council in the work they are undertaking to evaluate potential future delivery options.

Future delivery options

6. The PWC reports (April 2021) evaluated three options, alongside the status quo, for service delivery; a CCO; joint governance (Canterbury), and joint governance (Ngāi Tahu Takiwa). At the time of the study, it was noted that both the status quo and CCO models were not part of the DIA potential models.
7. The CCO model scored better than the status quo but lower than either of the joint governance models. The report notes that this reflects greater risk around financial separation and lack of flexibility in the existing LGA framework.
8. The *Local Water Done Well* policy does not mandate any particular model for water services, however it does state that councils will be required to deliver a plan on how they will transition their water services to **a new model** that meets water quality and infrastructure investment rules, while being financially sustainable in the long term. While this infers the status quo is not an option, some councils may not need to change if their current approach is already working and can meet the requirements of the *Local Water Done Well* policy.
9. It is proposed that, subject to the Mayoral Forum's agreement, the Chief Executive Forum commission analysis of the PWC work, updated with latest LTP information, and data and information provided through the official information request of the NTU and DIA, including any other work done at a local, sub-regional, regional level that may help inform options to be considered following enactment of the new three waters services legislation.

Financial implications

10. The Regional Forums budget has funds allocated to three waters (approx. \$35,000) with other funds allocated to collaborative projects, but not yet defined. This piece of work would need to be appropriately scoped and costed to see whether it can be accommodated within the current regional forums budget or would require additional contributions from councils.

Next steps

11. Should the Mayoral Forum agree to the recommendation in this paper, the work will be scoped, costed and undertaken (subject to budget availability).

Attachments

- Water services Official Information Act request – response from DIA.



Te Tari Taiwhenua Internal Affairs

45 Pipitea Street
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dia.govt.nz

28 March 2024

Hamish Riach
Chair, Canterbury Chief Executives Forum
Chief Executive, Ashburton District Council
secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz

Tēnā koe Hamish,

Your Official Information Act request, reference OIA2324-0592

Thank you for your email of 13 February 2024 to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department), requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You were notified receipt of your request on 16 February 2024. Your request was then extended on 12 March 2024 until 10 June 2024.

You advised the Department that you are seeking relevant information, data and outputs held by the National Transition Unit (NTU). This letter is to inform you that a decision has been made on your Official Information Act (OIA) request.

The information you have requested directly aligns with information that has been recently released by the NTU via a Co-Lab information sharing site set up for council-specific access. This site captures information in seven categories: Asset Management, Operating Elements, Establishment, People, Finance, Transfer Arrangements, and Customer and Digital.

As such, we recommend you review this site and explore the information available, in relation to your request.

The repeal of the previous Government's water services legislation is now complete. You will be aware that the Department has since closed the water services reform programme, including the disestablishment of the NTU.

As previously communicated to council chief executives by Heather Shotter, Executive Director NTU, the Department has been conducting a comprehensive review of the information developed by the NTU and compiling a directory of information. This process was aimed at consolidating the data for ease of access and creating efficient storage facilities before the NTU concluded its operations at the end of March 2024.

A Co-Lab site for information sharing has been established which nominated users from your council will be able to access. You are welcome to download any information which will be of most use to you.

On 27 March 2024 an email was sent from Heather Shotter to council chief executives advising them of the go-live date of 28 March 2024 for this site and instructions for access. This is also attached as Appendix A for your reference. Some information has been withheld under Section 9(2)(a) of the Act *to protect the privacy of natural persons*.

Information on the site has been categorised into the following three groups:

- National: information shared nationally with all councils, including a range of generic templates.
- 'Entity' aggregation: information within a specific 'entity' aggregation; access to this information will be shared only with those councils involved in that entity.
- Council specific: our expectation is that councils will generally hold a copy of this data (having been the provider of it). However, we are also making this data available, and access will be strictly limited to the council that submitted it.

Additionally, more detailed information specifically related to the System of Record programme will be made available to councils and council organisations upon request in early April. The release of this information will require requesting parties to sign an agreement setting out the terms upon which the information is being shared. Details of this was outlined in the email to council chief executives from Heather Shotter on 27 March 2024.

Any council employee information and customer information that was collected by the NTU is in the process of being destroyed.

Please note that any information not shared via the Co-Lab site is either non-existent or deemed commercially sensitive, such as other council-related data. Should you require such information, we advise you to directly contact the respective council under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the released information, or if you need additional details related to your request, please don't hesitate to contact us at waterservices@dia.govt.nz. We are committed to working with you proactively to address any queries and provide further information as best we can.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2>, with your personal information removed.

Nāku noa, nā



Laura Atiga
Manager, Ministerial Services
Office of the Executive Director, Water Services Policy

Appendix A

From: Heather Shotter <Heather.Shotter@dia.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 3:07:27 PM

To: 9(2)(a)



9(2)(a)

Subject: CE Newsletter: NTU information Go Live

Kia Ora

NTU Information goes live 28 March

In response to the many council requests for key information and templates the NTU has developed over the last 18 months, from 28 March this information will be available on the Co-Lab site we have established for this purpose. Access and the link to the Co-lab site will be shared with the nominated users from your organisation tomorrow that have completed the guest account setup.

Please note:

- To ensure your organisation has access to the information, the NTU has a process to follow. This involves several steps and can take several days to complete. A reminder of that process is included at the end of this email.
- We strongly recommend that information is downloaded by councils **by the end of April**.

By way of context, the nature of the information that has been made available reflects the policy changes made over the last 18 months.

- Under the Three Waters policy settings, the NTU's focus was on the establishment of four water services entities by June 2024. All four entities were to be stood up on 1 July 2024, and draft documentation (such as Asset Management Plans and Funding and Pricing Plans) had been developed based on each entity's geographic area.
- In April 2023, new policy settings under Affordable Water saw the move to establish 10 regional water services entities. All ten entities were to be stood up in a staggered timeframe between June 2024 and June 2026. As a result, the NTU's work programme required a full reset. The NTU's immediate priority was on the establishment of the Northland and Auckland water services entity by June 2024, followed by the other entities according to their position in the staggered stand-up timeframe.
- With the repeal of the previous Government's water services legislation now complete, the Minister has outlined the Government's plan to implement Local Water Done Well through two further pieces of legislation. Local Water Done Well recognises the importance of local decision-making and flexibility for communities and councils to determine how their water services will be delivered in future. It will do this while ensuring a strong emphasis on meeting rules for water quality and investment in infrastructure.

We trust this information may assist you in the preparation of your Water Service Delivery Plans and consideration of future delivery organisations under Local Water Done Well. Your Council will be able to readily access and download the information which will be of most use to you.

Systems of Record Accelerator

On the Co-Lab site you will find information relating to the Customer and Digital workstreams of the NTU.

More detailed information will be released in early April specifically related to the System of Record programme. This will include RFP documents, architecture, and design documents, testing strategy, data platform documents, IT policies and GIS models.

This will be particularly relevant to those Councils who are contemplating the establishment of a separate organisation to deliver Water Services.

The information will be made available to Councils and Council organisations **on request** and will require requesting parties to sign an agreement setting out the terms upon which the information is being shared.

Two familiarisation sessions will be held online the week of 15 April, targeting CIOs and IT Managers, CFOs and those involved in IT procurement.

To take part in these familiarisation sessions

- Request access to Systems of Records information rebecca.chenery@dia.govt.nz
- We will send you an agreement setting out the terms upon which the information is being shared.
- Review and return the signed agreement to Rebecca.chenery@dia.govt.nz
- Rebecca will then share the dates and times of the sessions with you once we receive the signed agreement back.

How to navigate the Co-Lab site

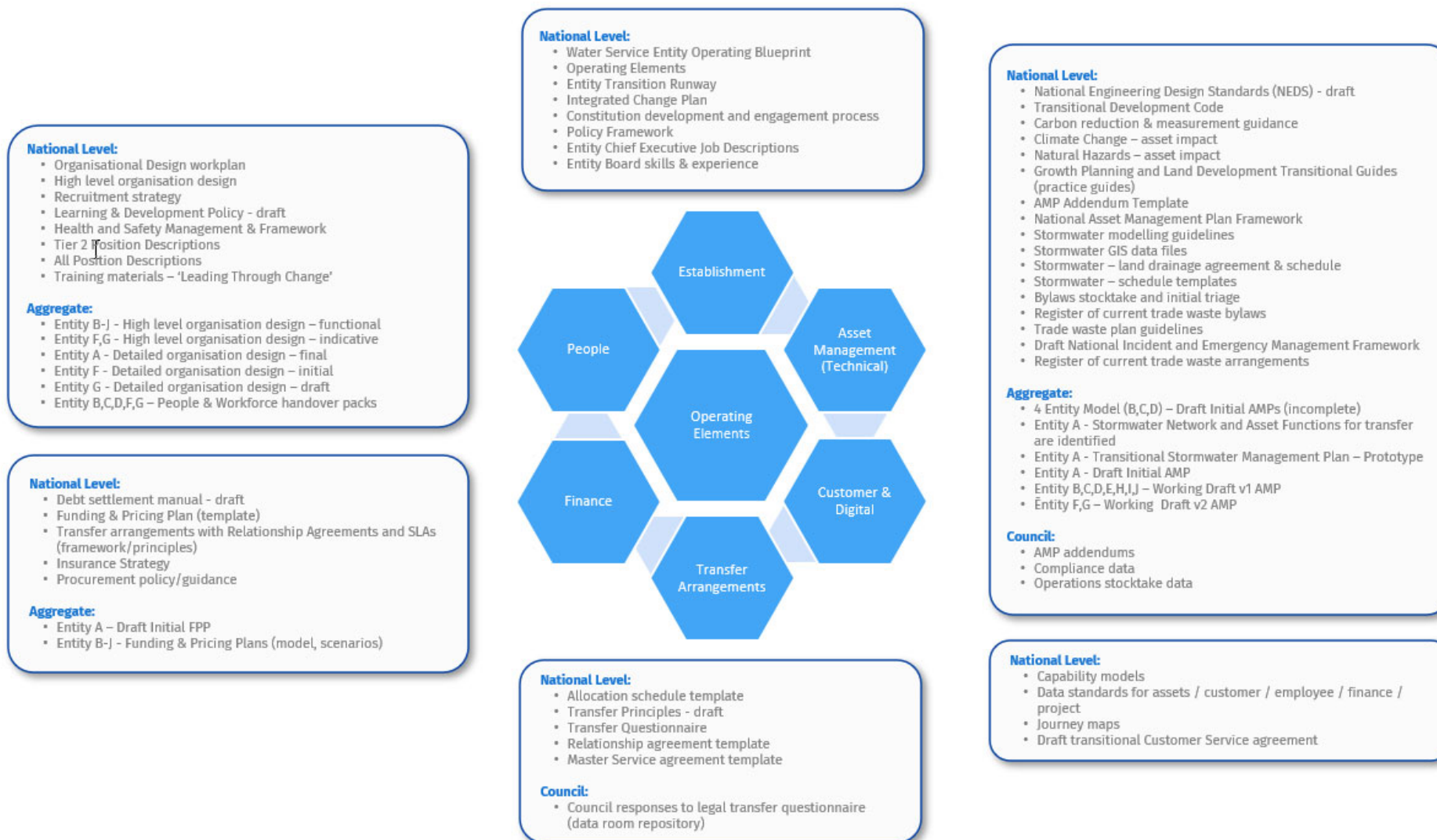
Information on the site has been categorised into three groups.

1. **National:** This information will be available to be shared nationally with all councils and will include a range of generic templates which we anticipate being useful to all councils or groupings of councils.
2. **“Entity” Aggregation:** Where information has been developed within a specific ‘entity’ aggregation, access to this information will be shared with those councils involved in that entity.
3. **Council Specific:** We have received data from councils through RFI processes and operational stocktakes. Our expectation is that councils will generally hold a copy of that data (having been the provider of it). However, we are also making this data available, and access will be strictly limited to the Council that submitted it.

Access permissions will be utilised to ensure that individuals only have access to information that is appropriate for their respective Council to access.

Information Assets on the site have been grouped into seven broad categories.

Information Assets



To ensure your organisation has access to the information the NTU is releasing

Here is a reminder of the process to follow to access the information. It involves several steps and may take several days to complete.

So, if you have not done so already:

1. Nominate your users as soon as possible.

- Councils can nominate up to 5 users from their organisation.
- Advise us of these names on waterservices@dia.govt.nz and we will commence the process to set up a guest account for each of them.
- When nominating your users, please consider that while Council specific information will not include any customer or personally identifiable information, it **will** include the range of information collected through the operations stocktake (e.g. operating activities, outsourced activities, Incident and Emergency Management activities, trade waste and permits, developer agreements) and information collected through the Legal Transfer questionnaire.

2. Read and return the CoLab Terms of Use

- Read and accept the CoLab Terms of Use to WSRPgMO@dia.govt.nz
- Upon receipt, we will create a Guest Account for each user, who will then be sent an invitation email to complete their registration. -
- Please note: users should monitor their spam/junk folders, depending on your organisational settings as this invitation comes from invites@microsoft.com

3. Complete registration of DIA Guest Account

- Users will need to fill in the registration form as per the instructions received in the invitation and accept the DIA Guest Terms of Use.
- They will then be required to set up a Two Factor authentication.

4. Confirm registration

- Users need to send a confirmation email to WSRPgMO@dia.govt.nz advising they have completed registration. We will then finalise the account and provide access

Users will have read access only, meaning users can view and download documents but are restricted from editing them.

Moving forward

From April, the key way to contact water services will be via email on waterservices@dia.govt.nz.

I trust you all have a very relaxing Easter period.

Kind Regards

Heather

Heather Shotter | Executive Director - National Transition Unit

Water Services Reform Programme

Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

45 Pipitea St, Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington) 6140, Aotearoa | www.dia.govt.nz

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 31 May 2024

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

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Recommendations

That the Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the project update on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan and draft actions tabled at Canterbury councils for elected member feedback in April/May 2024**
2. **provide feedback on the draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, due to be designed and shared with Canterbury councils in June 2024**
3. **note that the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group is developing an implementation plan, and this will be provided to the Chief Executives and Mayoral Forums following the conclusion of region-wide long-term plan deliberations**
4. **support the launch event for the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan**

Background

2. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, currently in development, will show how councils will work together on specific climate actions to help minimise the impacts of climate change on Canterbury's communities and ecosystems.
3. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum endorsed the initial list of draft actions and a recommended budget of \$1.47m to fund regional climate actions in November 2023.
4. This paper provides an updated list of draft actions agreed by the Climate Change Working Group and Reference Group in February 2024, shared with Canterbury councils in April/May 2024 for feedback, as well as a draft Plan and communications plan for the Forum's feedback.

Draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Draft climate actions

5. The Climate Change Working Group has developed 10 primary actions (and 19 supporting sub-actions) through a robust process, involving many hours of collaborative workshops.
6. All councils have contributed to the development of actions, including working in sub-groups on business cases for the more significant actions.
7. The actions are focused on addressing key gaps, priority risks, and opportunities: i.e. improving our evidence base; strengthening decision-making tools; promoting partnerships and championing a Te Tiriti o Waitangi approach.
8. The actions are intended to complement, not duplicate, climate efforts of individual councils. The partnership plan actions will allow councils to advance their own climate change knowledge, understanding and gain momentum with local action.
9. These 10 draft climate actions have been agreed by the Climate Change Working Group and endorsed in principle by the Climate Action Planning Reference Group in February 2024.
10. Actions have been tabled at Canterbury councils for feedback and support in April/May 2024. All councils briefed to date have expressed their support for the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan and proposed climate actions.
11. Final feedback from councils' elected members on draft Partnership Plan actions in April/May 2024, as well as outcomes of individual councils LTP budget deliberations will influence the final list of actions and implementation approach for inclusion in the final Plan.
12. The draft Partnership Plan is included as Attachment 1, for the Forum's feedback, and will be shared with Canterbury councils for feedback and support in June 2024.

Implementation of actions

13. The successful implementation of the Partnership Plan actions will require sustained contributions and collaboration between all councils, appropriate resourcing in terms of budget and staff time, and continued political backing.
14. Each council will need to contribute staff time leading and supporting the delivery of individual actions for the duration of the plan. To date, Environment Canterbury, Ashburton and Hurunui District Councils have offered to lead the delivery of certain actions.
15. Whilst constraints on staff capacity and council resources are recognised as a challenge faced by all councils, it is necessary for every council to play their part in implementing these collaborative climate actions.

16. The Canterbury Climate Change Working Group is currently developing an implementation plan which will outline key deliverables, resourcing, and roles/responsibilities for each action. This will be finalised following the conclusion of long-term plan deliberations for approval by the Chief Executives and Mayoral Forums.

Cost, compliance and communication

Financial implications

17. The current financial pressures faced by local government and ratepayers have been top of mind while developing the plan. The plan offers a pragmatic financial advantage to taking climate action, particularly for the less resourced councils, by working together and leveraging collective funding. The majority of actions in the plan could not be achieved by councils working in isolation.
18. Over the first three years of the 2024-2034 LTPs, Councils' contributions to the Climate Partnership Plan range from \$36,750 to \$301,350. This reflects the current proportional contributions from councils to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. Each council will see the benefit of those climate actions within that budget, which would otherwise cost councils far more if tackled individually.
19. Responding to climate change and taking early climate action will come at a cost to councils. However, the cost of inaction will be far greater. Studies by Deloitte and others highlight an impending 'turning point' where the increased costs of taking decisive action now begin to outweigh the short-term gains from deferring our response. The cost of action will be greater the longer we leave it, and we will be left with fewer choices on how to respond.¹

Communication & Launch event

20. A communications Plan has been endorsed by the Reference Group.
21. The Partnership Plan will be hosted on both the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website (PDF) and the It's Time, Canterbury website (PDF and digital version) and will include an introduction from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.
22. A launch event is being organised to celebrate the finalisation of the Partnership Plan and raise awareness of Canterbury's climate risks and collaborative actions, with a focus on media coverage and raising Canterbury's climate action profile with central government.
23. The suggested option is to celebrate the launch on/or around mid-October, to provide time to develop the implementation plan which will outline key deliverables, resourcing, and roles/responsibilities for each action in more detail. Invitations will be extended to Forum members, Canterbury councillors, members of the working and reference groups, government MPs and Ministers and other notable community members.

¹ <https://www.deloitte.com/content/dam/assets-shared/legacy/docs/gx-global-turning-point-report.pdf>

Next steps

24. Feedback on Partnership Plan actions is being sought from Canterbury councils in April/May 2024, as per the below table.

Council	Date to brief council on CCPP actions	Council feedback
Ashburton District Council	3 April 2024	General support
Environment Canterbury	11 April	General support
Timaru District Council	16 April	General support
Waimakariri District Council	30 April	General support
Waitaki District Council	6 May (Ahuriri Community Board) 25 May (Full Council – date tbc)	General support
Waimate District Council	7 May	General support
Kaikōura District Council	8 May	General support
Selwyn District Council	15 May	General support
Hurunui District Council	28 May	TBC
Christchurch City Council	Draft actions discussed with ELT in early April. Full Plan to Council in June.	TBC
Mackenzie District Council	TBC	TBC

25. Following this feedback, the Plan will be tabled at councils in June 2024, before being brought to the Chief Executives and Mayoral Forums for endorsement in July and August 2024.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: DRAFT Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (draft designed Plan)

DRAFT

It's time, Canterbury! ***Kua tae te wā, Waitaha***

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan
Te Mahere Huringa Āhuarangi o Waitaha

Local government climate actions for Canterbury
2024-2030. Draft V7 for comment May 2024.

**It's time,
Canterbury**
Our climate change
conversation

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

DRAFT



It's time, Canterbury – Let's act now for a liveable prosperous future

***Kua tae te wā, Waitaha- Me whakarite
ināiane ki ora rawa te apōpō!***

Foreword from the Chair of the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group – Mayor Dan Gordon and Chair of Mayoral Forum – Mayor Nigel Bowen

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and it affects us all. To tackle climate change and its impacts effectively, we know we must work together. By joining forces and taking bold, collective climate action here in Waitaha/Canterbury, we unlock a multitude of benefits for our communities and can even transform risks into opportunities.

All 11 councils in Canterbury have worked together to develop this plan – the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan – which sets out how we intend to work together and with others to support our transition to a thriving, climate-resilient, low-emissions region. Every council in Canterbury is already involved with climate action in their city, district, or region. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan doesn't detract from that work. Instead, this plan joins the dots, enabling us to align our work programmes, create efficiencies, and provide regional solutions to shared problems.

In drafting this plan, we've sought to get the best 'bang for buck' for Canterbury residents while accelerating the scale and pace of climate action for current and future generations. The 10 climate actions in this plan are the key first steps in our journey towards a sustainable future. It's time to work together, Canterbury.



Mayor Dan Gordon
Chair, Canterbury Climate
Action Planning Reference Group



Mayor Nigel Bowen
Chair, Canterbury
Mayoral Forum

Supplied by: Mackenzie District Council

DRAFT

Guiding whakataukī of Ngāi Tahu:

*Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei
– for us and our children after us*

DRAFT

Image to be brought truestock

Karakia

*Ko ngā maunga, ko Te
Tiritiri o Te Moana*

Ko Aoraki te Kaihautū

*Ko ngā awa, ngā awa huka
e rere ana ki te moana*

*Ko te whenua, Ngā Pākihi
Whakatekateka o Waitaha
Tihei mauri ora!*

*The mountains are the
Southern Alps,*

watched over by Aoraki;

*The rivers are the snow-fed
rivers whose waters flow out
to the ocean;*

*The land of the Canterbury
Plains is where people walk
proudly.*

*Listen up – our life force
is alive!*

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Acknowledgments

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum would like to thank all those who contributed to the many discussions and workshops in the development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, including past and present members of the:

Canterbury Climate Change Working Group:

Tim Davie (Convener, Environment Canterbury), Isla Hepburn (Climate Partnership Plan Project Lead, Environment Canterbury), Jesse Burgess, Fiona Shanhun (Environment Canterbury), Richard Mabon (Ashburton District Council), Tony Moore, Carey Graydon, Jessica Allison-Batt, (Christchurch City Council), James Smyth, Nicola Kirby (Hurunui District Council), Murray Dickson, Wendy Thompson (Mackenzie District Council), Keith Tallentire, Amit Chauhan (Selwyn District Council), Rhys Taylor, Stephen Doran (Timaru District Council), Veronica Spittal, Sylvia Docherty (Waimakariri District Council), Andrew Oliver, Jonts McKerrow (Waimate District Council), Chelsea Clyde (Waitaki District Council).

Canterbury Climate Action Reference Group:

Mayor Dan Gordon (Chair, Waimakariri District Council), Councillor Craig Pauling, Councillor Kevin Heays (Kaikōura District Council), Councillor Liz McMillan (Ashburton District Council), Councillor Sara Templeton (Christchurch City Council), Councillor David Hislop (Hurunui District Council), Councillor Murray Cox (Mackenzie District Council), Councillor Sophie McInnes (Selwyn District Council), Councillor Elizabeth Mundt (Selwyn District Council), Councillor Michelle Pye (Timaru District Council), Councillor Niki Mealings (Waimakariri District Council), Councillor John Begg (Waimate District Council), Councillor Jim Hopkins (Waitaki District Council), Hamish Dobbie (Chair Canterbury Policy Forum, Chief Executive Hurunui District Council).

Canterbury Climate Change Working Group and Reference Group Secretariat:

Alina Toppler, Sarah Hancock, Carmin Beck (Environment Canterbury).

Environment Canterbury Climate Change and Community Resilience Team:

Morag Butler, Bridget Lange, Kate Williman, Victoria Clare, AnaCapri Mauro.

Te Mana Ora

Cassie Welch, Rosa Verkasalo, Hebe Gibson, Chantal Lauzon

It's Time, Canterbury –

Project team and Communications Sub-group

Any key stakeholders or people generous with their time developing and reviewing the document.

Lead Authors:

Isla Hepburn and Alina Toppler, Environment Canterbury Climate Change and Community Resilience Team.



Executive summary

Councils in Canterbury have joined forces to deliver bold climate actions in Canterbury/ Waitaha. All 11 councils in Canterbury have worked together to develop the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan which sets out how we intend to work together and with others to support our transition to a thriving, climate-resilient, low-emissions region.

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan sets out our vision of a thriving, climate resilient, low emissions Canterbury. These are the 6 key outcomes and objectives we are seeking through delivery of our 10 primary actions. Eight principles underpin the development and implementation of this plan. These are the values by which we will approach collective climate action in Canterbury.

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan - Strategic Framework

Vision Our collective purpose and guiding star for climate action in Canterbury

A thriving, climate resilient, low emissions Canterbury

Principles The values by which we will approach climate action in Canterbury

Treaty based

Solutions focused

Collaborative

Inclusive

Equitable

Informed

Intergenerational

Bold

Outcomes The desired future state for Canterbury in a changing climate



A healthy environment

Our healthy environment enables our communities to thrive.



An equitable and inclusive transition

Our communities are empowered through an equitable and inclusive transition to a low emissions and climate resilient future.



Prosperity

Our environmental, cultural, economic, and social wellbeing is improved by identifying and taking early opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Adapted and resilient communities

Our communities are resilient and have the necessary infrastructure, knowledge, and tools they need to adapt to climate change.



Emissions reduction

Greenhouse gas emissions reductions are achieved in line with our national and international commitments at a minimum.



Climate action leadership

Canterbury is a leader in climate change mitigation, adaptation and inclusive climate action planning and promotes the four wellbeings.

Objectives What we want to achieve through regional joint climate action.

Objective one

To work with science, nature and Mātauranga Māori to reduce climate vulnerability and improve resilience.

Objective two

To enable transformational action in an inclusive and equitable way.

Objective three

To maximise co-benefits and identify opportunities for co-funding and financing climate actions.

Objective four

To inform and empower communities to be prepared, improve their resilience and adapt to climate change.

Objective five

To collaborate with communities to use available solutions and encourage behaviour change to achieve a smart innovative, low emissions future.

Objective six

To ensure climate change is prioritised in all local government decision making processes in Canterbury.

Canterbury Waitaha

Our region, our home

Situated on the eastern coast of New Zealand's Te Waipounamu South Island, the Canterbury region is renowned for its stunning landscapes, diverse ecosystems, strong economy, and vibrant communities..

From the snowcapped peaks of Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana, the Southern Alps, to Kā Kā Pakihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha, the Canterbury Plains, the region boasts a rich tapestry of natural history and cultural heritage. Canterbury is unique – it is New Zealand's largest region in area and its coastline is long and diverse, stretching from north of Kaikōura to the Waitaki River; there are more than 4,700 lakes and tarns, and over 78,000 km of rivers and streams. Most of Canterbury's 599,694 residents live near or on the coast. The population of Canterbury is projected to grow at the same rate of growth as Aotearoa New Zealand's total population, on average, 0.8% per year between 2018 and 2048.

Ngāi Tahu is the iwi of Waitaha, Canterbury. There are 10 papatipu rūnanga in Canterbury who have kaitiaki status as mana whenua over land and water within their takiwā.

Canterbury is already experiencing the effects of climate change. In recent years, we've seen droughts, floods, fires, changing rainfall patterns, extreme weather events and coastal erosion impacting our region. These events are happening with greater frequency and intensity. Our long coastline is also changing with slower onset changes such as sea level rise.

We know that Canterbury's climate will become warmer, wetter, windier and wilder.

These changes will affect us all and the things we value most: our people (he tangata), the environment (taiao) and biodiversity (rerenga rauropi), our infrastructure (ngā waihanga), our economy and prosperity (ōhanga), our wellbeing (hauora), connection to place and sense of community (whakapapa and hāpori). The wellbeing of some communities and individuals are likely to be more affected than others, particularly those who are already vulnerable because of economic, social, health and/or cultural reasons.

Rising temperatures will significantly affect our health (ora), land use, water (wai), energy (hihiri), food (kai) security, natural ecosystems, and recreation.

Canterbury councils see and deal with the impact of a changing climate first hand, including its impact on the environment, infrastructure, businesses, and people's lives. With commitment, collaboration, and planning, local government can lead and support communities in adapting to climate change, building resilience, and reducing their emissions.

¹ 2018 Census data about Canterbury Region retrieved from <https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/canterbury-region>.

Mayoral Forum Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum is the primary mechanism for local government communication, co-ordination and collaboration in Canterbury. Climate change mitigation and adaptation in Canterbury is one of the three priorities under the **Canterbury Mayoral Forum Plan 2023-2025**. Although the Mayoral Forum continues to advocate for governance and decision-making to be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities, the challenge of taking effective and sustained climate action requires us to work together more than we ever have before.

For the Mayors of Canterbury, the overarching priorities for climate change are reducing our carbon footprint, working together on climate action planning, building community resilience, and making our infrastructure as strong as it can be. Our Plan for Canterbury also highlights the importance we place on playing our part to ensure water, food, and energy security for the region.

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

All Canterbury councils acknowledge that climate change is a significant, long-term challenge, and that we all share a role in adapting and driving solutions to this challenge. Canterbury councils are at different stages of strategy development and action planning and have varying resources available to implement action.

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is about councils pulling together to help Canterbury thrive and prosper in a changing climate; it's our collective vision for a better future. This Plan is also a testament to councils' long-term commitment to working together to tackle climate change, serve our communities and safeguard our environment and the things we love for generations to come.

Importantly, the actions included in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan are intended to complement, not duplicate or detract from, the climate efforts of individual councils. The Partnership Plan actions will enable councils to advance their own climate change knowledge and gain momentum with local action.

The benefits of regional collaboration on climate action

There are many benefits to taking regional climate actions. The challenge of climate change response means that we will only be successful if we strengthen our working relationships and help each other on this journey.

Regional leadership and community focus

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.

A united voice and enhanced influence

Our united voice carries greater weight in advocating for our region's needs to central government. By presenting a unified front, we can help shape legislation and policy and secure climate action funding and finance that aligns with our shared climate objectives.



Leveraging collective resources, sharing knowledge and expertise

Together, we possess a wealth of expertise, resources, and knowledge. By pooling our strengths, we can learn from each other and achieve far more than any one council could alone. From shared research and funding opportunities to coordinated projects, collaboration amplifies our regional impact.

Maximising efficiency

Reducing duplication of efforts and streamlining processes, collaboration allows us to achieve greater efficiency in implementing climate initiatives across Canterbury. With coordinated efforts, we can achieve results faster and more effectively, delivering tangible benefits to our communities.

Fostering innovation

Collaboration sparks creativity and innovation. By sharing ideas and best practices, we can inspire new approaches to tackling climate challenges. Through collaborative research and pilot projects, we can experiment with cutting-edge solutions and pioneer new, sustainable ways of doing things.

Building resilience

Climate change does not stop at district or regional borders. By collaborating across councils and looking beyond to our neighbouring regions, we can develop comprehensive resilience strategies that protect all our communities from the impacts of extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and other climate-related risks.

Our changing climate

Greenhouse gas emissions

For hundreds of years, human activities have released increasing amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases trap heat from the sun, causing warming and resulting in a changing climate. Since the 1950s, greenhouse gas emissions have greatly accelerated and are now driving the significant levels of climate change that we are experiencing today.

There are two types of greenhouse gas emissions to consider - long-lived and short-lived gases.

Long-lived gases stay in the atmosphere over very long timescales after they have been produced. Carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide are examples of long-lived gases.

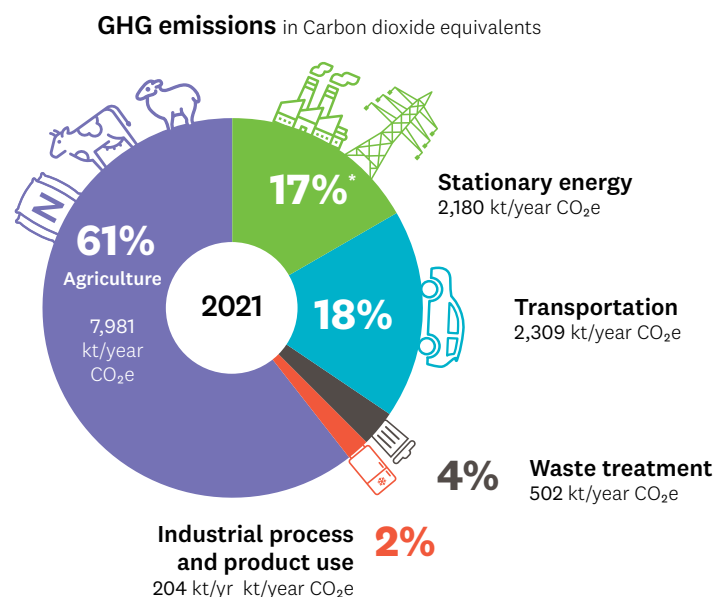
Short-lived gases remain in the atmosphere for less time than long lived gases but have a greater warming impact in the short term. Biogenic methane is an example of a short-lived gas.

Both long- and short-lived greenhouse gases need to be reduced to successfully reach New Zealand's climate change commitments.

The Canterbury Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (2021) is a key tool in our climate action work that will enable us to track changes to emissions over time, assess different mitigation options, and evaluate the effect of central and local government policies on regional emissions.

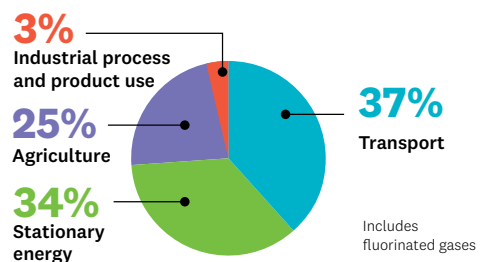
The Emissions Inventory (see Figure 1) shows us that agriculture produced around a quarter of the region's long-lived greenhouse gases and most of the biogenic methane emissions, totalling around 61% of overall gross emissions. Stationary energy and transport each produced around a third of long-lived greenhouse gas emissions in Canterbury. Waste, and industrial processes and product use, each contributed relatively small amounts of greenhouse gases.

The best available scientific advice says that holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels is necessary to limit the most severe climate change risks. New Zealand, along with 195 other members of the United Nations, signed the Paris Agreement in 2015 to ensure that global warming is limited to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.



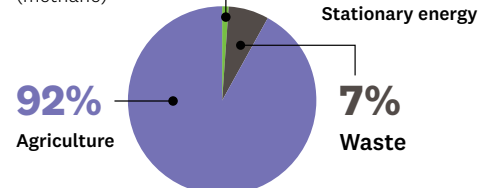
Long-lived gases

(carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide)



Short-lived gases

(methane)



This agreement commits signatory countries to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change by reducing national greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with Nationally Determined Contributions.

Canterbury has an important role to play in contributing to national and global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere and we're not too small to make a difference. In fact, Canterbury, blessed with sun, water and wind, is well placed for a successful clean energy transition to a low-emissions future. We can also make big gains with emissions reduction by transitioning to more sustainable transport and agricultural practices.

The best action we can take to help mitigate the effects of global warming is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at source. In addition to this, we can also help remove carbon from the atmosphere by sequestering or storing carbon. However, even when we do reduce global emissions, some climate change effects, and their consequences, are already locked in due to the time lag between generating the emissions and the impacts being felt. This is why adaptation – taking action to prepare for and adjust to current and projected impacts of climate change – is also important.

New Zealand's emissions reduction targets and plans

Greenhouse gas emissions targets are limits that scientists and policy makers set in their plans to combat climate change. The aim is to halt the increasing emissions and their impact. Aotearoa New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan Te hau marohi ki anamata (2022) contains strategies, policies and actions for achieving our first emissions budget and contributing to global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

New Zealand has made commitments to the following international and domestic emissions targets:

Domestic targets under the Climate Change Response Act (2022)²:

- Net zero³ emissions of all greenhouse gas emissions other than biogenic methane by 2050.
- 24 to 47 per cent reduction below 2017 biogenic methane emissions by 2050, including 10 per cent reduction below 2017 biogenic methane emissions by 2030.

Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions budgets set ambitious and achievable short-term targets that will put us on track to meet these commitments, and national emissions reduction plans lay out strategies, goals and actions to meet these budgets.



² www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0040/latest/whole.html#DLM158590

³ Net zero emissions are achieved when anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals over a specified period. (IPCC, www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/glossary/)

Climate risks in Canterbury

Canterbury is a large region, with varied geography and environments. This means that risks and impacts of climate change will occur in different ways across Canterbury, and direct and indirect risks⁴ will increase over time. Some risks will be experienced more often and more intensely in some districts and not in others. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum published the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment in early 2022, which was designed to build a shared understanding of climate change risks across the region and to help us prepare and respond effectively. Figure 1 below illustrates some of the key risks which will be felt around the region. In the coming decades, many climate change risks to our region are anticipated to become high or extreme. Detailed information on climate risks and impacts in Canterbury can be found on the **Canterbury Mayoral Forum website**.



⁴ Direct risks are those where there is a direct link between a hazard and an element at risk that is exposed and vulnerable e.g. droughts leading to crop failure. Indirect risks are risks that are not directly impacted by physical changes in climate e.g. impacts on mental health, disruptions to supply chains, social wellbeing, and cohesion. (MfE, 2021)

Urban Centres

For all communities, risks from climate hazards generally include damage to infrastructure from flooding, and disruption to transport routes and supply chains. Changing climate conditions also pose a risk to supporting utilities such as landfills and power supply.

Christchurch is our biggest city. It is a major social and economic hub for the Canterbury Region. The low lying, coastal position of much of the city makes it very exposed to flooding and sea level Kaikōura rise. This poses widespread risk to Christchurch's communities and infrastructure. There is a risk that community cohesion will reduce as a result of increasing climate related damages. People's physical and mental health may also be impacted by changing markets and job availability.

Canterbury Plains

The fertile lowlands of Canterbury are highly important to agriculture. An increasing temperature poses risk of increased heat stress in stock, as well as increases in the occurrence of pests and invasive species. Increased drought potential may introduce a range of stresses, including impacting on water availability. Increased storms, wind, and flooding may increase erosion, and damage crops, pasture, stock, and infrastructure.

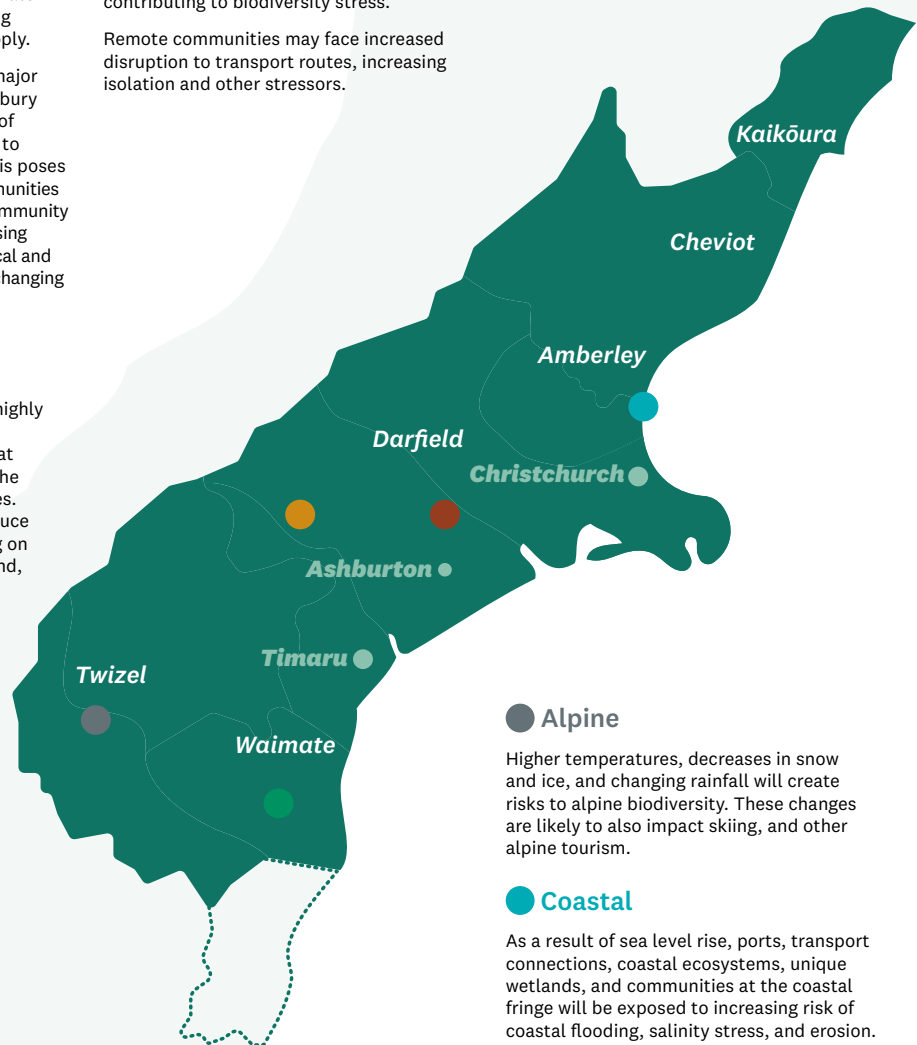
Freshwater

The unique rivers, lakes, and streams, and the extensive groundwater aquifers of Canterbury are significant to mahinga kai (food gathering) for Māori. Increased temperatures, drought potential, and changing rainfall patterns pose risks to biodiversity. They also pose risks to the reliability of water supply, with impacts on agriculture and other water users. Increasing flooding, sediment transport, water temperatures, and low flows pose a risk of damage to aquatic ecosystems, irrigation, and hydropower systems.

Montane/ High Country

Increased temperatures, drought, and fire weather will increase erosion, and impact forestry, tourism, and unique ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity stress.

Remote communities may face increased disruption to transport routes, increasing isolation and other stressors.



Alpine

Higher temperatures, decreases in snow and ice, and changing rainfall will create risks to alpine biodiversity. These changes are likely to also impact skiing, and other alpine tourism.

Coastal

As a result of sea level rise, ports, transport connections, coastal ecosystems, unique wetlands, and communities at the coastal fringe will be exposed to increasing risk of coastal flooding, salinity stress, and erosion. Changes in temperature and ocean chemistry will impact fisheries and marine ecosystems. This will result in increased mortality and changing population of some species, and changes in behaviour patterns such as migration routes.

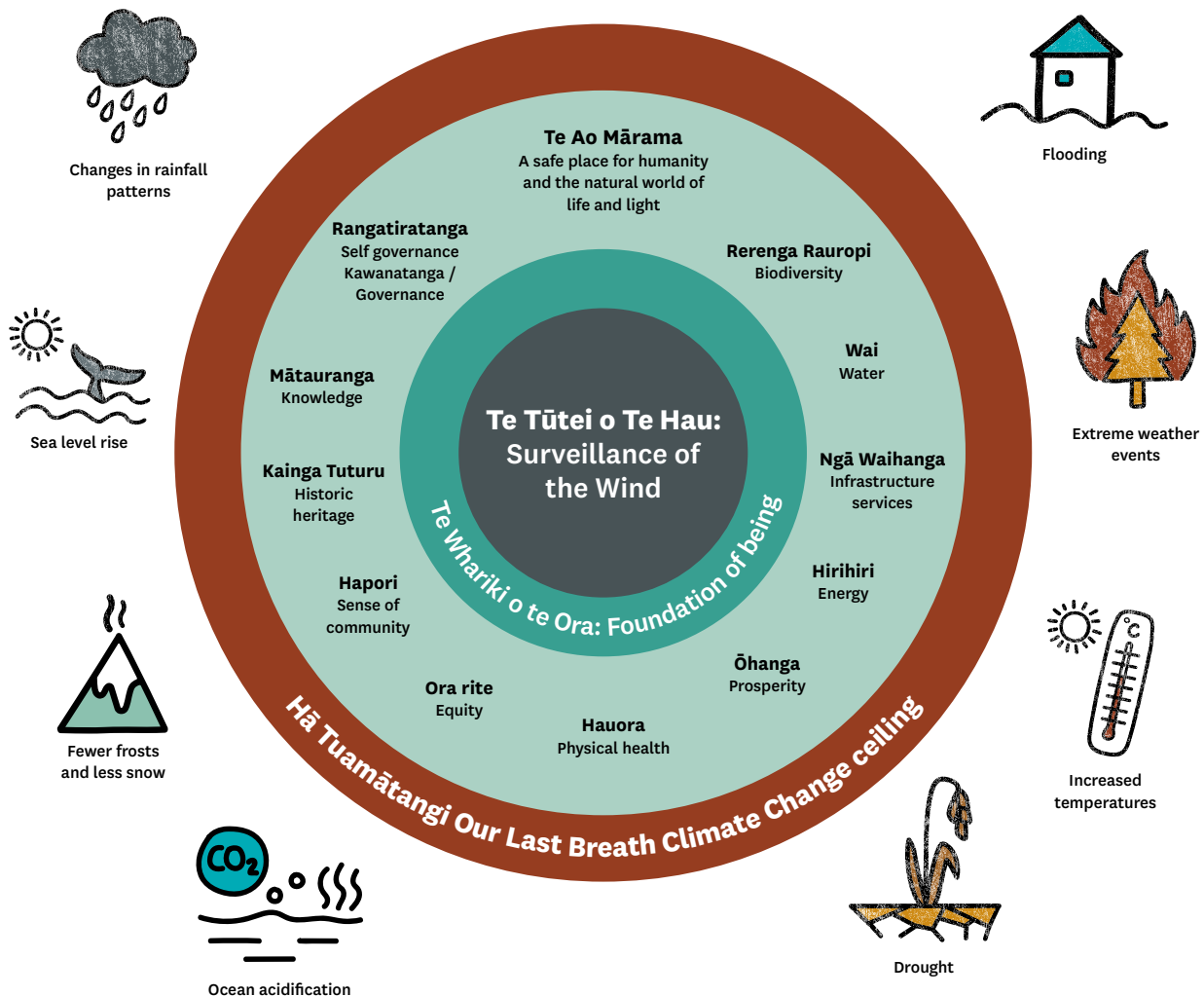
Figure 1: Climate risks in the Canterbury Region

What matters most - Climate change in Canterbury

During the development of the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment, a Rūnanga Project Steering Group was formed to help develop an integrated risk assessment framework, specific to our region.

The risk assessment centred around a framework that aligns both a Te Ao Māori worldview and the National Climate Change Risk Assessment framework. The name of the framework was gifted as 'Te Tūtei o Te Hau, Surveillance of the Wind'. In Te Ao Māori, the wind named 'Te Tūtei o Te Hau' is a guardian, an alert system, for the environment. When considering the effects of climate change, observations are collated and considered against this framework, our alert system, for understanding climate risk. The framework is presented as a series of circles, reflecting the circular nature of the world in which humans exist. At its core is the name gifted for the framework which draws on the whakapapa above.

Shown outside the rings are the key climate impacts that we face



Te Whāriki o te Ora

The dark green ring represents whakapapa, or genealogical connection, that extends from the spiritual realm to that of the human domain. It recognises that humans cannot exist without basic needs and a social foundation.

Te Ao Mārama

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

Hā Tuamātangi

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

This framework guided our thinking when developing collaborative climate actions in the region.

Working together for climate action in Canterbury

Councils around Canterbury have been ramping up climate action efforts in their districts. Here is a snapshot of progress across the region.

A snapshot of climate action planning work around our districts

Need to find vector of KDC



- Council adopted a Zero waste to landfill policy in 1998 and a Green Globe 21 Sustainable Communities Programme in 1999.
- Innovative Waste Kaikoura Ltd was established in 2000 and in 2002 Council received the Ministry for the Environment Green Ribbon Award.
- In April 2001 Councillors agreed for the Council to become part of Green Globe 21 community project for New Zealand. Ministry for the Environment and the New Zealand Tourism Industry Association supported the project. The year also saw the development of Measure to manage a local approach toward carbon neutrality.
- In July 2001 Kaikoura was part of an international benchmarking study which examined community resource use.
- Trees for Travellers was established in 2002 to plant or sow the seeds of 2 million native trees
- 2002 Kaikoura Community was officially Benchmarked resulting in an understanding of total emissions from the Kaikoura community.
- 2004 until 2016 Kaikoura was awarded EarthCheck Certification Kaikoura District Council, by 2016 the Kaikoura Community remained the only Earth Check Certified Community within New Zealand and questions were raised as if continuation was justified. 2019 Council asked for a review of EarthCheck be undertaken to determine if it remained the best approach for Kaikōura to tackle environmental management for the district and to identify possible alternative approaches to meet the needs of Kaikōura. As a result Council discounted EarthCheck accreditation.
- In 2020 in partnership with Environment Canterbury Council undertook a review of natural hazards within the District (Excluding coastal hazards). Flood modelling considered the effects of climate change and the plan change was made operative.
- In 2023 Kaikōura District Coastal Hazards Assessment which considered the impact of sediment and earthquake uplift as well as climate change was provided by Environment Canterbury
- A to B Carbon Free – Kaikoura Walking and Cycling Strategy 2009 that notes when more people walk or cycle rather than use private motor vehicles they help to reduce wear and tear on our roads, environmental pollution and carbon emissions.
- Waste management and minimisation plan 2021 which recognises the need for modification of residents purchasing practices by influenced through community education and advocacy to central government.
- Council produced a draft Climate Change Policy which has been placed on hold pending the outcome of the outcome of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP.)



- Hurunui District Council has been tracking its emissions through greenhouse gas emissions inventories from FY2018 to FY2023.
- HDC commissioned Jacobs to produce a Coastline Hazard and Risk Assessment report in 2020.
- HDC commenced the Coastal Conversations project in 2020 with the aim of identifying coastal hazards affecting coastal communities in the Hurunui to understand how these hazards will change over the next 100 years.
- Of the five communities that are part of the Coastal Conversations project, three have developed Coastal Adaptation Plans (CAPs) that outline approaches for managing risk to the settlement.
- The HDC Waste Management & Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2023 outlines the goals of HDC to improve efficiency in our waste network, influence and encourage waste reduction in the community, and reduce the harmful impacts of waste on health.
- Work is currently progressing on a HDC climate change strategy and action plan to reduce council emissions, improve resilience in the council assets and infrastructure, and to lead by example within the community.
- Work progressing on an asset and infrastructure resilience project plan and risk assessment.



- Waimakariri District Council Climate Change Policy adopted in 2020.
- Development of 'Waimakariri District Natural Hazards Interactive Viewer' to show results of the '2020 Jacobs Coastal Inundation Modelling' and other natural hazards. The modelling informs Proposed District Plan natural hazard rules such as avoidance of development in high hazard areas or mitigating flood impacts through establishing minimum floor levels.
- Organisational Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan adopted in 2020.
- NIWA Waimakariri District Climate Change Scenario: Technical Report adopted in 2022 to inform Council's climate change planning.
- Waimakariri District Council '3 Waters Infrastructure Climate Change Impact Assessment' and prioritisation of adaptation actions completed in 2022.
- Climate change considerations integrated with the 'Moving Forward: Waimakariri Integrated Transport Strategy 2035+', 'Waimakariri Economic Development Strategy 2024-34' and draft 'Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy: Our Environment Our Future 2024-2054'.
- Development of the 'Waimakariri Resilience Explorer' risk assessment spatial platform in 2024.
- Moving forward, the Council's 2024-27 agreed climate change programme of works includes completing organisational and district risk assessments, developing a District Climate Resilience Strategy, developing organisational and district sustainability and emissions reduction plans, and working with communities to co-develop area-based climate adaptation plans.



- Was one of the first cities in New Zealand to declare a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 reflecting the importance of these issues for our community.
- Established the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Planning Programme in 2019 to undertake planning with communities about the long-term future of our coastal areas.
- Is driving actions to reduce emissions and enhance resilience through the Climate Resilience Strategy (2021), Strengthening Communities Strategy (2022), Resilient Greater Christchurch Plan (2015) and through its urban development, transport, and waste management plans.
- Completed a district climate risk assessment in 2022 and updated its detailed coastal hazards assessment in 2021.
- Climate resilience considerations are embedded throughout key corporate processes including decision reports, Long-Term Plans, procurement, and project management.
- Council is working towards its target of being carbon neutral for its operations by 2030.



- Early signatory to the New Zealand Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration 2017
- Adoption of the Selwyn District Council Climate Change Policy in 2020.
- Preparation of annual organisational carbon emission reports, commencing FY2018/19, with completion of a follow-up three-year work programme in an Emissions Reduction Plan in 2024.
- Commissioned independent climate impact assessments for Councils assets to inform the last three Long Term Plans, the latest of which in 2023 incorporates findings from the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment.
- Support for community-based climate action through strategic partnership funding (such as Lincoln Envirotown) and project funding (in particular, through the Selwyn Community Fund and Selwyn Natural Environment Fund).
- Incorporation of climate data into hazard modelling to inform a review of the Selwyn District Plan, including an interactive viewer for the public to show susceptibility to flooding and/or coastal hazards.
- Climate change considerations integrated within the overarching District strategy and associated spatial planning and economic development plans.



- Mayor Donna Favel was a signatory to the NZ Local Government leaders' Climate Change Declaration 2017.
- Ashburton District Climate Change policy adopted in 2019. Reviewed and updated in 2022.
- Climate change considerations integrated into Ashburton district strategies including the Open Spaces Strategy 2016-26, Surface Water Strategy 2018-28, Our Natural Place- Biodiversity Strategy 2023-43 & Economic Development Strategy - Rautaki Whanake Ohaoha 2023-33.
- Ashburton Climate Resilience Plan adopted 2022.
- Baseline GHG inventory for ADC completed in 2023.
- Climate change considerations integrated into decision reports and business planning processes since 2021. This work is ongoing.
- Moving forward the 2024-27 draft LTP proposes funding support for the CCPP
- Environmental and climate change elements proposed to be improved in Council's community engagement policy.



- Preparatory work on a Climate Strategy, with independently facilitated community engagement, commenced Sept 2022, two progress reports by Nov 2023.
- Climate Change Response Policy adopted by Council, February 2024
- Climate dimension being added to Procurement Policy, 2024
- Climate dimension added to significance policy to influence other policy-making and reports, 2024
- On-site work with residents of Milford huts coastal settlement commenced Nov 2023
- Carbon inventory of TDC operational activity completed for 2022-23 financial year with technical assistance & verification from Toitu.
- Communication material for the public on household climate change adaptation and mitigation in preparation 2024 (likely co-publish with Waimate DC)



Mackenzie

- Council have begun work to develop a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy and plan for the Mackenzie District in early 2024.
- Council completed a review of all climate change data and impacts for the district.
- A Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory was completed for the district and the Council.
- Engagement on climate change vulnerability in the district are underway, including workshops with community and various sectors (Tourism, Agriculture, Infrastructure and Hydro, Community).
- Our next steps are to prepare an adaptation strategy and plan (July 2024)
- With the above evidence base pieces, council has begun work to develop a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy and plan for the Mackenzie District in early 2024.



- Appointing a part-time Climate Change Officer to oversee the development of this strategy.
- An online district wide survey in December 2023 to gain community interest and input.
- Hosting two climate change information evenings in March 2024 focusing on Climate Science, youth, cultural and economic perspectives.
- Establishing seven Action Plan workshops for community engagement throughout 2024.
- Creating a Climate Change tab and engagement platform on our council website.
- Creating education materials/links.
- Working and collaborating with our neighbouring councils (Waitaki / Mackenzie and Timaru) and schools.
- Being an active participant in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan reference and working groups.
- Completing our second council carbon footprint assessment for 2022/23.



- Climate change integration programme established in its 2018-28 Long-Term Plan.
- Climate emergency declared in 2019 acknowledging the importance and urgent need to address climate change for the benefit of current and future generations.
- Climate Change and Community Resilience Team established in 2022.
- Key initiatives: providing Secretariat for Canterbury Climate Change Working Group and Climate Change Steering Group under the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, leading the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment and the It's time, Canterbury's community awareness raising campaign and the development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.
- Completion of Organisational decarbonisation plan (date) and an Organisational Climate Change Risk Assessment (2023).
- 2024: Publication of the Environment Canterbury Climate Action Plan focusing on 4 key themes: climate resilient ecosystems, adaptive resilient communities, transition to low emissions, climate leadership.



- In 2019, a climate change declaration was endorsed by Council which includes several commitments, such as develop and implement appropriate action plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support resilience within our own council and for our local communities.
- Waitaki DC prepared its first organisational greenhouse gas inventory for FY2018/19. With an update and comparison against baseline commencing in 2024.
- To protect Oamaru Harbour, the Waitaki District Council has invested in erosion prevention measures along Oamaru Harbour's breakwater. This has seen many tonnes of rock and concrete pods being placed to prevent its erosion.
- In 2019 WDC received an extensive report on coastal hazards, which ORC commissioned NIWA to undertake.
- Waitaki Climate Change Risk Framework Part 1: Projections, adopted by Council in June 2023. Part 2: Risk Assessment is currently in progress.
- Project reclaim looks to remediate contaminated land sites which are in danger due to coastal erosion.
- WDC Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) goals/objective includes incorporating effective education/comms, creating a community that is knowledgeable about a sustainable and low emissions future.
- Council created organisational performance management framework tool – 'OKR' (objectives, and key results) with objective: "provide leadership to support sustainable long-term community resilience by implementing a minimum of 8 climate sustainability projects".
- Work to commence coastal erosion adaptation planning commencing in 2024.
- Waitaki district lies partly within Canterbury and partly within Otago regions. Waitaki District Council staff therefore sit on both the Otago Climate Officers Group (OCOG) formed in 2022, and the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group. The regional councils are in discussions to align climate change work programmes where possible to ensure efficiencies of staff input at Waitaki District Council.

How we produced this plan

The Climate Change Working Group, consisting of staff members from each of the 11 councils in Waitaha / Canterbury, developed our 10 key climate actions and supporting sub-actions through a robust series of workshops over 2022-2024, with input from all Canterbury councils.

The Climate Action Planning Reference Group, made up of elected representatives from each of the Canterbury councils, acted as a steering group on the plan.

The Working Group focused on identifying tangible actions for the short term, addressing key gaps in knowledge, priority risks and opportunities.

These actions are intended to gain momentum on collective climate action and to sit alongside and support existing and future climate efforts of individual councils.

Regional climate action planning was based on the international best practice C40 Climate Action Planning Framework. This framework draws on the experiences of 96 cities' climate action planning journeys and guided our approach. Although designed for cities, the framework sets out essential components of climate action planning, which we successfully adapted to suit the needs of our regional process.

Figure 3 C40 Climate Action Planning Framework

Commitment & Collaboration

Focuses on the plan's governance and coordination and the need for community and business engagement, and communications, throughout the plans development and implementation

Challenges & Opportunities

Considers the evidence base and existing city condition, including: baseline emissions, 2050 emissions, trajectory, climate risk and socioeconomic priorities

Acceleration & Implementation

Defines the transformational action and implementation plan, including the development and prioritisation of actions and the process of monitoring, evaluation, reporting and revision

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What we've heard from engagement with communities and key stakeholders

As part of Environment Canterbury's 'Our Future, Canterbury' themed engagement programme in 2023, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum asked stakeholders and communities for feedback on their climate action priorities, barriers, and perspectives on 'fair' climate action.

Via an online survey, in-person workshops in each district, and community events around the region, participants gave us a range of perspectives on climate action in their local district and in the region. There was broad agreement that councils should take climate action that would:

- regenerate ecosystems through native planting, pest control, and river restoration
- increase renewable energy
- support communities to become more resilient and adaptable
- increase public education and awareness of climate change impacts and solutions
- ensure opportunities for community engagement and empowerment
- streamline regulations and simplify consenting processes
- foster partnerships between government, businesses, non-governmental organisations, and communities
- offer financial support for individuals and businesses to take climate action.

There was broad agreement that the core values of 'fair' climate action include equity, shared responsibility, long-term planning, and science-based solutions.

We have taken stakeholder and community feedback into account during the drafting of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Download the climate change community reflections

Urgency assessment

The Mayoral Forum has historically used three sets of criteria to prioritise joint projects and actions: importance, democratic mandate, and impact.

For the purposes of this plan, we also considered the following questions when assessing urgency and prioritising actions:

- Does the action contribute to current gaps in research and monitoring?
- Does the action have a long lead time to get started?
- Is there a risk of path dependency, i.e. if we don't act now, are we locked into a future we don't want?
- Are there action dependencies and sequencing considerations?

This process helped us develop a short list of actions, and our implementation plan (Appendix 1).

Health Impact Assessment

Climate change is already impacting the health and wellbeing of our population and these impacts will amplify over time.

Extreme weather events and rising temperatures can impact physical, mental health, and wellbeing and result in changes to the natural environment, damage to housing and infrastructure and disruption to livelihoods. Some population groups and geographic locations are more vulnerable to climate change because of their exposure, sensitivity, and capacity to prepare and adapt to climate hazards. In many cases, the people most vulnerable to climate change will be those who already experience inequitable outcomes, including Māori, people with physical and mental health needs and low-income earners.⁵

Te Mana Ora, Community and Public Health Canterbury, conducted a Health Impact Assessment of the collective actions in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan. The assessment identified that the actions have the potential to contribute to the health and wellbeing outcomes of the region depending on how the actions are planned and implemented. The assessment emphasised that climate action should be based on evidence, including information about health and equity, and involve a collaborative approach.

In delivering these actions councils will continue to work on cross-sectorial collaboration with key stakeholders, including in the health sector, to ensure that health, wellbeing and equity are considered in the detailed implementation planning of the actions.

⁵ See the *Climate Change and Health in Waitaha Canterbury* for further information about health and wellbeing impacts of climate change.

Strategic framework for regional climate action planning

Vision of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

**A thriving, climate resilient,
low-emissions Canterbury**

Principles

Eight principles underpin the development and implementation of this Plan. These are the values by which we will approach collective climate action in Canterbury.

We strive to be Treaty based, Collaborative, Bold, Intergenerational, Solutions Focused, Equitable, Informed, Inclusive.

Treaty based/Whakamana i Te Tiriti means:

- Improving our understanding of what is important to our Treaty partners, how this could be impacted by climate change and climate change policy and how we can best support papatipu rūnanga with their own climate actions.

Collaborative/Mahi Tahi means:

- Committing to work together, demonstrating respect, trust and open-mindedness for the long haul of the climate action journey, even when times are tough.
- Identifying and working with communities and key stakeholders who are the most impacted by, and/or have the most impact on, climate change risk to find pragmatic and local solutions.
- Working with central government agencies to advocate for solutions appropriate to Canterbury's needs.

Bold/Pākaha means:

- Matching ambition with action and investment; presenting options for collaborative action that address the size of the challenge, including where this requires tough decisions from communities and our elected members.

Intergenerational/Whakatipuranga means:

- Being good ancestors; working with younger generations to consider the longer-term impacts and consequences of current actions and policies to promote equity, sustainability and opportunity for future generations.

Solutions focused/Whai putanga means:

- Focusing on tangible short-medium term actions that will move us forward and enable councils to progress with transformative local actions with their communities.

Equitable/Matatika means:

- The opportunities from climate initiatives and the burdens of climate risks are distributed justly across the region. This means taking action to identify and address both the effects of climate change and social inequity, and the systems that allow for these disparities to exist.

Informed/Whaimōhio means:

- Identifying and filling knowledge gaps and using the best available evidence, including mātauranga Māori, to make good decisions across councils' climate action planning.
- Being clear with each other and communities on what we don't know, and where there are any limitations or uncertainties with our information.
- Balancing the desire for robust evidence and increased certainty to inform decision making with the need to deliver timely impactful action, especially if high-quality evidence isn't available.

Inclusive/Kauawhi means:

- Actively involving and considering the perspectives, needs and contributions of all partners and stakeholders in Canterbury, including marginalised and vulnerable communities in decision making processes and policy development related to climate change.

Strategic outcomes

We have identified six long term outcomes we are seeking to achieve through our collective climate action.



A healthy environment

Our healthy environment enables our communities to thrive.



An equitable and inclusive transition

Our communities are empowered through an equitable and inclusive transition to a low emissions and climate resilient future.



Prosperity

Our environmental, cultural, economic, and social wellbeing is improved by identifying and taking early opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Adapted and resilient communities

Our communities are resilient and have the necessary infrastructure, knowledge, and tools they need to adapt to climate change.



Emissions reduction

Greenhouse gas emissions reductions are achieved in line with our national and international commitments at a minimum.



Climate action leadership

Canterbury is a leader in climate change mitigation, adaptation and inclusive climate action planning and promotes the four wellbeings.

Strategic objectives

Objective one

To work with science, nature and Mātauranga Māori to reduce climate vulnerability and improve resilience.

Objective four

To inform and empower communities to be prepared, improve their resilience and adapt to climate change.

Objective two

To enable transformational action in an inclusive and equitable way.

Objective five

To collaborate with communities to use available solutions and encourage behaviour change to achieve a smart innovative, low emissions future.

Objective three

To maximise co-benefits and identify opportunities for co-funding and financing climate actions.

Objective six

To ensure climate change is prioritised in all local government decision making processes in Canterbury.

*The following diagram is a placeholder for design.
Action wording will be updated pending results of
council feedback and LTP deliberations.*

Regional climate actions

There are 10 key actions we will take on kick off our collaborative climate action journey in Canterbury.

1

**Understanding
climate risks and
improving resilience**

Understand climate hazards and risks in Canterbury to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.

2

**Emissions
reduction**

Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New Zealand's commitments towards global greenhouse gas emission reduction.

3

**Adaptation
planning**

Support best practise approaches for local adaptation planning with communities.

4

**Nature based
solutions**

Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature-based solutions to climate change effects.

5

**Climate change
education and
advocacy to support
communities**

Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action.

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6**Supporting
papatipu rūnanga**

Support Papatipu Rūnanga with climate action and provide opportunity for their involvement with Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan projects.

7**Integrating climate
change considerations
into council processes**

Work collaboratively to build local government capability and enhance its capacity to adapt in a changing climate.

8**Climate funding
and financing**

Identify and leverage co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience.

9**Monitoring and
evaluation**

Monitor and report on progress towards achieving the actions and outcomes of the Partnership Plan.

10**Implementation**

Assemble an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Action 1: Understanding climate risks and improving resilience

Understand climate hazards and risks in Canterbury to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.

Action 1.1

Scope and develop a Canterbury-wide visualisation tool for use by councils to support climate adaptation and resilience planning.

Action 1.2

Update the Canterbury climate change risk and urgency assessment to ensure a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of key risks and opportunities under different climate change scenarios at a regional and district level.



Why we're taking this action

Councils have statutory responsibilities to avoid or mitigate natural hazards and to have regard to the effects of climate change when making decisions. We are also responsible for civil defence and emergency management, as well as improving community resilience.

This action is about furthering our understanding of climate risks in the region so that we can improve resilience. We need to know who and what is at risk, and where, for us to prioritise resources to do something about it.

The first Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment gave us a foundational understanding of current and future risks. These will change over time as climate effects intensify, but so too will our sensitivity to hazards and capacity to adapt. Therefore, we need reliable and robust tools to manage data and continually improve our understanding of risks and impacts as climate change unfolds. A tool will help us use consistent and up-to-date information to assess the vulnerabilities of different communities, ecosystems and assets as well as the interdependencies between these. This will enable us to target councils' approaches to addressing potential vulnerabilities, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently.

By increasing our knowledge and understanding of climate hazards and risks we can better support communities to prepare for and adapt to climate change. We want to make this information available to our communities in a consistent, transparent, and easy to understand way.



An equitable and inclusive transition



Adapted and Resilient Communities



Climate Action Leadership

Action 2: Emissions reduction

Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New Zealand's commitments towards global greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Action 2.1

Collate data and develop models to prepare carbon inventories and identify transition pathways for Canterbury to support New Zealand's national greenhouse gas commitments.

Action 2.2

Based on the transition pathways identified for Canterbury, undertake a regional transition risk and opportunities assessment, including an economic impact assessment, to inform an equitable and inclusive transition to a low-emissions region.

Action 2.3

Work with partners, communities, and key stakeholders to build a regional low-emissions transition strategy that supports equitable, inclusive local pathways to a thriving, climate-resilient region meeting emissions reduction targets.

Why we're taking this action

At a global scale, the more we reduce our emissions, the better our ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Put simply, if we do not cut our greenhouse gas emissions, we will be left with fewer choices on how to adapt and react to future challenges.

Canterbury has an important role to play in supporting international and national commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a low-emissions future. We have a unique emissions profile in our region. Our approach is not to blame and shame particular high-emitting sectors; instead we aim to work with partners and key stakeholders to make robust, evidence-informed decisions about how all sectors can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in a sustainable and timely way. Our aim is to make it possible for everyone to play their part in our collective climate action endeavour.

By working with others, understanding the risks and opportunities that transition to a low-emissions future presents, we can be strategic about mitigating those risks and leveraging opportunities early to provide for a planned and equitable approach to regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

A comprehensive transition strategy will lay out a road map individual councils can use to work with residents to most effectively reduce emissions at a local level.



An equitable and inclusive transition



Prosperity



Emissions reduction



Climate Action Leadership

Solar, industry, planning things
Green belt like the one running by ecan

Action 3: Adaptation planning

Support best practice approaches for local adaptation planning with communities.

Action 3.1

Develop and implement a best practice approach for councils in Canterbury to work effectively and efficiently together with communities on adaptation planning and implementation.



Why we're taking this action

No matter how quickly we reduce emissions around the globe or in New Zealand, some level of climate change is already baked in and we are already seeing those effects around New Zealand. Adaptation means strengthening our ability to cope with risks from natural events like floods, storms and drought.

The Government is developing an adaptation framework to strengthen how New Zealand prepares for the effects of climate change, focusing on where people live and work. The framework is expected to provide greater clarity on adaptation roles and responsibilities, including that of local government and other key players like central government and insurers.

We will continue to play a pivotal role in working with communities to understand what is happening, what matters most, what we can do about it, and how we can implement and monitor adaptation actions. It is both an absolute necessity and opportunity that we use the knowledge and tools created by some of the other partnership plan actions and all work together to figure out the most appropriate adaptation options for communities at risk across each district.

Some districts are already advancing with coastal adaptation planning, for example in Amberley Beach and Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour. But there are other risks, and many other vulnerable communities who we will also need to work with. We won't need to adapt everywhere all at once, nor will we be able to, but we can start working together now to lay the foundation for long-term adaptation planning in Canterbury to ensure a consistent, coordinated and community-centric approach on the ground, avoiding duplication of effort and sharing learnings.



Adapted and Resilient Communities



Climate Action Leadership

Action 4: Nature-based solutions

Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature-based solutions to climate change effects.

Action 4.1

Develop a Canterbury-wide natural ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment.

Action 4.2

Develop a blue-green network plan for Canterbury and accompanying guidance to support locally led implementation.

Action 4.2a

Maximize opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders to provide guidance on blue-green infrastructure placement and hazard resilience investment.

Action 4.2b

Collaborate and align with Greater Christchurch Partnership and key stakeholders to deliver a blue-green network.

Action 4.2c

Investigate the feasibility of establishing blue-green infrastructure on council-owned land, including identifying priority locations for implementation across Canterbury.



Why we're taking this action

We already have many of the solutions we need to tackle climate change. One of the key things we can do is work with nature to address the climate and biodiversity challenges we face. Nature-based solutions are inspired by, supported by or copied from nature and we can harness these to deliver a multitude of benefits across the four well beings.

Nature-based solutions offer a cost-effective and practical approach to both building resilience and capturing and storing carbon. A blue-green network or infrastructure - a series of spaces and corridors that follow and connect blue (e.g. water bodies) and green spaces (e.g. parks, green areas) - provides a nature-based approach to addressing climate change impacts such as flooding and urban heat islands; and reducing emissions through carbon sequestration.

In addition to reducing the effects of climate change, blue-green infrastructure offers various co-benefits. They enhance the liveability of urban and rural areas through better integration of natural and built environments and offer opportunities for place-making and enhanced identity, urban cooling, water management, recreation, landscaping, indigenous ecosystem protection and restoration and habitat creation for indigenous fauna.

⁴ For example, supporting the Nature Code MBIE Endeavour Research Proposal: Nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change-intensified natural hazards



A Healthy Environment



An equitable and inclusive transition



Prosperity



Emissions reduction



Adapted and Resilient Communities



Climate Action Leadership

Action 5: Climate change education and advocacy

Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action.

Action 5.1

Continue to develop the 'It's Time, Canterbury' initiative into a comprehensive resource hub for climate education and collective action across Canterbury.

Action 5.2

Collaborate with Civil Defence Emergency Management in Canterbury to produce communications materials that integrate climate action and resilience to natural hazards.



Why we're taking this action

Everyone has a part to play in tackling climate change. We've already mentioned the key role councils play in helping communities prepare for and adapt to climate change, and we're acutely aware how important it is that we communicate with communities in a way that's appropriate to them.

These actions build on the work done to date on 'It's time, Canterbury' where councils have pooled resources, knowledge and expertise for a regional approach to climate advocacy and awareness raising. We aim to educate, empower, and engage by building the 'It's time, Canterbury' content and expanding its reach. We will support communities with accurate and up-to-date information about the urgency of climate change, empower them with the knowledge and confidence to act as agents of change, and engage them throughout the journey to a resilient low-emissions future.

Civil Defence Emergency Management has a critical role in ensuring our communities are prepared, and able to respond, to natural hazards, and in the case of climate change where these natural hazards are exacerbated over time.



An equitable and inclusive transition



Emissions reduction



Adapted and Resilient Communities



Climate Action Leadership

Action 6: Supporting papatipu rūnanga

Support Papatipu Rūnanga with climate action and provide opportunity for their involvement with Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan projects.

Action 6.1

Understand the climate action requirements of papatipu rūnanga and support councils to work with papatipu rūnanga individually and collectively to implement these actions.

Action 6.2

Work with papatipu rūnanga mātarauanga Māori experts to understand and integrate indigenous knowledge into local climate action.



Why we're taking this action

Climate change is affecting Ngāi Tahu in unique and important ways, directly threatening wellbeing of mana whenua, their historic heritage (kainga tuturu), infrastructure (ngā waihanga), ability to undertake cultural practices, and disproportionately impacting future generations. The Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment showed there are potential risks to Ngāi Tahu interests across all pono (values) contained within Te Tūtei o Te Hau. It also indicated a risk of marginalisation of Ngāi Tahu perspectives in climate action planning.

The Ministry for the Environment has highlighted that empowering Māori is one of the five key principles in Aotearoa's emissions reduction plan and the National Adaptation Plan recognises the importance of embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi across the climate response.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu has developed its Climate Change Strategy Te Tāhū o te Whāriki (Anchoring the Foundations) and Action Plan (Te Kounga Paparangi). These provide direction across a spectrum Canterbury councils have identified these actions so that they can seek to better understand both the requirements of mana whenua and how councils are best placed to support their climate action planning in their takiwā. The actions also provide an open door to future involvement by papatipu rūnanga in the governance and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.



A Healthy Environment



An equitable and inclusive transition



Prosperity



Emissions reduction



Adapted and Resilient Communities



Climate Action Leadership

Action 7: **Integrating climate change considerations into council processes**

Work collaboratively to build local government capability and enhance its capacity to adapt in a changing climate.

Action 7.1

Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations across all council business including decisions, policies, projects, procurement, and infrastructure development.

Why we're taking this action

Not only must communities adapt but councils must too so we are as effective as we can be in a changing climate.

Climate change will impact everything we do and our ability to do things well. To be effective in a changing climate and avoid maladaptation, we must embed climate resilience at our core. This will ensure that climate considerations are not treated as separate or optional but are instead integrated across all aspects of local government operations. This approach helps councils address climate-related challenges effectively by displaying climate leadership, minimising risks, seizing opportunities and helping local communities to adapt appropriately thereby promoting the four well-beings of current and future generations.

Council image

Action 8: Climate funding and financing

Identify and leverage co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience.

Action 8.1

Advocate to central government for funding to be made available to address the gap between current local government funding and what is needed for the comprehensive local government climate action that is required in the future.

Action 8.2

Explore the feasibility of a Canterbury climate commitment that inspires and unites businesses and communities to accelerate climate action.



Why we're taking this action


Climate action comes at a cost and realising the many benefits of climate action also requires some up-front investment. The wide range and scale of climate actions required by councils in the coming years will require funding and financing beyond council's existing methods.

The recently published He piki tūranga, he piki kotuku, Future for Local Government Report (2023) highlights the gap between current local government funding and what is needed for comprehensive climate action. It suggests there should be a large national fund available for the climate-related actions that need to be taken by local government.

This could represent a significant opportunity for local government around New Zealand, however, it is likely that rates will remain the main funding mechanism for councils for the foreseeable future. By working together to identify and leverage alternative funding and financing opportunities, Canterbury councils can implement climate actions and initiatives without putting further pressure on ratepayers.

It is critical that we develop effective funding and financing structures that enable local government in Canterbury to respond to the evolving challenges and opportunities posed by climate change. We need to use our united voice and work together to ensure councils have access to the right amount of capital at the right time.


 A Healthy Environment

 An equitable and inclusive transition

 Prosperity

 Emissions reduction

 Adapted and Resilient Communities

 Climate Action Leadership

Action 9: Monitoring and evaluation

Monitor and report on progress towards achieving the actions and outcomes of the Partnership Plan.

Action 9.1

Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan which includes the co-development of climate-related indicators appropriate to Canterbury.

Workshopping photo

Why we're taking this action

We need to regularly monitor and evaluate the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan to ensure that actions are impactful, and our desired outcomes are being met.

The development of baseline data and climate-related indicators offers valuable data for decision-making, helping assess the region's vulnerability to various climate-related risks, and enabling policymakers to assess the effectiveness of policies and interventions.

It also assists in raising public awareness about the importance of climate action and its impacts, and enables efficient allocation of resources by governments, businesses, and communities.

The use of climate-related indicators can inform the development of effective climate policies, regulations, and incentives, and there is an opportunity to learn from the Climate Change Commission's experience in developing indicators and metrics for climate adaptation when implementing this action.



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Prosperity



Emissions reduction



Adapted and Resilient Communities



Climate Action Leadership

Action 10: Implementation

Assemble an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Why we're taking this action

To ensure the successful implementation of this plan, we need to coordinate a dedicated group of people from councils who have a key role to play in the delivery of these actions. This will allow for the continuation of a collaborative approach and reduce pressure and demands on individual councils who do not have staff capacity to manage project delivery of individual actions.

An implementation plan is included in Appendix 1.



A Healthy Environment



An equitable and inclusive transition



Prosperity



Emissions reduction



Adapted and Resilient Communities



Climate Action Leadership

??

Future funding and financing of regional climate actions

Climate action will cost us. However, the cost of inaction is likely to be far greater. Studies by Deloitte and others highlight an impending ‘turning point’ where the increased costs of taking decisive action sooner rather than later begin to outweigh the short-term gains from deferring our response.

Focusing solely on an economic analysis of climate change by 2050 (not the broader impacts across different dimensions of wellbeing), in net present value terms (estimated in 2023):

- Decisive action could add \$64bn to Aotearoa New Zealand’s GDP7.
- Inadequate action could take \$4.4bn off Aotearoa New Zealand’s GDP and get exponentially worse beyond 2050.

Opportunities and costs will differ across the range of business sectors specific to each region and to realise benefits arising from new opportunities will require commitment from us all. Nevertheless, it redefines the debate around climate action to one of opportunities for growth and avoided costs and losses rather than a financial burden with limited upsides.

In addition, in recent years the delivery of capital projects (including those associated with increasing resilience through certain climate adaptation measures) has experienced rapid cost escalation pressures with civil infrastructure works showing the biggest changes8. Decisions to forestall projects with demonstrable benefits could therefore impact their future affordability and viability.

This plan sets out a pragmatic and achievable programme of collaborative climate action for Waitaha Canterbury over the next three years, focused around collecting consistent evidence for both mitigation and adaptation, embedding climate change considerations in local government decision-making and processes, improving capability and capacity to respond effectively and monitoring results. We will, however, need to increase and

accelerate our investment in on the ground mitigation and adaptation actions thereafter if we are to meet our climate commitments and avoid the magnitude of future costs we would otherwise bear. Investing now will help us minimise the impacts future climate-related weather events9.

Costs of climate action

The impacts of COVID-19, high inflation, the cost-of-living crisis, and the threat of economic recession means that local government and ratepayers are faced with an increasing cost burden. These current financial pressures have been top of mind while developing the plan. Ultimately, the financial constraints and competing demands for funding at local government means funding climate actions at a local or regional level in the short term is challenging.

However, this plan offers a pragmatic financial advantage, particularly for the less resourced councils, by working together and leveraging collective funding to deliver on key projects.

In June 2024, Councils agreed to fund regional collective climate actions through their Long-Term Plans 2024-34 and \$1.47 million has been confirmed for the first 3 years. Further funding will be necessary through future annual and long-term plan reviews for future collaborative climate action, and by identifying and taking advantage of co-funding opportunities with key stakeholders.

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placeholder - implementation table

placeholder - implementation table

DRAFT

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

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan
Record Number: PU1C/8935 | Environment Canterbury Publication ID: R24/20
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**It's time,
Canterbury**
Our climate change
conversation

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 31 May 2024

Presented by: Sharon Mason – Chair, Economic Development Forum

Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to set out a proposed approach to developing a Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory to support regional, sub-regional and local energy strategy processes.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **approves the proposed approach to the development of a Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory as a foundational piece of work to support regional energy conversations and processes; and**
2. **notes that a sub-group / steering group, with an associated Terms of Reference, will be established to finalise the Scope of Work, lead the procurement of any external expertise as required, oversee the development of the Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory, and report back through the Canterbury Economic Development Forum; and**
3. **notes that resourcing (one internal FTE) from the Regional Public Service Commission within the Ministry of Social Development is available to support the development of the Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory; and**
4. **notes the timeline for the completion of the Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory will be approximately 8 months, commencing on 1 July 2024.**

Background

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 (the Plan) recognises that energy security will be critical for Canterbury to continue to pick up and support opportunities for the region. It further acknowledges that renewable energy will become an increasingly important part of responding to climate change risks, and that Canterbury has an opportunity to be at the forefront of an energy transition to attract and retain talent, investment, and technologies.
3. The Plan includes the following specific action:

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

4. A number of regional and sub-regional energy focussed discussions have taken place over recent months. These have included the scoping of energy strategy processes in South Canterbury and Christchurch; the development of future energy scenarios by Orion for mid-Canterbury; and conversations related to the need to transition to a lower carbon economy, including through development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, and the critical role of energy to support regional economic prosperity.
5. Some preliminary work has also been undertaken by Environment Canterbury to review the relevant national and regional policy context, consider the approaches taken in developing regional energy strategies elsewhere in New Zealand, and identify energy sector stakeholders. The slide pack provided as Attachment 1 summarises this work.
6. At the 18 March 2024 Canterbury Economic Development Forum meeting, it was agreed to develop a draft regional energy strawman for review and comment. The Economic Development Forum subsequently met on 16 April, where it discussed and agreed an approach to the development of a Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory as a foundational piece of work to support regional energy conversations and processes.
7. On 6 May 2024, the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum resolved to approve the proposed approach to the development of a Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory and requested the Chair of the Economic Development Forum to develop and provide a project plan that includes a timeline and resourcing. The Chief Executives Forum also agreed to allocate up to \$50,000 of funding from within the Regional Forum's budget to the project, subject to the project plan and outcome of works.

Regional Energy Inventory – rationale and approach

8. The development of a Regional Energy Inventory has been identified as an important foundational piece of work to support a collective understanding of the current state and a shared picture of Canterbury's energy futures. This work would help to identify options to progress a regional approach to energy – for example, through the development of a regional strategy, regional strategic framework, action plan or roadmap (or potentially nothing will be required at the regional level). It would also usefully inform sub-regional and local processes.
9. In summary, the work could:
 - create a shared picture of Canterbury's energy futures that can be used to inform more consistent strategic planning, investment and partnerships across industry, councils, Central Government, and the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Greater Christchurch Partnership

- provide an evidence base to inform regional, sub-regional and local energy processes. Informal conversations have indicated that, subject to timing, an energy inventory would usefully support processes already underway
 - help to identify regional priorities to support discussions about partnership with Central Government through City or Regional Deals
 - support regional input to Central Government processes – including the National Energy Strategy programme of work.
10. A draft Scope of Work for a Regional Energy Inventory is included as Attachment 2. It is intended that the work would align with and draw from existing related work, including the EECA Regional Energy Transition Accelerator programme; Future Energy Scenario planning; sub-regional energy processes already underway; and planning and strategy through the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Greater Christchurch Partnership, and individual organisations. A collaborative approach to developing the inventory will be essential.
 11. The development of a Regional Energy Inventory could follow a similar process to the Regional Housing Strategy, with the establishment of a sub-group or steering group from the Economic Development Forum members, and others as required, appointed to finalise the Scope of Work, lead the procurement of consultant expertise as required, and oversee the completion of the inventory. The sub-group would report back to the Canterbury Economic Development Forum.
 12. Following the completion of the inventory, a paper would be brought back to the Canterbury Economic Development Forum with options and/or a recommended approach to the development of a regional strategy for energy.
 13. Waikato Regional Council has taken a similar approach to developing an energy inventory to support a review of its 2009 Regional Energy Strategy and engagement with Central Government energy initiatives. The Energy Inventory was presented to Waikato Regional Council's Strategy and Policy Committee meeting for approval on 3 April. (Available to view: [Strategy and Policy Committee | Waikato Regional Council](#)).

Sub-regional energy strategies underway in Canterbury

14. Two sub-regional energy processes are in early stages of development in Canterbury. The sub-sections below provide an overview of these processes. In addition, we understand Selwyn District Council's Economic Development Strategy / Action Plan is likely to include an energy component.

South Canterbury

15. A South Canterbury Energy Strategy has already been scoped and Draft Terms of Reference developed. The development of the Strategy is being sponsored by Alpine Energy (secretariat), supported by a project steering committee comprising the three territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, local rūnanga, Timaru District Holdings

Limited and Venture Timaru. Subject to funding, the next steps include appointing a Project Manager and Project Coordinator and contracting a consultant to assist with the development of the strategy.

Christchurch

16. A workshop, organised by ChristchurchNZ and Orion, with Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury, and supported by DETA Consulting, was held at the end of March to explore the potential opportunity to develop an energy strategy. Although still at a very early stage, consideration is being given to the development of a Christchurch energy strategy, aligned to the Christchurch Economic Ambition.

Financial and resourcing implications

17. The development of a Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory is anticipated to take 8 months to complete. Staff at the Office of the Regional Public Service Commission of the Ministry of Social Development have offered one full time equivalent internal staff member (a new appointment), for up to one year, to lead or assist with the development of the Inventory. In addition, some internal resource (staff time) from other organisations represented on the Economic Development Forum will be needed to support and assist with developing the Inventory. This is likely to include participation on the steering group / sub-group, project management support, expert and/or area-specific advice and information, GIS support, etc. Staff will also approach MBIE staff to discuss the Regional Inventory project and any potential funding or resourcing support.
18. More specific resourcing requirements and timeframes will be determined through finalisation of the Scope of Work and development of the detailed project plan when a project lead has been established.
19. The Chief Executives Forum agreed to allocate up to \$50,000 of funding from within the Regional Forum's budget to the project, subject to the project plan and outcome of works. This has been budgeted for external (specialist) expertise to support the development of the Inventory, for example to facilitate stakeholder workshops, and the development of a regional energy profile.

Next steps

20. Key project milestones and target dates are set out below. Further detail is provided in Table 1 of the Scope of Work (Attachment 2).
21. The target dates are dependent on the outcome of the recruitment process by the Regional Public Service Commission. Staff are preparing to advertise this role in early June.

Milestone	Target date
Establish steering group and develop Terms of Reference	30 June 2024
Project start date	1 July 2024
Finalise Scope of Work	24 July 2024
Development of detailed project plan	31 July 2024
Identification of key stakeholders and development of stakeholder engagement plan	8 August 2024
Structured workshop/s with key staff to test and land key components of Inventory, identify information sources	Mid-August 2024
Desktop research and analysis	July – October 2024
Targeted stakeholder engagement	July – September 2024
Draft Energy Inventory developed	By 31 October 2024
Review and feedback period	November – December 2024
Final Energy Inventory completed	February 2025

Attachments

- Canterbury Economic Development Forum – Regional energy discussion slides
- Regional Energy Inventory – Draft Scope of Work

Canterbury Economic Development Forum - Regional energy discussion



1

National context

National targets

- Net zero carbon emissions by 2050
- Target of 50% of total energy consumption to come from renewable sources by 2035
- Aspirational target of 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030

New Zealand Energy Strategy

- Action from the Emissions Reduction Plan, May 2022
- Was due to be delivered by December 2024 (lead agency – MBIE)
- Will support the transition to a low emissions economy, address strategic challenges in the energy sector, and signal pathways away from fossil fuels
- Key inputs include: Gas Transition Plan; updated New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy; renewable energy work programme.

Coalition Government signals - 100 Day Plan: 'Begin efforts to double renewable energy production, including work to issue a National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation.'

City and Regional deals



2

Regional context

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

South Canterbury Energy Strategy – currently being scoped

Christchurch – work underway to consider development of an energy strategy linked to Christchurch Economic Ambition

Orion Future Energy Scenarios for Mid-Canterbury – how the energy environment could change between now and 2050

Regional Energy Transition Accelerator programme, EECA – stage 1 (planning) completed for Mid-South Canterbury and North Canterbury

Canterbury Regional Policy Statement Review – scheduled for notification December 2024

Canterbury Regional Energy Strategy Project – foundation work c.2004-2009, progress made towards 'Building Regional Resilience: An Energy Strategy for Canterbury', (facilitated by ECan), but not completed

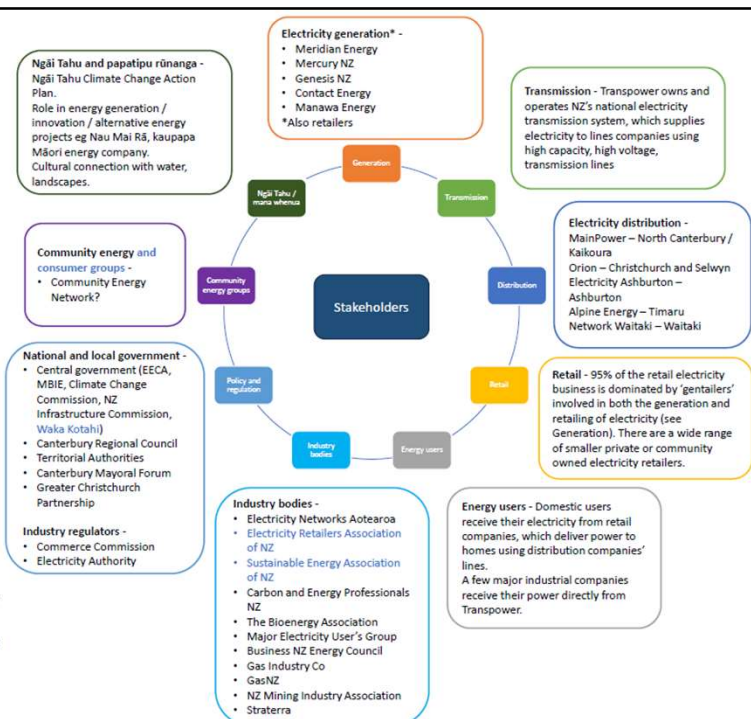


3

Key energy sector stakeholder groups

Other stakeholders -

- Economic development agencies (e.g. ChristchurchNZ, Venture Tū
- Canterbury University, Lincoln University
- Innovation support – organisational capability building organisatic
- Significant energy users – e.g. the Airport, Port, process heat
- Transport sector – Automobile Association?
- Contractors and developers



4

Approaches taken elsewhere

West Coast Renewable Energy Strategy, 2022

- Led by Economic Development Agency, Energy Action Group established
- EnviroStrat Limited appointed
- Strategy and roadmap – 17 workstreams
- Critical considerations: Improved energy efficiency and use of renewable energy; greater diversity of energy production; local leadership and coordination

Waikato Regional Energy Strategy 2009, and Energy Inventory 2024

- Initiated by Waikato RC, led by Waikato Regional Energy Forum, Advisory Group established
- Purpose: encourage and enable energy conservation and efficiency; promote the Waikato region's role in maintaining security of energy supply; facilitate the development and use of renewable energy sources and innovative energy technologies; acknowledge and promote the crucial role of energy in the regional and national economy.
- 27 recommendations spanning generation, efficiency, transport, farming, urban development
- **Waikato Energy Inventory completed March 2024**



5

Approaches taken elsewhere

Southland Regional Energy Strategy 2022-2050, 2023

- Led by Southland Regional Development Agency and Murihiku Regeneration (rūnanga entity), Regional Energy Strategy Advisory Group established
- Prepared by Beca Ltd
- Vision: “Energy in Southland Murihiku is clean, resilient and affordable supporting a thriving community”
- Purpose: To articulate the current and future demand and supply of energy considering the immediate and long-term challenges and opportunities the region faces
- Makes recommendations to support e.g. exploration of different renewable energy opportunities, improved building efficiency, coordination of industry)

Auckland Regional Energy Strategy – in development (tbc)

Similarities between the strategies – e.g. establishment of advisory group, strong collaboration, analysis of current state, future state, opportunities and challenges



6

Options

Development of a Regional Energy Inventory – Proposed approach

Purpose – To support a collective understanding of current state and a shared picture of Canterbury’s energy futures, including to:

- i. Create a shared picture of Canterbury’s energy futures to inform more consistent strategic planning, investment and partnerships across industry, councils, Central Government, and the CMF and GCP.
- ii. Provide an evidence base to inform regional, sub-regional and local energy processes.
- iii. Help to identify regional priorities to support discussions about partnership with Central Government through City or Regional Deals.
- iv. Support regional input to Central Government processes – including the National Energy Strategy programme of work.

This work would help to identify options to progress a regional approach to energy



7

Potential scope of energy inventory

The work will **connect and draw from existing** planning and strategy work in GCP, CMF, and individual organisations.

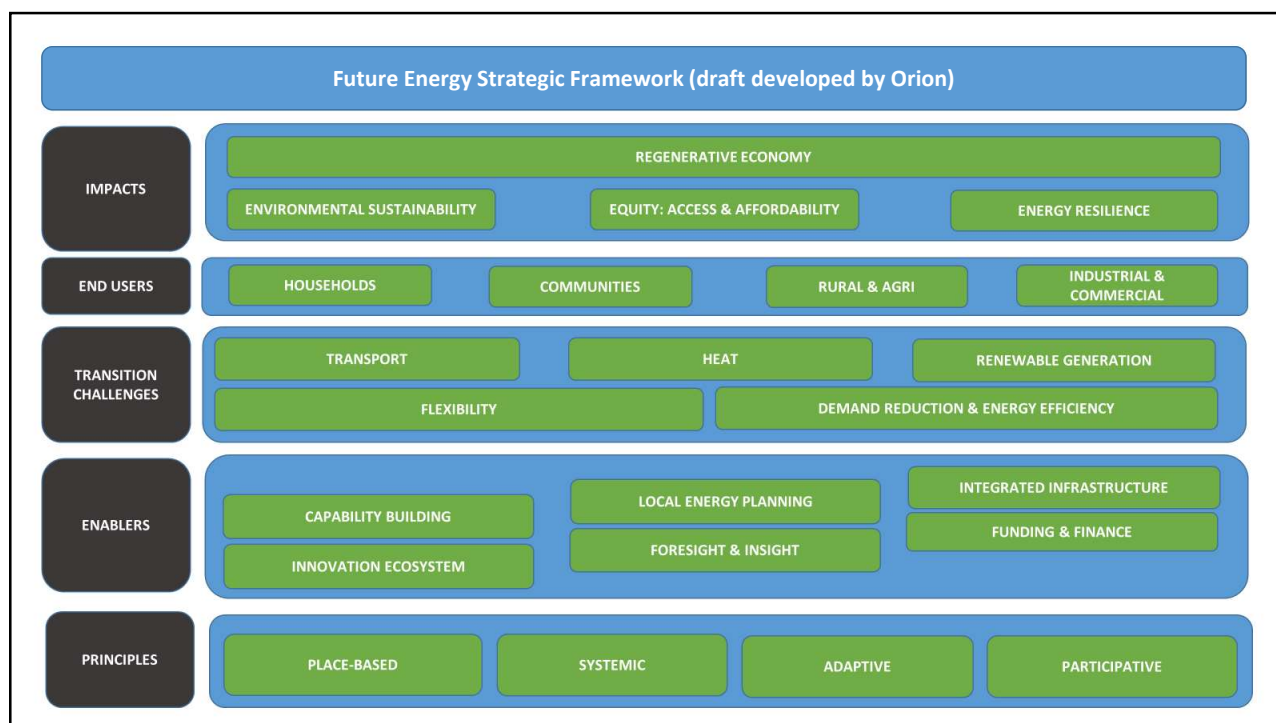
Scope likely to include:

- National energy policy context and overview
- Regional overview, including: energy profile, emissions and prices; economic drivers; energy sector stakeholders and respective roles
- Regional climate change projections and how these impact on resource availability and use
- Energy use / demand in Canterbury
- Overview of regional energy resources – existing and potential, and regional energy assets

A **collaborative approach** will be critical



8



9

Next steps

- Agree the approach to developing a Regional Energy Inventory and, if the Forum agrees to the establishment of a sub-group / steering group, nominate members for that group – 16 April
- Feedback on draft Scope of Work – by 23 April
- Finalise Scope of Work and explore the likely cost of consultant support to develop the Regional Energy Inventory – by 14 May
- Request funding for a consultant to support development of the Regional Energy Inventory through the Chief Executives Forum if required

10



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Regional Energy Inventory – Scope of work

V1.3 13 May 2024

Background and context

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's 'Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025' recognises that energy security will be critical for Canterbury to continue to pick up and support opportunities for the region. It further acknowledges that renewable energy will become an increasingly important part of responding to climate change risks, and that Canterbury has an opportunity to be at the forefront of an energy transition to attract and retain talent, investment, and technologies.

The *Plan for Canterbury* includes the following specific action:

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

A regional energy inventory has been identified as a foundational piece of work to support this commitment.

MBIE is developing a New Zealand Energy Strategy, which is expected to be delivered by December 2024. A regional understanding of the local energy supply opportunities and constraints and inter-regional energy demand issues, as well as solutions specific to the long-term needs and capacity of the region, will be important elements to complement the national Energy Strategy programme of work.

Purpose

The Regional Energy Inventory will be a foundational economic development and futures piece for the region, which will support a collective understanding of the current state and create a shared picture of Canterbury's energy futures. This work will help to identify options to progress a regional approach to energy – for example, through the development of a regional strategy, regional strategic framework, action plan or roadmap (or potentially nothing will be required at the regional level). It will also usefully inform sub-regional and local processes.

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

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Kaikōura District Council • Mackenzie District Council • Selwyn District Council • Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council • Waimate District Council • Waitaki District Council

In summary, the work will:

- i. support the delivery of the Mayoral Forum's *Plan for Canterbury* specifically, an action related to supporting the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve energy security and systems
- ii. create a shared picture of Canterbury's energy futures that can be used to inform more consistent strategic planning, investment and partnerships across industry, councils, Central Government, and the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Greater Christchurch Partnership
- iii. provide an evidence base to inform regional, sub-regional and local energy processes. Informal conversations have indicated that, subject to timing, an energy inventory would usefully support processes already underway
- iv. identify regional priorities to support discussions about partnership with Central Government through City or Regional Deals
- v. support regional input to Central Government processes – including the National Energy Strategy programme of work.

Deliverable

The key deliverable will be the preparation of a regional Energy Inventory, in the form of a report with maps and relevant data provided as appendices. It will be primarily a desk-top initiative of existing available information as applied to the Canterbury region.

Proposed Scope

The proposed Scope of the Inventory is:

- preparation of a regional Energy Inventory, in the form of a report with maps and relevant data provided as appendices
- desk-top study primarily – commissioning of new research unlikely, though information gaps may be identified for further work
- targeted engagement with subject matter experts and stakeholders, to be focused on identifying the key components of the inventory and information sources
- identification of information gaps, issues, opportunities, and recommendations (e.g. for future work).

It is intended that the work would align with and draw from existing related work, including the EECA Regional Energy Transition Accelerator programme; Future Energy Scenario planning; sub-regional energy processes already underway; and planning and strategy through the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Greater Christchurch Partnership, and individual organisations. A collaborative approach to developing the inventory will be essential.

The proposed structure and content overview is set out below.

1. Introduction: purpose of Inventory and regional context, geographic area covered, drivers for action (including, Mayoral Forum, South Canterbury Energy Strategy, Orion Future Energy Scenarios, Transpower Grid pathways).
2. Context:
 - High-level national energy policy context and overview (including national policies and targets, NZ Energy Strategy, Resource Management Reform including fast-track approvals process and proposals to strengthen national direction, etc).
3. Detailed regional overview:

- demographic, political and geographic details
 - Canterbury's energy profile, emissions and prices
 - strategic and economic drivers
 - energy sector stakeholders and respective roles
 - summary of EECA Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) for Mid-South Canterbury and North Canterbury (?)
 - sub-regional programmes of work underway.
4. Regional climate change projections and how these impact on resource availability and use.
 5. Energy use / demand in Canterbury – by sector (if available):
 - map of major energy users
 - forecasts / projections and scenarios – including to demonstrate the impact significant additional investment and growth might have in Canterbury). This should include identification of key points of uncertainty that underpin scenarios (e.g. Resource Management Reform, economic environment, climate change).
 6. Detailed outline of Canterbury's energy resources – existing and potential.
 7. Detailed outline of Canterbury's regional energy assets, with a focus on electricity generation (existing and proposed, including hydrogen, gas) and how it is used:
 - network map of generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure / assets
 - future opportunity mapping
 8. Downstream constraints for access and use of renewable energy for industries and new product manufacturers (TBC).
 9. Identification of information gaps.

Additional or different areas of focus may be added following engagement with subject matter experts and key stakeholders.

Table 1: Overview of key tasks and indicative timeframes:

Key tasks	Steps	Interdependencies	Start date	Completion date	Outputs / deliverables
Establish steering group and develop Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify steering group membership Develop and agree Terms of Reference 		1 June 2024	30 June 2024	Steering Group Terms of Reference Role of steering group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> finalise Scope of Work lead procurement of external expertise (if required) oversee development of Energy Inventory provide regular reports / updates to Canterbury Economic Development Forum.
Scope of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop draft Scope of Work Confirm approach to resourcing Identify key staff (internal and external) to review and agree Scope Confirm reporting and approval channels 		1 April 2024	24 July 2024 (iterative process)	Scope of Work
Development of detailed project plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Agreement of Scope of Work Appointment of new starter within Regional Public Service Commission	15 July 2024	31 July 2024	Detailed project plan
Identify key stakeholders and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key stakeholders, information requirements and methods/approaches to seeking input 		15 July 2024	8 August 2024	Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Key tasks	Steps	Interdependencies	Start date	Completion date	Outputs / deliverables
prepare stakeholder engagement plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare Stakeholder Engagement Plan 				
Develop draft Energy Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold structured workshop/s with key staff to test and land key components of Inventory, identify information sources 	Availability of key stakeholders to contribute information		Mid-August	•
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake desktop research and analysis 		1 July 2024	31 October 2024	•
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence engagement with key stakeholders to gather additional information to inform draft Inventory 		1 July 2024	30 September 2024	•
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop draft Inventory based on agreed Scope 		1 September 2024	31 October 2024	•
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any information gaps and proposed approach to these: source / commission additional information or data; defer to 'phase 2'; accept information gap. 		1 September 2024	31 October 2024	•
Peer review of draft inventory by key staff (internal and external) / sub-group / steering group			1 November 2024	30 November 2024	•
Draft inventory provided to Economic Development Forum for feedback			December 2024		•
Final Energy Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate feedback received through above steps 	Availability of key stakeholders to contribute	January 2025	February 2025	

Key tasks	Steps	Interdependencies	Start date	Completion date	Outputs / deliverables
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete maps and presentation of additional data to be attached as appendices 	information for the inventory			
Report to the Mayoral Forum / Economic Forum seeking endorsement to publish the Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare cover report and attach final Inventory 			March 2025	

Milestones

Table 2: Milestones

Milestone	Target date
Establish steering group and develop Terms of Reference	30 June 2024
Finalise Scope of Work	24 July 2024
Development of detailed project plan	31 July 2024
Identification of key stakeholders and development of stakeholder engagement plan	8 August 2024
Structured workshop/s with key staff to test and land key components of Inventory, identify information sources	Mid-August 2024
Desktop research and analysis	July – October 2024
Targeted stakeholder engagement	July – September 2024
Draft Energy Inventory developed	By 31 October 2024
Review and feedback period	November – December 2024
Final Energy Inventory completed	February 2025

Risks

Table 3: Risks

ID	Risk	Rating	Response	Action/commentary
R1	Resourcing availability - internal capacity and capability	Moderate	Accept with contingency plan	Early identification of resourcing requirements
R2	Key information is not readily accessible at a regional level or is not consistently available across the whole region	Moderate	Accept with contingency plan	Early identification of information requirements and sources
R2	Deliverables from key stakeholders are not provided in sufficient time or to required quality	Moderate	Reduce	Ensure timeframes are clearly communicated.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 31 May 2024

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chief Executives Forum

Chief Executives Forum report

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to report on the work of the regional forums since February 2024.

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 February meeting:
 - the Operations and Corporate Forums met on 11 March
 - the Communications and Engagement Forum met on 15 March
 - the Economic Development and Policy Forums met on 18 March
 - the Chief Executives Forum met on 6 May.
3. All March forum meetings were held in person in March.

Chief Executives Forum

4. Key agenda items discussed at the 6 May meeting included:
 - The development of a regional energy inventory, as a starting point for a future regional energy strategy (see Item 5.3)
 - The draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, noting in particular the challenges associated with confirming funding and potential implications for action delivery (see Item 5.2)
 - LTP submissions and general themes
 - health and safety threats to council staff and elected members

- an update from Ben Clark, Regional Public Service Commissioner
- a presentation from Alex Parmley on economic opportunities through climate change and sustainability, focussing on potential for business growth, cost savings and community uplift
- water reform – consideration of a review of work done to date to inform potential options for future waters service delivery (see Item 5.1)
- an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy
- the draft Mayoral Forum agenda for May.

5. Chief Executives will meet next on 29 July 2024.

Triennium strategic workplan

6. 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 workplan 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).
7. 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.
8. The strategic workplan and workstream tracker are both living documents with the ability for additional items to be added as issues for regional collaboration arise.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 - Strategic workplan

Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2023-2025

Updated 21 May 2024
Refreshed Plan 23 February 2024

#	Workstream	Plan for Canterbury priority	Key updates	Planned outcomes	Outcomes achieved
1	Continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection	Sustainable environment Shared Prosperity Climate Change	Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May 2023 Included in briefings to Ministers sent 1 March 2024 Hosted Minister Paterson in Canterbury, which included visits to the sub-regions and river areas	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 2023. Economic Development Forum members undertaking Canterbury wide business survey to gather detailed evidence Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024	Government adopts a more regional approach to immigration policies	
3	Advocate with Government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions	Shared prosperity	Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024 Included in joint RTC/CMF submission on GPS Land Transport 2024	Ability for local councils to access additional transport funding	
4	Continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy	Sustainable environment	Updates provided to Chief Executives and Mayoral Forums Workshop to be held 31 May (see item 4.2)	CWMS remains fit for purpose and the region retains a shared understanding of water management issues	
5	Support the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework	Sustainable environment	Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024. A discovery session with partners including TAs to discuss the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy was held on 10 April 2024. Scoping a regional biodiversity monitoring framework is nearing completion. Next steps will consider future implementation of scoped monitoring methodologies.	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 2023. Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024	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 complete. Housing Steering Group met Feb, in process of confirming scope of work. Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024	The Forum has clarity on housing issues affecting communities in Waitaha/Canterbury and understands pathways for improvement	
8	Oversee a Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan, which will confirm a collaborative vision for regional adaptation planning, an 'urgency assessment' to support prioritising climate actions, and a funding plan laying out a regional/aligned approach for accessing finance for climate actions in Canterbury	Climate change	Vision and high level principles provided to June 2023 CMF for approval. Approach for collective funding of regional actions agreed Nov 2024, actions confirmed Feb 2024. Awaiting outcomes from councils' LTP processes, draft Plan provided at item 5.2.	Completion of the Climate Change partnership plan and agreement on action planning	
9	Support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment	Shared prosperity Environmental Sustainability Climate Change	Regional Energy Inventory proposed as the starting point for a future energy strategy. Draft scope of work, project plan and indicative budget being prepared (Item 5.3)	Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory to support the development of a Regional Energy Strategy	

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 31 May 2024

Presented by: Secretariat

Mayoral Forum activities and engagements – February 2024 to May 2024

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of activities, engagements, and correspondence since the last Mayoral Forum meeting in February 2024.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receive the update on Mayoral Forum activities and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 23 February 2024.**

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 February 2024 meeting the Mayoral Forum wrote to:
 - Canterbury Coalition Government members of parliament inviting them to lunch with the Mayoral Forum following their meeting on 31 May (this was subsequently changed to 30 August meeting)
 - Chairs of Waitaha Papatipu Rūnanga to provide an update on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.
5. The Mayoral Forum received the following correspondence:

- email advice from Prime Minister's office advising that he is unable to meet at this time
- email advice from Hon Simon Watts' office advising he is available to meet with forum members in Christchurch on 11 June 2024
- email advice from Hon Mark Mitchell's office advising he is available to meet with forum members on 13 June 2024
- email advice from Hon Chris Bishop's office advising he is available to meet with forum members on 2 July 2024.

Submissions

6. There were two submissions made since the February meeting:
- Combined Regional Transport Committee and Mayoral Forum submission on the Government Policy Statement Land Transport 2024
 - submission on Fast-Track Approvals Bill.

Briefings

7. The briefings to newly elected Ministers, included in the meeting agenda for 23 February, have been sent to Ministers.

Media Releases

8. There have been no media releases since the February 2024 meeting.

Attachments

- Correspondence
- Submissions

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8 March 2024

Miles Anderson Miles.Anderson@parliament.govt.nz	Hon Nicola Grigg Nicola.Grigg@parliament.govt.nz
Jamie Arbuckle Jamie.Arbuckle@parliament.govt.nz	James Meager James.MeagerMP@parliament.govt.nz
Hon Gerry Brownlee Gerry.Brownlee@parliament.govt.nz	Laura Trask Laura.Trask@parliament.govt.nz
Dr Hamish Campbell Hamish.Campbell@parliament.govt.nz	Stuart Smith Stuart.Smith@parliament.govt.nz
Hon Matt Doocey Matt.Doocey@parliament.govt.nz	Dr Vanessa Weenink Vanessa.Weenink@parliament.govt.nz

Lunch invitation with Canterbury Mayoral Forum 31 May 2024

I would be delighted if you could join the Canterbury Mayoral Forum for lunch on Friday 31 May to meet with members and take the opportunity to discuss issues, opportunities and common interests for the Canterbury region going forward. We have extended this invitation to all the Canterbury Coalition Government MPs and hope that you will be able to make it.

We will be meeting at the Ashburton District Council's new building, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Street East, Ashburton from 12.30pm.

Since I last wrote to you in November, we have refreshed our Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury¹. Our vision for Canterbury remains the same – sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity – as do our three priorities of: sustainable environmental management of our habitats; shared prosperity for all our communities; and climate change mitigation and action. Most of the actions are carried over from the earlier version of the Plan, but in the refreshed version we acknowledge the opportunities for regional/city deals with central government, the need to improve our energy security and systems and advocate for funding legislation that empowers local authorities to develop local funding solutions. We look forward to discussing these, and other priorities with you in May.

¹ [Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 - Canterbury Mayoral Forum \(canterburymayors.org.nz\)](https://canterburymayors.org.nz)

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We look forward to meeting with you at lunch on 31 May. If you are unable to make that date, we warmly welcome you to make contact at any time as you identify issues, opportunities and common themes where we can work together to achieve great outcomes for our communities. Please RSVP to our Secretariat, Maree McNeilly secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or on 027 381 8924 by Friday 2 April 2024.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Bowen', followed by a small blue dot.

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

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8 March 2024

Tania Wati Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri Tania.Wati@Whitiora.org.nz	Liz Brown Te Taumutu Rūnanga Elizabeth.Brown@ngaitahu.iwi.nz
Rik Tainui Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku rtainui@gmail.com	Fiona Pimm Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua fspimm@gmail.com
Mishele Radford Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Mishele.Radford@ngaitahu.iwi.nz	Jaleesa Panirau Wairewa Rūnanga Jaleesa.Panirau@ngaitahu.iwi.nz
Hariata Kahu Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura Hariata.Kahu@hotmail.co.nz	Justin Tipa Te Rūnanga o Moeraki justin.tipa@gmail.com
Mananui Ramsden Te Rūnanga o Koukourarata mananui.ramsden@ngaitahu.iwi.nz	Dardanelle McLean-Smith Te Rūnanga o Waihao dms.waihao@gmail.com

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan progress update

I'm writing to you in my capacity as Chair of Canterbury Climate Change Reference Group to provide an update on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

As you may recall, the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is a collaborative project under the Mayoral Forum which aims to identify how Canterbury councils can work together to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We last wrote to you and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in July 2023 inviting input on the development of the plan, through participation in the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group (staff representatives from all Canterbury councils) and/or Climate Change Reference Group (councillor representatives from all councils).

We recognise the ongoing challenges you face with requests for input and the pressure this puts on time and resources; however we wanted to keep you up to date on how the project is progressing and extend an open invitation for input on the draft actions, particularly the key action relating to papatipu rūnanga.

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Kaikōura District Council • Mackenzie District Council • Selwyn District Council • Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council • Waimate District Council • Waitaki District Council

I've attached a copy of the strategic framework for the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, which highlights our vision, principles, outcomes and objectives. The strategic framework has been endorsed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. I've also attached a copy of draft actions which are still in development. These were discussed at the Reference Group on the 29th February, with agreement in principle on the direction of the actions.

One of our key principles and objectives is that the plan is Treaty based and we work with science, nature and Mātauranga Māori to reduce climate vulnerability and improve resilience.

We have identified the following key actions relating to papatipu rūnanga. Our intent is to really understand what support mana whenua would like from councils and provide scope for involvement to the extent they wish:

Provide space and opportunity for papatipu rūnanga and mana whenua to be involved with the implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan to the extent they wish to.

- *Understand the climate action needs and aspirations of mana whenua and how councils can individually and collectively best support these needs and aspirations at place.*
- *Establish partnerships with mana whenua and mātauranga Māori experts to understand how indigenous knowledge can be incorporated into local climate action.*

Funding for the Partnership Plan is being sought through Councils' long-term plans.

We would welcome any input or feedback on the draft actions of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me on +64 21 906 437 or dan.gordon@wmk.govt.nz.

We look forward to hearing from you. We are working on a timeline that would see us take the final Plan to the August Mayoral Forum meeting for endorsement/approval.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Signature added

Dan Gordon
Chair Canterbury Climate Change Reference Group
Mayor Waimakariri District Council

Signature added

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CC. Ben Bateman, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
Jacqui Caine, Group Head Strategy & Environment, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Encl.

From: "Makona Pokoati" <Makona.Pokoati@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 07 April 2024 20:52
To: "secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz" <secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz>; "Simeon Brown" <Simeon.Brown@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: 2627_ Invitation and briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Attachments: CMF briefing to Prime Minister Mar 2024.pdf
Categories: Completed;Maree

You don't often get email from makona.pokoati@parliament.govt.nz. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Good morning Nigel,

Thank you again for your request to meet with the Prime Minister.

Unfortunately, the demands on the Prime Minister's schedule means that he is unable to attend on this occasion.

I am sorry we are not able to give you a more favourable answer, but please accept the Prime Minister's sincere apologies. I have forwarded your request to the Minister of Local Government, Hon Simeon Brown for his consideration.

Thank you for your understanding of the demands on his schedule and for thinking of him for this opportunity.

Kind regards,

Makona Pokoati | Private Secretary
 Office of the Prime Minister
makona.pokoati@parliament.govt.nz | M: 021 823 396
 Executive Wing, Parliament, Wellington 6011

From: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz <secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:48 AM
To: Christopher Luxon (MIN) <C.Luxon@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: 2627_ Invitation and briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Please find attached an invitation and briefing from Mayor Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Regional Forums Secretariat

Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Chief Executives Forum –
 Policy Forum – Communications and Engagement Forum –
 Corporate Forum – Economic Development Forum – Operations Forum

CANTERBURY
 Mayoral Forum

secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz

Principal Advisor – Maree McNeilly, [027 381 8924](tel:0273818924)

Senior Advisor – Amanda Wall, [027 234 6381](tel:0272346381)

Regional Forums Co-ordinator – Ann Fitzgerald, [027 291 7468](tel:0272917468)

c/- Environment Canterbury,
PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140
canterburymayors.org.nz

From: "Simon Watts (MIN)" <S.Watts@ministers.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 03:17
To: "secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz"
 <secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz>
Cc: "Jenny Chang" <Jenny.Chang@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Invitation and briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Attachments: Meeting Information Form - Hon Simon Watts.docx
Categories: Completed;Maree

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

Good afternoon,

On behalf of Hon Simon Watts, thank you for your email. I'm pleased to let you know that Hon Simon Watts would be delighted to meet with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

I have attached a meeting information form, which we appreciate be filled out and returned to us at your earliest convenience.

I have also CC'd our Senior Private Secretary Jenny Chang who will help schedule in this meeting for you.

If you have any further questions from me, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Kind regards,
 Lucy



Lucy Bennett
Private Secretary – Administration | Office of Hon. Simon Watts
 Minister of Climate Change
 Minister of Revenue

 E: lucyhannah.bennett@parliament.govt.nz
 Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz <secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:38 AM
To: Simon Watts (MIN) <S.Watts@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Invitation and briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Please find attached an invitation and briefing from Mayor Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Regional Forums Secretariat

Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Chief Executives Forum –
Policy Forum – Communications and Engagement Forum –
Corporate Forum – Economic Development Forum – Operations Forum
secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz

The logo for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum is a red rounded rectangle. Inside, the word "CANTERBURY" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below it, the words "Mayoral Forum" are written in a larger, white, sans-serif font, with "Mayoral" on one line and "Forum" on the line below.

Principal Advisor – Maree McNeilly, [027 381 8924](tel:0273818924)

Senior Advisor – Amanda Wall, [027 234 6381](tel:0272346381)

Regional Forums Co-ordinator – Ann Fitzgerald, [027 291 7468](tel:0272917468)

c/- Environment Canterbury,
PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140
canterburymayors.org.nz

From: "Greta Easen" <Greta.Easen@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 00:25
To: "secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz"
 <secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz>
Subject: RE: Invitation and briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Categories: Completed;Maree

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Kia ora,

On behalf of Hon Mark Mitchell, thank you for your correspondence and request to meet.

Minister Mitchell will be in Christchurch on 13th June and may have some time in the afternoon from 2.30pm onwards to meet if that suits? I realise that is some time away but it is likely to be the next time he will be in Christchurch at this stage.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
 Greta



Greta Easen

Senior Private Secretary | Office of Hon Mark Mitchell

Minister of Police

Minister of Corrections

Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery

MP for Whangaparaoa

DDI: 04 817 6579 | M: 021 821 775

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Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Mark Mitchell, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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From: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz <secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:46 AM

To: Mark Mitchell (MIN) <M.Mitchell@ministers.govt.nz>

Subject: Invitation and briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Please find attached an invitation and briefing from Mayor Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Regional Forums Secretariat

Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Chief Executives Forum –

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Principal Advisor – Maree McNeilly, [027 381 8924](tel:0273818924)

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c/- Environment Canterbury,

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canterburymayors.org.nz

From: "Sandy Grove" <Sandy.Grove@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 22 April 2024 22:20
To: "secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz"
 <secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz>
Subject: FW: INV24-CB329 Invitation and briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Attachments: CMF briefing to Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Housing, Infrastructure Mar 2024.pdf

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

Good morning

On behalf of Hon Christopher Bishop, Minister of Housing, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for RMA Reform, Minister for Sports and Recreation, Associate Minister of Finance, Leader of the House and MP for Hutt South thank you for your email inviting Minister to speak at a Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

Please accept my sincere apology for the time taken to respond to your request.

The Minister accepts your invitation. Unfortunately, the earliest date I can currently make work is **Tuesday 2 July 2024 after 1.00pm.**

Please confirm the above date / time work will work for you and we can get it locked in the Ministers diary.

Finally, whilst we are committed to keeping to his planned schedule, from time-to- time unpredicted events occur which mean adjustments need to be made. In such cases, the Minister thanks you for your understanding and flexibility

Kind regards



Sandy Grove

Senior Private Secretary | Office of Hon Chris Bishop
 Minister for Housing | Infrastructure | RMA Reform | Sports & Recreation |
 Associate Finance | Leader of the House | MP for Hutt South

DDI: 04 817 9733

Email: sandy.grove@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
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is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS>

From: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz <secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz>

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:42 AM

To: Christopher Bishop (MIN) <C.Bishop@ministers.govt.nz>

Subject: Invitation and briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Please find attached an invitation and briefing from Mayor Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Regional Forums Secretariat

Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Chief Executives Forum –

Policy Forum – Communications and Engagement Forum –

Corporate Forum – Economic Development Forum – Operations Forum

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Principal Advisor – Maree McNeilly, [027 381 8924](tel:0273818924)

Senior Advisor – Amanda Wall, [027 234 6381](tel:0272346381)

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CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

c/- Environment Canterbury,

PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140

canterburymayors.org.nz

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

2 April 2024

Ministry of Transport
PO Box 3175
Wellington 6011

Tēnā koe,

Canterbury Regional Transport Committee and Canterbury Mayoral Forum joint submission on the draft Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024

The Canterbury Regional Transport Committee and Canterbury Mayoral Forum thank the Ministry of Transport for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024 (GPS). This letter and the attached response to your questions make up our joint submission.

Overall, we are supportive of the direction outlined by the Government in this draft GPS. We particularly support the increased focus on improving the maintenance and resilience of our state highways and local roads – the top investment priorities in the draft Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan 2024-34. Canterbury has the most extensive road network of any region in New Zealand and the second highest tourism spend, which brings with it particular challenges. The predominance of low-volume and high-value roads in our region requires greater investment in ongoing maintenance and renewals to ensure our networks can continue to support regional and national economic and social outcomes.

Considerable investment in Canterbury's transport network is required to deliver on the outcomes sought by this GPS and to meet the expectations of our communities. This includes investment in our state highways, local roads, and public transport across the region.

While we support the focus on state highways and local roads in this draft GPS – including the identification of the Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass, and Second Ashburton Bridge – we are concerned by the lack of commitment or any reference to public transport in Canterbury. This is a significant omission of this draft GPS and not reflective of the pressing need to invest in public transport in our region, particularly in Greater Christchurch – the second largest and a fast-growing urban area in New Zealand. We trust this will be rectified in the final GPS.

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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

*Ashburton District Council • Canterbury Regional Council • Christchurch City Council • Hurunui District Council
Kaikōura District Council • Mackenzie District Council • Selwyn District Council • Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council • Waimate District Council • Waitaki District Council*

More generally, we are concerned that the overall level of transport investment in Canterbury and the South Island will not be commensurate with the contribution we make to the national economy.

The Canterbury region represents approximately 12 percent of New Zealand's population, contributes 13 percent of national GDP and has over 16 percent of the national roading network by length. In the 2021-24 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP), Canterbury only received between 5-8 percent of the forecasted NLTP expenditure, which doesn't reflect the substantial contribution our region has and continues to make to the country.

In the draft Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan 2024-34, we are proposing a \$10.8 billion investment in the region's land transport network over the next decade. This is almost double the funding set out in the 2021 plan. Our expectation is that a much higher share of the revenue generated from Canterbury will be spent in our region during this NLTP period.

Even with the additional Crown funding for this GPS, there is simply not enough to support all our transport needs and aspirations in Canterbury. This makes the Ministry of Transport's Future for Transport Revenue System review even more urgent. We would like to partner with Government on this review and encourage it to be completed in time for the 2027 GPS. We also continue to be open to exploring a range of funding options and financing models to deliver effective and efficient transport outcomes, including the opportunity for more funding levers for local government.

Lastly, we applaud Ministry staff for the clarity and readability of this draft GPS document. Thank you to all those involved in preparing it and for the opportunity to provide feedback.

While NZTA is represented on the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee, this submission does not reflect the views of NZTA.

The Canterbury Regional Transport Committee and Canterbury Mayoral Forum secretariats are available to clarify or answer any questions that the Ministry may have about this joint submission. If you have any questions, please contact either Jesse Burgess, Senior Strategy Manager Canterbury Regional Council on 027 381 5102, jesse.burgess@ecan.govt.nz or Maree McNeilly, Principal Advisor to the Mayoral Forum on 027 381 8924 or secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz.

Nāku, iti noa, nā

Peter Scott
Chair, Canterbury Regional Transport Committee
Chair, Canterbury Regional Council

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

Canterbury Regional Transport Committee and Canterbury Mayoral Forum feedback on the draft Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024

Do you agree with the strategic priorities and direction that are outlined in the draft GPS 2024?

1. We encourage further thought be given to the role of transport to reducing emissions and improving accessibility for our communities, and the contribution these can have to achieving the sought outcomes of this GPS. The priorities of this draft GPS have little focus on these key transport-related outcomes, which is a significant omission and should be given more attention in the final GPS. We support the strategic priorities as outlined in the draft GPS subject to these omissions being addressed.
2. We strongly support the introduction of *Increased maintenance and resilience* as a new strategic priority in this draft GPS. Maintenance is the top investment priority for Canterbury, reflected in both the 2021-31 Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) and draft 2024-34 Canterbury RLTP. The focus on improved safety and freight systems in the draft 2024-34 Canterbury RLTP also has good alignment with the direction of this draft GPS and will benefit from greater investment in the maintenance of our roading network.
3. Our region has a number of strategic routes that are highly vulnerable to disruption from natural hazards – greater recognition of our resilience challenges¹ is something we have long advocated for. We strongly support the emphasis placed on resilience as a strategic priority in this draft GPS. Increasing the resilience of our transport network is critical to Canterbury and the South Island. We look forward to working with this Government to begin addressing the significant resilience issues facing the people and places of Canterbury.
4. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's *Plan for Canterbury* highlights the significant cost of improving the resilience of our flood protection schemes; to protect not only our local assets, but also national state highway and rail assets, as articulated in [Before the Deluge](#) prepared for Te Uru Kahika. The importance of continuing to invest in flood protection schemes was highlighted by the flooding of the Rangitata River in 2019, which cut access across both SH1 and SH79, and the rail corridor, meaning goods couldn't get through to the lower South Island.

Do you agree with the overarching priority of economic growth and productivity outlined in the draft GPS 2024?

5. We expect the overarching priority of economic growth and productivity will be assessed in a balanced manner alongside other relevant outcomes. We support this priority with a balanced assessment applied.
6. The Ministry of Transport's *Transport Outcomes Framework* sets a purpose for the transport system centred around the wellbeing of New Zealanders and the liveability of places. It outlines five outcome areas to contribute to this purpose: inclusive access, healthy and safe people, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, and resilience and security. A holistic view of transport

investment, such as outlined in the *Transport Outcomes Framework*, must be taken to ensure a range of outcomes are delivered that benefit our infrastructure, environment, and communities.

7. For the 2021-24 period, Canterbury received just 5-8% of the forecasted National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) expenditure. This is despite our region representing approximately 12% of New Zealand's population, contributing 12% of national GDP and having over 16% of the national roading network.² Canterbury continues to experience significant population, tourism, and economic growth, but has not seen an adequate level of funding through previous NLTP periods to effectively support the growth and productivity of our regional economy, and contribute to the long-term vision for our region.
8. In this context, we expect to see double the share of NLTP expenditure we received in the 2021-24 period returned to be spent in Canterbury in the 2024-27 period (10-16%).

Do you agree that the 15 Roads of National Significance, and the Roads of Regional Significance, will boost economic growth and productivity?

9. A second bridge in Ashburton will provide increased resilient connections for people and freight between Christchurch and Timaru, and beyond to the lower South Island. It is the top ranked project in the draft 2024-34 Canterbury RLTP. We strongly support the identification of the Second Ashburton Bridge in this draft GPS, recognising the resilience, access, freight efficiency and economic growth benefits associated with this major transport project. We request this critical project for both Canterbury and the South Island be included as a Road of National Significance in the final GPS, alongside the Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass project, rather than as a Road of Regional Significance.
10. We thank the Government for its commitment to delivering the Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass project with its inclusion as a Road of National Significance in this draft GPS. This major transport project is important to our communities and will support improved safety and access outcomes, and economic growth, in our region and beyond. We look forward to working with the Government as this project is progressed during this GPS period.
11. We request that the Canterbury Package identified in Appendix B of the draft GPS be expanded to include improved connections on SH1 between Timaru's port (PrimePort Timaru) and Christchurch. PrimePort Timaru is an important access point for the lower South Island in situations where state highway and/or rail links are disrupted, making it critical to national resiliency.
12. When the Alpine Fault earthquake occurs – research indicating there is a 75% probability of it occurring in the next 50 years, PrimePort Timaru will be a key enabler of the movement of essential supplies both north and south. It is the only port in the South Island able to receive oversized goods for electricity generation. Investment in the Port's southern entrance will greatly strengthen access to this strategic asset and ensure movement of freight and supplies to the South Island during future emergency events.

Do you have any comments on the intention to improve public transport through completing Rapid Transit Corridors set out in the draft GPS 2024?

13. There is no mention in this draft GPS of public transport in Canterbury. This is a striking omission, especially given Greater Christchurch is the second largest and one of the fastest-growing urban areas in New Zealand. The lack of commitment to delivering improved public transport in Greater Christchurch in the draft GPS does not accurately reflect the importance of this urban area to Canterbury, the South Island and New Zealand, and the role that public transport needs to play to enable its ongoing growth and productivity.
14. Public transport in Canterbury comes in various forms. Greater Christchurch has a metro bus network, Timaru has an on-demand public transport service, and smaller districts have Total Mobility and Community Vehicle Trust schemes. Public transport is a key enabler of growth in Canterbury's urban areas, and there are strong expectations from our communities to see significantly enhanced public transport in these areas in the near future.
15. We therefore request the inclusion of the Greater Christchurch Public Transport Futures (PT Futures) programme as a major public transport project on page 13 of the draft GPS.
16. The PT Futures programme includes the delivery of planned improvements to the existing bus network in Greater Christchurch, and the planning and delivery of a Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) service that would offer a high capacity and frequency 'turn-up-and-go' service along the strategic growth corridors. This has been endorsed in the recently completed Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan. Delivering PT Futures is the second highest ranked project in the draft Canterbury RLTP 2024-34 and is critical to achieving a productive urban form, unlocking increased housing supply and choice, and reducing congestion in Greater Christchurch.
17. The work on MRT in Greater Christchurch has identified a preferred route and positive benefit cost ratio, and the agreement of all partners to progress it to the Detailed Business Case stage. PT Futures, including MRT, would be no less transformational for Greater Christchurch than the North-West Rapid Transit projects are to Auckland, or the Harbour Quay bus corridors are to Wellington. It requires the commitment of all partners to progress.
18. We have a narrowing window of opportunity to deliver the MRT component in Greater Christchurch at a cost that is net positive for Government. This requires the commitment of all partners to progress it with urgency.

Do you agree with the stronger focus on road maintenance outlined in the draft GPS 2024?

19. We strongly support the stronger focus on road maintenance in the draft GPS 2024. In the Canterbury draft RLTP 2024-34, 'Create a well-maintained network' (i.e. increased maintenance of our roading network) is identified as the top ten-year investment priority.
20. Many of our road and rail bridges in Canterbury are also approaching the end of their design life and are in need of renewal. This includes the three oldest bridges on New Zealand's state highway network, which are located between the Timaru and Selwyn districts. This package of bridge

renewal projects in Canterbury, and more widely across the South Island, represents a major programme of work to improve the resilience of our road and rail networks in New Zealand. This should be a priority for the Government.

21. As extreme weather events continue to effect Canterbury, there is a risk the proposed funding levels for maintenance will prove insufficient and network condition will continue to decline.
22. We ask that clearly defined activity classes and fulsome guidance is provided by NZTA for the maintenance activity classes once the NZTA Board finalises the NLTP spend. This will ensure our Road Controlling Authorities can efficiently plan and invest in their programmes of work and ensure that maintenance and renewal targets can be met.
23. The efficient use of electronic Road User Charges (RUC) for heavy vehicles is a great tool to charge and incentivise making the right decisions for use of different transport choices and ensure heavier vehicles are paying their fair share towards road maintenance. We encourage the Government to make better use of this technology to ensure heavy vehicle RUC are equivalent to the consumption of roads, not subsidised by taxes and local rates.

Do you have any comments on the Government's priority to create a Pothole Prevention Fund across two activity classes to ringfence maintenance funding to help address the record number of potholes on our roads?

24. We expect that robust definitions and guidance will be developed in relation to the Pothole Prevention Fund to empower Road Controlling Authorities in Canterbury to use the fund efficiently and effectively.
25. We support the approach of this draft GPS to ringfence funds for the purpose of addressing the rise in the number of potholes and prevent the further deterioration of our local road and state highway networks.

Do you agree with the comments in the draft GPS 2024 that NZTA should explore a variety of funding and financing options for all major transport projects to help address New Zealand's infrastructure deficit?

26. We remain deeply concerned about the long-term land transport funding situation in New Zealand. We urge that the work being undertaken by the Ministry of Transport on the Future of the Transport Revenue System review be progressed as a priority and that there is consideration for how local government could be empowered to develop local funding solutions as part of this work. Securing local funding share is a big challenge for local government given the limited funding levers available.
27. We recognise that the funding available nationally does not adequately reflect the needs of our region, however are supportive of the directive for NZTA to explore a variety of funding options for delivering major transport projects in New Zealand.

Do you agree with the outcomes expected to be achieved through the draft GPS 2024?

28. We question the ability of this GPS to build sector capability when the available funding for the investment management activity class is proposed to decrease. This activity class supports building a more robust understanding of the benefits that our planned investment will deliver, which in turn supports more informed decision making.
29. We welcome the opportunity for regional deals between central and local government as a way to work together to achieve shared goals for Canterbury and build on the strong collaborative working arrangements we have already established in Canterbury. This approach would help achieve the numerous outcomes sought by this GPS.
30. We continue to advocate for further consideration being given to freight moved by rail and coastal shipping, and how it can contribute to economic growth and productivity in Canterbury and the South Island. Integrated freight systems that connect to rail, air and sea have positive efficiency benefits.

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

19 April 2024

Environment Committee

Submitted online at www.parliament.nz

Tēnā koe

Canterbury Mayoral Forum Submission to the Environment Committee on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill

1. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum thanks the Environment Committee for the opportunity to provide a submission the Fast-track Approvals Bill.

Background and context

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury), supported by our chief executives. The purpose of the Forum is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.
3. The eleven local authorities are: Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council.
4. The Forum's Mayoral Plan for Canterbury 2023-25 identifies three priority issues for leadership and advocacy, all of which intersect with the purpose and focus of the Fast-track Approvals Bill and underpin this submission:
 - a. **Sustainable environmental management of our habitats** (land, air, water and ecosystems) – focusing on land use and freshwater management
 - b. **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

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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*Ashburton District Council • Canterbury Regional Council • Christchurch City Council • Hurunui District Council
Kaikōura District Council • Mackenzie District Council • Selwyn District Council • Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council • Waimate District Council • Waitaki District Council*

- c. **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.

5. The following submission has been developed with input from across Canterbury Councils and focuses on matters of general agreement. Some of our Councils will make individual submissions, which while in general alignment with this submission, will be slightly different on some matters.
6. Please note that Ashburton District Council did not participate in the development of this regional submission and will be providing its own submission on the Bill.
7. The Forum acknowledges the significant amount of work the Government has undertaken in developing the Fast-track Approvals Bill in a short space of time. The Forum generally supports the need for an efficient and effective approval process to deliver much needed infrastructure projects that have national and regional benefit. It also sees merit in bundling the consideration and determination of multiple approvals for applicants and taking an integrated approach to related approvals. It notes the Bill creates opportunities to build critical infrastructure with less time, cost and impact on ratepayers.
8. Notwithstanding, the Forum has some concerns about the Fast-track Approvals Bill and considers that several important changes are required to address these concerns. The key changes requested are set out in the following section.
9. The Forum wishes to speak to the Environment Committee in support of this submission.

Key amendments requested

Amend the Bill's purpose

10. The Forum considers the Fast-track Approvals Bill could be improved by clarifying it is focused on creating expedient decision-making processes. As the Bill stands, it risks perception that project delivery will be prioritised at the expense of achieving key environmental objectives, which the Forum does not consider to be the intended balance.
11. While the Forum recognises the RMA has issues that need to be addressed, we consider there are significant risks if this and other key environmental statutes are completely 'skipped over' by the process laid out in the Bill.
12. Significant effects on the environment and subsequent, vocal public opposition could result if the Bill does not show how environmental objectives will be considered. This disruption could slow or complicate investment and development and impact social cohesion, thereby fettering Government's long-term social, economic and environmental goals.

Reduce potential chokepoints for processing applications

13. The Fast-track Approvals Bill provides the Joint Ministers¹ with significant key roles in the approvals process including:
 - a. referring applications
 - b. determining referral applications from the Panel
 - c. determining substantive decisions on fast-track applications
 - d. selection of panel conveners and panel members
 - e. dismissing panel conveners
 - f. deviating from the panel's recommendation on a referral application.
14. The Forum considers the extent of Ministerial involvement will be practically difficult for the Joint Ministers to resource and administer given:
 - a. the size and complexity of national and regional scale developments
 - b. the multiple approvals required
 - c. the large number of approval applications that are likely to be lodged directly with the Joint Ministers.
15. This could create significant capacity issues for the Joint Ministers, lead to delays and therefore be contrary to achieving the purpose of the Bill.
16. As an alternative, the Forum considers there could be opportunities for Ministers to direct an independent authority that specialise in environmental approvals (e.g. the Environment Court, Environmental Protection Agency or Commissioners) to process and determine approvals.
17. If the Government wishes to pursue the Joint Ministers approach, the Forum requests that:
 - a. the Minister for the Environment is included to ensure environmental matters are given proper consideration
 - b. appropriate checks and balances are in place through the legislation to reduce perception of political bias, now and into the future
 - c. the Bill provides clearer parameters around when and how the Ministers can overturn the Panel's recommendation. The Bill should be specific about what analysis and/or evidence the Ministers must have to undertake to deviate from the Panel's recommendations, particularly if there will be significant environmental effects. The Forum is of the view that Ministers should only be able to deviate from the Panel's recommendations in extenuating circumstances where specific criteria or rationale have been met, including appropriate technical input.
18. We note that several members of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum have different perspectives on this issue and refer you to individual Councils' submissions.

¹ Ministers of: Infrastructure; Transport; Regional Development; Conservation; and Crown Minerals Act

Provide for public participation, with appropriate constraints

19. The Forum is concerned about the limited role of public participation in the process laid out by the Fast-track Approvals Bill.
20. Very limited scope for public participation is provided for in the Fast-track Approvals Bill despite the national and regional significance of the projects that it relates to. Restrictions on public participation in the Fast-track Approvals Bill include:
 - a. no public or limited notification of applications is allowed
 - b. no requirement to hold hearings (although they can still occur)
 - c. no comment of parties allowed on the applicant's further information response
 - d. no appeal rights on the merit of the decision.
21. The Forum recognises that limits of public participation have been proposed as a compromise to increase the speed of decision-making. However, the Forum considers the proposed Bill 'overcorrects' by not retaining a necessary baseline of local democratic input. It runs the risk of disenfranchising communities and diminishing the effort the Council and community have put into their plans and policy statements.
22. The projects to which the Fast-track Approvals Bill relates will, by their nature, have significant potential effects on communities and the environment. An appropriate level of participation in matters that affect people is a key part of democracy, and will preserve private property rights, enjoyment and investment. It is our experience that not providing people who are affected by development with some form of participation rights in decision-making processes can create substantial discontent, which can slow or complicate that development.
23. It is also our experience that submissions from the local community provide useful information and evidence in relation to resource management matters. Further, it is appeal rights, not submissions, that slow down approval processes for major infrastructure and development projects. Given the Fast-track Approvals Bill does not have appeal rights on the merit of the decision and does not require hearings, the Forum considers it has addressed a factor that significantly slows the process.
24. With these matters in mind, the Forum considers that the Fast-track Approvals Bill should be amended to enable people can make a submission on a resource consent application, subject to constraints such as the submitters demonstrating they an interest in the project that is greater than that of the general public.

Clarify the significance criteria, particularly regarding national and regional benefits

25. The Forum supports the inclusion of the eligibility criteria and particularly the inclusion of criteria that requires projects to have significant national/regional benefits². However, the Forum has concerns about the drafting and application of the significance criteria.
26. The Forum's first and most particular concern is that the significance criteria are not mandatory matters for the Joint Ministers to consider. The issue this creates is that it provides Ministers with

² Section 17(3) Fast-track Approval Bill

unfettered autonomy as to what is considered nationally or regionally significant at any given time. This risks misalignment with national or regional strategies and may create uncertainty or a lack of transparency for those proposing projects. Accordingly, the Forum requests that the Fast-track Approvals Bill is amended so that the national and regional significance criteria under its section 17(3) are changed to be mandatory as opposed to discretionary consideration. The Forum also seeks involvement in the process of what counts as 'regionally significant' for Canterbury.

27. The Forum's second concern is about the terminology used in relation to projects that have '*significant national and regional benefits*'. This term is not defined and is therefore open to interpretation. The Forum considers a term such as 'long term significant national and regional public benefits' would be more appropriate. This distinguishes that the benefits should be public not private and acknowledges that it is inappropriate for the process to deal with projects that only have short term benefits. Conceivably, '*significant national and regional benefits*' could be interpreted as benefits applying to a private national or regional company or sector or occurring over a short duration.
28. The Forum also requests that it is involved in creating an operational definition for projects that are regionally significant for Canterbury. We have significant expertise and understanding of local and regional strategies and priorities, and would be concerned if a central definition of 'significant' were to come in over the top.
29. The Forum also considers that the use of the terms '*sector plan or strategy*' in Section 17(3)(a) is unclear and is open for interpretation. The Forum requests that this section only applies to identified priorities in central or local government plans or strategies.
30. The Forum also notes that the significance criterion 'support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions'³ could be interpreted to conflict with the significance criterion 'development of natural resource, including minerals and petroleum'⁴. The lack of a clear hierarchy or weighting between significance criteria could create confusion and uncertainty, and the potential conflict between these two in particular could complicate central or regional action on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Eligibility criteria for prohibited activities

31. Section 17(5) allows referral applications to be made for prohibited activities under the RMA. Prohibited activities are activities that have gone through a public plan making process and found to be inappropriate in a particular environment. The justification for prohibiting activities requires a high evidential basis and they are subject to extensive consultation with the community.
32. Accordingly, the Forum is concerned that prohibited activities are eligible for the referral application process. However, we also acknowledge that in certain circumstances it may be very difficult for major projects to avoid the inclusion of prohibited activities, and we recognise Government's intent to enable clear decision-making pathways.
33. With these matters in mind, the Forum requests that Section 17(5) of the Fast-track Approvals Bill is amended to only allow the consideration of prohibited activities in extenuating circumstances or when a project has a functional need to locate in that environment.

³ Section 17(3)(g)

⁴ Section 17(3)(f)

Improve the ineligibility criteria to reduce international reputational risk

34. The Forum broadly agrees with the ineligibility criteria.⁵ These could be augmented to include:
- a. world heritage areas;
 - b. nationally significant:
 - i. areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;
 - ii. outstanding natural landscapes and features;
 - iii. historic heritage.
35. Any development that has impacts on these areas could potentially damage New Zealand's international reputation.

Ensure Panel Members are appropriately experienced

36. The Forum supports the use of Expert Panels to consider approval applications. It also supports Councils being able to nominate elected members as it provides for local democratic input. Further, the Forum supports the ability to nominate non-elected panel members as it provides flexibility for Councils to ensure people with suitable expertise are nominated.
37. However, the Forum requests that the Expert Panel collectively has members that have a high level of knowledge, skills and expertise relevant to the parent legislation to which the approval relates. Presently, Clause 7 Schedule 3 only requires, amongst other things, the members of the panel to collectively have knowledge, skills and expertise relevant to the Fast-track Approvals Bill. While knowledge of the Fast-track Approvals Bill will be necessary, a high level of understanding and experience of the legislation to which the approvals relate (e.g. RMA, Conservation Act, etc.) will also be important to ensure impacts are understood.

Ensure timeframes for Council comment are realistic

38. Although the Forum supports the objective of the Fast-track Approvals Bill to expedite decision making, it considers the 10 working day timeframe for Councils to comment on applications to be unrealistic. By their nature, projects of national and regional significance are large and complex projects that include significant documentation and reports. This takes time to review and often requires detailed reporting and assessment from multiple Council units and/or outside experts. Like any government process, reports must go through an accountability process to be approved which also takes time.
39. The Forum considers a more realistic timeframe for Council comment would be 20 working days. Further, it is not just Councils that find short statutory timeframes difficult to comply with. It is our experience in processing applications under the Covid-19 Recovery Fast Track Act 2020 that applicants found the short statutory timeframes provided by that Act were impractical. Accordingly, the Forum requests that the 10 working day timeframe for the Council's comment is replaced with a more realistic timeframe, being 20 working days. In the grand scheme of significant projects, we do not consider this extension would create undue delays for development.

⁵ Section 18

Require an assessment of alternatives

40. Despite the Fast-track Approvals Bill applying to nationally or regionally significant projects, which may have significant potential adverse effects on the environment, the Bill does not require applications to provide information about consideration of alternatives (except for discharges).
41. As site/route selection is the primary means of avoiding or mitigating adverse effects, the Forum requests that the information requirements for new applications under Schedule 4 of the Bill include a description of any feasible alternatives. This would include an assessment of alternative locations, routes and methods for undertaking the activity and should be accompanied by a requirement to demonstrate the preferred location, route or method is the best alternative to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on the environment.

Provide for the inclusion of a sunset clause

42. The Forum considers the inclusion of a sunset clause or mandatory review period to put a time limit on this legislation is warranted. We would expect that the introduction of the new resource management structure and framework, once enacted, should do away with the need for bespoke fast-track legislation, as it is expected that this will be embedded as part of the new system.

Further information

43. Our secretariat is available to provide any further information or answer any questions about our submission. Contact details are: Maree McNeilly, Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat, secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz, 027 381 8924.

Nāku, iti noa, nā



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

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 31 May 2024

Presented by: Nigel Bowen Chair

Infrastructure discussion

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide background information to support the infrastructure discussion with Wayne Scott, CEO Aggregate and Quarrying Association and Ross Copland, CE New Zealand Infrastructure Commission Te Waihanga.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the information provided in this paper to support the infrastructure discussion with Wayne Scott, Aggregate and Quarrying Association and Ross Copland, New Zealand Infrastructure Commission – Te Waihanga.**

Background

2. The [Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury](#) provides the opportunity for the Forum to lead discussions on the drivers for change in Canterbury, which include our changing climate, regulation impacting on the future of land use, greenhouse gas emissions and water quality, the need to capture more of the value from the diverse agricultural food and fibre production in Canterbury and retain that value in the region to create more prosperity for our communities and businesses.
3. The Forum also wants to be at the forefront of discussions with central government on opportunities for regional and city deals that will benefit both Canterbury and New Zealand.
4. It is expected that the discussions around regional and city deals will have a strong infrastructure focus and today is an opportunity to hear from Wayne Scott, CEO of the Aggregate and Quarrying Association and Ross Copland, CE of New Zealand Infrastructure Commission – Te Waihanga, about the challenges and opportunities for the region, including questions on how we are going to meet housing and infrastructure demands into the future.

New Zealand Infrastructure Commission - Te Waihanga

5. The New Zealand Infrastructure Commission - Te Waihanga is an 'independent infrastructure body established to ensure that New Zealand gets the quality infrastructure

investment needed to improve our long-term economic performance and social wellbeing'. It is an autonomous Crown entity with primary functions of long-term strategy and planning for infrastructure, as well as procurement and delivery advice and support for major projects.

6. Ross Copland is the Chief Executive of the New Zealand infrastructure Commission-Te Waihangā. Ross has a background in the design, procurement, financing, and delivery of infrastructure as an engineer, an asset manager and a Chief Executive. He has worked in commercial construction and property on both sides of the Tasman.
7. The work of the Commission includes:
 - research and insights
 - supporting infrastructure projects
 - providing policy advice and submissions on key policy programmes
 - performance monitoring
 - infrastructure priority lists
 - reviews
8. The Commission has completed a [30-year strategy](#) (2022) that sets out the actions New Zealand needs to take over the next 30 years to make sure our infrastructure system meets the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The Mayoral Forum made a [submission](#) to the consultation document prepared by the Commission on the 30-year strategy.
9. The Strategy has 68 recommendations across seven sectors and the eleven following themes:
 - strengthening partnerships with and opportunities for Māori (1-3)
 - enabling net-zero carbon emissions Aotearoa (4-7)
 - supporting towns and regions to flourish (8-11)
 - building attractive and inclusive cities (12-24)
 - strengthening resilience to shocks and stresses (25-28)
 - moving to circular economy (29-37)
 - better decision-making (38-46)
 - improving funding and financing (47-56)
 - an enabling planning and consenting framework (57-60)
 - accelerating technology use (61-63)
 - building workforce capacity and capabilities (64-68)
10. The Commission has also developed a pipeline of works. The [Pipeline](#) is intended to facilitate improved project planning, coordination and delivery within New Zealand's

broader infrastructure system. Project information is provided directly from government agencies, councils, and private sector entities involved in providing infrastructure services across New Zealand. Contributors to the pipeline are responsible for what is disclosed, accuracy of information and fitness for purpose and publication.

11. The Commission website notes that while a level of project certainty is signalled by being published on the Pipeline, final approvals may be needed by Cabinet Ministers, or at board, executive level before a project comes to market.

Aggregate and Quarrying Association

12. The Aggregate and Quarrying Association (AQA) represents aggregate suppliers on all manner of industry, government, health and safety, technical and other issues.
13. AQA members produce in excess of an estimated 45 million tonnes of aggregate, limestone and allied products each year, which is about 9-10 tonnes – or a truckload, for every New Zealander. Members produce the aggregates which form the foundation and walls of almost every building across the nation as well most roads. Quarries also supply allied raw materials such as limestone for agricultural production.
14. The work of the AQA includes:
 - advocacy with, and lobbying of central and local government
 - submissions on local and regional plans
 - planning support and advice for members
 - technical support for members and users of our products
 - community engagement on the importance and significance of aggregates
 - communicate with members on international trends and learnings
 - liaison through MinEx on Health and Safety issues
 - promote and support industry training through engagement with MITO and IOQNZ
15. Wayne Scott is the Chief Executive of AQA, and has been in the role since October 2018. Wayne also jointly acts as CEO of MinEx, which oversees health and safety for mining/extractive industries. Wayne has worked for many years in quarries, and quarry and mine safety in Australia.
16. Wayne recently reached out to councils across New Zealand outlining the work of the AQA, noting the reliance on locally sourced aggregate resources for providing the foundations for infrastructure, housing, major projects and local and national roads and rail corridors, and the fact that some of our cities and towns now face increasing congestion, emissions and cost pressures to sustainably source aggregate.
17. As with any mineral, quarry materials are not universally available and can only be sourced from where they are located. The key cost factor for aggregate is transport. The cost of a truckload doubles in the first 30km and continues to rise from there on.

18. The AQA is asking the Government to give local authorities greater direction in planning for key resource areas. In order to protect existing and future quarries from such encroachment as urban expansion and rural lifestyle developments, councils need to know where rock resources are and how to plan to protect them.
19. The AQA has made recent media releases about the following topics that may be of interest to Forum members:
 - Fast-Track needs quarries to be included as an approved project to achieve desired progress ([March 2024](#))
 - Enabling the quarrying industry to remove shingle from rivers to reduce flood risk ([July 2023](#))
 - Council support for quarries in post-quake Christchurch as a model for enabling effective rebuild ([July 2023](#))

Central Government policy position

20. The Coalition Government intends to establish a National Infrastructure Agency, and develop a 30-year National Infrastructure Plan, with three main parts:
 - a National Infrastructure Pipeline - building on the existing pipeline from the Infrastructure Commission
 - an assessment of infrastructure priorities
 - an infrastructure needs assessment
21. It is also looking to enhance the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act, explore new funding and financing tools that support councils, and create incentives for councils to facilitate the construction of more housing.
22. The Coalition Government has signalled new direction on resource management reform, including the National Policy Statements on Freshwater, Highly Productive Land and Indigenous Biodiversity. It has introduced the Fast-track Approvals Bill. All of these will have an impact on infrastructure delivery.

Suggested discussion questions

23. What specific issues are your organisations currently working on?
24. From your experience, what are the things that councils (territorial authorities and regional councils) are doing well in the infrastructure space, what could we be doing better, what should we stop doing?
25. What are the necessary skills and experience that we need to invest in for our people in the delivery of infrastructure, particularly large infrastructure projects?
26. What are some of the risks to delivering infrastructure, particularly those risks that are not getting enough airtime?

27. How can we elevate those risks to the appropriate level to ensure they are being considered?