

## Canterbury Mayoral Forum achievements 2019-2022

1. This report provides a summary of progress and achievements of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum at the end of the 2019-2022 local government term.

### Regional forums

2. The Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2019–22 mandates the work of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Chief Executives Forum, Policy Forum, Corporate Forum, Operations Forum and other regional and sub-regional forums and working groups (see Appendix 1). Regional forums generally meet quarterly.
3. As agreed in the Mayoral Forum Charter of Purpose, Environment Canterbury hosts a permanent regional forums secretariat: 2 FTE staff (funded through the regional general rate) and a Project Co-ordinator.

### Plan for Canterbury

4. In September 2020, the Mayoral Forum launched its Plan for Canterbury.
5. The Plan sets out the Mayoral Forum's vision for sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity. To expand on this, the Mayoral Forum's vision is that in Canterbury, all of us together:
  - care for our natural resources to secure both present and future opportunities
  - create shared economic prosperity so no one is left behind
  - nurture caring, hope and kindness, standing strong together to withstand and adapt to challenges and change
  - celebrate our diverse identities – and take pride in our common identity as Cantabrians.
6. For the remainder of the local government term (2020–22), the Forum focused on five priorities where it can make a difference through leadership, advocacy and enabling partnerships. The priorities are:
  - a. Sustainable environmental management of our habitats (land, air, water and ecosystems), focusing on land use and freshwater management.

### *Mayors standing together for Canterbury.*

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- b. Shared economic prosperity – through sustainable, value-added primary production, high-value manufacturing, high-value tourism, growing attracting and retaining a skilled workforce and attracting new businesses.
  - c. Better freight transport options – mode shift to optimise movement of long-distance freight by rail and coastal shipping to improve road safety, decrease carbon emissions and reduce wear and tear on the region’s roads.
  - d. Climate change mitigation and adaptation – reducing our carbon footprint, building community resilience and making our infrastructure as strong as it can be.
  - e. Three Waters services – securing safe drinking-water supplies, and ensuring that infrastructure, institutional arrangements and regulation enable the sustainable management of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater in Canterbury.
7. The Mayoral Forum’s three-year work programme reflects priorities identified in the plan, and delivery of this is overseen by the Chief Executives Forum, which reports quarterly to the Mayoral Forum.

## **Sustainable environmental management of our habitats**

### ***Oversight of CWMS***

8. The Mayoral Forum has maintained active oversight of the implementation of the CWMS, receiving regular and comprehensive reporting on progress. To re-engage communities and stakeholders to nurture commitment to delivering the CWMS, the Mayoral Forum endorsed revised terms of reference for Zone Committees in November 2020.
9. In May 2019, the Mayoral Forum signed off on a review of the CWMS and agreed goals for 2025 and 2030. Environment Canterbury has led development of an implementation plan (with resource implications), to inform development of councils’ annual plans for 2020/21 and Long-term Plans for 2021–28. The Forum discussed progress on the CWMS at each Forum meeting.
10. The Mayoral Forum continues to work in partnership with Environment Canterbury on assessing the implications of Essential Freshwater reforms on the direction and implementation of the CWMS into the future.

### ***Biodiversity champions***

11. The Mayoral Forum supported the formation of a working group of Canterbury councillors to increase governance-level engagement on biodiversity issues and opportunities across all Canterbury councils. This working group, the Biodiversity Champions, responds to a need for local government to work closely together to implement new national direction for biodiversity and support the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.

### ***Advocacy on Essential Freshwater reforms***

12. To acknowledge the impact of these reforms on communities across the region, the Mayoral Forum established an Essential Freshwater Steering Group to oversee a regional response to the Essential Freshwater package with a focus on community engagement and the development of a Communications Plan.

## **Resource management reform**

13. The Mayoral Forum has been a strong advocate for local voice in the resource management reform process, advocating with the Minister for the Environment, providing detailed submissions on consultation processes, and meeting regularly with the Ministry for the Environment to provide ideas and give feedback on proposals. This work will continue in the next local government term as the reform progresses.

## **Shared economic prosperity**

14. Canterbury councils and local rūnanga invest considerable time and effort in building and maintaining authentic partnerships for the benefit of the region. It was in this spirit that in 2021 the Mayoral Forum and the Chairs of the ten Canterbury Papatipu Rūnanga begun building a closer relationship as a collective to work together for the greater wellbeing of Canterbury's people and land. The group agreed to meet twice a year to establish an enduring and trusted partnership.
15. The Mayoral Forum supported and helped leverage funding to Canterbury councils from Crown Infrastructure Partners' shovel-ready fund in 2020. The Ashburton, Hurunui, Kaikōura, Timaru and Waimakariri District Councils, Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury secured a total of \$127m in funding on projects the Forum supported, including:
  - a co-ordinated package of flood protection works across Canterbury (Environment Canterbury, \$15.5m)
  - South Express and Nor'West Arc cycleway routes (Christchurch City Council, \$18m as part of a wider package of cycleway funding)
  - Ashburton District Civic Centre and Library upgrade (Ashburton District Council, \$20m)
  - Conical Hill flyline in Hanmer Springs (Hurunui District Council, \$2m)
  - Kaikōura Aquatic Centre (Kaikōura District Council, \$1m)
  - Theatre Royal update and new heritage facility (Timaru District Council, \$11.6m)
  - Kaiapoi stormwater and flood protection works (Waimakariri District Council, \$9m)
  - accelerated rollout of the Rural Broadband Initiative phase 2 (\$50m).
16. The Forum has advocated with ministers for education and immigration policies that deliver a skilled workforce now and into the future, and submitted on the Productivity Commission's consultation on New Zealand's immigration settings. It supported the Education and Training Governance Group and has commenced formal engagement with the Canterbury Regional Skills Leadership Group. The Forum also visited Lincoln University, Canterbury University and Ara, meeting with senior staff to build relationships and learn more about the work of each institute.
17. In late 2021 the Forum established a Regional Economic Development Group, tasked with supporting the promotion of regional priorities for central government funding, either through the Regional Strategic Partnership Fund or other funding avenues. This group is supported by economic development agencies across the region and met regularly in 2022.
18. Maintaining momentum and finalising CREDS projects also continued. Details on this work are provided later in this report.

19. The Mayoral Forum supported collaboration on development of 2021-24 Long-Term Plans by reconvening the Long-Term Plan Working Group, chaired by a member of the Chief Executives Forum.

### **Better freight transport options**

20. The Mayoral Forum together with the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) hosted a freight tour of key Canterbury freight facilities, covering Christchurch International Airport, Lyttelton Port, Move Logistics and PrimePort Timaru. The tour was attended by members of the Mayoral Forum and RTC, along with some local Members of Parliament.
21. The final part of the freight tour was completed in August 2022 by a visit with KiwiRail officials and a tour of a section of the rail freight network between Christchurch and Rakaia.
22. The Mayoral Forum and RTC met with the Minister of Transport in May 2021 to discuss a wide range of transport matters affecting the region. Ongoing engagement with the Ministry of Transport and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency has enabled further conversations on matters of mutual interest.
23. The Mayoral Forum has supported advocacy by the RTC to have greater engagement with KiwiRail, including advocating for KiwiRail to have a seat at the RTC table.

### **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**

24. The regional Climate Change Working Group established by the Chief Executives Forum in 2017 and the Climate Change Steering Group established by the Mayoral Forum in 2019 continue to address climate change adaptation for Canterbury.
25. The Steering Group has ensured the Mayoral Forum has a strong voice with central government on climate change matters, including coordinating regional submissions on government-led climate initiatives. The Mayoral Forum led the launch of the *It's time, Canterbury* climate change engagement campaign in 2021, and has maintained a keen interest in supporting the campaign across the region throughout the rest of this term.
26. The Steering Group also oversaw the development of a key climate change document for the region – the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment, published in February 2022. This document is a detailed technical report that assesses climate risks in the region, and provides an evidence base for adaptation planning work across the region. The Steering Group has since provided advice and guidance to the Climate Change Working Group on regional adaptation planning, which will be a focus in the next local government term.
27. As part of its work, the Steering Group also established a group of Canterbury climate change councillors to ensure ongoing connections across the region on climate matters. The group met a number of times in 2021 and 2022, and included presentations from guest speakers, including the Climate Change Commission.

### **Three Waters services**

28. In light of the Government's three waters reform agenda, the Mayoral Forum convened a Three Waters Steering Group to oversee the delivery of the Canterbury Three Waters Service Delivery Review project. This project was undertaken in partnership with Ngāi Tahu. The

project was undertaken to understand the probable impacts of the government's three waters reform on Canterbury councils. The Three Waters Service Delivery Review project was completed in May 2021.

## **Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS)**

29. The Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) was introduced in August 2015 and established a number of initiatives for the Mayoral Forum. Most projects initiated under the CREDS are complete, with one continuing into the current local government term.
30. The following projects are complete:
  - mapping of Canterbury's state highways for mobile blackspots, with the top ten mobile blackspots agreed by stakeholders from Canterbury councils and emergency management agencies, and advocacy undertaken to resolve these gaps
  - with the agreement of all South Island Mayors and Chairs, a South Island Destination Management Plan for sustainable tourism was developed, with support from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and Tourism New Zealand. COVID-19 interrupted progress with the Plan, though work on an appropriate approach to sustainable tourism continues
  - ChristchurchNZ along with the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University will continue to resource a more specific Job Ready programme over the next year that will mentor international student graduates into jobs. A work integrated learning model programme is being developed which will eventually replace Job Ready.
31. Following the establishment of Aoraki Development's My Next Move youth transitions programme in South Canterbury, the programme is being adapted for other regions, and has received further Ministry of Social Development funding.
32. ChristchurchNZ and the University of Canterbury are nearing completion on delivery of a multi-year project to boost value-added production focused on food, fibre and agritech and high-value manufacturing. This includes exploration of industry 'clusters' that exist and exploring how best to support and grow them; facilitating industry events, including the annual Food, Fibre and Agritech Challenge, many of whom that have entered are now being mentored to grow their businesses; and the production of industry roadmaps that will support new businesses in finding the right pathways to market. This work will complete on 30 June 2023.
33. Following the success of the project to map mobile blackspots on state highways, the Forum funded a follow-up project in 2022 to map blackspots on local roads. Once complete, the Forum advocated with telecommunications companies and Crown Infrastructure Partners to resolve the blackspots. Significant progress on resolving many of the blackspots has now been made.

## **COVID-19 response**

34. The Mayoral Forum increased its meeting frequency during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 to ensure members could stay across developing regional issues.
35. The Forum identified the need for high-level oversight of COVID-19 readiness, response, recovery and renewal and a mechanism for communication between central and local

government in Canterbury. This resulted in the formation of a Canterbury COVID-19 Oversight Group, co-chaired by the Chair of the Chief Executives Forum. In 2021, this group formed part of the central government-facilitated Regional Leadership Group, which has responsibility for regional coordination of the COVID-19 response. Forum members have been strong advocates within this group for their communities.

36. The Mayoral Forum also took the following actions in response to the impact of COVID-19 on the Canterbury region since March 2020:

- set up a shared workspace in 2020 for Canterbury communications managers to coordinate and align communications in the region
- advocated strongly for councils in regard to the timing of annual plans and LTPs, and implications for audit, rates and council finances
- advocated for mayors to receive confidential pre-release information on virus cases in their regions to avoid TAs finding out details through the media
- advocated for an accelerated roll-out of the Rural Broadband Initiative phase 2, and for progressing the Woodend bypass on State Highway 1 with central government
- advocated for rural communities on extensions to essential business categories
- provided general letters of support for employees at some Canterbury businesses, as well as letters of support for Entrada Travel Group and Sounds Air for financial aid/loans from central government
- advocated for the plight of migrant workers with work visas who are unable to (re-)enter the country, and the resulting impact on economic recovery
- advocated for fair phasing and prioritisation of Essential Freshwater reform implementation in Canterbury
- supported the establishment of an interim Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG) in 2020, co-chaired by the Chair of the Chief Executives Forum; and the establishment of a permanent RSLG in 2021
- publicly supported the vaccination rollout in 2021, advocating for eligible Cantabrians to receive their two vaccinations
- advocated with the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce for adequate government support for businesses affected by ongoing COVID-19 Protection Framework restrictions.

## **Other initiatives**

37. The following initiatives, identified in the previous local government term, are “business as usual” for the regional forums reporting through to the Mayoral Forum:

- health and safety collaboration
- collaboration on stormwater management planning and consenting
- co-ordination of natural hazard risk management
- continuing to build on the Canterbury Maps shared service
- collaboration in procurement and contract management
- contaminated land shared services
- regional economic development indicators monitoring
- regional leadership and support for strategic information and records management
- building control and regulatory co-ordination
- collaborative resource management planning and decision-making.

## Standing together for Canterbury

38. The Canterbury Policy Forum monitors central government policy and regulatory initiatives impacting on Canterbury and provides oversight of the development of regional submissions. Joint advocacy ('one strong voice for Canterbury') has been a strength of the Mayoral Forum.
39. The following tables summarise Mayoral Forum engagement and advocacy since local body elections in October 2019.

### Submissions

40. The Mayoral Forum made a large number of submissions on a wide range of topics this term. If the option was available, the Mayoral Forum took the opportunity to speak to the committee or agency managing the consultation after making its written submission.

Date	Audience	Subject
Oct 2019	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on Action for Healthy Waterways discussion document
Feb 2020	Resource Management Review Panel	Submission on Transforming the Resource Management System: Issues and Options Paper
Mar 2020	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on Proposed National Environment Standard for the outdoor storage of tyres
Mar 2021	Health Committee	Submission on the Water Services Bill
Mar 2021	Climate Change Commission	Submission on the Climate Change Commission's draft advice package to the Government
May 2021	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment	Submission on the Government's freedom camping discussion document
May 2021	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on proposed National Direction for industrial greenhouse gases
May 2021	Ministry of Transport	Joint submission with Regional Transport Committee on Hīkina te Kohupara discussion document (transport emissions)
Jun 2021	Infrastructure Commission	Submission on draft 30-year infrastructure strategy
Aug 2021	Environment Committee	Submission on the draft Natural and Built Environments Bill exposure draft
Nov 2021	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on emissions reduction plan discussion document
Dec 2021	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on draft waste strategy
Dec 2021	Productivity Commission	Submission on New Zealand's immigration settings
Dec 2021	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	Submission on economic regulation and consumer protection for three waters services in New Zealand discussion paper
Dec 2021	Pae Ora Legislation Committee	Submission on Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill

Date	Audience	Subject
Feb 2022	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on resource management reform consultation
Mar 2022	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on enabling local voice in resource management reform consultation
Mar 2022	Taumata Arowai	Submission on drinking water regulations
May 2022	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on Transforming Recycling consultation
July 2022	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on exposure draft of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
Aug 2022	Health Committee	Submission on the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smoked Tobacco) Amendment Bill
Sep 2022	Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee	Submission on Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Bill

## Letters and key meetings

Date	Audience	Subject
Dec 2019	New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST)	Letter of support for Ōtautahi/Christchurch as permanent location of the NZIST headquarters
Feb 2020	Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration, Energy and Resources, and Research, Science and Innovation	Spoke at Mayoral Forum dinner
Mar 2020	Canterbury Museum	Letter of support for Canterbury Museum's redevelopment project
Mar 2020	Canterbury Joint Waste Committee	Letter on Amberley tyre pile clean up
Mar 2020	Waste Minimisation Fund / Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund, Ministry for the Environment	Support for application from Accountability Action for Amberley tyre pile clean up
Mar 2020	Minister of Transport	Support for funding application: Upper Orari Bridge (SH79) two laning
Apr 2020	Crown Infrastructure Partners	Letters of support for applications to the shovel-ready fund for Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury and Ashburton, Hurunui, Kaikōura, Selwyn, Timaru, and Waimakariri District Councils, as well as the Wheels for Waipara cycleway project, the Woodend bypass, SH1, and support for an accelerated rollout of the Rural Broadband Initiative phase 2
Apr 2020	Minister for the Environment, Minister of Agriculture	Letter about the implementation of Essential Freshwater package
May 2020	Entrada Travel Group	Letter of support for Entrada Travel Group as an essential service
May 2020	Sounds Air	Letter of support for Sounds Air as an essential service



Date	Audience	Subject
May 2020	Leader of the National Party	Congratulations on appointment and invitation to Mayoral Forum dinner
Jun 2020	Minister of Immigration	Letter about the return of essential dairy workers to New Zealand
Jun 2020	Chair of the Climate Change Commission	Informal discussion of the work of the Climate Change Commission
Jul 2020	Kaiwhakahaere, Ngāi Tahu	Mayoral Forum engagement with papatipu rūnanga
Jul 2020	Minister for Infrastructure; Minister for Regional Economic Development	Letter about shovel-ready projects and COVID-19 recovery
Aug 2020	Greater Christchurch Group, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	Letter about S.71 proposal: Commercial film/video production facilities in Christchurch
Sep 2020	Minister of Conservation, Minister for Land Information, Associate Minister for the Environment	Attended Mayoral Forum
Sep 2020	Minister of Internal Affairs	Letter about the future of tourism and freedom camping
Sep 2020	Minister of Local Government; Chair Joint Three Waters Steering Committee, Department of Internal Affairs	Letter about Three Waters reform: regional allocation Canterbury
Sep 2020	Minister of Health	Letter about Canterbury District Health Board
Oct 2020	Kaiwhakahaere, Ngāi Tahu	Letter about Mayoral Forum engagement with papatipu rūnanga
Nov 2020	Electorate and list MPs in Canterbury	Briefing letters introducing the Mayoral Forum, its work and priorities; lunch with the Mayoral Forum
Dec 2020	Incoming Ministers	Briefing letters introducing the Mayoral Forum, its work and priorities, and request to meet with the Mayoral Forum
Feb 2021	Minister of Local Government	Letter about Three Waters Reform consultation
Feb 2021	Electorate and list MPs in Canterbury	Invitation on freight tour (a couple attended).
May 2021	Ministers, Crown Infrastructure Partners and telecommunications companies	Advocacy letters seeking action on mobile blackspot areas on Canterbury state highways
May 2021	Minister of Transport	Letter about integrated transport in Canterbury, <i>Hikina te Kohupara – Kia mauri ora ai te iwi – Transport Emissions: pathways to Net Zero by 2050</i> , integrated freight in Canterbury.
May 2021	Minister of Housing; Research & Innovation; Energy & Resources	Meeting to discuss spatial planning, social housing, innovation and economic performance, and rural doctors.
Jun 2021	Waka Kotahi; Minister of Transport	Advocacy letter on Waka Kotahi's NLTP funding

Date	Audience	Subject
Jun 2021	Minister for Emergency Management	Advocacy letters on Canterbury flooding and funding
Jun 2021	Minister of Housing	Advocacy letter on the Housing Accelerator Fund
Jul 2021	Minister of Health	Advocacy letter on ambulance funding
Aug 2021	Minister of Local Government	Letter seeking pause to three waters reform programme
Aug 2021	Taituarā, Ministry for the Environment, Local Government New Zealand and the Department of Internal Affairs	Letters advocating for Canterbury voice on national working groups and committees
Aug 2021	Basil Chamberlain	Letter of support for co-investment by the Government for flood protection
Sep 2021	Minister of Economic and Regional Development	Letter advocating support from the Government to progress freight transport projects in the region
Sep 2021	Minister of Transport	Joint letter with Regional Transport Committee on transport network resilience in Canterbury
Sep 2021	Mayor of Auckland	Letter acknowledging the impact of Alert Level 4 on Aucklanders and thanking them for their continued efforts
Sep 2021	Minister of Agriculture	Advocacy letter seeking support for Hurunui farmers following strong wind event
Sep 2021	Minister of Local Government	Meeting to discuss three waters reform
Oct 2021	Minister for the Environment	Meeting to discuss Essential Freshwater and resource management reform
Nov 2021	Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency	Joint meeting with Regional Transport Committee to discuss key transport issues
Nov 2021	Canterbury MPs	Lunch with Mayoral Forum
Nov 2021	Ministry for the Environment	Meeting to discuss resource management reform
Nov 2021	Ministry for the Environment	Letter following meeting with the Ministry earlier in November
Dec 2021	Ministry for the Environment	Meeting on resource management reform
Feb 2022	Chairs of Canterbury's Papatipu Rūnanga	Letter proposing engagements between the Forum and Rūnanga chairs in 2022
Feb 2022	Ministers, Crown Infrastructure Partners and telecommunications companies	Advocacy letters seeking action on mobile blackspot areas on Canterbury local roads
Mar 2022	Canterbury District Health Board	Letter advocating for reopening of rural hospitals as soon as possible
Mar 2022	Crown Infrastructure Partners and telecommunications companies	Meeting to discuss resolving mobile blackspots in Canterbury
Mar 2022	Canterbury University	Letter congratulating Amy Adams on appointment as Chancellor of Canterbury University

Date	Audience	Subject
Mar 2022	Minister of Health	Letter seeking meeting to discuss the health reform transition process
Apr 2022	Minister of Finance and Minister for Small Business	Joint letter with the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce advocating for urgent support for Canterbury businesses impacted by ongoing pandemic-related restrictions
Apr 2022	Canterbury District Health Board	Letter advocating for reopening of rural hospitals as soon as possible
May 2022	Public Service Commission	Letter seeking a meeting for chief executives with the Public Service Commissioner to discuss the impact on councils of central government agencies' ongoing recruitment of large numbers of council staff to implement the Government's range of reform programmes. Meeting with Deputy Public Service Commissioner held in September 2022.
Jun 2022	Associate Minister of Local Government	Letter congratulating the Associate Minister on his appointment and invitation to attend August Mayoral Forum
Aug 2022	University of Canterbury	Letter thanking the University for hosting the Mayoral Forum in July and inviting them to engage further with the Forum in the next term
Aug 2022	Rob Campbell, Chair Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand	Letter thanking Rob Campbell for meeting with the Forum and inviting him to meet with the Forum again next term
Aug 2022	Minister David Parker	Meeting to discuss Resource Management Reforms
Aug 2022	Minister Megan Woods	Working dinner with the Mayoral Forum prior to the August Forum meeting
Aug 2022	KiwiRail	Letter thanking KiwiRail for hosting the Forum and Regional Transport Committee on a rail freight tour
Aug 2022	Kaikōura District Council	Letter of support for Kaikōura South Bay Harbour business case
Sep 2022	David Ayers and Jim Palmer	Letter of thanks to acknowledge contribution to the Forum's Education and Training Governance Group during 2015-20

# Appendix: Regional forums and working groups

## Canterbury Regional Forums and Working Groups October 2022



### REGIONAL FORUMS SECRETARIAT (hosted by Environment Canterbury)

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