

Canterbury Mayoral Forum achievements 2016–19

1. This report provides a summary of progress and achievements of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum during the 2016–19 local government term.

Regional forums

2. The Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2017–19 mandates the work of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Chief Executives Forum, Policy Forum and other regional and sub-regional forums and working groups (see Appendix 1). Regional forums generally meet quarterly.
3. In 2017, the Chief Executives Forum established two additional regional forums (Corporate Forum, Operations Forum) to co-ordinate the activities of regional working groups. The Corporate and Operations Forums are proving to be a useful vehicle for sharing information, resources and capability between larger and smaller councils across the region.
4. As agreed in the Mayoral Forum Charter of Purpose, Environment Canterbury hosts a permanent regional forums secretariat hosted by Environment Canterbury: 2 FTE staff (funded through the regional general rate) and a CREDS Project Manager (fixed term, funded by a grant from the Provincial Growth Fund until December 2020).

Work programme

5. In February 2017, the Mayoral Forum approved a three-year work programme. The Chief Executives Forum oversees its implementation and reports quarterly to the Mayoral Forum.
6. The following projects are complete or will be complete by December 2019:
 - collaboration on development of 2018–21 Long-term Plans
 - integrated, multi-modal regional land transport planning and investment
 - a stocktake (with NZTA) of the resilience of the roading network in Canterbury
 - research to understand visitor transport flows across the South Island
 - establishment of a South Island Regional Transport Chairs network
 - identifying and mapping remaining gaps in mobile and broadband coverage in Canterbury
 - gathering and publishing stories about uptake and use of digital technologies to improve productivity in rural Canterbury

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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- expanding the Job Ready programme to mentor international student graduates into jobs in export-facing businesses across the region (with ChristchurchNZ)
 - developing the 'Canterbury story' with a web-based library of open source images, videos and other marketing assets (with ChristchurchNZ)
 - developing a South Island major events web tool to support co-ordination and marketing of major events (with ChristchurchNZ)
 - investigating the business case for reintroducing rail passenger services south of Christchurch
 - participating in Immigration New Zealand's *Welcoming Communities* pilot programme (Ashburton and Selwyn District Councils)
 - investigation of opportunities to increase consistency of engineering standards across the region
 - investigation of options for collaboration in valuation and rating services.
7. The following projects have become incorporated into "business as usual":
- 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 Act planning and decision making.
8. The following major, multi-year projects will continue into the 2019–22 local government term.
- In May 2019, the Mayoral Forum signed off on a review of the CWMS and agreed goals for 2025 and 2030. Environment Canterbury will lead 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.
 - ChristchurchNZ and the University of Canterbury are delivering a multi-year project to boost value-added production focused on food, fibre and agritech and high-value manufacturing.
 - With the agreement of all South Island Mayors and Chairs, we are developing a South Island Destination Management Plan for sustainable tourism, 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.
 - The Canterbury Drinking Water Reference Group co-ordinated a strategic assessment of drinking-water supplies and is supporting the Mayoral Forum to respond to the Government's 3 Waters reform proposals as these emerge.
 - Aoraki Development's MynextMove youth transitions programme is well established in South Canterbury. We continue to explore opportunities to adapt this for delivery in other parts of the region.
 - ChristchurchNZ along with the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University will continue to resource a more specific Job Ready programme over the next two years that will mentor international student graduates into jobs. A work integrated learning model programme is being developed which will eventually replace Job Ready.

Leading regional development in Canterbury

9. The Mayoral Forum first launched the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) in August 2015, and launched a refreshed strategy for the 2016–19 local government term in June 2017.
10. In the 2016–19 local government term, the Mayoral Forum secured central government funding of \$2.8m from the Regional Growth Programme (2017) and Provincial Growth Fund (2018–19).

Project	Funding received
Strategic policy analysis and advice, regional transport	\$100,000
Cell phone and broadband coverage mapping	\$80,000
Encouraging rural broadband uptake and use	\$65,000
Youth transitions	\$130,000
Job Ready programme	\$40,000
Improve productivity (contract over five years with ChristchurchNZ)	\$1,000,000
High-value manufacturing (contract over four years with University of Canterbury)	\$450,000
Rail passenger services south of Christchurch – feasibility study	\$50,000
CREDS project management (multi-year)	\$325,000
CREDS indicators reporting	\$10,000
Canterbury brand story	\$110,000
South Island major events calendar	\$150,000
Agri-tech pavilion at 2018 NZ Agricultural Show	\$35,000
South Island destination management plan	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$2,795,000

In addition, funding applications to the Provincial Growth Fund have been submitted for major infrastructure projects in Timaru, Hurunui and Kaikōura Districts.

11. The Mayoral Forum has also supported and helped leverage funding to Canterbury councils from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF). The Ashburton, Hurunui, Kaikōura, Mackenzie, Selwyn, Timaru, Waimakariri and Waitaki District Councils and the Christchurch City Council secured a total of \$6,134,543 in Funding Rounds 1–3. Applications for Funding Round 4 opened on 1 August 2019.
12. In this local government term, the Mayoral Forum has supported successful Provincial Growth Fund applications by the Kaikōura, Ashburton, Mackenzie and Waitaki District Councils to a total of \$1,185,798.
13. In January 2018, the Mayoral Forum supported an application by the Church Property Trustees to the Lottery Significant Projects Fund for assistance with the reinstatement of Christchurch Cathedral. Lotteries funding of \$6m was committed in June 2018.
14. The Mayoral Forum has agreed in principle to frame the next iteration of the CREDS around the ‘four wellbeings’ (environmental, economic, social and cultural) and the ‘four capitals’ of

the Treasury’s Living Standards Framework (natural capital, financial/physical capital, human capital, social capital).

Adaptation to climate change

15. In May 2017, the Chief Executives Forum established a regional Climate Change Working Group. Since February 2019 this has been supplemented and supported by a mayoral Climate Change Steering Group.

Supporting global awareness, tourism and trade

16. Since 2016, the Mayoral Forum has supported the University of Canterbury with applications to the Prime Minister’s Scholarship for Asia for a programme in which students visit Peking University in Beijing and undertake group research projects. This has delivered reports for the Mayoral Forum on:
- the different ways young Chinese ‘free and independent’ travellers hear about and find information on New Zealand and Canterbury, and the online channels they prefer to use
 - migration intentions of young, highly skilled Chinese students
 - food and beverage preferences of young Chinese visitors to New Zealand
 - perceptions of safety by prospective young Chinese visitors.
17. Education partnerships are in place between Canterbury and Nagano Prefecture, Japan, with 70 students from the University of Nagano arriving in June 2019 for three-week placements at Lincoln University and Ara Institute. The Mayoral Forum has been investigating options to develop and extend Canterbury’s relationship with Nagano Prefecture, ‘region-to-region’.

Standing together for Canterbury

18. The Canterbury Policy Forum monitors central government policy and regulatory initiatives impacting on Canterbury and co-ordinates the development of regional submissions. Joint advocacy (‘one strong voice for Canterbury’) has been a strength of the Mayoral Forum.
19. The following table summarises Mayoral Forum engagement and advocacy since local body elections in October 2016.

Date	Audience	Subject
Oct 2016	Commerce Select Committee	Telecommunications (Property Access and Other Matters) Amendment Bill
Nov 2016	Minister of Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refresh of CREDS – and transitioning away from a rebuild economy • regional transport planning • Canterbury brand story • visitor strategy • value-added production and advocacy for the Lincoln Hub
Jan 2017	Health Select Committee	Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Bill
Feb 2017	Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment; Minister of Finance	Funding to secure the Lincoln Hub

Date	Audience	Subject
May 2017	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on Clean Water Consultation 2017
May 2017	Lyttelton Port of Christchurch	Welcoming investment in a cruise ship berth
May 2017	Crown Fibre Holdings Ltd	Fast broadband in rural Canterbury
Jun 2017	Minister of Local Government	Government inquiry into Havelock North drinking water contamination incident
Jun 2017	Prime Minister; Minister of Immigration	Immigration policy
Jun 2017	Political party leaders	Immigration and the 2017 General Election
Jul 2017	Canterbury Regional Transport Committee	Timing of National Land Transport Programme
Aug 2017	Local Government Commission	Informal discussion of the work of the LGC
Oct 2017	Electorate and List MPs in Canterbury	Introducing the Mayoral Forum, its work and priorities
Nov 2017	Incoming Ministers	Briefing letters introducing the Mayoral Forum, its work and priorities
Jan 2018	Minister for Government Digital Services	Endorsement of Mayor Damon Odey's expression of interest in membership of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Digital Economy and Digital Inclusion
Mar 2018	Minister for Government Digital Services	Informal discussion with Mayoral Forum and stakeholders of priorities and opportunities in the CREDS digital connectivity work programme
Mar – May 2018	Minister for Biosecurity	Impacts of the <i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> biosecurity response on the Canterbury region
Apr 2018	Minister of Immigration	Government policies on immigration and international education
May 2018	Governance and Administration Committee	Submission on Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill
May 2018	MBIE	Letter of support for applications to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund 2018 funding round from Christchurch City Council and the Kaikōura, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Timaru and Waitaki District Councils
May 2018	New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO	Letters of support for the Waitaki Whitestone and Banks Peninsula Geoparks to become members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network
May 2018	Minister of Tourism	Development of a tourism destination management strategy, and design and implementation of the proposed international visitor tourism and conservation levy
May 2018	Minister of Health	Release of Government Response to the Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry
June 2018	Justice Select Committee	Local Electoral Matters Bill
June 2018	Productivity Commission	Low Emissions Economy: Draft report

Date	Audience	Subject
June 2018	MBIE	Immigration settings for international students
July 2018	MBIE	International visitor levy
Aug 2018	Ministry for the Environment	Draft National Planning Standards
Aug 2018	Governance and Administration Select Committee	Local Government Regulatory Systems Amendment Bill
Dec 2018	Minister for Regional Economic Development	Administration of the Provincial Growth Fund
Mar 2019	MBIE	Letter of support for applications to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund 2019 funding round from Christchurch City Council, and Ashburton, Hurunui, Selwyn and Waitaki District Councils
Mar 2019	MBIE	Employer-assisted work visas
Apr 2019	Ministry of Education	Reform of vocational education
May 2019	Minister of Transport	Funding for demand responsive public transport trial in Timaru
July 2019	Environment Select Committee	Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

Appendix: Regional forums and working groups (as at June 2019)

