

MEDIA STATEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ISSUED BY MAYOR LIANNE DALZIEL, CHAIR, CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM

12 September 2019

Changing of the guard at Canterbury Mayoral Forum

The volume of nominations for local body elections in October is a positive sign of a healthy local democracy, chair of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum Lianne Dalziel said today.

“We encourage people to take an interest, find out who candidates are and what they are standing for, and vote.

“The Canterbury Mayoral Forum anticipates a refreshed membership for the 2019–22 local government term. Five of the 11 members of the Forum are not standing for re-election – Mayors Winston Gray (Kaikōura District), Winton Dalley (Hurunui District), David Ayers (Waimakariri District) and Damon Odey (Timaru District), and Environment Canterbury Chair Steve Lowndes. At its final meeting on 9 August, the Mayoral Forum acknowledged the contribution of those retiring members to the Forum and to Canterbury.”

Mayor Dalziel noted in particular the leadership provided by Mayor Ayers in the response to and recovery from the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010–11, and by Mayors Dalley and Gray following the Hurunui-Kaikōura earthquake sequence in 2016.

The Forum’s minutes of appreciation have been published on its website at <https://canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Minutes-of-appreciation.pdf>:

- Mayor Winston Gray has led the regional visitor strategy work programme
- Mayor Winton Dalley has led the regional transport planning work programme
- Mayor David Ayers has led the education and training work programme
- Mayor Damon Odey has been Deputy-Chair and led the Forum’s digital connectivity work programme
- Steve Lowndes has led the Canterbury Water Management Strategy work programme.

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

“It has been three years of solid work by the Mayoral Forum – both on-the-ground projects in local communities and Mayors standing together to advocate for Canterbury with central government,” Mayor Dalziel said.

At its final meeting, the Forum reflected on its achievements during the 2016–19 local government term. A summary of these is on the Forum’s website at <https://canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Achievements-2016-19.pdf>

Some highlights are:

- engagement and advocacy with central government on policy and regulation that impacts on Canterbury – for example, on immigration policy, fast broadband and reform of vocational education
- initiation of a South Island Destination Management Plan for sustainable tourism
- continued oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and delivery of the *Fit for the Future* project, which has set new targets for 2025 and 2030
- initiation of continuing, multi-year projects to boost value-added production (food, fibre and agritech) and high value manufacturing
- successful delivery of programmes to support youth transitions to employment, and retention of international student graduates in export-facing businesses in Canterbury
- participation in Immigration New Zealand’s *Welcoming Communities* pilot programme (Ashburton and Selwyn District Councils)
- securing \$2.8m of central government funding for Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) projects
- supporting member councils with successful funding bids for a further \$7.32m for tourism infrastructure and council economic development projects, with further major proposals in the pipeline
- establishing a regional Climate Change Steering Group.

Members of the Mayoral Forum are the Mayors of the 10 territorial authorities in Canterbury (the Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils and the Christchurch City Council) and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury).

Contact:

- Nicola Shirlaw, Office of the Mayor, Christchurch City Council, 027 225 4163
- Dr David Bromell, Mayoral Forum Secretariat, 027 839 2708