

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

BOARD PACK

for

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Friday, 29 November 2024

8:30 am (NZDT)

Held at:

Commodore Hotel

449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch

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AGENDA

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 29 November 2024
Time:	8:30 am to 1:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Marie Black, Anne Munro, Craig Mackle, Craig Pauling, Gary Kircher, Neil Brown, Phil Mauger, Sam Broughton, Craig Rowley
Attendees:	Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Angela Oosthuizen, Jeff Millward, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor, Maree McNeilly, Ann Fitzgerald, Amelia Wilkins
Apologies:	Dan Gordon, Paul Eagle, Mayor Monique Croon, Stuart Duncan, Alex Parmley
Guests/Notes:	Neville Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Waimakariri District Council attending on behalf of Mayor Dan Gordon Marie Ward for Diane McDermott, item 6.1

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Karakia, welcome, introductions and apologies

8:30 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

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

Thei 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 - 30 Aug 2024	8
1.3.b	Minutes : Economic Priorities discussion - 30 Sept 2024	17

1.4 Action List

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.4.a	Action List	19
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2. For discussion and decision

2.1 Canterbury Biodiversity Champions: Regional Biodiversity update 8:45 am (10 min)

Craig Pauling

Supporting Documents:

2.1.a	CMF Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Regional Biodiversity update Nov 2024.docx	20
2.1.b	CMF Canterbury Biodiveristy Champions Regional Biodiversity update Attachment 1 Nov 2024 .docx	24

2.2 Canterbury Water Mangement Strategy update 8:55 am (5 min)

Craig Pauling

Supporting Documents:

2.2.a	CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy update Nov 2024.docx	40
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2.3 CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 – reporting and next steps 9:00 am (60 min)

Craig Pauling

Supporting Documents:

2.3.a	CMF CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 – reporting and next steps Nov 2024.docx	56
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3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea 10:00 am (20 min)

4. For discussion

4.1 Impact of key Central Government policy changes on local government 10:20 am (45 min)

Hamish Riach

Stefanie Rixecker

Supporting Documents:

4.1.a	CMF Impact of key Central Government policy changes on local government Nov 2024.docx	64
4.1.b	CMF Impact of key Central Government policy changes on local government Attachment 1 Nov 2024.pdf	66

4.2 Economic development priorities for Canterbury 11:05 am (30 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

4.2.a	CMF Economic development priorities for Canterbury Nov 2024.docx	67
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5. For discussion and decision

5.1 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation 11:35 am (15 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

5.1.a	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation Nov 2024.docx	68
5.1.b	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation Attachment 1 Nov 2024.pdf	74

5.2 Canterbury Local Authority audit fees 11:50 am (10 min)

Angela Oosthuizen

Supporting Documents:

5.2.a	CMF Canterbury Local Authority audit fees Nov 2024.docx	75
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6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update 12:00 pm (15 min)

Marie Ward will present the update on behalf of Diane McDermott (on leave)

Supporting Documents:

6.1.a	CMF Regional Public Service Commissioner update Nov 2024.docx	79
6.1.b	CMF Regional Public Service Commissioner update Attachment 1 Nov 2024.docx	80

6.2 Chief Executives Forum report 12:15 pm (5 min)

Hamish Riach

Supporting Documents:

6.2.a	CMF Chief Executives Forum report 29 Nov 2024.docx	82
6.2.b	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 1 Nov 2024.pdf	84

6.3 Launch update - Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan 12:20 pm (5 min)

Maree McNeilly

Supporting Documents:

6.3.a	CMF Launch update - Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Nov 2024.docx	85
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6.4 Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements

Supporting Documents:

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6.4.b	CMF Activities and engagements Attachment 1 Nov 2024.pdf	90
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6.4.g	CMF Activities and engagements Attachment 6 Nov 2024.pdf	98

7. General business

7.1 Meeting review 12:25 pm (5 min)

7.2 General business 12:30 pm (10 min)

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Closing karakia 12:40 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

8.2 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 14 Feb 2025, 8:30 am

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 30 August 2024
Time:	8:30 am to 12:34 pm (NZST)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Anne Munro, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Gary Kircher, Marie Black, Neil Brown, Peter Scott, Phil Mauger
Attendees:	Mayor Monique Croon, Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Angela Oosthuizen, Jeff Millward, Stefanie Rixecker, Stuart Duncan, Will Doughty, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor, Paul Eagle, Maree McNeilly, Ann Fitzgerald
Apologies:	Sharon Mason, Sam Broughton, Alex Parmley
Guests/Notes:	Councillor Malcolm Lyall, Deputy Mayor Selwyn DC, Steve Gibling, Acting CE Selwyn DC, Councillor Craig Pauling (Item 2.1); Nick Leggett & Wayne Scott (Item 3.1); Marlon Bridge (item 5.1); Diane McDermott and Marie Ward (item 7.1)

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Karakia, welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Councillor Lyall Deputy Mayor Selwyn and Steve Gibling, Acting Chief Executive Selwyn DC, and opened the meeting with a Karakia.

Apologies were received from Sam Broughton, Sharon Mason and Alex Parmley.

Apologies for lateness were received from Paul Eagle, Monique Croon and Malcolm Lyall and an apology from Dan Gordon who had to leave at 12.30.

A minute's silence was held to acknowledge the passing of the Māori King - Kiingi Tūheitia.

1.2 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Environment Canterbury Deputy Chair Craig Pauling was welcomed to the meeting to speak to this item.

Progress on the CWMS review was summarised, noting this is due to be finalised in November 2024.

The meeting noted:

- the existing structure requires some change and it may be that one size does not fit all
- community leadership in critical
- Environment Canterbury, territorial authorities and Papatipu Rūnanaga all have specific functions and roles and while there are various challenges, retaining locally based forums that bring together the regional council, territorial authorities and papatipu runanga for water management is important
- at a recent marae meeting with local authority representatives, Arowhenua Runanga expressed their view that the Zone Committee structure is appropriate but the work they do needs to be reviewed

- the different roles and funding of catchment groups and water zone committees
- the summary of the various engagements as part of the CWMS review will be circulated prior to the report to the November 2024 CMF meeting
- depending on the nature of any changes to the CMWS structure agreement from individual councils will be required
- the challenges of changing land use and how to deliver cost effective water management
- the importance of not losing the gains made under the current CWMS structure
- there may be an opportunity to access regional deals funding in this space.

The Forum agreed to a subgroup to workshop the next stages with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Environment Canterbury and Mayors Craig Mackle, Nigel Bown, Marie Black and Phil Mauger were nominated. Environment Canterbury will also be seeking 1-3 rūnanga chairs to be part of the sub-group.

There was discussion on the tension between over regulation and environmental protections, which is not new for Canterbury, land uses and the impacts on the rivers and waterways, noting we need to protect the aquifers for clean drinking water.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the progress update for the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Review 2024
2. agreed that the key themes identified in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the CWMS update paper were appropriate for informing the Review as options are developed
3. agreed to nominate Forum members Mayors Craig Mackle, Nigel Bowen, Marie Black and Phil Mauger to work with Environment Canterbury's Chair and Deputy to develop options for how the Mayoral Forum can continue to support local freshwater leadership in preparation of a final report to the Mayoral Forum in November 2024
4. received the update for April to June 2024 on the region-wide work underway to implement the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Decision Date:	30 Aug 2024
Mover:	Peter Scott
Seconder:	Phil Mauger
Outcome:	Approved

1.3 Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed with the addition of the following items of general business:

- Applications for landfill resource consents Waimakariri (Dan Gordon)
- Unitary Authorities (Neil Brown)
- Audit Fees (Marie Black)

1.4 Minutes from the previous meeting

CMF Water Reform 15 Jul 2024, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum 31 May 2024, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

Minutes of meeting held on 15 July 2024

It was agreed that in light of the work being undertaken by various councils, the resolution from this meeting should be to not approve regional forums budget funding for a review of the PWC three waters report.



Decision

The minutes of the CMF meeting held on 31 May 2024 were confirmed as presented.

Decision Date: 30 Aug 2024
Mover: Dan Gordon
Seconder: Marie Black
Outcome: Approved



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. does not 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.

Decision Date: 30 Aug 2024
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconder: Craig Rowley
Outcome: Approved



Decision

The minutes of the CMF meeting held on 15 July 2024 were confirmed as amended.

Decision Date: 30 Aug 2024
Mover: Dan Gordon
Seconder: Marie Black
Outcome: Approved

1.5 Action List

2. For Discussion and Decision

3. Guest speakers

3.1 Nick Leggett, Infrastructure NZ and Wayne Scott, Aggregate & Quarrying Assn

Nick Leggett, Chief Executive of Infrastructure New Zealand and Wayne Scott Chief Executive of the Aggregate and Quarry Association were welcomed to the meeting to provide a brief overview of the purpose and role of their respective organisations.

Key discussion points included:

Infrastructure

- New Zealand is near the bottom of the OECD in infrastructure delivery, and fourth lowest in ensuring value for infrastructure spend
- the biggest challenges currently include transport, water, telecommunications and energy

- tight economic conditions and constricted work programmes is resulting in a skill exodus overseas. This will create issues for delivery of the government's infrastructure programme in coming years
- depoliticising the infrastructure process and more bipartisan agreement would be welcomed. Strengthening the role of the Infrastructure Commission could assist this
- city/regional deals and improved relationships between central and local government will help improve delivery. Infrastructure NZ is keen to support this
- the Ōtākaro work that commenced in Canterbury would be a good model as a basis
- Forum members noted that SI is not getting money from central government for infrastructure, it was noted that the Government is focused on growth and economic productivity, Canterbury (& SI) needs to build the case for growing the country and GDP
- need to demonstrate to Government the region's economic plan and how it will unlock GDP growth and productivity – build the case and make it compelling.

Aggregate & Quarrying Association

- supply issues across the country, Auckland imports 40% of aggregate from outside their region, some areas are out of local aggregate supply
- long term supply planning - while the Canterbury region is reasonably well placed currently for supply, there is generally a lack of forward planning across the country
- legislative process fundamentals are sound in terms of an applicant and the local authority holding the approval function, however there are numerous parties "clipping the ticket" during the process, adding to cost, complexity and time delays
- there are difficult conversations to be had with communities about the consequences of not quarrying locally – cost of moving aggregate can be prohibitive, as well as impact on emissions
- opportunity to take gravel from rivers, stockpile, tidy up stock banks at the same time – stock piles need to be accessible
- identifying parts of the process that do not add value be raised with government ministers
- Craig Rowley noted that the Forum has heard this story many times and suggested a sub-group is convened to discuss the matter further.

The Chair thanked Nick and Wayne for attending the meeting and presented each with a gift of four trees to be planted in the Canterbury region on their behalf.



Action

Chair to work with the Secretariat to discuss options for convening a sub-group to discuss options to identify options to improve access to gravels and quarrying.

Due Date: 18 Nov 2024

Owner: Nigel Bowen

4. Morning tea

4.1 Morning tea

5. For Discussion

5.1 Water reform

The Chair welcomed Marlon Bridge (DIA) to the meeting to discuss recent Government announcements on Local Water Done Well. Key points included:

- the Water Services Bill is expected to pass into law next week, following which guidance notes and the template for required information will be issued
- while all three waters are to be included in Water Service Delivery Plans, it is individual council choice if two or three are part of any CCO. Smaller councils tend to be favouring three waters at this stage in the process
- DIA is framing up water policy and would welcome feedback on this
- the DIA focus is on the CCO model as this is seen as the most tenable, and would welcome working with any Councils who intend to explore this option
- there will be mechanisms to make amendments to the water service delivery models through the establishment process, although Council's choosing to opt out of an agreed structure they have already committed too is likely to be a more rigorous process
- DIA are encouraging consistency, including technology with Taumata Arowai
- the role of Commerce Commission and pricing and quality matters. It may be useful for the Commerce Commission to present to the Mayoral Forum
- how community consultation on options will be managed within the set up timeframes
- DIA is only likely to question a Councils chosen option if it is not financially sustainable
- DIA consider that shared service arrangements between councils can be a valid model (financially sustainable and fit to address challenges going forward)
- there will be mechanisms in the legislation to provide more time for Councils to prepare Water Service Delivery Plans.

Marlon Bridge left the meeting.

Forum members then provided an update on where each Council is at in terms of possible water services delivery options.

6. For Discussion and Decision

6.1 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan approval

Dan Gordon, Mayoral Forum lead, recapped the key milestones in the development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, noting that all Councils have confirmed their support for the Plan and the governance level actions.

A launch event is scheduled for 13 December. Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change and Dr Rod Carr, Chair Climate Change Commission have been confirmed as keynote speakers for the launch.

This section of the discussion was videoed (without sound) to be included in the promotional videos.

Gary Kircher advised he is discussing opportunities for alignment with the Otago Mayoral Forum and work that they are doing in this area.

In terms of opportunities for further amendments to the Plan, it was noted that as the draft plan has been through the CE and Policy Forums no further amendments should be necessary.

**Decision**

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. approved the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan
2. agreed to lead the following actions in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan
 - a. Action 6 – Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga: Support councils to work in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga to integrate their requirements into local climate action planning
 - b. Action 8 – Climate funding and financing: Explore the feasibility of a Canterbury Climate Commitment that inspires and unites businesses and communities to accelerate climate action.

Decision Date: 30 Aug 2024

Mover: Neil Brown

Seconded: Dan Gordon

Outcome: Approved

6.2 Developing economic development priorities for Canterbury

In the absence of Sharon Mason, Chair of the Economic Development Forum, Hamish Dobbie updated members on the work of the Economic Development and Chief Executives Forums to identify regional economic development priorities.

It was agreed that it was important to work with the business community and Ngāi Tahu in this space and the first step is a preliminary workshop with the Mayoral Forum and representation from Business Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu to further develop regional economic development priorities and actions. This will assist preparation for any future regional deals discussions with central government.

Monique Croon advised that the Chatham Islands are currently working on an “Island deal”.

**Decision**

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the update on work by the regional forums to develop priorities for regional economic development
2. agreed to have a facilitated workshop to delve more deeply into potential economic development priorities and actions for Canterbury.

Decision Date: 30 Aug 2024

Mover: Craig Mackle

Seconded: Neil Brown

Outcome: Approved

**Action**

Secretariat to arrange a facilitated workshop to delve more deeply into potential economic development priorities and actions for Canterbury.

14 October - workshop scheduled for 25 November with Business Canterbury

Due Date: 25 Sept 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

6.3 Canterbury Mayoral Forum mid-term achievements 2022-2024

Hamish Riach introduced the report, and members noted the opportunity to maximize publicity and highlight the effectiveness of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

It was agreed to add the detail of the projects being delivered in river management for flood protection in Canterbury.

Media release to be prepared to promote the achievements at a Canterbury wide and local level.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. reviewed the draft mid-term report and advised amendments
2. approved the mid-term report for publication on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website and sharing with member councils
3. agreed to promote the Mayoral Forum mid-term achievements with supporting media release(s) and encourage councils to share the achievements widely with their networks.

Decision Date: 30 Aug 2024

Mover: Craig Rowley

Seconder: Neil Brown

Outcome: Approved



Action

Secretariat to prepare a press release promoting the Mayoral Forum mid-term achievements.

10 Sept - Press release drafted, waiting CCPP to be finalised before releasing

Due Date: 25 Sept 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

7. For information

7.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Diane McDermott (Regional Public Service Commissioner) and Marie Ward (Director, Regional Public Service Commission) were welcomed to the meeting.

Diane thanked the Forum for the invitation to attend and acknowledged the council representatives on the RPSC group.

Diane presented the August 2024 Regional Public Service Commissioner update, including:

- key aspects of her role with Ministry of Primary Industries
- a recap on the new ministers' expectations
- key government messages around the economy and housing
- the work underway to support the Canterbury Energy Inventory
- an invitation from the Regional Public Service Commissioner to meet with individual member councils



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: 30 Aug 2024

Mover: Neil Brown

Seconder: Craig Rowley

Outcome: Approved

7.2 Chief Executives Forum report

In presenting this paper Hamish Riach noted that the work programme is well aligned with discussions currently underway and demonstrates good connection at a Mayoral Forum level.



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: 30 Aug 2024
Mover: Phil Mauger
Seconder: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved

7.3 Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements

This paper was taken as read.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the update on Mayoral Forum activities and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 31 May 2024.

Decision Date: 30 Aug 2024
Mover: Craig Rowley
Seconder: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved

8. General business

8.1 General business

Applications for landfill resource consents Waimakariri (Dan Gordon)

The increasing number of applications for local landfills, education regarding the role and function of the Kate Valley landfill, and closed landfill legacy issues were discussed.

Unitary Authorities (Neil Brown)

The current discussions in various South Island regions regarding unitary authorities were noted. While members noted the value of continuing to identify opportunities to work together, including shared services the Forum does not support forming a break away unitary authority. Any re-design of local government must first consider the roles and functions of different levels of government and equally important is ensuring that local communities continue to feel represented were noted.

Audit Fees (Marie Black)

The significant increase in audit fees for all councils was noted, along with the quality and timeliness of audits. It was agreed that Chief Executives would provide details of the audit fees for the current LTP/AP, including as a percentage of rates for collation across Canterbury to provide real data for a conversation with the Minister of Local Government on what is considered excessive costs.

Ngāi Tahu relationship (Nigel Bowen)

Nigel provided a brief update on his engagement with Ngāi Tahu and he will continue to progress this on behalf of the Forum.

**Action**

The Secretariat will prepare a press release on the Mayoral Forum messages regarding unitary authorities.

5/9 discussed with Chair - decision made not to put out a press release on this matter.

Due Date: 13 Sept 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

**Action**

Chief Executives to provide details to the Secretariat of councils audit fees for the current LTP/AP to provide real data for a conversation with the Minister of Local Government.

12 Sept - email sent to CEs seeking information

Due Date: 4 Oct 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

8.2 Meeting review

9. Close Meeting

9.1 Closing karakia

9.2 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 29 Nov 2024, 8:30 am

Lunch with the Canterbury Coalition Government MPs followed the meeting.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

MINUTES (in Review)

ECONOMIC PRIORITIES DISCUSSION



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Monday, 30 September 2024
Time:	4:00 pm to 5:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Microsoft Teams, Online only
Board Members:	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Marie Black, Neil Brown, Dan Gordon, Anne Munro, Sam Broughton, Gary Kircher
Attendees:	Hamish Riach, Mary Richardson, Stefanie Rixecker, Sharon Mason, Angela Oosthuizen, Jeff Millward, Hamish Dobbie, Maree McNeilly
Apologies:	Phil Mauger, Craig Rowley, Craig Pauling, Craig Mackle, Alex Parmley, Stuart Duncan, Will Doughty, Nigel Trainor

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Welcome and apologies

2. For discussion

2.1 Economic Priorities - discussion

Nigel Bowen welcomed everyone to the meeting and provide a brief background of the purpose of the meeting to discuss working with Business Canterbury to develop regional economic priorities for Canterbury.

Rather than working separately it is proposed that the Mayoral Forum work with Business Canterbury in developing the regional economic development priorities for all of Canterbury to lead and support discussions with Central Government on regional deals.

Business Canterbury acknowledge that they do not have coverage over all of Canterbury, and have requested that Mayoral Forum members provide contact details for local businesses and organisations to be involved to ensure that the works is representative as possible across sectors, size of businesses and location.

Business Canterbury is seeking a contribution of \$30,000 from the CMF to support this work, which if agreed to, is available in the regional forums budget.

Discussion

1. There is support from Forum members to proceed with this work, provided that it includes all of Canterbury and to contribute the \$30,000 from the regional forums budget.
2. Mana Whenua should also be invited to be involved.
3. It was agreed that members would provide contact details for relevant businesses to be involved. These will be passed onto Business Canterbury.
4. Each Economic Development Agency in the region should be included, and through them contact made with local chamber of commerce and/or business organisations.

**Action**

Secretariat to advise Business Canterbury that the Mayoral Forum supports this approach and to arrange payment.

Due Date: 4 Oct 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

**Action**

Forum members to provide contact details for local businesses and organisations to the secretariat by COB Wednesday 9th October.

Due Date: 9 Oct 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

**Action**

Secretariat will work with Business Canterbury to determine day/time for joint workshop.

Due Date: 10 Oct 2024

Owner: Maree McNeilly

2.2 Confirmation of agenda

3. Close Meeting

3.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 29 Nov 2024, 8:30 am

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Action List

Canterbury Mayoral Forum



As of: 20 Nov 2024

Action Not Started

Chair to work with the Secretariat to discuss options for convening a sub-group to discuss options to identify options to improve access to gravels and quarrying.

Due Date: 18 Nov 2024
Owner: Nigel Bowen
Meeting: 30 Aug 2024 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 3.1 Nick Leggett, Infrastructure NZ and Wayne Scott, Aggregate & Quarrying Assn

Action In Progress

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

20 November email sent to Matt Doocey's office seeking contact details for Minister's SPS to progress a meeting mid-2025

Due Date: 24 Jan 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly
Meeting: 23 Feb 2024 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 4.2 Engaging with Central Government

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Craig Pauling, Chair Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Biodiversity Champions: regional biodiversity update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a progress update on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and brief the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the 2023/2024 Canterbury Biodiversity Champions stocktake of biodiversity activities across Canterbury.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **notes the ongoing commitment to protecting and restoring biodiversity across Canterbury, and acknowledges the ongoing challenges addressing biodiversity decline**
2. **notes the progress on the work to revitalise the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy**
3. **receives the update on the delivery of biodiversity actions across the region.**

Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Revitalisation

Background

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) supports the Canterbury 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.
3. Environment Canterbury is leading the revitalisation of the Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy (CBS).
4. The CBS was developed in 2008 in response to the continued decline in biodiversity in Canterbury. An advisory group, representing a wide range of stakeholders in biodiversity management from across the region worked collaboratively to develop the CBS. The strategy was subsequently adopted by 19 signatories, including some local authorities.

5. The National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPSIB) provides specific direction to regional councils on the content and process for developing biodiversity strategies.

Progress to date

6. Environment Canterbury has undertaken analysis work to support the revitalisation. This has included scoping the work required to align the strategy with the NPSIB requirements.
7. A study of incentives has been completed to identify non-statutory tools that will deliver effective and enduring biodiversity outcomes in Canterbury.
8. Initial hui with signatories and partners have been held to establish the basis for engagement and collaboration for revitalising the strategy. In April, a mixture of signatories and stakeholders, including some territorial authority mayors and councillors, came together to discuss the history and the future of the CBS, including reflections and experiences of implementation across the region by various organisations. The group provided feedback on the opportunities and methods for future and ongoing input into the revitalisation.
9. The structure for progressing the revitalisation was confirmed at the October meeting of Environment Canterbury's Strategy and Policy Committee. A governance level steering group will oversee the progress of the revitalisation and a collaborative group will support the development of the strategic objectives and content for the revitalised CBS.
10. The steering group will be a small group consisting of two Environment Canterbury councillors, Rūnanga representation, up to two territorial authority representatives (one of whom is a Canterbury Biodiversity Champion), and a senior Environment Canterbury staff member.
11. The collaborative group will invite much wider participation, including a range of signatories, partners, stakeholders and other interested parties. The collaborative process is intended to encompass a broad range of government, tangata whenua, and community views.

Next Steps

12. A tendering process has been completed, with a third-party supplier engaged to independently facilitate the collaborative process and to assist with translating feedback into the revitalisation.
13. The membership of the steering committee will be developed in consultation with territorial authorities and Rūnanga. Two Environment Canterbury councillors have been nominated to fill the Environment Canterbury positions on the steering group. The membership from the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions will be discussed at their December meeting.

14. A series of workshops will be confirmed and scheduled with the collaborative group, with the expectation the first workshop will be set late 2024 - early 2025.

Update of biodiversity stocktake

15. A stocktake of local government biodiversity actions, priorities and opportunities was initially completed in October 2021.
16. The CMF was briefed on the findings from the 2021 stocktake, including an overview of the activities and support provided by local government, the gaps, risks and opportunities for better regional alignment to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity at scale.
17. The stocktake was updated in October 2023, following the release of the NPSIB, but just prior to Central Government's signal to review the Significant Natural Area (SNA) requirements of the NPSIB. The updated stocktake is provided at attachment 1. As a result, some programmes council staff had anticipated and provided in survey responses may have been impacted.
18. 2024 Long-Term Plan processes have resulted in changes in funding levels and resources available to support biodiversity compared to the information reported by council staff at the time of the survey. The information contained in the biodiversity stocktake informs and supports both the work of the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions as well as the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.
19. Summary of the findings:
 - due to the wide array of organisations with biodiversity responsibilities and interests, there are challenges in aligning strategic approaches to protect and maintain the region's biodiversity
 - councils indicated interest to further strengthen and align priorities, communications and consider efficiencies to share resources
 - since 2021 nearly all councils increased their biodiversity actions (via a number of methods, including, funding, staffing, work delivery or future work)
 - councils also had signalled the intention to commence financial or programme planning to support the required implementation of the NPSIB (noting that funding or focus will have changed since pauses to SNA work were adopted by Government in October 2024¹)

¹ Specifically, the changes suspend for three years requirements under the NPS-IB for councils to identify new Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) and include them in district plans. Some SNA implementation timeframes have been extended to 31 December 2030.

- there has been significant increase in the appetite for the strategic management of biodiversity, with three district councils adopting new biodiversity strategies²
- however, many of the same challenges councils identified in 2021 continue to persist in 2023, most notably the availability of funding for biodiversity management.

20. The Stocktake report identifies opportunities for the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions to progress shared regional approaches to biodiversity. These include:

- supporting the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy
- working collectively to identify shared opportunities for biodiversity management and advocating within council
- informing and advocating for consistent regional monitoring and reporting approaches
- providing governance support for staff participation regional biodiversity forums, including identifying opportunities for increased alignment, efficiency, shared approaches and resources
- supporting clear and correct messaging for the community to understand biodiversity challenges and opportunities.

Attachment

- Attachment 1: Canterbury Biodiversity Stocktake 2023 Update

² Ashburton District Council, Waimakariri District Council, Selwyn District Council.

Attachment 1: Canterbury Regional Biodiversity stocktake 2023 Update

Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Stocktake **2023 Update**

Information prepared for the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions on biodiversity activities being undertaken in 2023 by local government across Waitaha.

Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Stocktake 2023 Update

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Background

A stocktake of local government biodiversity actions, priorities and opportunities was initially completed in October 2021.

To support the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions, Environment Canterbury staff engaged with biodiversity staff across the region to compile a region-wide understanding of the context and delivery of biodiversity management across all local government agencies in Canterbury. Information from this stocktake was presented to both the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions (a group of councillors endorsed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF), representing city, district and regional council across Canterbury) and the CMF¹.

There is a wide range in population across the councils in Canterbury, ranging from approximately 4,000 to 400,000 resident populations. Biodiversity issues, land environments and uses vary significantly across the region.

In 2021, the stocktake identified that all councils are undertaking some biodiversity actions, often in collaboration with their communities. However, all councils also perceived challenges in aligned strategic direction, landowner engagement, supporting community groups, engaging with Papatipu Rūnanga, implementing comprehensive monitoring programmes (where is it, how is it and if we've taken any action, is it working?) and regulatory actions (notably undertaking compliance actions in response to biodiversity loss).

Update overview

In 2023, following the local government elections, Councillors from across Waitaha were again nominated to represent their councils as Biodiversity Champions. At their first meeting, they requested updated information on the state of indigenous biodiversity management across the region. Building on the previous process, gathering information for this report was streamlined with a focus on updating existing information.

This report updates the 2021 Stocktake information and compares the stocktake information from 2021 and late 2023. The situational analysis section provides commentary on how councils are fulfilling their biodiversity responsibilities. The situational analysis information is further condensed into six main themes to generally describe the current delivery of biodiversity outcomes in Canterbury. Regional, shared priorities and opportunities have been identified as well as highlighting specific opportunities that could be undertaken by the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions group. Key statistics have been compiled to enable quick reporting on the changes to date.

The information is intended to be used for a range of purposes; supporting the strategic direction for biodiversity work across Waitaha, providing a foundational understanding of local government actions and priorities to support the revitalisation of the Canterbury

¹ See from page 35 or 290 printed on the document: <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Board-Pack-for-Canterbury-Mayoral-Forum-Canterbury-Mayoral-Forum-19-Nov-2021-v8-1.pdf>

Biodiversity Strategy as well as aiding the advocacy work of the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions.

Methodology

The information which informed the Stocktake Report in 2021 was collected via in-person interviews with council staff. The update to the report was less direct, with staff responding to survey questions via email in October 2023. There were additional questions included in the 2023 survey specific to implementation of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB)². The survey was also conducted prior to the 2023 Coalition Government's proposed resource management reforms, which would pause mandatory implementation of new Significant Natural Areas and review broader implementation under the NPSIB.

Nine out of the ten Canterbury councils responded via email to the survey. One council provided an overview of their current work programme and biodiversity focus via an online meeting. For this reason, the information is still relevant but not directly comparable for all questions.

The responses are described by 'council', however, it is important to note that this relates to the staff feedback and perceptions, rather than position of the council as a whole.

Summary of findings 2023

A wide array of organisations have responsibilities or interest in biodiversity management and achieving strategic and well-aligned approaches to protect and maintain the region's biodiversity is challenging.

While there are significant contextual differences for councils, with ratepayer bases and geographic area varying significantly, there are common themes which apply across all councils in the delivery of biodiversity management.

Since 2021, nearly all councils increased their biodiversity actions in some way (either via funding, staffing, work delivery, or have signalled future scoping work), with only one council noting an overall decrease in resourcing.

One shift which was indicated across councils was the intention to commence financial or programme planning to support the required implementation of the NPSIB. Two councils indicated there was no intention to undertake any scoping or programming to meet requirements of the NPSIB.

There has been an increase in the appetite for strategic management of biodiversity. Three councils have initiated or completed community-based consultation on district-wide Biodiversity Strategies. These strategies establish biodiversity leadership within districts, and each notes alignment with a variety of strategic regional and national biodiversity planning documents.

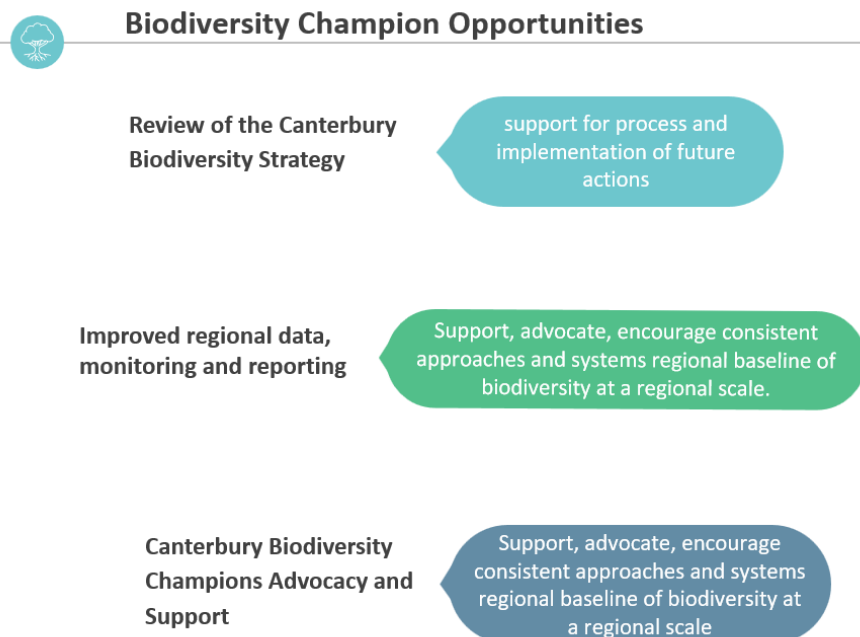
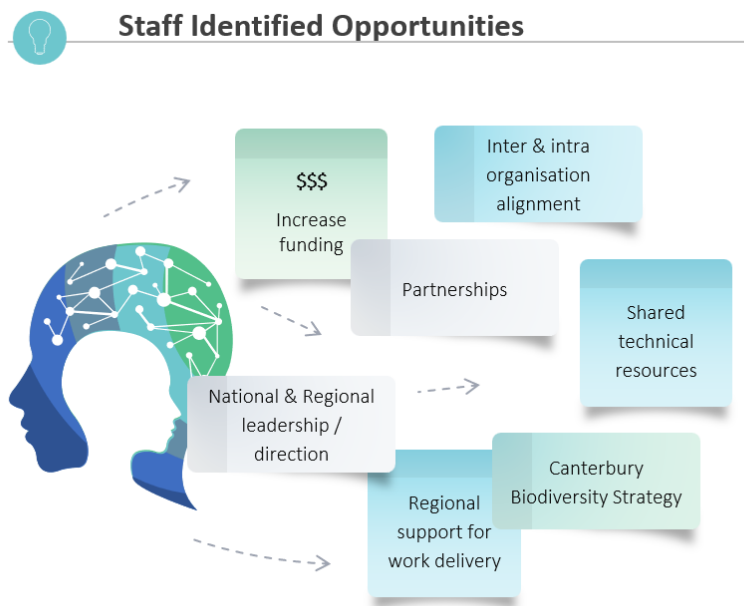
Councils identified an opportunity to strengthen and further develop the degree to which local government across Canterbury is aligned, between councils and with other agencies

² The National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity was gazetted June 2023.

and organisations. This included aligning priorities and communications, in addition to establishing shared technical resources.

Many of the same challenges councils identified in 2021 continued to persist in 2023. A wide range of challenges were raised by councils, however, the most widely felt challenge was the availability of funding, both council and private, for biodiversity management.

2023 Stocktake Opportunities



2023 Stocktake at a Glance

KEY UPDATES ON 2021 INFORMATION

TRENDING UP



- Strategic & connected approach to biodiversity management
- Preparation for NPSIB implementation
- Non-regulatory support to incentivise biodiversity action

NEW



- Regional Biodiversity monitoring framework progress
- Preparation to engage on the CBS
- Biodiversity Staff Hui
- Community mis-information spreading

NO CHANGE



- Continued biodiversity loss
- Limited, inconsistent use & resource for regulatory tools
- Insufficient funding and resource
- Lack of good quality biodiversity information



District Biodiversity Strategies

4

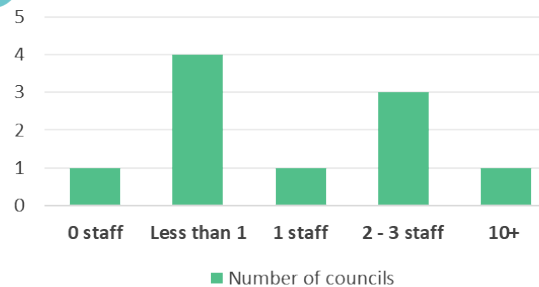
Councils have **existing** strategic direction documents for Biodiversity management

3

Councils are currently progressing **new** biodiversity strategies / natural environment plans



Full Time Employees



Council implemented tools

Council programme implementation

Biodiversity outcome focused projects

Contestable funding

Biodiversity as part of other projects

Biodiversity as part of infrastructure maintenance

4

gather external funding

7

have contestable funds

6

fund biodiversity projects

6

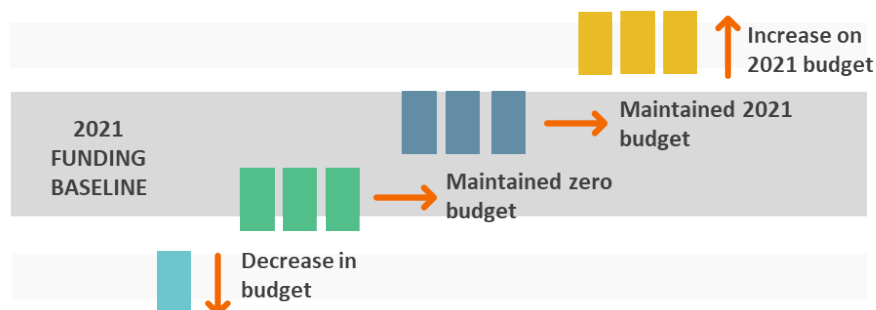
fund BAU biodiversity programmes

4

(at least) offer rates rebates



Council Changes in Biodiversity Funding



- Rating funds (not incl. external funding)
- Amounts are imprecise due to multi-outcome projects

Situational Analysis

No consistent strategic approach (within or amongst councils)

- 2021 summary: While councils give effect to the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement to differing degrees, biodiversity actions within council are heavily influenced by competing council priorities and the availability of budget and resource. There is a lack of cohesion and coordination, both within councils, but also across councils and other agencies.
- 2023 update:
 - four councils have an existing biodiversity/natural environment strategy, action plans or specific biodiversity policy and three councils are progressing new biodiversity/natural environment strategies
 - a region-wide council biodiversity staff forum has been established and meets on a quarterly basis
 - two councils have noted an increase in the collaborative approach they are taking with other councils, agencies or stakeholders
 - Environment Canterbury has initiated steps to revitalise the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.

Lack of information (to inform management)

- 2021 summary: Canterbury as a region is still a long way from understanding where all high value biodiversity is located and the specific pressures to these and the actions necessary to maintain them.
- 2023 update:
 - no substantial changes on the identification of significant natural areas, however, most councils commented on the commencement of planning and work to secure resource or funding to support future identification programmes on the timeline indicated in the NPSIB
 - specifically, council staff are signalling the need to resource SNA identification through their Long-Term Plans (LTPs).
 - one council specifically noted the lack of baseline information to inform and prioritise biodiversity action
 - at a regional scale, science work is underway to support the Regional Policy Statement Review. This information will improve regional information on the state of indigenous biodiversity.

No comprehensive biodiversity monitoring

- 2021 summary: There is some project-specific or ad-hoc terrestrial monitoring undertaken at district level. Environment Canterbury primarily monitors freshwater ecosystems, but the current programme is not exhaustive and does not collect all the information needed.

- 2023 update:
 - two councils have signalled that proactive monitoring programmes are either in place or being considered
 - Environment Canterbury has made progress in scoping the development of a regional monitoring framework. The outcomes will be reported to the CMF. Councils have noted interest in collaborating on approaches for regional monitoring.

Regulatory mechanisms insufficient

- 2021 summary: All territorial authorities have some rules in their district plan for biodiversity, however, it was identified in 2021 that these do not offer a high level of protection. Compliance, monitoring and enforcement is undertaken in an ad-hoc or reactionary way, if at all. Most councils have considerable work to identify and survey all Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), but some included additional budget and resource in their 2021-2031 LTPs.
- 2023 update:
 - four councils have notified District Plans since the last stocktake. One council reported that the new rules provide for better protection of indigenous biodiversity
 - one council has proposed regulatory incentives, in the form of on-site development right incentives, via a resource consent, in exchange for the protection and restoration of a mapped SNA
 - most councils continue to note that compliance, monitoring and enforcement is a challenge to resource or undertake in a proactive way. However, one council noted that, at the time of the survey, they were undertaking prosecution for vegetation clearance
 - Environment Canterbury has initiated a full review of the regional planning framework and undertaken preliminary engagement. The Regional Policy Statement includes direction to the management of indigenous biodiversity and there will be ongoing opportunities for consultation and feedback.

Range of non-regulatory mechanisms inadequate to prevent decline

- 2021 summary: There are good examples of biodiversity work underway, but it was not considered sufficient to bring about meaningful change on a regional scale. Presently, some smaller councils have no biodiversity specific resource at all, and do not deploy any non-regulatory measures as part of their biodiversity work.
- 2023 update:
 - non-regulatory biodiversity incentives, including SNA and covenant rates relief have been considered by some councils
 - three councils noted increases in external funding to support biodiversity outcomes, while another two noted general increases in funding available to support biodiversity projects or landowner assistance
 - two councils noted new educational programmes within their regions, and four councils commented on an increase in advocacy or provision of community support

- one council noted a reduction in external contestable funding supporting biodiversity outcomes
- four councils described biodiversity projects being delivered on Council land, or on other sites in collaboration with others
- Environment Canterbury maintained its biodiversity specific funding and increased contestable funding.

Biodiversity undervalued relative to other Council priorities

- 2021 summary: Council support for biodiversity management can be variable depending on the issue and timing.
- 2023 update:
 - one council has reported a decrease in council prioritisation for biodiversity implementation
 - one council noted councillor perceptions that biodiversity is a 'nice to do'
 - another council outlined council preference to take a voluntary approach to listing SNAs
 - while not necessarily impacting council priorities, it was noted that some in the community hold strong views and are vocal in sharing their distrust of councils in the mapping of SNAs.

(Note: SNA implementation has been identified as an area by the Coalition Government to be paused pending review. This has resulted in some questioning and uncertainty regarding the implementation or increased funding for biodiversity programmes.)

Insufficient resource and budget allocated

- 2021 summary: Finding sufficient budget to fund biodiversity work can be a challenge, even for larger councils. Where resource and budget are insufficient, council activities are limited to regulatory methods.
- 2023 update:
 - most councils noted insufficient funding to achieve intended biodiversity outcomes, either at council level or support for landowners to maintain SNAs
 - one council has faced significant decreases in both FTE and financial resources to deliver biodiversity protection
 - many councils noted the high costs landowners face to maintain and protect biodiversity (particularly where the best form of protection involves fencing)
 - one council noted that while annual funding has been maintained, it has not kept in line with inflation levels
 - the cost and availability of external technical expertise was noted by three councils
 - one council noted that DOC has a very large estate with limited funding to manage it adequately, including the managing weeds which threaten biodiversity. The same council also noted a misalignment of agency processes and priorities

- compliance and enforcement was noted by one council as being time consuming and costly, while another noted that progressing resource consent compliance relating to ecological values required external expertise.

Opportunities

- 2021 summary: There was interest in developing a holistic approach to biodiversity management across the region, both within and across councils. Increased regional leadership, including coordination, funding and technical support for NPSIB implementation were highlighted as potential opportunities. Opportunities included expanding and upscaling biodiversity delivery through partnerships (councils, other agencies, groups and supporting more community and Rūnanga-led projects).
- 2023 update:
 - increased resource or funding was commonly identified as an opportunity for councils to better deliver their role in biodiversity management. This included funding for more in-house ecologists, as well as being able to develop incentives to landowners, enable strategic land purchase, and undertake pest management in key areas
 - opportunities exist to continue to development alignment and partnership across agencies (Department of Conservation (DOC) and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)), local government, both across and within councils and. One council noted the value in maintaining relationships and providing a consistent approach through the establishment of formal alignment programmes for spatial implementation across district councils, Environment Canterbury, DOC and LINZ
 - shared technical resources across local government as well as greater support for mapping and identification of SNAs was of interest to a number of councils
 - councils noted the benefit of clear national and regional leadership to direct biodiversity effort and to clarify roles and responsibilities. One council suggested an opportunity for pursuing a higher adjudication role for decision-making on mapping and ensuring local and regional consistency
 - one council directly noted the opportunity through the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy to identify and align key tasks and resources for implementation as a district scale
 - a number of the points raised as opportunities would be key actions to be considered as part of the review and may sit well in an implementation plan to support the delivery of the strategy.

Challenges

- 2021 summary: A range of challenges were raised by councils with several key themes emerging. The most significant concern related to the lack of the capacity to undertake biodiversity work as a result of insufficient budget and resources. This encompassed both available staff time as well as internal staff technical expertise.

Political support was highlighted as an issue. Several councils said that gaining council support for biodiversity management can be a challenge, and even where councils are

generally supportive, this can depend on the issue and timing. Landowner trust and access to private land was highlighted as a challenge.

Poor coordination and cohesion between stakeholders and a lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities across the system was another commonly raised theme.

The ability to take proactive action under regulatory frameworks to provide for good biodiversity outcomes was cited as a concern. For example, the likely future changes to farming.

- 2023 update:
 - adequate funding to enable council delivery was commonly raised, with seven councils highlighting this as a challenge
 - four councils commented on the challenge of mis-aligned priorities or coordination gaps for biodiversity management. This spanned a range of circumstances, including within Council, as well as external stakeholders. This applied to the approach for SNA identification, to focus areas for work programmes, as well as the broader perspective of prioritising biodiversity protection vs development
 - councils also viewed community trust and engagement as a challenge, experiencing landowner opposition to SNA identification, restricted access to private land and the spread of misinformation
 - three councils faced challenges due to uncertainties caused by the changing legislation
 - land-use pressures posed another challenge for councils with pressure for housing development, carbon farming and increasing area for irrigated pasture grazing being hot topics.

Main themes highlighted by situational analysis

- there is a lack of good quality information to inform biodiversity work
- the range of non-regulatory initiatives deployed by territorial authorities is inadequate to prevent biodiversity decline
- there is limited comprehensive biodiversity monitoring undertaken across the region
- there is insufficient resource and budget available to protect and manage biodiversity
- regulatory mechanisms are inconsistently applied and are insufficient to do the job
- there is significant interest and momentum within local government to work collaboratively at an officer level. Resources could be utilised to support this.

Recommended priorities and opportunities for a regional approach

Review of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy

The review of the CBS is underway. There are requirements in the NPSIB for regional councils to develop strategies in collaboration with territorial authorities, tangata whenua, communities and other identified stakeholders. This work has been funded by Environment Canterbury and opportunities are provided for co-development with Papatipu Rūnanga and significant collaboration with territorial authorities and other stakeholders. The review is positioned as a 'revitalisation' and seeks to support the direction and principles set within the existing strategy, feedback has identified that signatories find that much of the current strategy remains fit for purpose and provides good regional direction.

The CBS establishes an overarching roadmap that identifies biodiversity priorities and responsibilities across Canterbury. It provides a pathway to significantly upscale biodiversity management across the region. The NPSIB contains mandatory direction for the development of regional biodiversity strategies. While the review of the CBS had been signalled as a priority as part of Environment Canterbury's 2021 Long Term Plan, establishment of a governance arrangements and working groups for the review had been deferred awaiting the final version of the NPSIB.

Key aspects to address through the review process include:

- shared priorities that are agreed across local government, and which inform/guide local work programmes
- how these shared priorities are approached by territorial authorities may vary to suit local needs
- governance and implementation models, both during review and subsequent implementation of the strategy
- developing a strong implementation plan that cascades through to all local government and relevant stakeholders
- influencing national developments, e.g. input into the Department of Conservation's Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy implementation planning, development of a national monitoring framework, etc, to provide a Canterbury context.

Recommended Biodiversity Champion role: support and input into the review process and implementation of future Strategy actions.

Improved regional data, monitoring and reporting

Both regional and district monitoring required to support a regional approach.

Baseline data, monitoring and reporting will be the keystone of future decision-making and implementation planning, and telling the story of the progress that is made.

Environment Canterbury has commenced scoping a regional monitoring programme. The scoping work is in the final year of the of a three-year work programme. The scope of the work programme is aligned to the NPSIB requirements for a regional monitoring plan. Following the completion of the scoping package, recommendations on delivery of a biodiversity monitoring plan has been provided to Environment Canterbury.

Recommended Biodiversity Champion role: Inform and advocate at each council – encourage and support consistent regional monitoring and reporting approaches.

Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Advocacy and Support

A key focus for the Biodiversity Champions Group is to promote, advocate for and support biodiversity management within each member's home council. This includes raising awareness and initiating biodiversity progress, issues and opportunities at council forums, and advocating for the work staff are going to address biodiversity management. They also have an important role in building relationships with Ngā Papatipu Rūnanga, local landowners and community, businesses and industry to promote the value of biodiversity management and achieve outcomes for indigenous biodiversity.

Recommended Biodiversity Champion role: Work collectively to identify shared opportunities and challenges. Advocate for biodiversity at each council.

Council Biodiversity Officers Hui

Biodiversity staff across the councils have been meeting since mid-2022 to share knowledge and advice on implementation and technical issues relating to supporting indigenous biodiversity protection and programmes within their districts. This forum provides opportunities to create shared implementation responses and communications as well as aligning district operational priorities. The hui also provides a single point of contact for Environment Canterbury at the officer level across the region.

Recommended Biodiversity Champion role: Provide governance support for staff participation in biodiversity hui. Advocate for opportunities arising from staff hui sessions – alignment, efficiency, shared approaches and resources.

Aligned implementation of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

Councils were asked an additional set of questions relating to the specific implementation of the NPSIB. These questions were not included in the original stocktake. The overall

response from council staff was a high degree of support to work more closely with staff from the other Canterbury councils to provide consistency in implementation programmes and the messaging and communications supporting NPSIB work programmes. There was also interest in working with Environment Canterbury to assist with an initial region-wide analysis to support SNA identification work.

Recommended Biodiversity Champion role: Support clear and correct messaging for the community to understand the biodiversity challenges and opportunities.

Key statistics

Full time equivalent staff resource

Noting that some councils have listed monitoring and compliance and planning staff resource, these resources, especially in the smaller councils are unlikely to be dedicated full time to biodiversity work. While this resourcing may contribute to varying degrees of biodiversity delivery, for reporting purposes, this has not been included as there is not a high enough threshold of certainty and comparability across councils. This may be better understood as council staff resource available to support biodiversity management.

- one council has no dedicated biodiversity staff resource
- four councils have less than 1 dedicated resource
- one council has 1 dedicated resource
- three councils have 2 – 3 dedicated resources
- Environment Canterbury exceed 10 dedicated biodiversity staff resource.

Annual biodiversity funding

Similar to identifying actual dedicated staff resource, determining exact biodiversity funding can be difficult to confirm, especially where actions are delivered by multiple sections of council or for projects or work that may have a secondary benefit to biodiversity but is undertaken primarily for another purpose (for example water quality).

- one council has had significant reductions in funding
- three councils continue to have no dedicated budget for biodiversity
- two councils have maintained previous budgets with no change to quantum amounts
- three councils have had increases in biodiversity budgets
- four councils have signalled that greater funding will be proposed or discussed as part of long-term plan consultations.

Biodiversity Strategy Development

- four Councils have an existing biodiversity/natural environment strategy, action plans or specific biodiversity policy
- three councils are currently progressing new biodiversity/natural environment strategies.

NPSIB Implementation Programmes

Engaging with Papatipu Rūnanga

Most councils noted that they are in the process of developing or strengthening relationships with Rūnanga in their districts. Over half of the councils noted that regional support would be welcomed to engage with Ngā Papatipu Rūnanga to determine the extent they wish to be involved in identifying acknowledged taonga to be identified in district plans.

In-house technical resource

There is a mix of in-house capacity across the councils to implement and action the effects management requirements for indigenous biodiversity, especially outside of SNAs. Some councils noted that review consent applications are reviewed by both consent planners and biodiversity staff, while some noted there was no capacity and one council noted that external specialists are engaged to undertake this work.

Region-wide desktop SNA analysis

Councils were asked if a region-wide desktop analysis would aid NPSIB implementation and provide a starting point to undertake further community communication and on-the-ground verification. Staff from eight councils responded this would be a valuable resource and assist with council biodiversity work programming. One council has already undertaken comprehensive SNA identification for their region, and they noted that the usefulness of this would depend on the output of the regional analysis and whether it would provide additional value to their existing reports.

Other tools to support NPSIB Implementation

Staff outlined several wider supports that would aid in the implementation of the NPSIB. Some of these included more information sharing, training across the region, one council sought stronger external direction to set biodiversity priorities. Tools and funding to identify, verify and monitor SNAs were noted. Increasing regional consistency and enable aligned implementation of the NPSIB was outlined as a key support. One council noted that a funded regional biodiversity forum would greatly assist with NPSIB outcome delivery.

Opportunities for collaboration

Staff also outlined a strong desire to work closely together across the region to meet more frequently to share information and develop consistent communications. One council noted the potential value in holding a workshop with ecologists and consultants to develop a consistent SNA interpretation. Also noted was the opportunity to establish roles and actions through the Canterbury Biodiversity Framework. One council noted a limitation in capacity to engage more frequently.

Regional biodiversity monitoring protocols

Councils were asked about the extent they wished to be involved in developing a regionally consistent biodiversity monitoring protocol and or guidance. Noting, that individual council data and information could feed into the regional monitoring framework which is currently in the scoping stage. There was a high level of interest from council staff wishing to be involved in this work, with two councils noting limitations in terms of in-house expertise and the time resource to be able participate.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Craig Pauling, Chair, Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) with an update on region-wide progress towards implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. receives the update for July to September 2024 on the region-wide work underway to implement the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS).

Update on Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS)

Review of CWMS zone committees

2. The Canterbury Zone Committee Review 2024 (the review) is now in its final stages, and endorsement is being sought from the CMF in a separate paper (item 2.3).

CWMS zone committee updates

3. Environment Canterbury's Long-Term Plan 2024-34 has allocated \$50,000 to each zone committee's 2024/25 Action Plan budget to implement on the ground actions to support the delivery of CWMS targets and goals.
4. Attachment 1 provides an update on key regional projects and campaigns.
5. Attachment 2 provides a summary of the last three months' progress of zone committee projects.

CWMS Targets Progress report 2025

6. Environment Canterbury has initiated work to assess progress on achieving the 2025 goals across the ten target areas. An initial step is to seek consolidation of the 75 goals, with the aim of providing a clearer set of goals which can more efficiently be reported on, more easily understood, and better articulate what progress has been made to the community.

7. A revised list of goals will be provided in the first 2025 CWMS quarterly report to the CMF.

Update on central government action that may impact freshwater outcomes

Resource Management Act reform

8. The Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024 passed into law, taking effect on 25 October 2024. Amendment papers tabled during the Committee of the Whole stage of the legislative process mean the Act will also prevent notification of Freshwater Planning Instruments that have the purpose of giving effect to the National Policy Statement-Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM). This has implications for the progressing of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement- see below. The Act also paused the rollout of freshwater farm plans across the country.
9. Other changes include:
 - exclude the hierarchy of obligations in the NPS-FM from resource consenting
 - align the consenting pathway for coal mining with other extractive activities across national direction
 - modify local authority obligations under the National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB)
 - amend the stock exclusion regulations in relation to sloped land
 - amend the National Environmental Standards – Freshwater (NES-F) in relation to intensive winter grazing
 - streamline the process for preparing or amending national direction
10. The Act also includes changes to section 107 of the RMA, which was the subject of the recent High Court decision concerning Environment Canterbury's granting of a discharge consent to Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Limited. Section 107 has been amended so that discharges that would result in significant adverse effects on aquatic life may now be granted consent under section 107 of the RMA, provided there are already such effects in the receiving waters, and consent conditions will contribute to a reduction of those effects over the duration of the consent.
11. The second Resource Management Amendment Bill is scheduled for introduction to Parliament this year, alongside a package of national direction changes relating to infrastructure, housing, primary production and natural hazards / emergency management.

Changes to Freshwater Farm Plan direction

12. The Government has initiated work to review the Resource Management (Freshwater Farm Plan) Regulations 2022 to reduce cost and complexity and acknowledge the

progress already made by existing farm plan programmes. As noted, the rollout of freshwater farm plans has been paused.

13. As the regulations had never been 'turned on' in Canterbury there is no direct impact on Canterbury from the pause in the rollout. It is understood that the policy work to make changes to the regulations is continuing and Environment Canterbury will continue to engage in this process where possible. In the meantime, audited Farm Environment Plans remain in place in Canterbury and Environment Canterbury continues to support farmers and growers to carry on with the good work already underway to implement these plans and work toward their next audit.

Fast-track Approvals Bill

14. The Environment Select Committee reported back on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill on 18 October 2024. The second and third readings are expected to commence shortly, with the Bill anticipated to be passed into law before the end of the year.
15. On 6 October, the Government released 149 projects to be included in the legislation. Twenty-two of these projects are in Canterbury and range from a mix of housing, infrastructure, water storage, mining and quarrying, renewable energy and aquaculture projects.

Update on Environment Canterbury's planning work programme

Regional Policy Statement

16. Environment Canterbury continues to progress the review of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS).
17. The RMA 1991 Schedule 1 Clause 4 consultation with iwi authorities on the draft CRPS is now complete, meaning the process steps prior to notification have been completed.
18. In light of changes to Section 80A of the Resource Management Act as detailed above, at its 27 November meeting Canterbury Regional Council will consider options for development of the CRPS, which includes pausing work or seeking an exemption from the Minister for the Environment to proceed with notification of the CRPS. A verbal update will be provided at the CMF meeting.

Plan Change 8

19. Environment Canterbury is working to notify plan changes for the following issues:
 - Take and Use ("AWA") – providing for the take and use of water for infrastructure and allowing the use of water to be changed where there are environmental benefits
 - make it easier to construct wetlands
 - preserving the intent of the expiring provisions in the NES-F – Agricultural Intensification and Intensive Winter Grazing.

20. These proposed plan changes are in response to recent Court decisions which have impacted the consenting of urban development / infrastructure projects within the Canterbury region, as well as hampering the ability of water users to change what they use consented water for.
21. Environment Canterbury is working to provide a more cost-effective and coherent set of provisions collectively being referred to as 'Plan Change 8' that address these matters in the longer term, as well as addressing additional areas of concern.
22. A draft of Plan Change 8 has been with stakeholders (including Canterbury territorial authorities) for feedback. This closed on 20 September. Feedback is being analysed and incorporated where relevant.
23. In light of changes to Section 80A of the Resource Management Act, Council will also consider options for progressing Plan Change 8 at its 27 November meeting.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Key regional projects/campaigns July to September 2024

Attachment 2: Zone Committee Action Plan overview July to September 2024

Attachment 1: Key regional projects/campaigns July to September 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 areas¹, 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](#)².

Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes

3. Restoring the mauri of the Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes continues to be a high priority for Environment Canterbury, mana whenua, key agencies, environmental organisations and landowners. This work supports progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target.
4. Statutory agencies have continued to provide input into the Draft Integrated Catchment Plan identifying the actions and timelines they will work towards to improve the health of the lakes. A 26 September hui focussed on progressing the development of 'Environmental Goal' actions within the draft Plan. It was also recognised that at its current level of resourcing the development of the plan and obtaining agreement across the agencies on the plan will take longer than originally anticipated.
5. Environment Canterbury continues to work through the consent review and consenting process with the landowners in the Ōtūwharekai catchment. Work is ongoing to determine new consent conditions that will appropriately protect water quality and the health of the ecosystems at Ōtūwharekai.
6. Over autumn and winter, Lake Camp/Ōtautari experienced low water levels due to lack of rain and snow. Nearby hut holders raised concern that lake levels will be too low for recreational activities this summer and campaigned Ashburton District Council for a new diversion to be installed from Balmacaan Stream.
7. Many members of the Ōtūwharekai Working Group presented extensive information to the hut holders, Ashburton District Council and the wider community on the reasons for the low levels, the stable ecological health of the lake (which is not being impacted by current low levels) and history of the previous consent for a diversion.

¹ 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.

² <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/measuring-cwms-progress/>

8. Environment Canterbury offered pre-application guidance to Ashburton District Council, however, the Council decided at its 18 September meeting not to apply for a consent for a diversion.
9. Levels are currently rising following recent rain and snow melt in September. The current water level of Lake Camp is available at [River flow data - Lake Camp at South Lake | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](#)
10. The most recent water quality monitoring results, as well as progress updates on other relevant actions, are available at [www.ecan.govt.nz/otuwharekai](#).

Whakaora Te Waihora Programme

11. The Whakaora Te Waihora Programme is a long-term, operational programme of the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group to restore and rejuvenate the mana, mauri and ecosystem of Te Waihora/ Lake Ellesmere. The Co-Governance members are Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council, and Department of Conservation (DOC).
12. The Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project continues to be a model for 'Treaty Partnership' and delivery. As important as 'what' the project is doing (restoring the mid-lower stretches of Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream), is 'how' it is doing it (led by Te Taumutu Rūnanga, and co-managed between Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Environment Canterbury).
13. The project made significant advances from July to September with:
 - most of the riparian planting completed, with approx. 36,000 plants installed to date
 - predator traps (supplied by DOC) were installed by project staff in partnership with a local landholder and Pest Free Banks Peninsula/PFBP at sites significant for matuku-hūrepo/bittern conservation on iwi land
 - preparation began for the procurement process to build a constructed wetland on iwi land
 - the project engaged with the local catchment group (Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc./ESAI) and local schools; and
 - a review was undertaken of the project's Health and Safety systems and processes.
14. The restoration of Te Waihora is a huge job, which cannot be achieved by any one organisation. It requires long-term commitments, and working collaboratively across organisational boundaries to share strengths, opportunities, ideas, and resources. That is why work is underway to further support the Whakakōhanga Kōrero, which is an inter-organisational forum (of mana whenua, councils, farmer-led catchment groups, community organisations, NGOs etc.) who are delivering environmental management actions around Te Waihora. The group meets quarterly to share current work and identify opportunities to work together. Work underway to further support the group includes:

- A publicly visible digital map, where organisations can share and display the locations of their projects. This will aid operational decisions (the development of projects, developing working partnerships with other organisations), strategic decisions (where to focus resources, funding applications), and communicating to the public.
- A fundraising package, identifying priority projects to be delivered by different organisations, with the objective to partner with foundations, corporations, and trusts to help restore the taonga of Te Waihora for future generations.

Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme

15. The Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme is designed to improve the environmental and cultural values of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour. 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.
16. The programme has been highly active in raising awareness, creating educational opportunities, and providing sound technical advice to other agencies in the landscape. Through this approach the programme has become a key supporter of an art project linking people with the place and the environment, which was initiated by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research. The programme has also partnered with others to support the delivery of educational activities, including an Enviroschools event on a reserve, and a school visit to provide training in monitoring techniques. A recent workshop with Christchurch City Council (CCC) Rangers will result in greater collaborations in environmental projects and higher levels of knowledge sharing.
17. The programme's Governance and Community Advisory groups met separately this quarter. These meetings occurred with great collegiality and a shared focus on actions to take in the landscape this year to ensure changes to the environment are targeted and sustainable.
18. The programme participated in a number of workshops and key meetings with stakeholders, such as Predator Free Bank Peninsula and CCC Rangers. This will build support for the programme's conservation actions in the landscape. A Tītī feasibility study is strengthening the programme's connections with the Department of Conservation. The programme has also started a joint project testing drone deployment of seed pods in fire scarred sections of a Summit Road Society's reserve to accelerate restoration.

Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon

19. In June and July 2024, the Our Waitarakao partnership (the Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and Timaru District Council) undertook the third phase of engagement to support the creation of the Our Waitarakao Strategy.

20. This phase sought feedback from the community on the draft strategy which closed on 15 July. The engagement took the form of two drop-in events where people could learn more and provide feedback, and a digital consultation hosted on the Have Your Say website, where people were invited to download the strategy document and fill in a survey on the draft plan.
21. Approximately 30 people attended the drop in events and the strategy received 24 submissions broadly in support of what was being proposed. Most feedback came from local residents within the catchment and wider Timaru area.
22. The partnership is making amendments to the draft strategy reflective of the submissions, views and priorities of each agency.
23. Approval for the draft strategy was sought from partner agencies governance in late-October 2024.

Te Mōkihi Programme

24. The Te Mōkihi Programme focuses on improving environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes in Te Manahuna/Mackenzie Basin. 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.
25. The Rūnanga Chairs, councils' Mayors, agency Chief Executives, and Steering Committee members met for a wānanga in July 2024. This is the latest in a series of wānanga that have focused on how to work in true partnership with mana whenua. The programme's initial focus on interagency work (planning, consenting, compliance, and communications) is now well established. Te Mōkihi is undergoing a transformation to ensure that all eight partners can participate fully in making decisions on the ongoing programme work.
26. The wānanga set up a new Governance Group for Te Mōkihi, who met for the first time on 18 November 2024. This group will have the responsibility to set the programme's direction and will charge the Senior Officials Group with ensuring the necessary work is carried out.
27. The wānanga also set three new priority projects: development of a spatial plan for Te Manahuna, wilding conifer control, and water shortage. The Governors Group will decide on next steps for each of these projects, and how they will be resourced. These are all long-term projects that will need funding commitments from the partners beyond the term of the existing funding agreements.

Attachment 2: Zone Committee Action Plan overview July to September 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	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 its August meeting, the Committee confirmed its support of recommendations to fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiau Toa/Clarence Hapua predator control - \$6,300 Waiau Toa/Clarence Weed Management - \$10,000 Charwell River black-billed gull protection - \$9,020 Hapuku Catchment Collective - \$15,000 Environment Canterbury discussed the Regional Coastal Environment Plan with the committee. At its September meeting the committee received presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Kaikōura spatial plan Kaikōura's stormwater and other water related systems – presented by Kaikōura District Council Incidence response around waterways – presented by Environment Canterbury A field trip to Culverden took place in October, collaborating with Hurunui District Landcare Group and Amuri Irrigation Company <p>Planning is underway for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiau toa /Clarence Community Hui – an annual community event to present the previous year's collaborative work on the Waiau Toa/Clarence Weed Management Strategy, and to discuss upcoming work programmes. This year celebrates 10 years of this collaborative whole catchment project. workshop in November with Wai Connection on 'Kaikōura Plains' Focus Catchment Map Series.

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's meeting in July focussed on receiving reports from the Waimakariri District Council (WDC) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private well study results 2023 Rangiora stormwater monitoring programme 2021-23 annual report Rangiora stormwater monitoring programme 2022-23 water quality results Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) Capital Works Programme 2024-25 The committee received an overview of the WDC Draft Stormwater Drainage and Watercourse Protection Bylaw with committee providing feedback to staff. The committee received two reports focused on Waimakariri ZIP Addendum priorities, provided by the Waimakariri Landcare Trust: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality gap analysis in the Waimakariri – report by Aqualinc Our Land & Water Case Study overview – Waimakariri Landcare Trust In August the committee reviewed its current priorities and projects underway, including the 2024 Environment Awards to be held in conjunction with the WDC Community Awards in October. The committee also considered its approach to promoting and receiving project applications in 2024 for the CWMS Action Plan Budget available in 2024/25 (\$50K), and its feedback on the draft Canterbury Regional Policy Statement. In September the committee's meeting began with over 50 residents attending to raise concerns over chlorination of their drinking water. The Mayor and the WDC Roding and Utilities Manager were in attendance to address these concerns. The meeting also featured updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The survey results of the Taranaki Creek fish passage 'letterbox' The Braided River Revival / Whakahaumanu Ngā Awa ā Pākihi programme of work, including: the Rangiora Reach Masterplan implementation and the Rakahuri Berm Transition.
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's August meeting included updates on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port Hills Trust 2023/24 project variation Port Hills Erosion and Sediment Control toolkit project (jointly supported by Banks Peninsula Zone Committee) Canterbury RPS CWMS ZC Review confirming the committee's ongoing use of its 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan an update on the Avon Ōtākaro waterway plan. The committee held two workshops in August. The first workshop focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater Superheroes Awards 2024/25 - confirming the committee's preferred approach to support these Awards in 2024/25. Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (RPS) - confirming the committee's feedback on the pre-consultation Draft RPS in August. CWMS Action Plan Budget for 2024/25 - confirming the committee's approach to utilising the \$50,000 allocated through Environment Canterbury's Long-Term Plan for 2024/25 with the CWMZC 2021-2024 Action Plan priorities. The second workshop focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirming the committee's approach to utilising the \$50,000 allocated through Environment Canterbury's Long-Term Plan for 2024/25, in alignment with the CWMZC 2021-2024 Action Plan priorities. Confirming the committee's feedback on the Draft Canterbury Regional Policy Statement. Confirming the committee's preferred approach to supporting the development of Healthy Waterways Awards for Christchurch in 2024/25. A further workshop was scheduled for September 2024.

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"> • The meetings scheduled for July and August 2024 were cancelled. • In September, the Committee provided feedback on Christchurch City Council's (CCC) Stormwater Management Plan for Banks Peninsula (a requirement of the CCC's Stormwater Global Consent). • In collaboration with the Rātā Foundation, the Committee is co-funding a series of workshops to upskill Banks Peninsula community groups' ability to develop and clearly articulate their goals and objectives and apply to a range of funds. • The Committee provided feedback on the development of an Erosion and Sediment Control, and Soil Conservation Toolkit, a joint project between the Christchurch West Melton and Banks Peninsula zone committees, Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour and Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke/Rāpaki Rūnanga.

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	Raising awareness about the risks to private drinking water Catchment nutrient targets and water quality outcomes Enhance mahinga kai, recreation and amenity values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well water testing community events were held on 31 October and 7 November. In July, the Committee hosted a Water Quality workshop. Presentations covered current water quality results, ongoing monitoring efforts, challenges, and initiatives by councils and groups like ESAI to improve freshwater outcomes. The workshop emphasized the importance of the upcoming well water testing events. In August, ESR presented on the impact of Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS) in the Selwyn Waihora zone which highlighted the potential risk to drinking water. In response, the Committee plans to raise homeowner awareness of OWMS and their maintenance at the upcoming well water testing events. In September, the Committee heard from the Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust and the work undertaken with the catchment community to see if lessons learnt can be applied in the Selwyn Waihora zone. The Committee also held a workshop to develop recommendations to fund Action Plan projects.

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 July the Committee heard from the Lake Clearwater Hut Holders about the Balmacaan Stream Diversion proposal to raise Lake Camp's water level. The Committee subsequently wrote to Environment Canterbury, Ashburton District Council (ADC) and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu encouraging them to support the proposal in their capacities to do so. In August retired Hydrologist and former Zone Committee member, John Waugh spoke to the Committee about Lake Camp and recommended that the lake and stream be left to function naturally. He noted Lake Camp remains deep enough to provide refuge for kākahi mussels during dry periods. • In July the Committee received a presentation on the Berm Transition project, a four-year regional project involving a large-scale rollout of native planting installations to both support flood protection and directly perform flood protection functions. Works were undertaken on the Hakatere/Ashburton and Hekeao/Hinds rivers. • In August the Committee received a presentation from the Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust noting the practical work and trials being undertaken to improve water quality and base flows, protect drinking water supplies, and improve sustainable groundwater storage. Practical work includes a constructed wetland, bioreactor trial and targeted stream augmentations. • In September the Whitecombe Landcare Group provided an update of the practical work the Group has been undertaking in the Upper Rakaia catchment.

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga Recreation and Amenity opportunities	Lowland Stream health Protection, enhancement and restoration of mahinga kai sites We engage with the community and raise awareness of the impacts of human activity on land and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July the Committee received an update on the community feedback on the Our Waitarakao: Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon catchment draft strategy which outlines the actions needed to ensure a healthy future for the Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon catchment. • The strategy is the result of a partnership between the Department of Conservation, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Timaru District Council, the local community and Environment Canterbury. • It includes five overall outcomes, which each have objectives, first steps, and ongoing actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecological revitalisation or restoration 2. Increase mahinga kai 3. Enable the community to appropriately interact with the catchment 4. Community informed and involved in the restoration of the mauri of the catchment 5. Resilience planning. • In August the committee visited Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon and the adjacent Normanby Lagoon to the south of Timaru. Restoration plans are being developed for these important coastal lagoons with support from the local community and the Committee. • In September the Committee received an update on Plan Change 7 flow and allocation regimes as they apply to the OTOP Zone.

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"> The Committee held a workshop and field visit on 26 July with the Wairepo Catchment Group to get a better appreciation of the Wairepo Creek restoration project and how this project can be supported. At the committee's September meeting it featured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview from Meridian Energy on the recently notified consents for the Waitaki Hydro Scheme, and other priorities for the company in the Mackenzie Basin. Three applications for support from the 2024/25 CWMS Action Plan Budget from: 1) Wairepo Catchment Group, 2) South Island Rowing Inc, and 3) Glencairn Station. An update on the Love our Lakes campaign, current priorities for ECan Operations, and both the Mackenzie Basin Catchment and Ahuriri Community Catchment Groups.
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 Lessen urban activities' impact on Wainono Lagoon We will advocate and educate for change; and we will involve schools Engaging with communities to establish and support new and existing catchment and urban groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July the Committee received an update from the Wai Connection – Tatai Ki Te Wai, outlining activities and events they have undertaken in South Canterbury including supporting Ahuriri Community Catchment Group (ACCG), Hakataramea Sustainability Collective, Burkes Pass Heritage Trust and Hae Hae Te Moana community. In September the committee visited Waimate High School's Environmental group and learn about their amazing plans for setting up eco-sanctuary and agricultural science areas, including regenerative farming. The Committee also visited the Studholme Bush Reserve new planting areas and partially completed wallaby fence. The committee discussed biodiversity corridors and how to work with other groups doing similar projects.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Craig Pauling, Chair Environment Canterbury

CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 – reporting and next steps

Purpose

1. To report on the outcome of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Review 2024 (the 'Review') and seek endorsement from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on proposed next steps.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **acknowledges that the Review has been completed, with the full technical report provided to territorial authorities, Papatipu Rūnanga, and zone committees**
2. **agrees that zone committees as a consistent structure across Canterbury are no longer fit for purpose**
3. **agrees that a proposed model of local freshwater leadership groups with core membership of territorial authorities, mana whenua, and regional council be investigated in early 2025**
4. **endorses work to be undertaken to refine the operation of this core model and to report back to the Mayoral Forum in May 2025, seeking agreement to the proposed model**
5. **agrees that this work should be undertaken collaboratively by staff from territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, and Rūnanga**
6. **agrees that this work continues to be supported by a working group of Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and the Environment Canterbury Chair.**

Key points

2. A working group of nominated Canterbury Mayors and mana whenua representatives workshopped (i) principles, functions, and bottom lines for local freshwater leadership and engagement, and (ii) models to achieve these principles and functions.
3. It was agreed that while the underlying vision and principles of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) remain sound, zone committees as a consistent regional structure are no longer fit for purpose and should be replaced.

4. A replacement model was identified that centres on connecting territorial authorities, mana whenua and regional council at a leadership level, with connections to local communities critical, but best tailored at the local level.
5. Further work is required to refine the operation of this replacement model. This work should be undertaken collaboratively by staff from territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, and Rūnanga.

Background

6. On 30 August 2024, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) nominated four mayors to work with Environment Canterbury's Chair to workshop what local freshwater leadership the CMF will support into the future. The four nominees were Mayors Mackle, Bowen, Black, and Mauger. Mayor Munro later joined the working group.
7. Also on 30 August, Te Rōpū Tuia agreed to nominate mana whenua representatives to participate. The two representatives were Rik Tainui (Chairperson, Ōnuku) and Dardanelle McLean-Smith (Chairperson, Te Rūnanga o Waihao). Environment Canterbury's Ngāi Tahu Councillors, Crs Cranwell and Korako, joined the working group.
8. This working group met for two-hour workshops on 21 October and 4 November 2024 in hybrid in-person and online settings.
9. This report concludes the Review, with recommendations for next steps presented below for endorsement by the CMF. A full technical report will be shared with territorial authorities, Papatipu Rūnanga, and zone committees once finalised.

Workshop outcomes

10. Workshop content was based on the Review's empirical findings (see Attachment 1) and aimed at testing (i) principles, functions, and bottom lines for local freshwater leadership and engagement, and (ii) models to achieve these principles and functions.
11. There was a shared view that while the CWMS vision and principles remain sound, and provide a good basis for future work, the zone committees as a consistent structure across Canterbury are no longer fit for purpose.
12. While some committees work well and opportunities should be created to keep the momentum and membership of these committees, the majority of committees have not been well placed or supported to move from planning-centric work to an implementation work programme.
13. Through the workshops a preferred base model was identified as well as questions that require further investigation before this new model can be operationalised.

Key features of proposed local leadership model

14. A base model was identified that centres on connecting territorial authorities, mana whenua and regional council at a leadership level and at place, with connections to local communities critical along with the need to reflect a maturing partnership with

mana whenua. Connections to Central Government and industry alongside, and as part of, local communities may also be important for future success.

15. The working group recognised that the relationship of these three partners should be meaningful and have clear purpose – it ought to extend beyond loose connections and involve direction setting, and possibly support funding decisions to achieve outcomes. Members of the working group framed this well – it is about these local leadership groups confirming a master plan of local priorities and then utilise their resources, mana, and networks to support delivery towards these priorities.
16. The scope of the leadership groups was also discussed by the working group, and it was agreed that the fundamentals of the CWMS and guiding plans (e.g. Zone Implementation Programmes) remain crucial for identifying freshwater management priorities and focus efforts. Leadership groups may, however, wish to extend the scope of local priorities to other overlapping cross-boundary issues, such as land use, biosecurity, biodiversity and natural hazards.
17. The working group acknowledged that an approach is needed that achieves a degree of regional consistency from a membership and function perspective, with enough flexibility to enable locally suitable solutions, which will include determining at place the mechanisms for local community engagement, setting of priorities, and degree of investment support.
18. The group also noted that future options should be effective and efficient without duplicating existing structures or recreating known challenges to achieving outcomes. Successful examples of partnership approaches across Canterbury may serve as points of reference (e.g. Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon Catchment Strategy and Whakaraupō Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour).
19. The success of future options will depend on clear responsibilities and accountability, with the support of councils and Rūnanga being critical.

Key questions to be considered

20. Some key design questions need to be worked through in early 2025 before final advice can be provided to the CMF. For example, should these groups operate according to existing CWMS zone boundaries, district boundaries, or be based on proposed freshwater management units?
21. Options for how these groups are mandated also need to be determined. Zone committees are joint committees of territorial authorities and Environment Canterbury, whereas other mechanisms, such as Whaka-Ora, are underpinned by a voluntary partnership reflected with a Collaborative Agreement.
22. These questions, along with operational details (e.g., options for wider membership, meeting formats and frequency, and administrative support), need to be investigated further.

Proposed next steps

23. Further work is required to resolve the questions outlined above and refine the proposed model. Under the auspices of the CMF, this work should be undertaken collaboratively by staff from territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, and Rūnanga.
24. It is proposed that this work continues to be supported by a working group of Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and Environment Canterbury Chair. The working group that met on 21 October and 4 November has been highly effective, and there will be ongoing value to support refinement of the proposed model.
25. Final endorsement from the CMF will be sought at its May 2025 meeting, in order to have new groups operational in the 2025/26 financial year.
26. This timing would enable further discussions in individual councils (noting changes to the zone committee approach will require decisions by each council given these are joint committees) and for the new structures to commence in the 2025/26 financial year. It is intended that new groups would operate within existing CWMS Zone Committee funding envelopes.
27. It is intended that the CWMS zone committees continue their work in their current form until new groups are established.
28. A progress update will be provided at the CMF's February 2025 meeting, with a finalised model presented at the May 2025 meeting.

Cost, compliance and communication

Financial implications

29. In refining the proposed model, staff are working towards new groups being funded within existing CWMS Zone Committee budgets.

Risk assessment and legal compliance

30. Given the collaborative approach taken for this Review, key parties have received regular updates and participated in determining the outcomes of the Review. Therefore, no major risks or legal implications are foreseen.

Significance and engagement

31. This work affects the relationship and future collaboration between key CWMS parties, including territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, Ngāi Tahu, the Canterbury community, and organisations with interests in water.
32. Further collaborative engagements between territorial authorities, mana whenua, and regional council are required at a leadership and staff level to refine the operation of the proposed leadership group model. Zone committee members will be engaged throughout early to mid-2025 as part of the transition to a new model by July 2025.

Communication

33. Progress updates on proposed next steps will be communicated through upcoming quarterly meetings of the CMF and Chief Executive Forum, as well as other avenues on an as-needed basis (e.g. Canterbury Policy Forum). Zone committee members will continue to receive regular updates.

Next steps

34. A progress update will be provided to the CMF in February 2025, with a final model to be presented in May.

Attachments

- Summary of the CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024

Attachment 1: Summary CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024

Background

The CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 (the 'Review') aimed to address key questions about the future of local freshwater leadership to determine necessary functions, structures, and resources needed to support local leadership into the future. Led by Environment Canterbury under the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, the Review engaged a range of stakeholders between March – June 2024, including zone committee members, Canterbury Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and Environment Canterbury Councillors. Several qualitative methods were employed to gather feedback, such as workshops, interviews, and surveys. Key insights from these engagements are summarised below.

Views on the current function of Zone Committees

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 addendums, as well as by enabling a range of local community-led initiatives (e.g. catchment groups).

Additionally, many participants reflected on the less tangible, or associated, **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 community members, and liaising with local and regional councils.

However, it was widely acknowledged 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.

Many participants consequently expressed **a range of concerns about zone committees in their current form and function**, including:

- 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, local community activities, and/or mana whenua (e.g., limited links to operational activities or lacking involvement in emerging issues)
- an acknowledgement that **support from territorial authorities and regional council has declined** in recent years
- some participants questioning zone committees' **efficacy and 'value for money'** in achieve desired environmental outcomes.

Considerations for the future of Zone Committees and local leadership

Participants outlined **broad considerations over the future of local freshwater leadership and the role of zone committees**. These considerations include:

- widely shared views that **collaborative approaches remain crucial**, including between councils, mana whenua and local communities
- a need to **maintain the holistic and systematic focus** of the CWMS and Zone Committees, with core principles (e.g. balance of views) and guiding plans (e.g. ZIPs) still relevant
- the importance of **maintaining strategic oversight** of on-the-ground activities, including but not limited to catchment groups, and of **addressing gaps** where applicable
- a need to **sustain lasting connection and coordination** among groups and individuals involved in local freshwater management, with a concern that **losing zone committees could disrupt relationships** formed over many years
- a need for mechanisms to **maintain diverse community influence on strategic direction and plans**, with a lot of current activities being led by rural communities (e.g. catchment groups) with **limited participation from urban, non-farming communities and mana whenua**
- having mechanisms to **achieve local community engagement**, including encouraging local participation and ownership to **achieve outcomes and create accountability** where required
- 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**.

Following these requirements for, and benefits of, local freshwater leadership, views **diverged 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. There is, however, shared agreement that **certainty over their future role is required**, including adequate commitment from Environment Canterbury, territorial authorities, Rūnanga and other key parties.

Participants outlined **diverse recommendations for achieving effective future local freshwater leadership and engagement**, with or without Zone Committees. Relevant recommendations included:

- Several **principles that apply regardless of future options**:
 - diversity and balance of views should be supported, potentially beyond freshwater
 - clear purpose, adequate support, and targeted outcomes are required
 - acknowledgement that 'strategic' and 'implementation' functions may differ
- A **range of potential structures suggested**, noting those **should be effective and efficient**:
 - mechanisms for community connection and engagement, possibly formalised as sub-regional Water & Land Forums or Groups
 - umbrella groups that enable community and catchment groups, such Catchment Leaders Forums, noting that those groups may perform different roles to zone committees
 - advisory groups or community boards to support Councils
 - a Governance and Planning Forum or Committees with strategic oversight and potentially a broader focus than freshwater, e.g. including climate change and biodiversity
- Strong sense that **flexible solutions are need across the region** without one-size-fits-all solutions, while noting that support from **facilitation and liaison staff remains important**
- Acknowledgement of **membership as an important success factor**, with a need to maintain connections to local community and diverse views on suitable composition and size
- Range of suggestion for **more effective working and funding procedures** (e.g. fewer formal meetings and simplified funding allocation), but a desire to **keep existing CWMS funding**
- Widely shared view that for any successful future option **adequate support from territorial authorities and Environment Canterbury will be crucial**, including collaboration and coordination between them as well as effective support to enable local leadership.

Summary

The Review confirmed that Zone Committees in Canterbury have played a crucial role in collaborative freshwater management over the past decade, contributing to plan changes, zone implementation programmes, and community-led initiatives. They have fostered dialogue between diverse stakeholders, including local councils, mana whenua, and community members, while influencing local environmental efforts.

The Review confirmed that the evolving context of freshwater management, including national legislation and the rise of catchment groups, has led to concerns about the Committees' current effectiveness and relevance. The Review also highlighted that meaningful connection with community remains vital in shaping strong positive outcomes for water management.

In considering future leadership options, the Review has incorporated a wide range of views on the challenges faced by Zone Committees and outlines considerations for how to maintain effective local freshwater management and community engagement moving forward.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chair, Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Stefanie Rixecker, Chief Executive, Environment Canterbury

Impact of key Central Government policy changes on local government

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to outline, and seeks the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's discussion of, the potential impact of key central government policy changes on local government.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **discuss the impact of key central government shifts and trends impacting local and regional government**
2. **indicate whether they seek further advice or analysis from the Canterbury CEs Forum on this matter.**

Key points

2. On 21 October 2024 the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum discussed the potential impact of key central government policy changes on local government. These include, but are not limited to, Local Water Done Well, resource management system change, local government system change, and building regulatory system change.
3. Together, the changes being progressed by central government are driving fundamental shifts in several areas which will impact local government. These shifts include:
 - a. governance
 - b. functions, roles and accountabilities
 - c. funding, costs and efficiencies
 - d. partnerships and relationships
4. Attachment One provides an overview of the key shifts and examples of changes that are driving them. Note it is intended as a discussion piece rather than exhaustive analysis.

Discussion

5. The Canterbury CE Forum considered it would be valuable for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) to have a strategic discussion on our changing context.
6. This builds on the CMF's discussions in November 2023 regarding the approach to and priorities for engagement with the then-incoming central government.
7. The CMF may wish to consider the following discussion questions as part of this strategic discussion:
 - a. What risks and opportunities are there for Canterbury in this changing context?
 - b. Is the Mayors' Plan for Canterbury sufficiently well-placed to enable Canterbury to navigate this context?
 - c. Is the CMF's current advocacy and partnership approach well-placed to enable Canterbury to navigate this context?
 - d. Are there particular areas of these changes that the CMF wishes to focus their engagement and advocacy on?

Next steps

8. Subject to the outcomes of this strategic discussion the CE Forum will provide further advice on those areas considered most significant for the Forum.





Attachments

- **Attachment 1:** Key central government shifts / trends impacting local and regional government

Attachment One: Key central government shifts / trends impacting local and regional government

For discussion by Canterbury Mayoral Forum – 29 November 2024

FOR DISCUSSION –
Impact of key Central Government policies on local government
not representative of
Council / CMF policy

Theme	Shifts / trends	Evidenced in...	Examples (non-exhaustive list)
<div></div> <div>Governance</div>	<div>Increased centralisation</div> <div>Reduced role for local and regional governance</div> <div>Fast delivery of legislation / change</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">– New centralised institutions– Increased use of national direction– New mechanisms to enable Government direction or intervention– Expanded role for the Executive– Narrowed advocacy opportunities for local government / community due to speed of work– Work to focus local government scope</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Central government oversight and economic and quality regulation through Local Water Done Well– 7 new pieces of national direction under the RMA, and 14 amended– Establishing National Infrastructure Agency to advise and coordinate infrastructure financing.– Fast-track approval pathways, Ministerial powers to amend regulations without consultation– Shorter consultation periods and fewer opportunities for input into legislative and regulatory change– Proposed repeal of Ngāi Tahu Representation Act / Local Māori Wards Referenda</div>
<div></div> <div>Functions, roles & accountabilities</div>	<div>Changing purpose and role of Local Government</div> <div>Increased prescription from the centre</div> <div>Focusing local government on service delivery</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">– ‘Back to Basics’ Local Government Act amendment proposals– Emphasis on delivery and accountability for Local Government– Restrictions on Local Government regulatory powers to lift system efficiency– Increased accountability of local government to central government– Redefining of functions, roles and powers across legislative system</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Removal of four well-beings from Local Government Act & replacement with focus on “local economic growth and development”, requirements to cease ‘non-core’ activities, benchmarking metrics and prescribed codes of conduct for local government– Proposals to review division of responsibilities between central and local government– Local Water Done Well setting requirements for local government focus on water service delivery– Phase 3 RMA proposals to require single plan for a region, establish Planning Tribunals, and shift focus from consents to compliance monitoring– Building consent system reform shifts responsibility around Building Consent Authorities, establishment of private BCAs may impact quantity of consenting work and risk & liability– Emergency Management review may alter TA and regional government responsibilities– Councils getting involved in healthcare delivery and advocacy due to community concerns</div>
<div></div> <div>Funding, costs & efficiencies</div>	<div>Expectation of cost reduction and improved efficiencies</div> <div>Reducing financial support</div> <div>Intent to relieve/ narrow regulatory role of local govt</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Reduction in central government funding for local government services, and expectation that different funding models are used– Reductions to public sector budgets and staffing, reducing support services from the public sector used by local government– Constraints on local government spending– Exploration of new funding and service delivery models– Changes to regulatory settings that drive efficiency</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Reductions to central government funding – e.g. NZTA funding allocation for Low-Cost Low-Risk and public transport budgets conflict with Councils’ Long-Term Plans, as significantly less funding than anticipated has been allocated– Proposed rates caps for local government and expectation of funding through private-public partnerships, regional deals, shared services (e.g. consenting), or new cost recovery tools– Financing tools though Local Water Done Well and review of road tolling regulations– Phase 3 RM reforms propose resource consents not required for activities that comply with national standards– Government seeking savings from Ministry budgets (e.g. MfE contracting by \$374 million and 300 jobs, proposal to integrate DIA local government branch into wider department)</div>
<div></div> <div>Partnerships & relationships</div>	<div>Change in partnerships and relationships</div> <div>Shift in established ways of working</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Changing Crown / Iwi dynamics– Central government seeking to redefine relationship and power dynamic with local government using multiple pieces of legislation rather than one large review– Strengthening of government / business relationships– Institutional reform in health and tertiary education sector</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">– Regional Deals as a new way of collaborative working between central and local government– Treaty Principles Bill; Marine and Coastal (Takutai Moana) Act, focusing legislation on Treaty settlements rather than principles– More directive language and messaging to local government from Ministers and Prime Minister (e.g. at LGNZ Conference)– Concluding Future for Local Government Review without responding to recommendations– Greater involvement of business and representative groups in design of regulatory pathways– More focused engagement timelines for local government to inform policy direction– Creation of Te Whatu Ora and Te Pukenga shift where Councils hold relationships</div>

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Nigel Bowen, Chair

Economic development priorities for Canterbury

1. There is no paper for this item.
2. This is an opportunity to update forum members on the workshop held by Business Canterbury on Monday 25th November and discuss possible next steps.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Hamish Dobbie on behalf of Dan Gordon, Chair of the Climate Action Planning Reference Group

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Implementation

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to outline the proposed implementation approach for the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan and seek agreement on key aspects of the roles and responsibilities of the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group and regional fora.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **notes that staff across the Canterbury Councils have initiated the collaborative implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan**
2. **agrees that the councils leading actions will develop decision papers for their respective actions as and when needed, and speak to those at regional fora**
3. **agrees that the Policy Forum provides operational direction, as required, on the implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan actions**
4. **agrees to proceed with Option 2 for decision making for the implementation of Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan actions i.e. the Policy Forum is the initial approver, and the Chief Executives Forum and Canterbury Mayoral Forum are the second and final approvers respectively for decisions relating to key actions**
5. **notes that the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group will present the scope for the implementation of Year 1 actions at the next Canterbury Policy Forum meeting on 16 December, for its recommendation to the Chief Executives Forum for approval at its meeting in January 2025**
6. **agrees that the Policy Forum will provide quarterly progress updates to the Chief Executives Forum and Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the implementation of actions**
7. **agrees that councils will individually update their elected members regarding the implementation progress of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan in a timely manner and in way that is appropriate to their council.**

Background

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) approved the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP) on 30 August 2024, and councils have initiated the collaborative implementation of regional climate actions.
3. The CCPP will be delivered over the first three years of councils' Long-Term Plans 2024-2034, with a review proposed in Year 3.
4. Councils have agreed to fund regional collective climate actions through their Long-Term Plans (LTPs) 2024-34 or Annual Plans 2024-2025, with a total of \$1.47 million for the first 3 years (\$100,432 yet to be confirmed through Waimate and Waitaki District Council's LTPs 2025-2034).
5. As councils initiate the implementation of actions, there is an opportunity to establish the governance and decision-making structure for the CCPP's implementation, including defining the roles and responsibilities of the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) and regional fora to ensure the successful and effective implementation of joint climate actions.

Implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Roles and responsibilities during implementation of the CCPP

6. An implementation overview from the CCPP is provided at Attachment 1. This shows the suite of collaborative climate actions, timeframes, lead agencies and total annual budgets.
7. Environment Canterbury's Climate Change & Community Resilience team will continue to support the work of the CMF by providing secretariat services, strategic advice and convening the CCWG to implement the plan.
8. The implementation of actions is shared between councils, with each action being led by a specific council or the CMF itself¹. Other councils have indicated they will support the implementation of actions in some capacity e.g. through action sub-groups.

Climate action governance and decision making

9. Staff reviewed the previous CCWG governance and decision-making structure with a view to the implementation of CCPP actions to ensure that the process is effective and efficient for the implementation phase and to reduce the administrative burden on council staff and regional fora members.

¹ Specifically action 6 – Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga and action 8.2 exploring the feasibility of a Canterbury Climate Commitment

10. As dealing with climate change is a top priority for the CMF and the CCPP is a document of the CMF, it is recommended that the CMF should be responsible for monitoring and overseeing the implementation of all regional collaborative climate actions.
11. It is recommended the Canterbury Policy Forum (CPF) provide general operational direction, as required, on the implementation of actions, and is the first point of contact for any key risks and/or roadblocks. The Chief Executives Forum (CEF) and CMF will be responsible for providing governance direction.
12. Figure 1 outlines a high-level overview of the proposed roles and responsibilities of all involved groups to ensure the successful and efficient implementation and governance of actions.

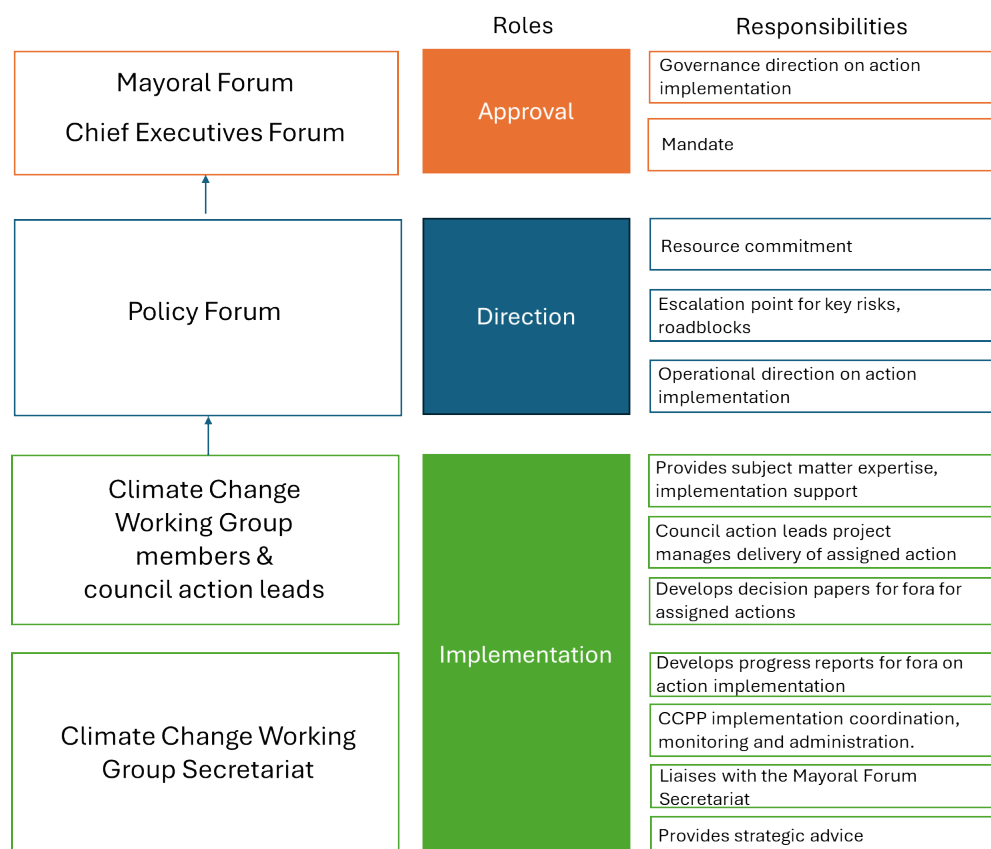


Figure 1: High level roles and responsibilities for Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation and governance.

Climate Action Planning Reference Group

13. In addition to the above groups, the Climate Action Planning Reference Group, made up of elected members from each of the Canterbury councils, was formed specifically to provide governance input into the development of the CCPP. The group has fulfilled its purpose as per the current terms of reference.
14. Reference Group members expressed that there should be effective oversight, monitoring and evaluation of the CCPP as it is implemented to ensure accountability to

ratepayers. Members of the group were supportive of continuing in their roles or shifting oversight of implementation to the CMF.

15. This was discussed by the CEF in October 2024, and they recommended that the CMF may wish to consider repurposing the Climate Action Planning Reference Group.

16. Further advice related to the status of the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group will be provided to the CMF at the February 2025 meeting.

Options for effective decision making during CCPP implementation

17. Table 1 details two options for decision making during the implementation of CCPP, based on the following criteria:

- effective decision-making processes
- accountability and oversight
- reduction in administrative burden.

Table 1: Decision making for Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation

Decision Making	Option 1	Option 2 (Recommended)
Who	What	
CMF (final approver)	All CCPP actions	Key actions*
CEF (second approver)	All CCPP actions	Key actions*
CPF (initial approver)	All CCPP actions	All CCPP actions

*Key actions: action 1: risk visualisation tool, action 2: low-emissions transition strategy, action 3: adaptation planning, action 4: development of a region wide blue-green network.

18. **Option 1** would see decisions on all actions being brought to the CPF (initial approver), CEF (second approver), and CMF (final approver) when and as needed.

19. This option:

- maintains the current 3-tier structure for direction, oversight, and approval through the CPF, CEF and CMF
- provides multiple layers of consultation and oversight ensuring accountability, and transparency, but
- results in heavy administrative burden, potential over-consultation of CEF and CMF, slower decision-making, compromised timeframes; and

- does not fulfil criteria of efficient decision-making or reduced administrative burden

20. Staff do not recommend Option 1.

21. **Option 2** would see substantive operational decisions on most of the actions being brought to the CPF, and decisions on key actions brought to the CEF and CMF.

22. It is suggested that actions that are complex in scope, costly, and have a significant number of key stakeholders could be considered key actions, i.e. action 1: risk visualisation tool, action 2: emissions reduction, action 3: adaptation planning, action 4: development of a region wide blue-green network.

23. This option fulfils criteria of efficient decision-making, accountability and oversight, and reduced administrative burden by:

- increasing oversight of the plan to the CPF which is appropriate due to the operational nature of implementation decisions
- providing for the CEF and CMF to retain governance-level oversight for the significant key actions
- reducing administrative burden, particularly on staff, allowing for better resource allocation toward implementation
- reducing over-consultation of CEF and CMF over operational matters

24. Staff recommend Option 2.

Quarterly reporting frequency during implementation of the CCPP actions

25. Staff recommend that quarterly reporting on the progress of the CCPP occurs to the CPF, CEF and CMF to ensure transparency and oversight. This will be provided via a standardised reporting template.

26. It is recommended that council action leads develop decision papers for their respective actions, as and when needed. The action lead agencies' respective CPF, CEF and CMF member would be asked to speak to the paper at regional fora or delegate to their CCWG member. This approach promotes shared responsibility for the delivery of actions, adhering to a true collaborative approach for climate action in Canterbury.

27. The CPF will continue to provide quarterly progress updates to the CEF and CMF on the implementation of actions, including scope, budget, deliverables and any key issues. These updates will be developed and fronted by the CCWG secretariat and convenor.

28. To ensure continuing buy-in by all councils, and to promote the benefits of the CCPP, staff also recommended that CCWG members provide timely progress updates on the implementation of the CCPP to their elected members, as and when deemed appropriate by individual councils.

Cost, compliance and communication

Financial implications

29. There are no financial implications for the recommendations provided in this paper.

Risk assessment and legal compliance

30. No legal compliance risks have been identified for the recommendations provided in this paper.

31. Decision making option 1 (Table 1) may delay action implementation due to the 3-tier decision structure, risking delivery timelines.

32. Staff will provide information on risks and mitigation measures for action implementation as part of the action scopes at the next meeting.

Next steps

33. Staff will provide proposed action scopes for Year 1 and key actions to the CPF and CEF for input at their next meetings.

34. Further information will be provided to the CMF at their February 2025 meeting, including advice related to the status of the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Implementation Overview

DRAFT Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Implementation Plan (included as appendix in the Plan)

The Implementation Plan outlines the sequence of actions for the first three years of LTPs, prioritising urgent actions (based on an urgency assessment), action interdependencies, and available yearly budget.

				Urgency assessment for climate actions									
				Key	very high urgency	high urgency	medium urgency	low urgency					
				Y1 2024/2025	Y2 2025/2026	Y3 2026/2027		Y4 onwards					
Action theme		Primary action	Sub-actions	Action sequencing & indicative budget allocation					Lead	Resourcing			
1	Understanding Climate Risks and Improving Resilience	Understand climate hazards and risks in Canterbury to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.	Sub-action 1.1 Scope and develop a Canterbury-wide visualisation tool for use by councils to support climate adaptation and resilience planning.	Initiate	execute & complete	maintenance, licensing	Review CCPP	maintenance, licensing	Waimakariri District Council	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time			
			Sub-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 district level.					initiate, execute, complete	Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time			
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.	Sub-action 2.1 Collate data and develop models to prepare greenhouse gas emissions inventories and identify emissions reduction pathways for Canterbury to support New Zealand's national greenhouse gas commitments.	Initiate	execute & complete				Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time			
			Sub-action 2.2 Based on the emissions reduction pathways identified for Canterbury, undertake a regional transition risk and opportunities assessment, considering social, cultural, environmental, and economic impacts, to inform an equitable and inclusive transition to a low-emissions region.		initiate & execute	complete			Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time			
			Sub-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.		Initiate	execute & complete			Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time			
3	Adaptation planning	Support best practice approaches for local adaptation planning with communities taking a Treaty based approach.	Sub-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.	Initiate	execute	ongoing			ongoing	Hurunui District Council	staff time		
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.	Sub-action 4.1 Develop a Canterbury-wide ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment.	Initiate, execute	complete					Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time		
			Sub-action 4.2 Develop a blue-green network plan for Canterbury and accompanying guidance to support locally-led implementation.		Initiate	execute		complete	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Council co-leading (tbc)	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time			
			Sub-action 4.2a Maximise opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders to provide guidance on blue-green infrastructure placement and hazard resilience investment.	Initiate	execute	execute		complete	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Council co-leading (tbc)	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time			
			Sub-action 4.2b Collaborate and align with Greater Christchurch Partnership and key stakeholders to deliver a blue-green network.	Initiate	execute	ongoing		ongoing	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Council co-leading (tbc)	staff time			
			Sub-action 4.2c Investigate the feasibility of establishing blue-green infrastructure on council-owned land, including identifying priority locations for implementation across Canterbury.		Initiate	execute	ongoing	All councils	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time				
5	Climate Change Education and Advocacy	Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action.	Sub-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.	Initiate (in kind, co-funded by Environment Canterbury)	execute (in kind, co-funded by Environment Canterbury)	ongoing (in kind, co-funded by Environment Canterbury)		ongoing	Environment Canterbury	staff time			
			Sub-action 5.2 Collaborate with Civil Defence and Emergency Management in Canterbury to produce communications materials that integrate climate action and resilience to natural hazards.		initiate, execute, complete			Environment Canterbury	staff time				
6	Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga	Support papatipu rūnanga with climate action at place and provide continuing opportunity for their involvement with the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.	Sub-action 6.1 Understand the climate action requirements of papatipu rūnanga across Canterbury.	Initiate	ongoing	ongoing		ongoing	All councils	\$ for papatipu rūnanga participation, staff time			
			Sub-action 6.2 Support councils to work in partnership with papatipu rūnanga to integrate their requirements into local climate action planning.						Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat, all councils	\$ for papatipu rūnanga participation, staff time			
7	Integrating climate change considerations in council processes	Work collaboratively to build local government capability and enhance its capacity to adapt to the climate change challenges it faces	Sub-action 7.1 Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations across all council business including decisions, policies, projects, procurement, and infrastructure development.	Initiate	execute	ongoing		ongoing	Ashburton District Council	staff time			
8	Climate Funding and Financing	Identify co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience.	Sub-action 8.1 Advocate to central government for funding to be made available for the climate-related actions that need to be taken by local government to address the gap between current local government funding and what is needed for the comprehensive climate action that is required in the future.	Initiate	execute	execute		ongoing	Christchurch City Council	staff time			
			Sub-action 8.2 Explore the feasibility of a Canterbury Climate Commitment that inspires and unites businesses and communities to accelerate climate action.	Initiate, execute, complete				Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat	staff time				
9	Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitor and report on progress towards achieving the actions and outcomes of the Partnership Plan.	Sub-action 9.1 Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan which includes the co-development of climate related indicators appropriate to Canterbury.	Initiate, execute, complete					Environment Canterbury	\$ for procurement; consultant costs; staff time			
10	Implementation	Assemble an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.		Initiate, execute	ongoing	ongoing		ongoing	Environment Canterbury (with action leads)	staff time			
Proposed yearly budget (subject to LTP deliberations)				\$190,000	\$740,000	\$540,000							
				Total \$ 1,470,000 NZD through collective contributions from Canterbury councils for Year 1 - Year 3 of 2024-2034 Long Term Plans and 2024-2025 Annual Plans. (100,432 NZD to be confirmed through Waimate and Waitaki District Councils LTPs 2025-2034)									

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Angela Oosthuizen, CE Mackenzie District Council

Canterbury Local Authority audit fees

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to present to the Mayoral Forum the information provided by councils on their audit fees for both Long-Term Plans and/or Annual Reports and note the top five issues in respect of audits and top five items for improvements.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the information provided in this paper on the Canterbury Local Authority Audit Fees**
2. **nominate two CMF members and two chief executives to lead a discussion with the Office of the Auditor General, Audit New Zealand and Local Government New Zealand to consider ways that audit performance could be optimised to improve audit outcomes and reduce audit costs.**

Background

2. At the August Mayoral Forum meeting, the chief executives were asked to compile the costs of audit for long term plans and annual reports, to provide evidence to support a conversation with Audit New Zealand, Auditor General and/or Ministers on audit fees.
3. Councils were asked to provide information for both their Long-Term Plan and/or their Annual Report on the following points:
 - A. original agreed budget
 - B. total audit cost to Audit NZ
 - C. component of additional cost sought to be reimbursed from council
 - D. total costs to councils (A&C)
 - E. total costs to council (D) as a percentage of total rates revenue
4. The information provided by councils is provided at attachment 1.
5. The Chief Executives were also asked to answer two questions:
 - a. what are the top five issues for your council in respect of audits?

- b. what are the top five items for improvements that would generate some benefit for your council?

Analysis of costs and results

6. It is evident from the cost analysis that there have been significant cost overruns on the audits. Clearly this is not sustainable for either councils or Audit NZ. For councils it is an operational cost to the communities, and for Audit NZ, it becomes a resource issue when they have to juggle the limited resources to better cover the planned audits.
7. The cost analysis for both the Annual Reports and the Long-Term Plans shows the impact of the operational inefficiencies of the Audit NZ process.
8. For the 11 Canterbury local authorities, the total audit cost of the Annual Report (\$1.46m) and the Long-Term Plan (\$2.7m) equates to an estimated projected total cost of \$4.2m with an average overrun rate overall of 18% (\$645k).
9. Of even more concern is the audit overrun cost to Audit NZ which means that their budgeted hours were significantly incorrect and that the inefficiencies of the audits have had an overly disproportionate effect.

Qualitative response

10. The results from the qualitative responses are equally concerning in that they further indicate operational inefficiencies and raise concerns about the effectiveness of the audits. There clearly is a sentiment across Canterbury that the audits are a tick box accounting necessity to verify financial positions and representation with limited value add to communities.

Top Issues in Respect of Audits

11. Inability to opt for external auditors and the lack of competition for Audit NZ. Audit NZ costs and overheads appear to be very high.
12. The excessive audit cost and the lack of value for money for our communities from this process.
13. Limited council resources for audit which adds pressure to small teams who also have to focus on BAU activities.
14. Last-minute audit issues materialise very late in the process, and this has the potential to delay adoption of annual reports/ plans, and also adds costs.
15. Audit team staffing consistency needs to be addressed so the efficiency of the audit can be improved which will lead to lower costs. Frequent changes to the audit team adds to lack of understanding, orientation and re-explaining things. More consistency and training of Audit NZ staff would speed up the audit. Councils themselves are becoming the trainer on-and off-site.

16. Improved communication - less reliance on audit dashboard, more face to face communication, particularly for complicated issues. There is far too much reliance on dashboard tracking. Regular engagement with the audit Manager and Director helps to identify critical audit issues for resolution and to expedite progress.
17. Timely clearing of manager/director level reviews - delays in clearing reviews at the manager/director level can hinder the progress of the Audit.
18. Reassignment of Audit Director before rotation completion.

Top 5 Items for Improvements

19. Better planning and coordination of audits and efficiency of operation of the audit team. Planning of the audit needs to be better organised and coordinated. Our teams explain aspects a number of times where better coordination of the work within Audit NZ could reduce the amount of time and quantity of information required. There are countless times where information already provided is not shared and is requested two or three times by different Audit NZ staff during the audit.
20. Improved communication methods and regular engagement between the audit manager, director, relevant GM and CEO.
21. More emphasis on undertaking on-site audits.
22. Consistent experienced audit staffing – often councils end up upskilling junior audit staff members which is inefficient.
23. Engagement with Audit NZ on ways in which the Councils and the audit team can work together better to minimise audit costs or cost overruns.

Next Steps

24. If the CMF agrees with the recommendation, then the nominated members of the CMF and Chief Executives will arrange to meet with Stephen Walker, Executive Director: Audit NZ, and John Ryan from the Office of the Auditor General, to discuss the impacts and potential opportunities for improvement. Feedback from that discussion to be presented to the February Mayoral Forum.
25. The same group will also discuss and explore the commonality of the audit issues with LGNZ, as it is anticipated that the audit inefficiencies and lack of value add would be common across New Zealand.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Comparison of audit fees across Canterbury

Attachment 1: Comparison of audit fees across Canterbury

Audit		Details	Ecan	Christchurch	Selwyn	Kaikoura	Hurunui	Waimakariri	Ashburton	Timaru	Mackenzie	Waitaiki	Waimate	Total
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Long Term Plan	A	Original agreed budget	104,800	291,500	60,000	75,600	94,200	106,800	103,100	107,400	94,710	Not supplied	76,000	1,124,110
	B	Total audit cost to Audit NZ	282,973	291,500		249,166	250,000	393,360	16,400	392,600	319,913		157,232	2,353,144
	C	Component of additional cost sought to be reimbursed from council	28,800	1,857	30,573	17,500	80,000	55,000	Not finalised	55,300	51,329		10,000	330,359
	D	Total cost to Council (A&C)	133,600	293,357	90,573	93,100	174,200	161,800	119,500	162,700	146,039		86,000	1,460,869
		Overrun %	27%	1%	51%	23%	85%	51%	TBC	51%	54%		13%	30%
		As % of turnover	0.08%	0.4%	0.1%	1.0%	0.53%	0.18%	0.23%	0.22%	0.9%		0.72%	
Annual Report	A	Original agreed budget	187,886	504,059	212,029	147,500	185,000	222,289	253,795	259,004	111,584	229,000	147,323	2,459,469
	B	Total audit cost to Audit NZ	223,322	825,550		220,154				405,004	348,781	317,888	255,873	2,596,572
	C	Component of additional cost sought to be reimbursed from council	9,098	145,000	43,924	6,136	0		29,000	30,000	27,368	0	17,675	308,201
	D	Total cost to Council (A&C)	196,984	649,059	255,953	153,636	185,000	222,289	282,795	289,004	138,952	229,000	164,998	2,767,670
		Overrun %	5%	29%	21%	4%	0%	0%	11%	12%	25%	0%	12%	13%
		As % of turnover	0.13%		0.27%	1.67%	0.62%	0.28%	0.54%	0.44%	0.9%	0.6%	1.26%	

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Marie Ward, Regional Public Service Director

Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner on the Regional Leadership Group: Waitaha Priorities (RLG) – Regional Leaders operating under the Regional Systems Leadership Framework (RSLF).

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. receive the written update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner.

Background

2. The Regional Leadership Group was established to ensure the region's system response to the COVID Protection Framework (CPF) was well prepared and met weekly. Given the lifting of the CPF the final meeting of this group was on 6 October 2022. Should the need arise the group is prepared to quickly reconvene.
3. The Regional Public Service Commissioner is also responsible to identify shared priorities that the public service can jointly work towards for Canterbury. The shared plans and priorities are to be locally-informed, regionally-led and centrally-supported.

Regional Public Service Commissioner Update

4. A written report is attached.

Attachment

- Attachment 1: Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Attachment 1: Regional Public Service Commissioner (RPSC) Update

Mayoral Forum 29 November 2024

Purpose

This paper provides a brief update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner, Di McDermott on the Regional Leadership Group (RLG) for Canterbury - Regional Leaders operating under the Regional Systems Leadership Framework (RSLF), and the Regional Public Service team (RPSC), presented by Marie Ward, Director.

Priorities

To develop regional priorities - cutting across work programmes and utilising an increased level of collaboration from agencies for improved outcomes. Alongside these priorities, RSLF also provides the opportunity to convene, resolve and escalate issues across social, economic, skills, workforce, and environmental sectors.

Regional Leadership Group (RLG)

There are three local government reps on RLG – Hamish Riach, Sharon Mason, and Mary Richardson.

Our two focus areas are:

- Children and Young people / Tamariki and Rangatahi (Police, MoE, MSD, MoJ, Corrections, Kāinga Ora, Vania Llewellyn (RPSC) and Rebecca Hibbert (RPSC).
 - First subgroup meeting is organised for 16 December – a snapshot is being prepared with Police and MoE data to help steer that initial conversation. The first meeting will be focused on the sub-groups formation and where effort could be best focused.
- Economic Development (Ashburton District Council, Selwyn District Council, MSD, Di McDermott (RPSC/MPI), and Marie Ward (RPSC)).
 - We will be attending the Economic Priorities Business Canterbury workshop, 25/11/2024. To avoid duplication, we will look to support action plans resulting from the day and compliment efforts across the region and consider any identified gaps.

Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory

RPS contribution to the Regional Energy Inventory:

- RPS has committed resourcing with a Lead Advisor leading the workstream at 0.5FTE through to Christmas - we have also committed additional resourcing with a Senior Advisor at 0.25FTE, to assist with the engagement phase. The RPS resource works alongside ECAN resource - a Senior Advisor at 0.5FTE.
- RPS will reassess the resourcing commitment we can make in the new year.

Where the project is at:

- The project is behind its originally planned schedule due to recruitment delays – a new timeline has been agreed by the steering group which will see the bulk of the Energy Inventory report being completed in March/April 2025 with sign off and publication happening from March to June.
- The energy inventory steering group has been established – Jesse Burgess (ECAN) is the chair of this group.
- Scope of Works and detailed project planning is now complete – with initial desktop research and drafting of the report now beginning.
- The engagement phase is critical to the successful delivery of the project - much of this engagement will provide key information for the drafting of the inventory.
- Engagement is now underway with a range of targeted engagement planned with key energy sector and local government stakeholders – a facilitated workshop is being organised for late January to test the insights from the draft report with a wider group.

The inventory will:



- Set out the broader regulatory context of the energy system in NZ – and anticipated change at the national level.
- Outline the current energy system and energy profile in Canterbury – i.e. energy use and demand by sector and map our existing and potential resources/assets.
- Outline potential future impacts from climate change/resource availability/population growth – with a particular focus on supply and demand and energy security and affordability.
- Identify where the challenges and opportunities are for the Canterbury region - i.e. where do we have natural advantages to increase renewable electricity generation, while also ensuring stability.
- Provide the evidence base for future work, such as potential work on energy strategies/action plans for the Canterbury region.
- Provide a key contribution to the Economic Development priority focus area for Canterbury – the transition of the energy system is likely to positively impact workforce opportunities. MBIE have noted that electricity demand in NZ is expected to significantly increase by 2050.

RPSC Team

- Di and Marie visited four of the mid and south Canterbury councils on 4th and 5th November. It helped us appreciate the individual nuances each region has and the potential of the collective voice. We even managed a Fairlie pie on our way. These will be annual visits to the councils, however, please don't hesitate to reach out to when needed and we will also connect at the Mayoral and Economic Development Forums.
 - Health was a common theme – understanding the health restructure and what it means for each region. Lack of access to primary health and specialist services. We understand you have requested a visit by the Minister of Health, Shane Reti. We will reach out across the other RPSC teams to see what engagement at all they have had in their regions with the Minister.
 - The agriculture sector is holding across the regions and looking to product growth, diversity, and expansions.
 - Housing – suitability, affordability, information sharing was also universal.
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Bird Flu). Di has offered to arrange a session on this topic for councils. More to come on this.

Other activities

- The work continues with Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA) to facilitate a healthy homes project on the Chatham Islands. We are looking to progress to phase one of the project (assessment of homes) early in the New Year.
- The **MacKenzie District cross agency youth working group** has convened and scoping is underway across the District to address outstanding needs for youth in the Twizel area. Already we have seen the introduction of a youth provider to the town and collaboration with agencies now sharing cars to travel to Twizel to deliver services – more time and resource to deliver the mahi.
- We continue to feedback into the **Te Aorerekura Action plan** (Te Aorerekura National Strategy). This plan has been identified as a key commitment of the Government to reduce violent crime.
- We are attending the **Chatham Island** on mainland Stakeholder Hui in Wellington on 20 Nov 2024
 - The focus for this hui is - Economically Prosperous, Environmentally Sustainable, and Resilient Infrastructure.
 - We are preparing for an on-island hui in Feb 2025
- **Supporting people with High and Complex Needs.** We are contributing to a Health NZ led paper that is looking to 'cost define' resource to support people with acute high and complex needs who require a bespoke solution. Such as people with complex mental or physical health conditions, hoarders, and corrections clients.



Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 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 August 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 Canterbury Mayoral Forum's (CMF) August meeting:
 - the Corporate and Operations Forums met online on 16 September
 - the Communications and Engagement Forum met in person on 20 September
 - the Economic Development and Policy Forums met in person on 30 September
 - the Chief Executives Forum met in person on 21 October.

Chief Executives Forum

3. Key agenda items discussed at the 21 October meeting included:
 - a roundtable discussion on Local Water Done Well, resource management reform, regional deals, building control authorities and local government elections
 - an update from Diane McDermott, the Regional Public Service Commissioner
 - an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy
 - a discussion on governance and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan
 - the upcoming CMF/Business Canterbury economic development priorities workshop on 25 November
 - a discussion on regional spatial planning, recommending the development of a scope of works, and associated budgets for a stocktake of existing spatial plans and

strategies, and the development of an options paper on the process for developing a regional spatial plan

- a discussion on audit fees for the most recent Long-Term or Annual Plans and Annual Reports
- an update on the September Regional Forum meetings
- the draft CMF agenda for 29 November 2024.

4. Chief Executives will meet next on 27 January 2025.

Triennium strategic workplan

5. The Mayoral Forum's 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 CMF (see attachment 1).
6. 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.
7. 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.

Attachment

- Attachment 1 - Strategic workplan

Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2023-2025

Updated 19 November 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 and 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	The Government has confirmed some co-investment to enhance the resilience of flood-prone communities. The funding will enable 42 projects to go ahead, including \$5.7 million for Waitaha/Canterbury.
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 and included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024. Draft scope of work for Labour Market Intelligence prepared (Nov 2024) to identify detailed evidence.	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 CE Forum supporting the RTC Transport Funding Project by making staff available for a Steering Group Included in joint RTC/CMF submission on GPS Land Transport 2024 Discussed at meeting with Minister of Transport in July 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 Review of Zone Committees workshoped May 2024, final report November 2024 (item 2.3)	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 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. Update provided Nov 2024 (Item 2.1)	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 and 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	Finalising contracts with preferred consultant to undertake strategic plan. 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	Partnership Plan approved August 2024. To be launched 13 December 2024. Implementation process provided at Item 5.1	Completion of the Climate Change Partnership Plan and agreement on action planning	Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan completed, Funding agreed and approved, Implementation of action planning underway
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 underway	Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory to support the development of a Regional Energy Strategy	

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Maree McNeilly, Secretariat

Launch update – Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the launch of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan to be held on Friday 13 December 2024.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the preparations and planning for the launch of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.**

Background

2. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP) was approved by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) at their meeting on 30 August 2024.
3. At that meeting it was noted that the launch event to celebrate the finalisation of the CCPP would be held on 13 December 2024, with invitations extended to Forum members, Canterbury councillors, members of the working and reference groups, government MPs and Ministers and other stakeholders.

Launch details

4. The launch will be held on Friday 13 December 2024 from 12 noon – 2.00pm at the Avon Room, Christchurch Town Hall, Kilmore Street, Christchurch.
5. Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change and Dr Rod Carr, Chair Climate Commission have been confirmed as keynote speakers.
6. Other speakers will be Mayor Nigel Bowen, Chair CMF and Mayor Dan Gordon, Chair Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group.

Invitations

7. Invitations have been sent to 163 guests, seeking their response by Friday 6 December. An updated list of attendees will be tabled at the meeting on the 29th November.

8. Along with a number of councillors and council staff the guest list includes representatives from the universities, youth councils and members of the Next Generation Conversation, Members of Parliament, chairs of nga Papatipu Rūnunga, business groups and media.
9. Guests will be provided with name tags as they arrive, and it is proposed that CMF members will be available to welcome guests.

Launch event draft run sheet

10. An event run sheet has been prepared for the launch. The draft run sheet is provided at Attachment 1.

Cost, compliance and communication

11. The CMF has agreed to a total budget of \$7,500 for the video and launch event.
12. Media statements will be prepared and circulated for CMF review prior to the event.

Next steps

13. Following receipt of the final invitation responses and any feedback received today, the run sheet will be updated and circulated to all CMF members prior to the event.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Launch event draft run sheet

ATTACHMENT 1 – Launch event draft run sheet

Time	Who	Action	Notes
morning	Staff	Set-up	
11.30-11.45am	Speakers	Speakers arrive, confirm speaking set up,	Media interviews (if pre-arranged)
11.40-11.55am	Staff	Guests arrive, welcome and name badges	CMF members to be on hand to welcome guests
12.00 noon	TBC	Mihi mihi	
12.05pm	Mayor Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, introduce himself and the other speakers. • Background to Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury and climate change action • Canterbury councils working together • Rationale for the collaborative approach • Introduce guest speakers 	Teresa Hancock and Kim Nutbrown to prepare speaking notes
12.12pm	Hon Simon Watts	Keynote speech & launch CCPP	
12.27pm	Dr Rod Carr	Keynote speech & Launch CCPP	
12.42pm	Mayor Dan Gordon, Chair Canterbury Climate Action Reference Group	Thanks Hon Simon Watts and Dr Rod Carr Process of plan development Thank you to working group and reference group Introduces Video	Kim Nutbrown and Teresa Hancock to prepare speaking notes
12.49pm	CCPP Video		
12.54pm	Mayor Nigel Bowen	Thanks speakers, wrap up, invite guests to lunch	
12.57pm	TBC	Karakia for kai	
1.00pm	Guest speakers, CMF members	Media interviews	If not done earlier
1.00pm		Lunch	
1.30pm		Minister Simon Watts leave	
2.00pm	FINISH	Event ends	

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Secretariat

Mayoral Forum activities and engagements – September to November 2024

Purpose

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

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receive the update on Mayoral Forum activities, engagements and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 30 August 2024.**

Background

2. A number of activities, meetings, submissions and correspondence occur between Mayoral Forum meetings. This paper summarises these in one place for the Mayoral Forums' convenience.

Meetings and engagements

3. The following meetings and engagements were held in addition to the regular quarterly meeting schedule:
 - Mayoral Forum meeting with Hon Simon Bridges, Chair New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi on 4 October. (Attachment 1)
 - Mayoral Forum meeting to discuss economic priorities approach on 30 September. The minutes of this meeting are attached for adoption in the 29 November meeting agenda.

Correspondence

4. Since the August 2024 meeting the Mayoral Forum wrote to:
 - Hon Shane Reti, Minister of Health reiterating the invitation to meet with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and providing a briefing on the opportunities to work

with central government to deliver improved health outcomes for our communities. (Attachment 2)

- Rūnanga Chairs providing an update on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, and an invitation to the launch event on 13 December. (Attachment 3)

5. The Mayoral Forum received the following correspondence since the August 2024 meeting

- Hon Shane Reti, Minister of Health, advising that due to diary pressures he is unable to meet at this time, advising that Martin Keough, Health NZ's new Deputy Chief Executive for the South Island Region, would be happy to meet with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. (Attachment 4)

Submissions

6. The following submission was made since the August meeting. Submissions are available on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website: www.canterburymayors.org.nz.

- Canterbury Mayoral Forum submission - Natural Hazard Information in Land Information Memoranda Regulations [submission](#).

Briefings

7. There have been no briefings since the August 2024 meeting.

Media Releases

8. Media releases since the August 2024 meeting included:

- The Canterbury Mayoral Forum mid-term achievements - September 2024. (Attachment 5)

CCPP launch update

9. Invitations for the Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan launch on 13 December were issued on 8 November. (Attachment 6).

Attachments

- Meeting notes
- Correspondence
- Media release
- CCPP launch invite

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 11.30am, 4 October 2024 Commodore Hotel, Christchurch

Meeting notes – Hon Simon Bridges, Chair NZTA

Attendees

Simon Bridges (Chair New Zealand Transport Agency), Nigel Bowen, Neil Brown, Dan Gordon, Sam Broughton, Phil Mauger, Grant Edge, Hamish Riach, Brent Smith (CCC), Giles Southwell (ECan), Sharon Mason, James Caygill (NZTA), (Maree McNeilly, Secretariat)

Apologies

Marie Black, Anne Munro, Gary Kircher, Craig Rowley, Craig Pauling, Stuart Duncan, Craig Mackle, Will Doughty, Stefanie Rixecker, Angela Oosthuisen, Jeff Millward, Hamish Dobbie, Alex Parmley

Introduction

- Nigel Bowen welcomed Simon to the meeting, and thanked Dan for arranging for Simon to meet with Mayoral Forum members while he is in Christchurch.
- Nigel's introductory remarks reflected on the significant economic activity that occurs on the transport network in the South Island, in both roading, rail and public transport. It was noted that funding new and improved infrastructure, along with maintaining what we have is an ongoing challenge for both NZTA and local councils.
- Simon thanked Nigel for the welcome, noted it was early in his term as the Chair of the NZTA and appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Forum members.
- He acknowledged the big change with the Government's GPS, however it was his Board's responsibility to now implement it.

Discussion

- It was noted that for some councils they received the same level of funding that they had received 3 years ago, but with the increasing costs the transport network is going backwards.
- The challenge of timing of LTPs and the NLTP was raised and the consequences that had for councils transport budgets and the need for a number of councils to go back to their communities as they will not be in a position to deliver what they had indicated, and communities supported, in their LTPs.
- Ashburton District Council is in negotiations with NZTA and the Minister regarding the funding for the Ashburton second bridge.

- Concerns were raised about the resilience of all State Highway bridges and also local bridges. The criteria of a 15km diversion impacting on resilience funding this of concern to councils.
- Forum members and Simon acknowledged the need for more money in the system – this may take the form of road pricing, tolling, private investment, however any of these are likely to take some time to come to fruition.
- The RUC reform project was discussed, acknowledging that the outcome of the review and implementation of whatever may result from the review would take some time before it could be put in place.
- Canterbury is very concerned that the PT funding from the GPS / NLTP is only enough to keep current services operating and there is no additional funding for PT Futures.
- Concerns were also raised about the Cook Strait ferry network and the impact that has on the connection between the north and south islands. A question was asked regarding what consideration is being given to the 'blue network'?
- Environment Canterbury asked if there is still the opportunity to access the \$78m in Crown funding to support improved public transport services uplifts and the infrastructure improvements needed to improve reliability, as previously ring fenced by the last Government? The response was that NZTA would look into it, noting that it was a commitment from the previous government.

Conclusion

- Nigel thanked Simon and James for meeting with Forum members and a desire was expressed by both Simon and Forum members to stay connected and continue to build the relationship.

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

5 September 2024

Hon Shane Reti
Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: S.Reti@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Reti

Invitation and briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Further to our letter on 1 March 2024, (copy attached) I would like to reiterate our invitation to you to meet with Canterbury Mayoral Forum members to discuss health matters for our region. Local government has a key role to play in the health and wellbeing of our communities and we want to work together with you for our communities.

As noted in our March briefing, we believe that we have a positive role to play in working with central government to deliver improved health outcomes for our communities.

One of the objectives of Health New Zealand is to encourage community participation in health improvement and service delivery. This goes to the first element of the purpose of local government – as an agent through which communities make decisions and take action. Local government has an important role to play in bringing together those who can influence results.

There is an opportunity to establish an integrated partnership between central government, local government, health and social service agencies and communities focused on promoting health outcomes. We are already doing this across a number of our communities. Examples include:

- the Selwyn Health Hub, an integrated health centre in Rolleston, opened in mid-2022, that provides a full suite of health services for residents – including a birthing unit and dental services, where the Selwyn District Council owns the centre and Health New Zealand is the primary leaseholder
- Selwyn District Council owns the land and buildings for their Darfield and Leeston medical centres

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

- Ashburton District Council owns the land and buildings for the Methven and Rakaia medical centres to encourage those practices to be successful and continue the services they offer to those relatively small communities
- Hurunui District Council owns four out of the five health centres in their district and provides housing to help attract and retain GPs in the region.
- Mackenzie District Council has vested interests in the medical centres in Fairlie and Twizel. In addition, Mackenzie District Council is engaging with Health New Zealand and other stakeholders to ensure continuity of services for urgent after hours and unplanned care. This is vital given the volume of tourists to the Mackenzie region and the overwhelming impact this has on their small base of volunteer services.
- in the Waimakariri District, site work is scheduled to start this year on a new extended hours Medical Centre, Rangiora Medical. The extended hours facility is a great starting point, but having access to full after-hours medical care is vital to our communities, across Canterbury and one of the biggest challenges remains the recruitment of medical professionals to both rural and urban areas
- Waitaki District Health Services Limited has just recently negotiated the transfer of management and provision of health services at Oamaru Hospital to Health NZ, after operating the Hospital since 1998 when Health Care Otago stopped providing health services in the area

There is also a need to prioritise our smaller hospitals across Canterbury, such as Oxford and Waikari Hospitals in North Canterbury. These are greatly valued by the communities there and have active 'friends of the hospital' members. Both hospitals would benefit from a formal maintenance programme and a commitment to ensuring the future sustainability of the facilities.

We see a need for a much stronger voice for local government in the health structure. This goes to our support for the subsidiarity principle, whereby that the function of governance and decision-making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities. Local government knows our communities and their challenges.

Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CC: Hon Matt Doocey, Associate Minister of Health, Minister for Mental Health

Encl: CMF Briefing to Minister of Health Mar 2024

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

27 September 2024

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Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan progress update

Further to our letter to you and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in March 2024, I am writing 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, and with others, to support our transition to a thriving, climate resilient, low-emissions region.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum approved the Plan at its meeting on 30 August.

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.

Our intent is to improve our understanding of what is important to our Treaty partners, understand the climate action requirements of Papatipu Rūnanga across Canterbury, and support councils to work in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga to integrate your requirements into local climate action planning.

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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The Plan focuses on the first three years of councils' Long-Term Plans 2024-2034, with a review proposed in Year 3. Collectively, councils have committed \$1.47 million for the first three years through their Long-Term and Annual Plans.

We would like to extend an open invitation to work with us as we implement the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

We recognise the ongoing challenges you face with requests for input and the pressure this puts on time and resources, however we want to keep you up to date on how the project is progressing and share the Plan with you.

To celebrate the finalisation of the Plan, we will officially launch it on 13 December in Christchurch and warmly extend an invitation to you with the opportunity to discuss your desired involvement in the Plan's implementation. We will share the invitations in due course and look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact either me on 021 906 437 or dan.gordon@wmk.govt.nz or our Canterbury Mayoral Forum chair, Nigel Bowen on 027 622 1111 or nigel.bown@timdc.govt.nz.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Signature added

Signature added

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

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: [Jess Smaling](#)
To: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz
Subject: RE: SRINV-714: INVITATION and letter from Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date: Wednesday, 30 October 2024 2:30:29 pm

You don't often get email from jess.smaling@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 afternoon Nigel

On behalf of Hon Dr Shane Reti, please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to you. The Minister appreciated the materials you provided, and the context around the various health configurations and challenges in the Canterbury region.

Unfortunately, due to pressures on the Minister's diary, he is unable to participate, but we do acknowledge that the issues you have raised are all active considerations for Health New Zealand. In light of that, we have reached out to ask that Martin Keough, Health NZ's new Deputy Chief Executive for the South Island Region, be available for an upcoming meeting to engage. He would be happy to meet with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

I will pass your details on to him, and ask that he reach out to set up a discussion with you and your colleagues.

Thanks
Jess



Jess Smaling
Private Secretary (Health) | Office of Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister of Health
Minister for Pacific Peoples

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

From: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz <secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 5 September 2024 11:11 AM
To: Shane Reti (MIN) <S.Reti@ministers.govt.nz>
Cc: Matthew Doocey (MIN) <M.Doocey@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: SRINV-714: INVITATION and letter from Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Please find attached an INVITATION and letter from 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

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)

Canterbury Mayoral Forum



c/- Environment Canterbury,
PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140
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Canterbury Mayoral Forum takes stock of achievements made halfway through triennium

At the halfway point, Canterbury Mayoral Forum members have taken pause to celebrate the achievements made to date – but they haven’t taken their foot off the accelerator.

In a report published in the middle of each local government term, the Forum has highlighted its achievements against the aims of their Plan for Canterbury 2023-25. The three key priorities laid out in the Plan are:

- Sustainable environmental management of our habitats
- Shared prosperity for all our communities
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Where have the wins been?

Following the 2023 general election, the Forum refreshed its Plan for Canterbury to ensure it reflected the current political context and the key priority actions the leaders wished to focus on for the remainder of the term.

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan was completed, with member councils mapping the actions into their own work programmes, ensuring a cohesive, localised response to climate action across the region. A launch for the Plan will be held later in the year. Work on other plans and documents has also commenced, including the regional housing strategy, a regional energy inventory and identifying regional economic development priorities.

Forum chair, Nigel Bowen, emphasised the strength of the collective: “The work of the Mayoral Forum is often invisible. It is where the region’s council leaders come together to put the broader Waitaha/Canterbury region - and all our communities – front and centre. We work together to create a joined up, regional response to the big issues such as our changing climate, our economy, and our environment. Our mid-term achievements prove this”.

Of note was a significant hui in 2023 with nine Government ministers to discuss the Plan for Canterbury and advocate for key issues for our communities. This advocacy work continued in 2024, with several meetings with Ministers to raise key issues of interest for Canterbury.

Chair Nigel Bowen is proud of what has been achieved so far and notes that the Forum is in good heart to push for what is needed for the region.

“We remain as focused as ever on providing a unified voice on the priority issues for our region to build a strong Canterbury.”

ENDS



You're invited...

To the launch of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

With keynote speakers Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change, and Dr Rod Carr, Chair of the Climate Change Commission

Friday 13 December, 2024

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Avon Room, Christchurch Town Hall

Light lunch provided. Please reply and let us know if you are attending by 6 December, for catering purposes.

The launch of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan marks a significant moment for climate change work in Canterbury.

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

**CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum**