

Agenda

Canterbury Policy Forum

Date Friday 24 September 2021

Time 1.00pm – 3:00pm

Venue Meeting by Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/98054067487?pwd=eFRpbTNwUFUrc253am53Smp1Q2JZQT09>

Meeting ID: 980 5406 7487
Passcode: 415329

Attendees David Ward (Chair), Carolyn Johns (Waimate), David Falconer (Christchurch, Planning Managers Group), Emma Davis (Christchurch), James Thompson (Natural Hazards), Katherine Hill (Mackenzie), Katherine Trought, (Environment Canterbury), Mark Low (Timaru), Matt Hoggard (Kaikōura), Murray Washington (Selwyn), Simon Markham (Waimakariri), Tim Davie (Climate Change Working Group), Toni Durham (Ashburton), Victoria van der Spek (Waitaki).

In Attendance Maree McNeilly, Rosa Wakefield (Secretariat)

Apologies

Time	Item	Page	Person
1:00	1. Welcome, introductions and apologies		Chair
1:05	2. Confirmation of Agenda	1	Chair
	3. Minutes from the previous meeting	2	Chair
	3.1. Confirmation of minutes – 25 June		
	3.2. Action points		
	FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION		
1:10	4. Building consent collaboration update	9	Chair
1:15	5. Productivity Commission consultation on New Zealand's immigration system	13	Secretariat
1:25	6. Carbon forestry - an emerging land use	19	Victoria van der Spek
1:35	7. Future for local government update – verbal update	-	Chair
1:45	8. Resource management reform update	37	Chair
1:55	9. Regional forums report and three-year work programme update	44	Secretariat
	WORKING GROUP REPORTS		
2:00	10. Canterbury Planning Managers Group – verbal update	-	David Falconer
2:05	11. Climate Change Working Group update	52	Tim Davie
2:10	General business		
2:15	Close		

Next meeting: 1pm Friday 17 December (via Zoom)

Canterbury Policy Forum

Draft

Minutes

Date:	Friday 25 June 2021
Venue:	Zoom
Attendance:	David Ward (Chair, Selwyn), Cam Smith (for Katherine Trought, Environment Canterbury), Emma Davis (Christchurch), James Thompson (Natural Hazards), Judith Batchelor (Hurunui, Planning Managers Group), Leo Milani (for Carolyn Johns, Waimate), Mark Low (Timaru), Matt Hoggard (Kaikōura), Simon Markham (Waimakariri), Tim Davie (Climate Change Working Group), Toni Durham (Ashburton), Victoria van der Spek (for Mike Searle, Waitaki). Attending: Amanda Wall, Rosa Wakefield (Secretariat)
Apologies:	Carolyn Johns (Waimate), Katherine Hill (Mackenzie), Katherine Trought (Environment Canterbury), Mike Searle (Waitaki), Murray Washington (Selwyn).

AGENDA ITEM	KEY POINTS DISCUSSED / RESOLVED	ACTION POINTS (Who will action, when?)
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies Attendance and apologies were noted as recorded above. James Thompson was an apology for lateness, and Tim Davie was an apology from 1.40pm.	
2	Confirmation of agenda The agenda was confirmed and no items of general business were raised.	
3	Minutes / actions Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March were confirmed. All actions are complete or on the agenda.	

AGENDA ITEM	KEY POINTS DISCUSSED / RESOLVED	ACTION POINTS (Who will action, when?)
4	<p>Building consent collaboration working party</p> <p>The chair gave a verbal update. At the previous meeting members agreed that building consent staff would work together to support teams in processing large volume of consents. Six councils (Christchurch, Mackenzie, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton and Timaru) are represented in this group, which met twice in June.</p> <p>Waikato Local Authority Shared Services (LASS) has drafted a building consent shared services proposal suggesting one Building Consent Authority (BCA) for all Waikato councils, operating as a virtual office with desks and inspectors spread across the region. Eight of 12 Waikato councils are using AlphaOne (as are Selwyn and some other Canterbury councils). Waikato LASS are looking at liability issues. The proposal will go to the LASS board in the next month or so. They have also streamlined the process for resource and building consents across councils.</p> <p>The working party discussed status of current consents, time to process, and pressures. It was noted that a year ago resourcing support could be spread across the region but now everyone is under pressure.</p> <p>The working party also discussed process, training and remuneration. David was tasked with discussing remuneration with the other CEs. It was noted that rural councils have different challenges to metro councils, and that two different offices may be needed.</p> <p>A CCO may be a long-term solution but a short-term solution is needed. There are good tight groups of the southern councils and the northern councils who talk regularly. Capacity can continue to be shared when available, and this needs to be maintained.</p> <p>In the short term the group agreed to continue communication with each other and with MBIE and IANZ, and to look at remuneration. They have developed a template to enable easier sharing of information.</p> <p>Members agreed that this work be reported to the CEs Forum.</p> <p>There was earlier work done around potential for alignment of rating systems but this group didn't proceed with a combined solution.</p> <p>The Forum agreed to note the verbal update.</p>	<p>David Ward: Report to the CEs on the findings of the building consent collaboration working party.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	KEY POINTS DISCUSSED / RESOLVED	ACTION POINTS (Who will action, when?)
5	<p>Carbon forestry impacts and mitigation options.</p> <p>Judith Batchelor gave a verbal update. Waitaki has written a paper which has gone to the Planning Managers Group, but another conversation with other councils is needed to cover the regional perspective. This will come to the next Policy Forum meeting.</p> <p>Members discussed the impact of carbon forestry in their region. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lot of community interest in this issue in Waitaki • Kaikōura hasn't yet addressed the issue but there is community concern after large areas of farmland have been converted. Kaikōura is now looking at the landscape chapters of their plan • Waimakariri and Christchurch have been talking to entities who want to partner with councils and subsidiaries around carbon forestry. Large corporates are seeking offset opportunities and this is expected to increase • Christchurch is looking to create policy around their approach to this but only at investigative stage currently • Environment Canterbury have had some conversations with the private sector around joint ventures. There is not yet a lot of clarity around return on mixed-model and long term native regeneration but Environment Canterbury is looking at this with their policy statement. Beca has been commissioned to look at forestry issues and the output of this can be shared once available • Ashburton, Waimate and Timaru are not currently seeing this as an issue, though Waimate are aware of some community concern • Ashburton, Waimate and Selwyn are researching and looking at what could be put in place around this • all are keen to share data and expertise as they become available. <p>The Forum agreed to note the verbal update.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM	KEY POINTS DISCUSSED / RESOLVED	ACTION POINTS (Who will action, when?)
6	<p>Future for Local Government update</p> <p>The chair spoke to the paper, noting that this will occupy a lot of our time over the next 12-24 months. The Minister is keen for us to be engaging in this conversation and has talked about the shape of local government over the next 30 years. She has noted that there may be some things central government is currently doing which could be done by local government.</p> <p>The Forum discussed the Future for Local Government review. Key points from the discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the capacity of councils across the region to contribute to and engage in discussion on future community wellbeing • the transfer of funding streams from central to local government to assist in delivery of services • improving alignment of wellbeings between central and local government • the importance of maintaining a local voice - local government knows its communities and local players • the need for a review of funding models • the unknown impact of reforms underway currently • clarity on infrastructure ownership • the importance of strengthening governance at local level • clarity on roles and responsibilities, and level of decision-making that will remain with local government • identifying local government's areas of success within our communities. <p>The Forum noted that building consent collaboration and rate collection were two issues that may be worth exploring further with regard to planning for the future for local government.</p> <p>The Forum agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the update provided in the paper 2. discuss how the Policy Forum can support the work of the Mayoral Forum on the future for local government. 	

AGENDA ITEM	KEY POINTS DISCUSSED / RESOLVED	ACTION POINTS (Who will action, when?)
7	<p>Working group terms of reference</p> <p>Amanda Wall spoke to the paper, which seeks approval of the revised terms of reference for the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Group, noting that the Climate Change Working Group terms of reference will come to the next meeting.</p> <p>The Forum agreed to endorse the revised terms of reference for the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Group.</p>	
8	<p>Resource Management Reform</p> <p>The chair spoke to the paper, noting he attended the Rural & Provincial meeting in Wellington two weeks ago, where Minister Parker gave an update.</p> <p>The Chair read from a letter from the Minister to all mayors and CEs, which discusses the opportunity to design a resource management system and the Government's process for legislation.</p> <p>The Chair encouraged members to speak to their mayors and CEs around process, council involvement, and ensure that when the opportunity arises that councils do engage.</p> <p>Taituarā have established a resource management reference group for senior officials. Canterbury is not represented on this group, and the chair will raise this with the CEs. Jim Harland is represented at the CE level but representation at the operational level is needed. Emma is working with Taituarā about how Canterbury can be involved and contribute without being a formal member.</p> <p>The Forum agreed to note the update provided in the paper.</p>	<p>David Ward: Raise the lack of Canterbury operational representation on Taituarā's resource management reference group with the CEs Forum.</p>
9	<p>Regional forums report and three-year work programme update</p> <p>Amanda Wall spoke to the paper, noting that Future for Local Government and Resource Management reform have been added to the work programme as separate programme items.</p> <p>The Forum agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receive the quarterly report from the Secretariat 2. note updates to the three-year work programme as reported to the Mayoral Forum on 28 May 2021. 	

AGENDA ITEM	KEY POINTS DISCUSSED / RESOLVED	ACTION POINTS (Who will action, when?)
10	<p>Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Group report</p> <p>James Thompson spoke to the paper. The CDEM Act is under review and although originally this was to be done in a number of tranches it now sounds like it will be done in one go. There will be a significant chance to contribute in September-November this year.</p> <p>A roadmap will come out next year on the delivery of the National Disaster Resilience Strategy.</p> <p>At the request of the Chair, James gave an update on the flood response. The Prime Minister visited Ashburton yesterday to look at flood recovery. She was very aware of the issues and mayors had the opportunity to raise issues, including that the \$4m will not be enough for the work. The bridge was also raised, the Prime Minister was not convinced that funding would come from central government but encouraged everyone to continue with a business case. The issue of Environment Canterbury's river management was also raised, questioning whether enough aggregate is being removed from riverbed.</p> <p>The Forum agreed to note this report.</p>	
11	<p>Canterbury Planning Managers Group report</p> <p>Judith Batchelor gave a verbal update. The Planning Managers haven't yet met as they have dedicated their next meeting to consider the NBEA exposure draft which has not yet been released. The Planning Managers will be meeting on 16 July to discuss next steps on the response to this, following the RMA NZPI event on 15 July. As the Planning Managers are likely to provide comments of a technical nature this group will likely have a role in looking at the broader aspects of the exposure draft.</p> <p>The Forum agreed to note the verbal update.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM	KEY POINTS DISCUSSED / RESOLVED	ACTION POINTS (Who will action, when?)
12	<p>Climate Change Working Group report</p> <p>Tim Davie spoke to the paper. The 'It's time, Canterbury' campaign was launched at the end of May and is going well. Members advised that the campaign has been picked up by their councils despite the unfortunate timing with the flooding. Concern was noted around the lack of clarity on tools available to local government to act on climate change. Tim agreed that there is uncertainty here but that it's good to be raising awareness in preparation, and the timing has worked well with the climate change commission advice. Other regions have expressed interest in the campaign and the group has been talking to the Ministry for the Environment about whether it could form the basis of a national campaign.</p> <p>The group facilitated a regional submission for the Mayoral Forum on the Climate Change Commission draft advice and are pleased to see that the advice has picked up some of the suggestions in the submission.</p> <p>The climate change risk assessment work is continuing but has been delayed by a couple of weeks due to Tonkin & Taylor staff availability. This will go to the Mayoral Forum on 19 November and will go around the councils as well. The Working Group will arrange for staff to brief councils.</p> <p>The Forum agreed to note the progress achieved to date by the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group on delivering its work programme for 2020/21.</p>	
	<p>General business</p> <p>There was no general business.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 2.17pm</p>	
	<p><i>Next meeting: 1pm Friday 24 September via Zoom.</i></p>	

Date: 24 September 2021

Presented by: David Ward

Building consent collaboration update

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Policy Forum with an update on the activities, outcomes and next steps of the building consent collaboration working group.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Policy Forum:

1. **note the update on the activities, outcomes and next steps of the building consent collaboration working group.**

Background

2. The Policy Forum agreed to the formation of a short-term building consent collaboration working party at its meeting in March 2021. The purpose of the working party was to explore opportunities for greater cross-Canterbury collaboration.
3. It was agreed the working party would report through to the Chief Executives Forum in July with recommendations on ways forward for greater collaboration on building consenting across Canterbury.
4. While the group is not yet at the stage of reporting its findings, the group has met on two occasions and agreed several short-term actions while it continues to work on longer term solutions. This report provides an update on its activities so far.

Rationale for the working group

5. Many councils are currently under extreme pressure to process building consents within statutory timeframes, largely due to growth pressures and resource shortages.
6. Councils are in recruitment over-drive but are hampered by a limited pool of building consent processors which are in demand from not only local councils but also private consultancies and contractors. This can result in the “poaching” of staff and the inevitable ratcheting up of salaries in an increasingly competitive labour market.
7. While there a number of different platforms used by councils to process their consents, the Building Code is the same for all councils across New Zealand.

8. The Policy Forum agreed there would be significant benefit to the sector in pooling our resources and/or considering a different model of service delivery. This could open up opportunities and advantages, including making it easier for industry providers to deal with one set of rules across Canterbury, improving joined-up training and staff development, and establishing a consistent customer experience across Canterbury.

Progress and activities of the working party

9. The working party has met twice since its establishment in March of this year. Six councils (Christchurch, Mackenzie, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton and Timaru) are represented on the group.
10. The group's discussion has focused on collating and sharing data on building consent statistics, recruitment of officers, processes and related matters, and considering the range of collaborative approaches Canterbury could employ going forward.

Information-sharing

11. The working party created a template for members to share information on a range of building consent matters. The completed templates were discussed at the group's second meeting and covered:
 - status of current consents
 - process times
 - pressure points and other processing issues
 - resourcing challenges
 - training and remuneration of building consent staff.
12. The template will continue to be updated and used by working party members to enable easier sharing of information across the region.

Options for improved collaboration

13. The working party discussed the proposal by the Waikato Local Authority Shared Services (LASS) to establish one Building Consent Authority for all Waikato councils, operating as a virtual office with desks and inspectors spread across the region. The proposal seeks to achieve consistency in consent approvals across the region and comprises the entire consent pathway, covering resource and building consents. The proposal will go to the LASS board in the next month or so. The LASS has already streamlined some existing processes for resource and building consents across their councils.
14. The working party noted that a LASS or CCO-type model could be a good long-term option, but short-term solutions are needed now.

15. The Waikato LASS offered the working party some informal advice to consider before Canterbury councils embark on change, including ensuring councils understand from the end-users what their current problems are and what the impact of our systems is on our local economic growth, noting that the people doing the work also need to identify the problem. The LASS also noted it would be important to ensure consistent leadership and messaging. The working party is considering this advice.
16. The working party has commenced discussion on a range of considerations for improving collaboration, including:
 - if a CCO model might work, what would this cost and who would be the lead council?
 - how councils can share competencies, training methods and a collective QA manual
 - addressing remuneration matters across all councils
 - acknowledging rural communities (and councils) have different challenges to urban ones - how does this impact the model chosen?
 - leveraging the healthy collective that exists already between the Greater Christchurch councils, which includes capacity sharing taking place where possible, and looking at a wider mainland group/southern cluster
 - an evaluation of specialist services.

Actions

17. The working party agreed the following actions be taken as short-term measures while the most appropriate longer-term action is considered:
 - share capacity to support building consent teams across Canterbury that are processing large volumes of consents
 - continue to communicate with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and International Accreditation New Zealand about building consent collaboration in Canterbury
 - continue to share information about remuneration and employment (capacity and capability) issues.
18. In addition to the list above, the working party agreed remuneration remains a significant challenge for councils. The Chair agreed to discuss this with council chief executives separately.
19. The group will continue to meet to share information and discuss recommended options on a way forward.

LASS opportunities

20. The Chief Executives Forum has approved funding for a feasibility study into whether a LASS or similar model would have value for Canterbury's collaborative procurement

aspirations. The findings of this study will be useful to inform the working party's discussion on a long-term model for collaborative consenting processes.

Next steps

21. The next steps are:

- a discussion with chief executives separately on remuneration matters for building consent officers
- the working party will continue to work on and refine short- and long-term options for improving building consent collaboration in Canterbury and present its recommendations to the Policy Forum once complete.

Date: 24 September 2021

Presented by: Secretariat

Productivity Commission consultation on New Zealand's immigration system

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek agreement from the Policy Forum to develop a regional submission for the Mayoral Forum on the Productivity Commission's consultation on New Zealand's immigration system and seek feedback from members on the range of issues that might be included in a draft submission.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Policy Forum:

1. **agree to develop a regional submission on the Productivity Commission's issues paper "Immigration, productivity and wellbeing"**
2. **provide feedback to the secretariat on the issues that the draft submission should seek to cover.**

Background

2. The Productivity Commission is currently seeking submissions on its issues paper "Immigration, productivity and wellbeing"¹.
3. The consultation has arisen because the Government asked the Commission to undertake an inquiry into New Zealand's "working-age" immigration system and make recommendations on changes that would best promote long-term economic growth and the wellbeing of New Zealanders.
4. Consultation closes on 24 December 2021, though the Commission has stated that if submitters have evidence or perspectives they think the Commission should consider for its Preliminary Findings and Recommendations report (to be released in October), submissions need to be received by the end of September.
5. The secretariat understands the Regional Skills Leadership Group and ChristchurchNZ (as well as other Canterbury-based RTOs) will also be making submissions. The

¹ Available here: https://www.productivity.govt.nz/assets/Inquiries/immigration-settings/Issues-paper_Immigration.pdf?vid=3#page=6

secretariat will monitor progress on these submissions and ensure alignment where this is appropriate.

Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury

6. A priority in the *Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury* is shared economic prosperity – through sustainable, value-added primary production, high-value manufacturing, high-value tourism, **growing, attracting and retaining a skilled workforce** and attracting new businesses.
7. A key action for the Forum under this priority is to advocate with Government for education and immigration policies that deliver a skilled workforce now and into the future.
8. A related action in the Plan is to advocate for the safe return of international students post COVID-19.
9. Given the Mayoral Forum's interest in immigration, it is recommended that a submission is made on this consultation to ensure Canterbury's collective voice is heard.

Key issues

10. The issues paper is based around a range of questions on which feedback is sought. These can be grouped as set out below:

The Treaty of Waitangi and Te Ao Māori:

- in what ways should the Crown honour the Treaty of Waitangi in developing and applying immigration policy? What changes are needed to policy or implementation?
- which concepts within Te Ao Māori, or Māori perspectives or values, are most applicable to immigration policy and why? What would, or should, including these concepts, perspectives or values mean for immigration policy?

Immigration, productivity and wellbeing

- is the Commission's proposed framework a useful way of thinking about the immigration system for this inquiry? What changes would you make?
- what should the overall objectives for the immigration system be?
- how should the Commission consider trade-offs between the different factors that contribute to wellbeing? Should there be some bottom lines that cannot be traded off at all?
- through which channels has immigration contributed to New Zealand's productivity growth? What evidence is there of this impact?
- are there other channels for immigration to impact productivity growth that the Commission should consider?

- are there barriers to migrants fully contributing to New Zealand's productivity growth?
- which factors matter most for assessing the impact of immigration on wellbeing? How can they best be measured?

Immigration policy design

- would there be benefit in requiring the Government to publicly announce its policy objectives for the immigration system? How often should the Government be required to make such a statement?
- how should New Zealand's special relationship with Pacific Island nations be reflected in immigration policy?

Migrants and settlement

- what does the "successful settlement" of migrants mean to you, and what are the barriers to achieving it?
- do you think prospective migrants are given enough information to make long-term decisions and settle successfully? What other information could help, and how could their access to this information be improved?

Obligations on employers

- currently, most employers have an obligation to prioritise the New Zealand labour force before recruiting temporary migrants. Do you agree with this obligation? Why or why not?
- if not, are there alternative obligations employers should have if they wish to recruit temporary migrant workers?
- what evidence, if any, should employers have to provide to prove they have made sufficient efforts to recruit New Zealanders?

Skills shortages

- previously, ANZSCO has been used to define "high" and "low"-skilled jobs. Should immigration policy differentiate between "high" and "low"-skilled jobs? Is there a better way of defining skill levels?
- what is the best way to identify workforce or skills shortages?
- prior to the pandemic, was the current system working effectively to address skills shortages while prioritising the employment of New Zealanders and ensuring the wages and conditions of New Zealand workers were not undermined? What evidence can you provide?

Investors and entrepreneurs

- how successful have the Investor or Entrepreneur category visas been to date in generating value for New Zealand? How could this value be increased?

- how should immigration policy acknowledge the fact that investment and entrepreneurship are inherently risky and that some efforts will not succeed?
- what criteria (if any) do you think should apply to investor visas in terms of: level of investment, type of investment, duration of investment and obligations to New Zealand?
- what criteria (if any) should apply to migrants wanting to establish or buy a business in New Zealand?
- how often should the business be reviewed against these criteria?

Students

- are the current criteria for obtaining post-study work rights satisfactory? What criteria should be added or removed (and on what basis)?
- to what extent should international students have rights to work in New Zealand?
- should visa applicants who have gained a New Zealand qualification receive a special preference for residence?
- should there be any restrictions on the kinds of sectors or occupations students can work in during or after study? Why, or why not?
- should the level or nature of qualifications that students are studying affect work rights during or after study? Why, or why not?

Working holidays

- what should the objectives of working holidays schemes be (e.g. fill temporary labour shortages, enhance international connections, encourage reciprocal overseas work opportunities for New Zealanders, attract longer-term migrants)? How well are the current schemes delivering on these objectives?
- do you think the number and set of countries New Zealand has agreed working holiday schemes with is set at the right level?

Other ways for New Zealand to source skills and talent

- what more can immigration policy do to attract specialist “high-impact” people? What other complementary policy changes might be needed?
- what effect has access to migrant labour had on training, job conditions and technology adoption by firms? What other factors explain firm practices? How can the Government support firms to change their practices?
- how responsive to skills gaps is the education and training system? Are there policy changes that could improve its responsiveness?
- how can New Zealand best leverage the diaspora to enhance productivity growth?

Population growth and migration volumes

- which costs and benefits of population growth are most important? Why?

- what policy changes could help increase the benefits and reduce the costs of population growth?
- could or should the Government use immigration policy (e.g. visa conditions to settle in specific places) to ease pressures in some regions? If so, what would be the best way?
- should the Government regulate the numbers of people given permanent residence? How and why?
- should the Government regulate the total number of people with temporary work rights? How and why?
- if the Government does regulate volumes of permanent residents or temporary migrants, what should it be trying to achieve (e.g. stabilising population, managing pressures on housing and infrastructure demand)? How feasibly can the Government achieve these goals through immigration policy?

Mayoral Forum advocacy on immigration

11. The Mayoral Forum's advocacy on immigration this term has been focused on the COVID-19 response.
12. In June 2020, the Forum wrote to the Minister of Immigration to advocate for a change to border restrictions that were preventing skilled dairy workers with valid working visas to return to their primary sector jobs.
13. In December 2020, following the 2020 general election, the Forum wrote to the Ministers of Education and Immigration to brief them on their work across these portfolios.
14. Key points from the letter included:
 - COVID-19 has particularly disrupted the flow of skilled migrants to the region, and international students to our universities and other tertiary institutes
 - the Forum has focused its work on advocating for education and immigration policies that deliver a skilled workforce now and into the future, and the safe return of international students as part of New Zealand's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
 - the Forum's priorities for immigration align well with those of the Government, in particular updating immigration settings, border controls and access to critical skilled workers to support New Zealand's economic recovery.
15. Given the Mayoral Forum's interest in immigration, the submission would likely need to make comment on all the topics in the issues paper. However, to align with recent areas of advocacy, it could be particularly focused on the areas of immigration policy design, skills shortages, students, other ways for New Zealand to source skills and talent.

16. Feedback on the possible content and focus areas of the submission is sought from Policy Forum members.

Next steps

17. A proposed timetable to develop the submission is set out below. Review by each Forum of the draft submission will be required by email.

Step	Timeframe
Policy Forum to provide advice on content and focus areas of draft submission	24 September
Secretariat to draft submission	Complete by 5 November <i>(Allowing time to consider any changes required to draft following release of Commission's draft report with proposed recommendations in October)</i>
Review by Policy Forum	8 – 15 November
Review by Chief Executives Forum	17 – 24 November
Review and approval by Mayoral Forum	26 November – 3 December
Submission	6 December

Date: 24 September 2021

Presented by: Victoria van der Spek, Waitaki District Council

Carbon forestry – an emerging land use

Purpose

1. To initiate a discussion with the Policy Forum on the issues surrounding carbon forestry in Canterbury and seek the forum's advice as to whether this is an issue to be managed regionally or on a case-by-case basis.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Policy Forum:

1. **note the issues surrounding carbon forestry in parts of the Canterbury region**
2. **provide guidance as to whether the effects of carbon forestry should be managed centrally, regionally or on a case-by-case basis**
3. **agree to request the Canterbury Mayoral Forum advocate to central government for guidance and/or direction on how to manage the effects from carbon forestry.**

Key Points

2. Carbon forestry is one of the tools for mitigating against the effects of climate change. The Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading) Amendment Act 2008, emissions trading scheme and other recommended central government initiatives support carbon forestry.
3. The Forests (Permanent Forest Sink) Regulations 2007 sets out the interpretation for an eligible forest and that a forest sink is an eligible forest that is growing or will be grown on Kyoto-compliant land as a result of active establishment. Kyoto-compliant land means any land not covered by an eligible forest as at midnight 31 December 1989.
4. The effects of carbon forestry are not captured by existing regulatory provisions such as the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF), nor existing policies and rules in regional policy statements, regional plans or district plans.

Background

5. In the Waitaki District concerns have been raised by council and landowners about the conversion of rural land into carbon forests, with little or no controls. Recent media coverage has highlighted this issue. Community pressure led to a political decision by

Waitaki District Council to consider addressing the issues associated with carbon forestry through a district plan change. Copies of the media articles are provided at attachment 1.

6. Local planning rules across New Zealand have not considered the implications of carbon forestry, separate from other land uses, and there are considerable differences in the effects of carbon forestry and plantation forestry, with plantation forests being planted to be harvested while carbon forestry is typically not harvested. Plantation forestry is captured under the NES- PF, whereas this NES does not apply to carbon forestry.
7. The effects of carbon forestry, as with all land uses, will need to be appropriately managed at the local level, however to support this national and regional guidance would enable the issues to be managed consistently across New Zealand.

Regulatory context

8. The Resource Management Act 1991 provides the legislative framework for managing the effects of land use, through national policy statements, national environmental standards, regional policy statement and plans and district plans.
9. Currently there is a national environmental standard for plantation forestry, the NES-PF. This standard enables councils to apply greater stringency to their regional or district planning provisions in limited circumstances (e.g. areas with identified biodiversity and/or landscape and/or geological values).
10. The NES-PF does not apply to carbon forestry.
11. Territorial authorities have an ability to manage land uses such as tree planning for carbon sequestration for purposes including landscape, amenity, road safety, natural hazards and protection of indigenous biodiversity.

Carbon forestry impacts

12. The environmental effects of forestry are similar whether they be planted for carbon credits or as a plantation (changes to the landscape and ecological values), however there is a stronger management regime around plantation forestry and the management of these effects.
13. Under the NES-PF there are regulations that provide avenues for councils to be able to control the effects of plantation forestry and may address a range of issues such as setbacks from boundaries, dwellings and waterways.
14. These controls are not available for the management of the effects of carbon forestry.
15. An increase in carbon forestry may result in negative impacts including:
 - loss of “productive” land

- decrease in local employment
 - loss of agricultural services
 - reverse sensitivity effects on adjacent land
 - increase in wilding trees
 - potential for increased fire risk.
16. A recent report commissioned by Beef + Lamb NZ to analyse the effects on employment, noted that for an area of 1000ha, carbon forestry produces 0.6 jobs per annum, compared to sheep and beef properties generating 7.4 local jobs per annum.
 17. Carbon farming also provides positive effects including carbon crediting, honey, conservation and tourism. Carbon farms increase in value as they become tradable off-setters in the Emissions Trading Scheme.

The Waitaki experience

18. Recent legal advice received by the Waitaki District Council (WDC) has confirmed that under the current Operative Waitaki District Plan, carbon forestry best fits the activity status of “farming activity” (linking to the production of vegetative matter within this definition). Farming activity under the Waitaki District Plan is a permitted activity in non-sensitive environments. This currently poses some risk for Waitaki with carbon forestry only being restricted on land with high identified biodiversity value (SNAs) and identified outstanding natural and coastal landscapes and features.
19. In Waitaki, highly productive lands are not currently protected from the carbon forestry activity, along with other rural scenic landscapes (currently referred to as the Rural Scenic zone) which make up two thirds of the district’s land area – this includes part of the wider Mackenzie Basin land area.
20. The first “carbon forestry” resource consent application was submitted to WDC’s planning unit in 2013. This application was subject to further information requests at the time. Land use consent was not granted despite the applicant going ahead with planting within 15 metres of neighbouring properties and undertaking illegal vegetation clearance through spraying (not complying with the relevant forestry standards in the district plan). Following the commissioning of an ecological report by WDC, the applicant was asked to seek retrospective consent, but there was disagreement with council over regenerative native plantings. No further progress was made with this application, and no prosecution took place. Officially, the resource consent was placed “on hold.” This property was the subject of a significant fire in 2020.
21. Based on the current activity status for carbon forestry under the Waitaki District Plan, WDC’s Planning unit has recently granted its first certificate of compliance (COC) for carbon forestry (deemed a permitted activity under the district plan provisions) to establish permanent plantation forest – up to 60 years (intended to regenerate to native forest cover) on existing “productive” rural farmland. The subject site was previously a

2,500-hectare sheep and beef farm and is adjacent to the original “carbon forestry” site in Waitaki.

22. WDC anticipates more COC applications for carbon forestry in the near future.
23. In response to the current experience in Waitaki, the council is considering a number of options, which are provided in attachment 2.

Conclusion

24. Carbon forestry is an emerging land use in New Zealand that will need to be appropriately managed at the local level. However, to support this, regional and national direction is required to ensure there is a consistent approach across New Zealand.

Next steps

25. If carbon forestry is considered to be a regional issue, it will be addressed through Environment Canterbury’s review of the regional policy statement
26. If the issue is only specific to Waitaki, the WDC will continue to progress actions already identified above and maintain a watching brief on carbon forestry in the district.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: relevant media articles on carbon forestry in the Waitaki District
- Attachment 2: outline of what the WDC is doing to manage the impacts of carbon forestry.

Saturday, 6 February 2021

Dismay at conversion to forestry

By Sally Rae (/author/Sally%20Rae)

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Business (/business)

8 (/business/dismay-conversion-forestry#comments)



A blaze in a pine forestry block near Livingstone in October last year burnt through 611ha. PHOTOS: STU JACKSON

Among the steps the newly formed Climate Change Commission laid out in its recently issued draft advice to hit ambitious greenhouse gas targets was more forestry. It recommended slashing livestock numbers by about 15% by 2030 and planting 380,000ha of new exotic forestry by 2035. In North Otago, the proposed conversion of a 2590ha sheep, beef and deer property to carbon forestry is creating waves as concerns are raised about environmental impacts and fears that forestry conversions are not subject to the same level of scrutiny as other land use changes. Business and rural editor Sally Rae reports.

"I just think it's an absolute injustice, it's a crime to have that land put into trees."

North Otago farmer Murray Simpson has farmed Balmoral, near Tokarahi, for 45 years. The property neighbours Hazeldean, a 2590ha sheep, beef and deer farm in the headwaters of the Kakanui River catchment which appears destined to be planted out in pine trees.

The property is in the throes of being sold to New Zealand Carbon Farming — the largest provider of carbon credits in Australasia. Not mincing his words, Mr Simpson fears the development will be "an absolute shambles".

Mr Simpson and his wife, Judy, along with several other local farmers, the Kakanui Water Allocation Committee, Kakanui Camp Society, North Otago Federated Farmers, Central South Island Fish and Game Council and North Otago Irrigation Company recently wrote to Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher, expressing their concerns.

Their main focus was on water quality and the effects on the environment in a catchment that was of "undisputed importance" to North Otago and to the communities and stakeholders whose "lifeblood" depended on it, but which was also a catchment under pressure.

Farmers have also expressed concerns that such forestry conversions were being allowed to go through without the "checks and balances" they believed changes to other land uses would necessitate.

Mr Simpson has had a lifelong tie to the the Kakanui River; he grew up at Kia Ora, playing and swimming in the river as a child.

He moved to Balmoral in 1975 and also had a long association with Hazeldean. For decades, he and a previous owner helped each other out on their respective properties.

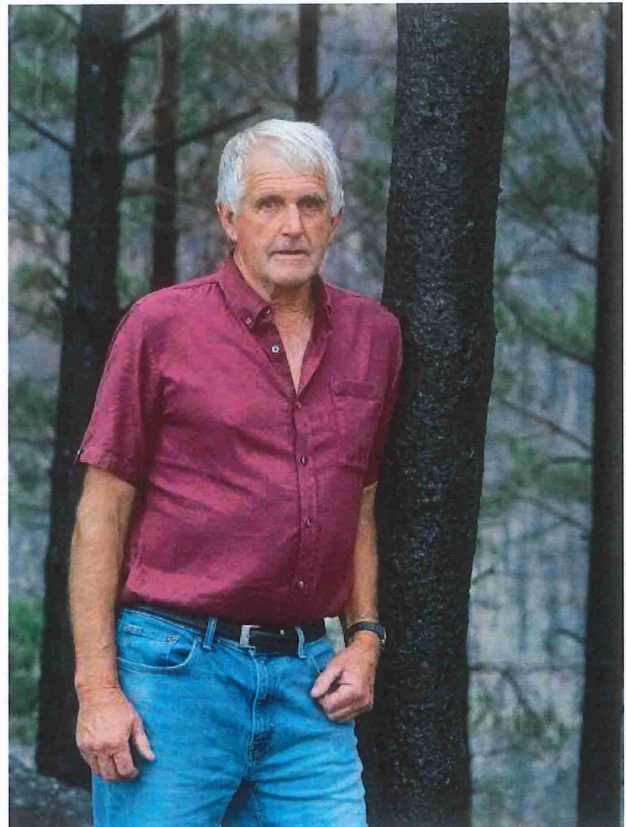
"I know [that] property as well as mine. Over the 45 years that I've been here, I've developed quite an attachment ... to both properties," he said.

While the Simpsons were in the process of selling their own property, Mr Simpson and other farmers were prepared to speak out on the proposed sale, saying their main aim was to make the public aware of what was going to happen and the effects it could potentially have.

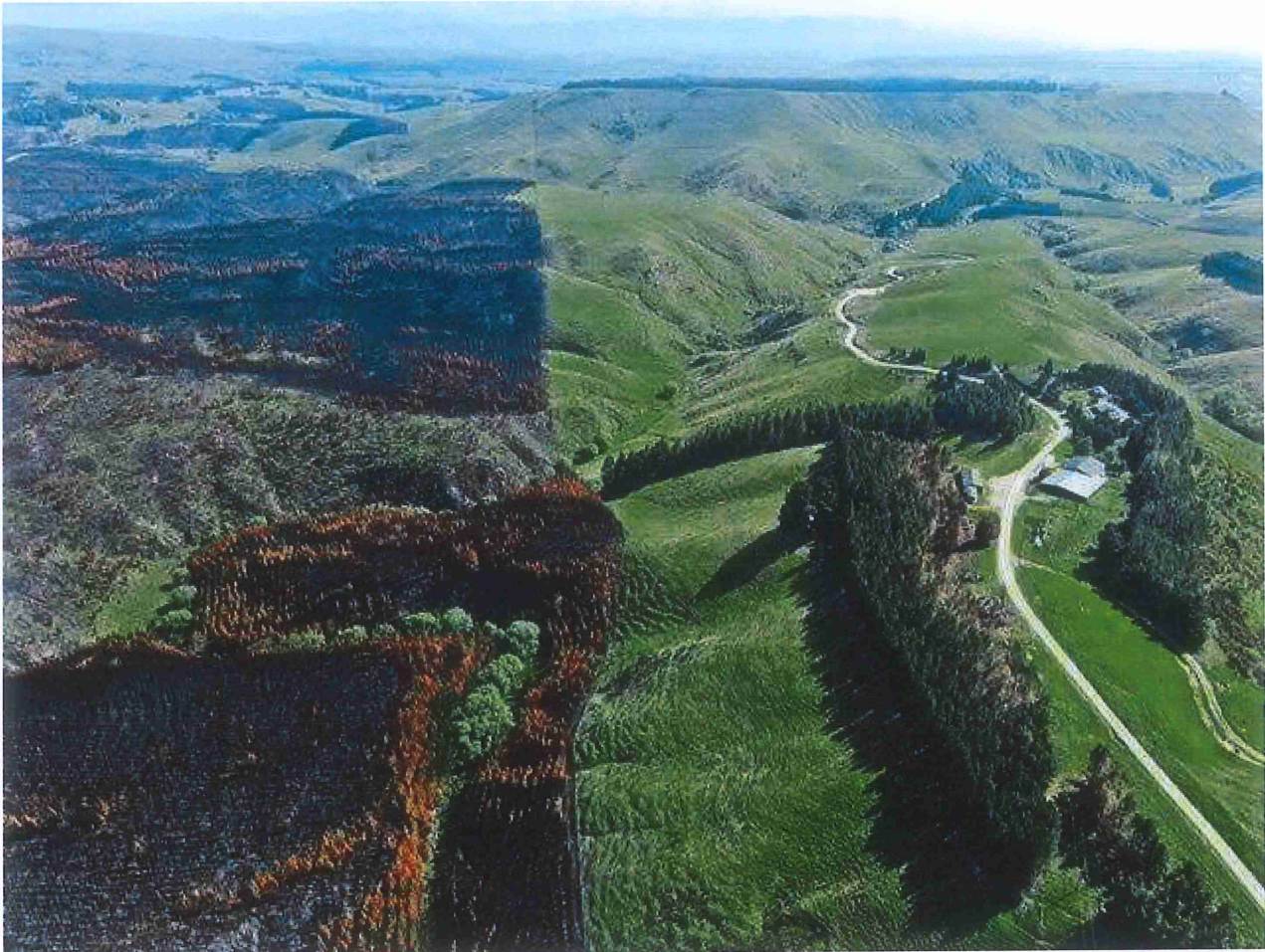
If the environment could cope with the plantation, then there was no issue. That was the same if New Zealand Carbon Farming could control the pests on the land, but he feared they could not in an area that big.

About 12 months ago, wilding pines were removed from the area and yet pine trees were being put back in — "What's the sense in that"? he said.

In their letter, the signatories said they were not opposed to forestry; integration of both native and plantation forestry into existing farming operations might assist with meeting New Zealand's climate change commitments, landscape resilience, improving water quality and animal welfare.



North Otago farmer Murray Simpson is concerned about the environmental impact of a proposed large-scale carbon forestry development near Tokarahi.



Charred trees show how close the fire came to Murray and Judy Simpson's home.

Equally, the opposite was true. There were instances of forestry being planted where significant areas of indigenous vegetation had been cleared, historic and cultural sites destroyed, and water quantity and quality of the catchment negatively affected.

Forestry also provided fewer jobs than farming operations.

Fewer jobs meant fewer families in the area, fewer children in schools and less spending in towns.

Most of the benefit from incentives such as carbon credits went to the landowners rather than local communities, as forest owners frequently lived remotely from their plantations, they said.

The Kakanui River was the source of water for four community water supply schemes. It had particular tribal significance to Te Runanga o Moeraki which was reflected in its status as a Statutory Acknowledgement Area.

Large areas of significant indigenous vegetation were prevalent on the land surrounding its headwaters. There were also many remnants of old stonework in the area including rare stone yards, huts and middens.

In the Otago Regional Council's water plan, the area above Clifton Falls was acknowledged as an area with a high degree of naturalness, as well being a significant habitat for longjaw galaxiid which had a threat status of "nationally critical" and koaro and lamprey, both of which were in decline nationally.

The river was a locally significant brown trout fishery and game bird habitat and provided recreational opportunities to the surrounding communities.

It was a catchment that was under pressure, with decreasing flows impacting on water quality, aquatic life and the health of the estuary.

The signatories were concerned the planting of large areas of forestry would result in those values being lost and further reduce the catchment's water yield, exacerbating pressure on the water body.

Tall vegetation's impact on water yield was through higher interception loss, leading to less water for stream run-off and groundwater recharging.

Five Forks dairy farmer Lyndon Strang, who has been active in the water quality arena, said farmers concerned about the development did not want to be seen as a group of "not in my back yard" types.

He believed there were no "checks and balances" for that land use change. If there was going to be land use change — whether 1000ha planted in hazelnuts or converted to deer farming — there were going to be implications on water. Carbon farming and forestry needed to go under the same close scrutiny as any other land-use change.

The dairy boom initially went through "pretty much unchecked" and the price was probably being paid now, he said.

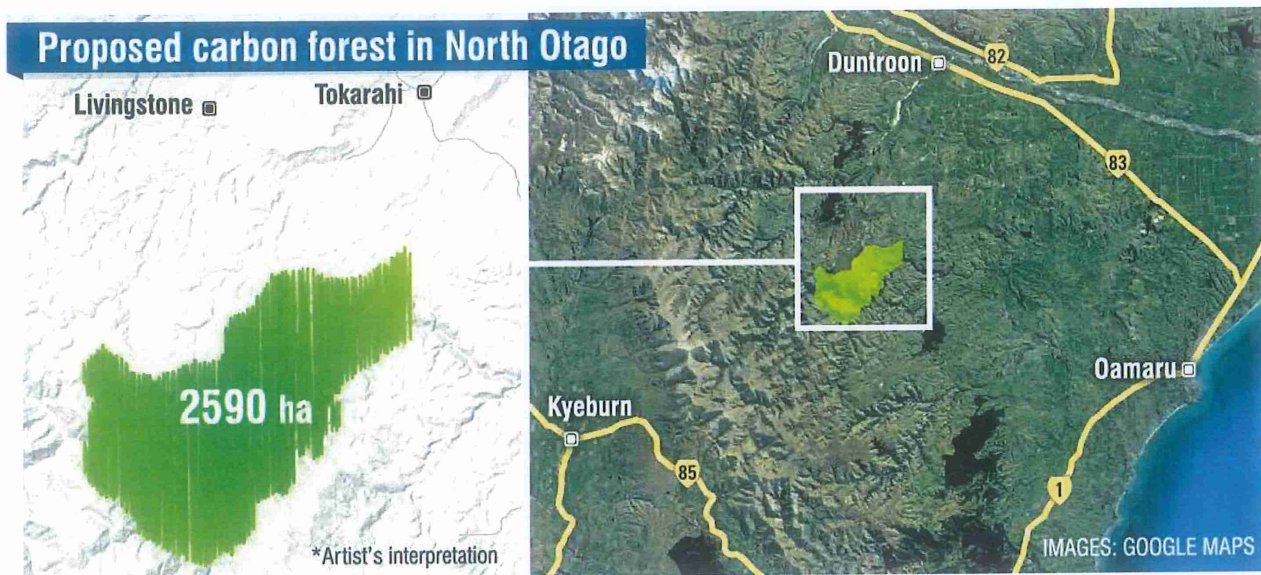
Mr Strang did not want to see the same thing later from forestry; if it was going to happen, it had to be in the right place with the right measures around it.

Much work had been going into remediation in the Kakanui catchment and farmers "pulling up their socks".

Something of the scale of that forestry in such an important part of the catchment could be a "massive step back".



North Otago farmer Murray Simpson stands next to the remains of his tractor following a fire in the area in October last year which burnt through more than 600ha. PHOTOS: STU JACKSON



It would change the whole dynamic of the catchment, where the health of the river was supposed to be a priority. Planting at the headwaters changed what went into the river, affecting water quality and quantity, he said.

Those farmers speaking out were not against planting trees. But Mr Strang suggested a better approach would be for farmers to be incentivised to plant the worst 5%-10% of their land in trees — do that across the catchment and there would be a large number of trees within 10 years — "and you don't need to trash a perfectly good farm".

Those behind that development did not appear to have the likes of firebreaks, firefighting ponds and pest management control plans before they got under way, he said.

Five Forks sheep and beef farmer Jane Smith, a former winner of the national Ballance Farm Environment Awards, feared the development could set a precedent for the rest of the country, if the sale went ahead.

Potentially there was also a domino effect in the wider community with the removal of livestock from the property.

And if a kilogram of protein was not produced here, then someone else in the world had to do it to meet demand using a "way larger carbon footprint", Mrs Smith said.

There were concerns resource consent was granted retrospectively by the Waitaki District Council to New Zealand Carbon Farming for an activity like the Hazeldean proposal.

It was sought for clearance of indigenous vegetation, failure to meet setbacks from neighbouring properties without written approval, and earthworks and planting within 20m of streams and wetlands at Tokarahi.

"Conditions were imposed on the consent and, from our observations, few of the conditions have been complied with, and there has been a failure on the council's part to ensure compliance," the letter to Mr Kircher said.

The effects of seeking that retrospective consent had been emphasised by the "abhorrent lack of adherence" to the conditions of consent, it said.

The forestry was a fuel source for devastating fires that occurred in October last year and was a habitat for deer, pigs and wallabies.

As well as increasing the level of pest control required, the increase of such animals could further contribute to the decline of indigenous vegetation.

The blaze, in a New Zealand Carbon Farming pine forestry block near Livingstone, burnt through 611ha and led to a public meeting where farmers asked if there was a plan to install more water in the area to help fight fires.

Mr and Mrs Simpson had a traumatic first-hand experience with that fire; they were forced to flee their home and feared their house would not be standing when they returned.

Mr Simpson received a phone call from a neighbour at 3.45am and was told to look out the window. He saw the plantation on fire but it "wasn't the biggest shock I've ever had" — he had been "waiting for it to happen" as it was a thick plantation and there were no firebreaks.

The nearest water was 5km away and Mr Simpson said the neighbours were essentially used as firebreaks.

Their house was saved by the wind; they lost a haybarn and machinery to the blaze and, if a helicopter had arrived five minutes later, they would have also lost their workshop and woolshed. The fire reached the back of the workshop at the same time as a helicopter arrived.

Given that conversion of any land in the headwaters of the catchment to forestry would require the same scope of works, the signatories envisaged resource consents would also be required.

They considered any potential adverse effects on the values of the catchment could be more than minor and public notification of any application should occur. They requested the council take "a very dim view" of any attempt to retrospectively seek resource consent.

Long term, the group said they would be actively participating in the Waitaki district plan review, as well as working with the Otago Regional Council to co-develop a planning framework in regard to large scale conversion of land to forestry that better aligned with community expectations and outcomes.

Hazeldean has been owned by the Hannon family since 2007 when they moved down from the North Island, intending to stay for 10 years.

John Hannon spent years dreaming of developing a larger farm. Selling the property, due to a variety of reasons, was the hardest thing he had ever done, he said.

Mr Hannon was very concerned about water quality, how the development would affect the neighbours, and about the stone yards and hut on the property. New Zealand Carbon Farming had given him assurances that his concerns would be its concerns, he said.

He lived "in the healthiest place in New Zealand with probably the biggest fire danger", he said.

When approached for comment, New Zealand Carbon Farming provided a statement to the *Otago Daily Times*.

As the owner and manager of the largest New Zealand-owned permanent forestry estate, it was a significant contributor to New Zealand's climate goals.

Over the past decade, more than 20million tonnes of carbon had been captured by New Zealand Carbon Farming's forests — the equivalent of having no cars on New Zealand's roads for a year. New Zealand Carbon Farming's forests stored a tonne of carbon every 13 seconds.

"New Zealand Carbon Farming establishes permanent regenerating carbon forests. These are forests that are planted in pine then actively managed to return, over time, to 100% indigenous forests — providing a rich habitat for Aotearoa's unique native flora and fauna.

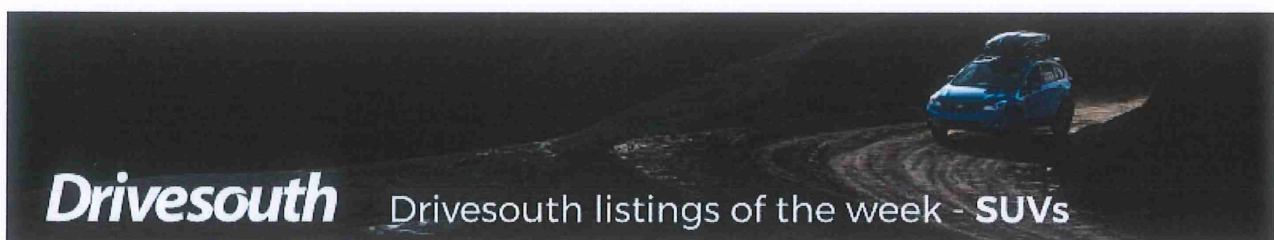
"This science-backed approach creates a protective nurse crop for native trees, while also maximising how much carbon is captured in the early stages of forest growth.

"The process makes preservation and active management of any native forest area within our forests vitally important. These areas form an important, biodiverse reservoir to help support the native regeneration process," the statement said.

More than 95% of New Zealand Carbon Farming's 66.7million trees under managment for carbon were planted on low productivity land (grade 6 and above) — including marginal, steep and erosion-prone land.

"We also carefully manage all of our forests — employing local people to work year-round on tree and estate management, predator control and enhanced native tree growth," it said.

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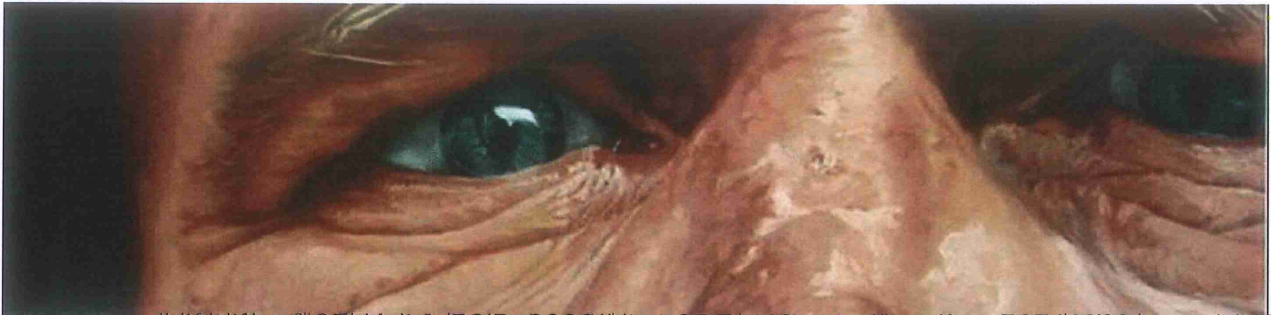
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Thursday, 1 April 2021

Plan change mooted to limit carbon farming

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Farming (/rural-life) > Other News (/news/other-news/other-news) (https://www.odt.co.nz/news/rural-life/other-news/2021/04/01/plan-change-mooted-limit-carbon-farming/50744263/viewwidth=680&viewheight=4263&viewwidth=680&viewheight=4263)



Waitaki mayor Gary Kircher. Photo: ODT files

Attempts are being made by the Waitaki District Council to rein in carbon farming, following public concern over a recent farm sale.

A report presented at a council meeting on Tuesday, suggested a district plan change under the Resource Management Act.

This would allow the council to move independently of the tight timeframe set by the release of the draft district plan review.

It is expected some new areas of outstanding natural landscape, significant natural areas, geological sites and visual amenity landscapes will be included in the plan.

This would mean more stringent planning restrictions could be applied in these areas.

Much of this land is zoned rural general or rural scenic, which allows the potential for it to be converted to forestry land.

A review of the national environment standards, described by the report as a "one-stop shop for forestry regulation", was in progress.

It was not known when public consultation would occur but the report recommended advocating for and participating in the review.

Concerns were raised over carbon farming and the consent process after the *Otago Daily Times* revealed the proposed sale of 2590ha Hazeldean, a sheep, beef and deer farm near Tokarahi, to New Zealand Carbon Farming.

It is understood this sale has now gone through.

Cr Bill Kingan said after he visited the farm to look at what was proposed, he was taken to a spot overlooking the Kakanui River, where regional councillors had been taken last week.

"Apparently, they just stood on that knob there, with their mouths wide open."

He wondered if the "significant landscape card can't be drawn".

The community was not against forestry, and parts of that farm could go into forestry, but not the whole thing, he said.

The estimated cost of the district plan change was around the \$100,000 mark, largely made up of extensive assessment work.

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher said he found the whole situation "really bizarre".

"We're picking up on concerns of our community ... We're going to have to spend upwards of \$100,000 to try and put some measures in place to actually try and protect our place and our environment, from policies that are pushed down on us," Mr Kircher said.

"Our people aren't seeing any benefit for it, other than hopefully something that doesn't happen.

"It's just all totally backwards, as far as I can see it," he said.

- By Ashley Smyth

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Monday, 3 May 2021

Fears over forestry of 'ecological disaster'

By **Sally Rae** (/author/Sally%20Rae)

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62

Farming (/rural-life) > **Other News** (/rural-life/rural-life-other)

A public meeting will be held in North Otago tomorrow to discuss the long term effects of large-scale forest farming in the headwaters of the Kakanui River.

It follows public concern over the recent sale of Hazeldean, a 2590ha sheep, beef and deer farm, near Tokarahi, to New Zealand Carbon Farming.

Tomorrow night's meeting, in the Weston Hall at 7.30pm, has been organised by local community members, who have described such developments as creating an "ecological disaster" for the Kakanui River and North Otago.

They cited concerns which included clearance of native vegetation, potential for wetlands drying up, reduced flow in the river, reduced water quality, plantation debris into the river system during heavy rain events, and the potential for a haven for pests.

New Zealand Carbon Farming, the owner of the largest New Zealand-owned permanent forestry estate, previously told the Otago Daily Times it established permanent regenerating carbon forests, meaning planted in pine then actively managed to return to 100% indigenous forests.

It said it carefully managed all of its forests, employing local people to work year-round on tree and estate management, predator control and enhanced native tree growth.

Retired farmer Bruce McNab said he recently took a look at the area overlooking the confluence of the north and south branches of the Kakanui River.

It was a "real eye-opener" as he saw the "beautiful vegetation" running up the gullies, and the "beautiful clean water".

That vegetation included kowhai, broadleaf, manuka and pittosporum.

Originally from the Catlins, where he conserved bush which was still standing, Mr McNab had also been involved in setting up the New Zealand Landcare Trust.

Mr McNab said New Zealand Carbon Farming's mission statement must be challenged. To state Pinus radiata plantations could be actively managed to encourage the regeneration of indigenous forests was "nonsense".

Land covered in lowland podocarp bush or high country native shrub species could not co-exist with densely planted radiata pine on the same area, he said, and preparation for exotic carbon forests involved wiping out native vegetation with chemicals, he said.

Among those attending the public meeting would be representatives from the Department of Conservation, Otago Regional Council and Waitaki District Council.

A recent Waitaki District Council report suggested a district plan change under the Resource Management Act as the council attempted to rein in carbon farming.



(https://issuu.com/alliedpress/docs/focus_on_farming_spring_2021?fr=sZDhiMDIzNTcwMTg)



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Tuesday, 7 September 2021

Austrian company given consent to buy 2018ha farm for forestry conversion

By **Rebecca Ryan** (/author/Rebecca%20Ryan)

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[Farming \(/rural-life\)](#) > [Other News \(/rural-life/rural-life-other\)](#)



Concerns have been raised about the impact forestry conversions are having on what are traditionally farming communities. PHOTO: STEPHEN JAQUIERY

More farmland is set to be converted into forestry in the Waitaki.

An Austrian company has been given consent to buy a 2018ha sheep and beef farm at Mount Trotter, near Palmerston.

The Overseas Investment Office approved the sale of the farm to 100% Austrian-owned company Cerberus Vermögensverwaltung GmbH, from Peter and Susan Lawson, as trustees of the Lawson Family Trust, for \$8.5million.

Attachment 2 – Carbon Forestry

What WDC is doing to manage the impacts of carbon forestry

1. In response to community concerns earlier in 2021, WDC has considered options to better respond to the emerging carbon forestry land use. These include:
 - industry initiatives (using the strength of the community)
 - advocacy and engagement
 - district plan change / review – (risks include landowner feedback and sector philosophy, changing national directions)
 - declaration under the RMA – (to confirm activity status of the carbon forestry activity under the district plan)
2. WDC's Planning unit is working on updated landscape, ecological and geological overlays through the district plan review process. A process of landowner engagement is taking place to discuss proposed changes in these areas. However, the full implications of carbon forestry have yet to be fully considered through this work.
3. WDC faces the challenge of landowner resistance to SNA survey work being undertaken, or to additional landscape/feature overlays being included in the district plan (often with an expectation that this will bring stronger levels of land use protection and further imposition of individual property rights). The Groundswell movement is another example of opposition to freshwater, indigenous biodiversity, climate change and pastoral land reform policies affecting farmers and rural communities.
4. Through the formal submission process to the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement – June 2021, WDC has requested that ORC references carbon forestry in the RPS and provides a framework around the management of this emerging land use activity. Key WDC recommendations to ORC around the PRPS include:
 - a regional definition for carbon forestry in the absence of any national direction
 - RPS policies and methods to address the effects of carbon forestry (alongside plantation forestry and managing wilding pines) to protect highly productive land, significant and nationally significant landscapes and biodiversity areas, and negative impacts on recreational, hydrological and conservation value.
5. WDC has identified other options which could be pursued to more effectively manage the impacts of carbon forestry. These include:
 - lobbying towards a faster NES-PF review – especially around considering increasing the level of protection afforded against afforestation in visual amenity landscapes, (recommended change from a controlled to a restricted discretionary activity status making Section 6 and 7 RMA91 landscape matters having equal weighting), reviewing the overlaps between district and regional council responsibility under the NES-PF, a review of the setback standards between areas of afforestation and SNA's / other outstanding features and

landscapes, a review of the effectiveness of the wilding tree calculator in mitigating wilding conifer spread, and the inclusion of carbon forestry under the umbrella of the NES-PF

- targeted education to encourage the conversion of smaller areas of unproductive land on individual farms particularly in areas that will most benefit from land use change to carbon forestry (hill country and erosion prone areas), keeping the productive areas in pasture
- recommending a partnership model between FENZ and local authorities to better manage the potential risks of fire, particularly associated with forestry activities
- recommending that FENZ is required to pre-approve plantation forestry plans under the NES-PF associated with written notices and applications in consultation with local authorities (eg. to consider firefighting requirements, recommend appropriate setbacks, firebreaks)
- regional directions in the absence of national directions

6. In addition, WDC is party to the LGNZ Rural and Provincial Sector Council grouping who is working to develop a collaborative approach to understand the impacts of forestry and carbon forestry on local communities, and options to better manage these impacts. Key topics identified to explore to date include:

- the impact of the NES-PF regulation powers on district councils
- following up on central government work regarding land use classes
- the impact of forestry on the four well beings – social, cultural, economic, and environmental
- review of current rating models in relation to different land uses
- the effects of carbon forestry on soil quality, especially after forestry rotations
- the consequences of planting land in trees with no long-term plan
- the future of carbon forestry, especially once the carbon has been absorbed - what will happen to the land and trees - who will be responsible for the payment of rates?
- the impacts of forestry on waterways, site rehabilitation, silting and pollen, pest control, fire risk and roading networks
- the Overseas Investment Office processes for overseas investors to buy land in New Zealand to plant forestry
- the impacts of carbon forestry on other industries
- capital valuation and forestry – currently not included in CVs

Date: 24 September 2021

Presented by: David Ward, Chair

Resource management reform update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Policy Forum on the resource management reform process

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Policy Forum:

1. **nominate members to form a subgroup to support the recruitment of a contractor to assist the Canterbury Mayoral Forum with engagement through the resource management reform process and develop future submissions on the Natural and Built Environments Bill, Strategic Planning Bill and Climate Adaptation Bill**
2. **note the responses received so far from Taituarā and the Ministry for the Environment to the Mayoral Forum's letters regarding ensuring a Canterbury voice on national-level working groups and committees.**

Inquiry on the Natural and Built Environments Bill: Parliamentary Paper

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) made a submission on the Inquiry Paper, which was circulated to members of the Policy Forum for their input¹.
3. Mayor Sam Broughton (Chair CMF), supported by Hamish Riach (Chair CE Forum) and David Falconer (Chair, Canterbury Planning Managers' Group (CPMG)) appeared before the Environment Select Committee on 2 September in support of the CMF submission.

Resourcing to engage in the reform process

4. At its meeting on 2 August, the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed, in principle, to engage an independent contractor to assist the CMF with engagement through the

¹ The submission is available on Parliament's website at this link:

https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCEN_EVI_111944_EN5476/f31430521c2dc054bb3f400b77b4db4a5eb01bd7

resource reform processes and development of future submissions on the Natural and Built Environments Bill, Strategic Planning Bill and Climate Adaptation Bill.

5. A draft Expression of Interest (EOI) and budget for this has been developed for input and review by the CPMG. The draft EOI is provided at Attachment 1. It is expected that the successful contractor would work closely with the CPMG and the Policy Forum in development of regional submissions.
6. Following feedback on the draft EOI from the CPMG, the EOI will be provided to the Chief Executives Forum at the 1 November meeting for consideration and approval. Once approved it is suggested that a sub-group from the Policy Forum (including the Chair of the CPMG) manage the recruitment of the appropriate contractor. Nominations are sought from the Policy Forum for this subgroup.

Canterbury Representation on national working and advisory groups

7. At the 2 August Mayoral Forum meeting, it was agreed to send letters to the Department of Internal Affairs, the Ministry for the Environment, Local Government New Zealand and Taituarā to reiterate the importance of ensuring there are Canterbury voices in national-level committees and working groups.
8. This was initially discussed at the Policy Forum's June meeting, where members expressed concern at the process for appointment to working parties by both our sector and by central government. It was agreed that as Canterbury is the second largest region in New Zealand ensuring that we have an effective voice at working party tables was crucial. This matter was further discussed at the Chief Executives Forum meeting on 2 August and the approach to send letters endorsed.
9. Responses have been received so far from the Ministry for the Environment and Taituarā which are provided at Attachment 2.

Ministry for the Environment's response

10. The Ministry for the Environment noted the Mayoral Forum's concerns and advised that it had been working with Local Government New Zealand, the Department of Internal Affairs and Taituarā on establishing a long-term partnership with local government, working on legislative design, and transitioning to and implementing the new resource management system.
11. The letter stated that the Ministry's first step in this process was to establish a national level steering group made up of elected members and council chief executives to provide input to the Ministry for the Environment, other reform ministries and ministers as appropriate on all aspects of the reform programme. It intends to shortly approach individuals, based on the advice of LGNZ and Taituarā, to appoint to this group. This will include representatives from Canterbury.

Taituarā's response

12. Taituarā's response focused on the current Canterbury representation on its committees and reference groups, noting that one of its five committees is chaired by the chief executive of Timaru District Council (and previously two other committees were chaired by chief executives from Selwyn and Waimakariri respectively), and one of its reference groups is chaired by me. In addition, the response noted that Taituarā helped establish the 3 Waters Reform Steering Group, of which two Canterbury chief executives are members.
13. The response also advised that Taituarā had recently called for nominations for its new reference group system. While some Canterbury members enquired about some of the groups, no one from Canterbury applied. Taituarā stated they found this "extremely disappointing" and is very keen to see a higher level of Canterbury members participating in its work.
14. Taituarā also noted that it was working its way through the nominations for the reference groups, and if it is unable to fill places it will call for further nominations, which may elicit more interest from Canterbury members.

Next steps

15. Following the Policy Forum's nomination of members for a subgroup to support the recruitment of a contractor, a subgroup will be formed. Recruitment will commence once the EOI is finalised.
16. Policy Forum members to consider resourcing requirements for national working groups as requests come through to provide for Canterbury representation

Attachments

- Draft EOI – resource management reform process contractor
- Ministry for the Environment and Taituarā responses to Mayoral Forum letters

Attachment 1

DRAFT Expressions of Interest: Resource Management Reform

Expressions of interest are being called for suitably qualified candidates to assist the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) with engagement through the resource reform process and in preparing regional submissions on the Government's resource management reform bills, specifically the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill, both expected to be introduced into Parliament in 2022.

Key engagement with central government on the reform process will be led by the Canterbury Mayors and Chief Executives. Technical input may be required to support this engagement.

Preparations of the regional submission will require:

- following the CMF guidelines for preparing regional submissions (January 2020) ([Regional-submissions-guidelines_Jan-2020.pdf \(canterburymayors.org.nz\)](#))
- reviewing the CMF's submission to the *Resource Management Review Panel's Transforming the Resource Management System: Issues and Options Paper* (link to CMF website)
- reviewing the CMF's submission *Inquiry on the Natural and Built Environments Bill Parliamentary Paper* (link to CMF website)
- engaging with the ten Canterbury territorial authorities and regional council and seeking input from the Canterbury Planning Managers Group, Canterbury Policy Forum and Canterbury Chief Executives Forum
- Drafting submissions to both pieces of legislation allowing time for review and feedback from the Canterbury Planning Managers Group and Canterbury Policy Forum
- Drafting speaking notes for the CMF presentation to the Environment Select Committee
- Drafting Q&A to support the CMF presentation to the Environment Select Committee

Timing of this work will be dependent on the release of the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill, at this stage expected to be introduced into Parliament in 2022, however additional support may be requested to support any pre-engagement between the CMF and MfE team preparing the Bills.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate

- relevant experience in the current Resource Management system
- a clear understanding of the resource management reform process
- an understanding of the Canterbury region
- a clear and concise writing style
- the ability to engage with others effectively
- the ability to meet tight timelines

Attachment 2a – response from Taituarā to CMF letter re representation

Kia ora Maree,

Please thank Mayor Sam Broughton for his letter of 23 August. I have investigated the matters raised in it.

I have assumed that the working groups and advisory committees you are referring to in the case of Taituarā are our Member Committees and Reference Groups.

We have five Committees (previously Working Parties) and one of the five is Chaired by Bede Carran, Chief Executive of Timaru District Council. Previously we had five Working Parties and two of the five were Chaired by David Ward, Chief Executive of Selwyn District Council and Jim Palmer, former Chief Executive of Waimakariri District Council.

Under our new system David Ward now chairs a Reference Group.

Last year we were part of the establishment of the 3Waters Reform Steering Group – there are eight Chief Executives on this group, two from Canterbury – Hamish Riach and Dawn Baxendale.

As we worked to implement our new Reference Group system, five weeks ago we called for nominations from our membership. This call was broadcast on our Discussion Groups – namely Finance, Assets, Risk, Policy, Strategy and Lawyers. It was also promulgated in our Membership newsletter. Despite a couple of Members from Canterbury enquiring about the work of the Reference Groups, **NO** applications were received from any Member working for any Canterbury Council. We find this situation extremely disappointing. As you have pointed out in your letter, Canterbury is New Zealand's largest region by land area, spanning the territory of 10 local authorities and 10 Ngāi Tahu papatipu rūnanga, as well as a regional council. It includes New Zealand's second-largest city, Christchurch, and a diverse range of urban and rural communities from the Kaikōura district in the north to the Waitaki River catchment in the south.

We are currently working our way through the large number of applications we did get from other regions around the country. If we are unable to fill all the spots we have available we will again call for nominations. Perhaps this time around we will encounter some interest from Canterbury in assisting us with our work. We understand that the region has had more than its fair share of challenges over the last decade, but like you, we would like to see a higher level of Canterbury members participate in our work.

Ngā mihi nui

Karen Thomas CMInstD

Chief Executive

Taituarā - Local Government Professionals Aotearoa

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CORD-36

Sam Broughton
Mayor, Selwyn District
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz

Tēnā koe Sam

Canterbury representation on working groups and advisory committees

Many thanks for your letter raising concerns about Canterbury's representation on national-level working groups and advisory committees including with the resource management reforms (RM Reform).

A long-term partnership with local government is integral to the success of the RM reforms and achieving the on-the-ground outcomes we all desire. Early in the reform programme, the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) supported us by establishing a Local Government Chief Executives Forum (LG CE Forum) which has been an invaluable source of local government advice, especially as we developed the Natural and Built Environments Act exposure draft. As you know, Jim Harland, Chief Executive of Waimakariri District Council, joined for the last few meetings and has made a valuable contribution.

Now that the exposure draft is in the Select Committee process, the RM Reform team is working on the detailed design of the system. There is an opportunity to engage more widely and deeply with local government experts to ensure that the new system has been tested and designed with the input of those who will be critical to its future operation.

As you know, David Parker, the Minister for the Environment, wrote to all mayors, chairs and council chief executives on 24 June expressing a willingness to establish a long-term partnership with local government, working on legislative design, transitioning to and implementing the new system. My officials have been working closely with Local Government New Zealand, Taituarā and DIA on how best to make this can happen.

The first step I am taking is to establish a national level steering group made up of elected members and council chief executives. The group will provide input to the Ministry for the Environment, other reform ministries and ministers as appropriate on all aspects of the reform programme. We are seeking perspectives from a diverse range of councils, locations and communities. Based on the advice of LGNZ and Taituarā, I will shortly be approaching individuals to appoint to this group. This will include representatives from Canterbury.

The steering group will provide us with advice on, and will be supplemented by, other engagement. In addition, I am happy to meet with the Mayoral forum and take your guidance on the timing of when we might do this. I am happy to do so via zoom whilst we are in this COVID lockdown should you wish to do so.



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

We are committed to working with all councils and regions as we transition to and implement this major reform programme and we are looking forward to working with the Canterbury region.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vicky Robertson'.

Vicky Robertson
Secretary for the Environment
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Date: 24 September 2021

Presented by: Secretariat

Regional Forums update and three-year work programme

Purpose

1. This paper reports on the work of regional forums since June 2021.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Policy Forum:

1. receive the quarterly report from the Secretariat
2. note updates to the three-year work programme as reported to the Mayoral Forum on 20 August 2021.

Key points

2. The Mayoral Forum met on 20 August.
3. The Chief Executives Forum met on 2 August.
4. The Policy Forum met on 25 June.
5. The Corporate and Operations Forums met on 13 September.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

20 August meeting

6. The Mayoral Forum met on 20 August. At this meeting, the Mayoral Forum:
 - agreed to formally request the Minister of Local Government pause the three waters reform programme
 - discussed the Climate Change Risk Assessment project
 - finalised its mid-term achievements report
 - discussed the Regional Strategic Partnership Fund
 - discussed next steps for the South Island Destination Management Plan
 - agreed to further project work on mapping mobile blackspots in Canterbury

- discussed recent flooding events and received a presentation from Basil Chamberlain on the work he is doing for Environment Canterbury, and the broader regional sector, updating the business case for central government co-investment in flood protection
 - received updates on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and the future for local government, and from the Essential Freshwater Steering Group, Climate Change Steering Group and Chief Executives Forum.
7. The Mayoral Forum had arranged to meet with the Minister for the Environment at its regular working dinner the evening prior to the Forum to discuss the Essential Freshwater reforms. Unfortunately this engagement had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 lockdown; a rescheduled date is under discussion.

Future for local government: health reforms workshop

8. On 5 July the Mayoral Forum held a workshop with the Chairs and Chief Executives of the Canterbury and South Canterbury District Health Boards to consider the upcoming health reforms.
9. The Chairs of the respective health boards provided a summary of the changes and identified opportunities for local government to engage in the process.
10. Both Chairs of the District Health Boards strongly suggested that there would be value in the Canterbury Mayoral Forum facilitating a meeting with the rest of the South Island local authorities, the Minister of Health, interim Chief Executives of Health NZ, the South Island region and the transition team to articulate to them expectations for local input into the health agenda for our communities.
11. Actions from the health reform workshop included contacting the Chair of LGNZ Zone 6 to consider a South Island hui with the Minister of Health, interim Chief Executives of Health NZ and the South Island region, including the health reform transition team. The health reforms is on the agenda for the upcoming LGNZ Zone 5 and 6 meeting scheduled for October.
12. To help support these discussions, the secretariat is also reviewing and updating the Mayoral Forum's Canterbury Wellbeing Overview 2019, including consideration of additional health metrics from across all agencies.

Meeting with Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency

13. The Mayoral Forum met with Waka Kotahi on 9 August to discuss the decisions, process and timelines for National Land Transport funding. This follows correspondence from the Forum to Waka Kotahi noting frustration and disappointment about the timeframe for funding decisions not aligning with LTPs this year, as well as the reduction in expected levels of funding for local authorities to meet agreed commitments.

14. A meeting is being arranged for the Forum with the Minister of Transport, the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Transport, and the Chair and Chief Executive of Waka Kotahi to discuss these issues further.

Submissions

15. The Mayoral Forum completed submissions on the Infrastructure Commission's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy in early July and the exposure draft of the Natural and Built Environments bill in early August.
16. Both submissions are available on the www.canterburymayors.org.nz website.

Next meeting

17. The Mayoral Forum's next meeting on 19 November is the last one for 2021. Following the meeting, a lunch with Canterbury MPs will take place.

Essential Freshwater Steering Group

18. The Mayoral Forum's Essential Freshwater Steering Group met on 6 August.
19. The Steering Group received an update from Environment Canterbury on the action under way to respond to the statutory direction set through the Essential Freshwater package. In addition, Waimate District presented its recently completed report "Economic Impact of Freshwater Management Policies on Waimate District".
20. The Steering Group also discussed a range of questions to ask and discuss with the Minister for the Environment at the upcoming working dinner that was subsequently postponed.

Chief Executives Forum

21. At the meeting on 2 August, the Chief Executives Forum focused on:
 - regional public sector priorities and ways to progress relationships across central and local government sectors
 - Three Waters reforms
 - the Government's review into the future for local government, and the health reforms workshop held with district health board chairs on 5 July
 - improving collaborative procurement for Canterbury
 - Canterbury Mayoral Forum mid-term achievements
 - resource management reform, including the Mayoral Forum's submission on the Natural and Built Environments Bill: Parliamentary Paper
 - Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment update
 - carbon footprint assessments by Canterbury councils.

Corporate Forum

22. At its meeting on 13 September, the Corporate Forum:

- discussed progress with the regional digitisation plan to digitise council records
- discussed a regional approach to carbon footprint assessments, and received an update from the working party formed to progress this work
- received an update on work to improve collaborative procurement across the region
- received an update on the Mayoral Forum's work programme and recent activity
- received updates from the Finance Managers Group, Chief Information Officers Group, Canterbury Public Records Act Executive Sponsors Group, Canterbury Records and Information Management Support working group, and the short-term working party on flexible working on their recent activities.

Operations Forum

23. At the Operations Forum meeting on 13 September, the Operations Forum:

- discussed the Three Waters reform programme and shared current council activities in this space, in particular status of engagement with communities
- discussed the use of herbicides in and around Canterbury waterways and agreed to share policies, procedures and plans councils have to manage the potential effects of herbicides. It was noted that herbicides are just one tool that councils use for management of waterways and other areas
- received an update on the recent flooding events, noting that like-for-like repair is expected to cost around \$20m. NEMA will pay some of this cost and a catchment sub-committee has been established to consider ways to fund the shortfall. Environment Canterbury is also working across the regional sector seeking co-investment from central government for flood protection
- agreed to establish a Wastewater working group, with a key focus on discharge consents and consent compliance
- received an update on the Mayoral Forum's work programme and recent activity
- received updates from the Drinking Water Reference Group, Engineering Managers Group, Regulatory Managers Group, Stormwater Forum and Canterbury Solid Waste and Joint Waste Committees.

Next meetings

24. Scheduled forum meetings coming up are:

1 October	Regional climate change councillor workshop (hosted by Climate Change Steering Group)
1 November	Chief Executives Forum
19 November	Mayoral Forum
17 December	Corporate and Operations Forums

Attachments

- Three-year work programme.

Three-year work programme 2020–22

as at 16 September 2021

WHAT	TASK	PLAN FOR CANTERBURY PRIORITY	SPONSOR	LEAD	ACTION	DUE	STATUS	UPDATE
Canterbury Water Management Strategy	To continue providing governance oversight and strategic support to the implementation of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS)	Sustainable environmental management of our habitats	Mayoral Forum	Jenny Hughey	Request the Regional Committee to work with CWMS partners to re-engage communities and stakeholders on actions undertaken to deliver the CWMS across the region in order to maintain and nurture commitment to the delivery of the CWMS	30/09/2022	On track	Updated Zone Committee terms of reference approved CMF 27 November 2020
						30/06/2021	On track	
	Renew community acceptance and commitment to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy				Progress report on joint actions undertaken to deliver the CWMS across Canterbury	1/12/2021	On track	Work in progress with CWMS team
					CWMS Regional Committee reports on progress towards the 2025 and 2030 goals	30/06/2022	On track	Work in progress with CWMS team
Build capacity and influence to understand climate impacts, risks and opportunities and incorporate these into regional planning documents and community awareness.	Complete our first regional climate change risk assessment, aligned with the national climate change assessment, and identify critical gaps in our adaptation planning	Climate change mitigation and adaptation	Mayoral Forum	Climate Change Steering Group	Progress Stages 2 and 3 of the Climate Change Risk Assessment	30/06/2021	On track	Climate Change Risk Assessment (Stage 2 & 3) expected to be completed third quarter 2021 Agenda Item 12
	Encourage all Canterbury local authorities to complete carbon footprint assessments, to inform action plans for reductions				All Canterbury local authorities are encouraged and supported to commission council carbon footprint assessments	31/12/2020	On track	Working group went to market in December 2020 with an RFP and expected to be in a position to begin negotiations and plan the implementation of the agreed methodology for reporting on carbon emissions by February 2021.
	Encourage Environment Canterbury to factor climate change mitigation and adaptation into the new Canterbury Regional Policy Statement.				Communicate to Environment Canterbury the Forum's concern that climate change mitigation and adaptation be addressed in the new Regional Policy Statement	30/06/2021	Complete	CMF has written to Environment Canterbury asking that climate change mitigation and adaptation be factored into the new Canterbury Regional Policy Statement.
CREDS 2016–2019 continuing work programmes	Canterbury Story	Shared economic prosperity	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat		17/12/2021	Complete	Following a review of the Canterbury Story website the chief executives agreed that this should be decommissioned. The secretariat are working with ChristchurchNZ to relocate collateral from the site.
	Food, Fibre and Innovation				High value manufacturing Value added production	30/06/2022	On track	Work is underway on hosting and publishing industry roadmaps, work on developing industry clusters continues, and initiatives are underway with Ara and FoodSouth to continue to build the industry pipeline and improve productivity.
	South Island Destination Management plan					30/10/2021	On track	South Island Destination Management plan completed in March 2020. The Mayoral Forum agreed in August 2021 to endorse the plan's strategic aims and to seek endorsement of these at the Zone 5 and 6 meeting in October
Freshwater Package investments	Advocate with Government for the region's interests to be addressed in the investment decisions to support the Government's Freshwater Package	Sustainable environmental management of our habitats	Mayoral Forum		Add to the agenda for the Mayoral Forum visit(s) to Wellington		On track	Essential Freshwater Steering Group established and held first meeting in March. Hon David Parker is meeting with the Mayoral Forum on 11 October.

Education Forum	Facilitate a forum of key tertiary education and training providers to enable the exchange of ideas and information and support collaboration Advocate for transition of secondary students to further study and training or work	Shared economic prosperity	Mayoral Forum	Dan Gordon	Forum meets at least twice each year	30/06/2021	On track	
Skilled Workforce	Advocate with Government for education and immigration policies that deliver a skilled workforce now and into the future	Shared economic prosperity	Mayoral Forum		Add to the agenda for the Mayoral Forum visit(s) to Wellington	30/11/2020	On track	Discussed Mayoral Forum 19 February 2021
Better freight options	Participate on the Canterbury Regional Land Transport Committee	Better freight transport options	Mayoral Forum		Communicate to the RTC the forum's desire that the new RTLP provide a planning and investment framework that results in fewer trucks on the road		On track	Freight Tour was held 18 / 19 February 2021
	Collaborate with South Island chairs of RLTC to drive multi-modal transport planning investment						On track	
	Advocate with Government for investment in multi-modal transport outcomes, especially moving more long-distance freight by rail				Write to Ministers to advocate for Canterbury's position Add to agenda for Mayoral Forum visit(s) to Wellington		On track	Discussed Mayoral Forum 19 February 2021 Met with Minister Wood 27 May 2021
Three Waters	Review Three Waters service delivery arrangements across Canterbury	Three Waters services	CEs Forum	Three Waters Project Manager / Secretariat		30/06/2021	On track	Consultant has gathered data. Workshops with representatives from south island councils and iwi are underway.
	Advocate a Three Waters regulatory system that utilises risk-and evidence-based interventions to ensure safe and efficient delivery of water services				Write to Ministers to advocate for Canterbury's position Add to agenda for Mayoral Forum visit(s) to Wellington		On track	Meeting with Minister Mahuta 12 May 2021, with LGNZ Zone 6 and Ngāi Tahu.
Update Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy	Oversee the review of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy 2008 to ensure alignment with the NZ Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and the proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity	Sustainable environmental management of our habitats	Policy Forum			30/06/2021	On track	Environment Canterbury's LTP includes the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy review and work will commence when the Government announces the NPS IB. Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Champions Group established in Environment Canterbury.
IT systems and digital services	Lead development of a 10-year plan for Canterbury councils to move to a common platform for IT systems and digital services (including valuation and rating functions) and secure cost savings through group licensing procurement, with specific concrete actions to be implemented in each year of the 10-year plan		Corporate Forum	CIOs	Conduct a stocktake of where everyone is at	30/06/2020	On track	CCF agreed 16 March 2020 that CIOs will conduct a stocktake of Canterbury councils' IT platforms, applications and procurement / licensing cycles and investment intentions to inform planning to move towards a common platform by 2030 Discussed at CE Forum 2 November 2020, on track.
	Develop a business case (with value proposition and a request for funding) to go to member councils to test and build consensus on a collective vision, commitment and understanding of what it might mean over time for procurement and renewal cycles					30/11/2020	On track	
Procurement	Develop a proposal for a joined-up procurement system/service for Canterbury councils, including legal services provisioning Develop a proposal for consideration by member councils		Corporate Forum	CFMG	CEs Forum on 27 July agreed for CFMG to contract Deloitte to analyse third-party expenditure by Canterbury councils, to inform collaborative procurement options	30/11/2020	On track	

Implementing new Water Safety Plan format	Share advice and lessons between drinking water suppliers from implementing the new Water Safety Plan to improve compliance across the region		Operations Forum	DWRG			On track	Councils are working on plans but it is a slow process as they require a lot of effort and DHB-side resources have been preoccupied by Taumata Arowai changes. At least three in Canterbury have been approved as of June 2021. There is concern about the what the status of these will be as we transition through with Taumata Arowai.
Resource Management Reform	Engage with central government on the resource management reforms through participation in the Local Government Forum of Chief Executives for resource management reform, reviewing and preparing submissions on new legislation, participating in Select Committe processes		Chief Executives Forum	David Ward	Jim Harland nominated for Local Government Forum of Chief Executives for resource management reform Policy Forum (through CPMG) keep watching brief on exposure drafts of the Natural and Built Environment Act and prepare to draft a regional submission when released	30/06/2021	On track	CMF submission made on the Inquiry on the Natural and Built Environments Bill: Parliamentary Paper. Letter to be sent to LGNZ, Taituarā, Department of Internal Affairs and Ministry for the Environment requesting Canterbury presence on national working parties and reference groups Agenda Item 8
				Policy Forum	Policy Forum (with CCWG & CPMG) keep watching brief on drafts of Strategic Planning Act and Climate Change Adaptation Act		On track	
Future for Local Government	Engage with central government on the future for local government by supporting development of a regional approach and participating in the Future for Local Government Review		Mayoral Forum	Chief Executives Forum	Progress actions from the Future for Local Government Workshop (April 2021) and actively participate in engagement with central government's Future for Local Government Review	1/04/2023	On track	Initial workshop held 19 March 2021, including papatipu rūnanga chairs and central government regional directors. Follow-up meeting and workshop held 28 May, which also included chair and executive director of Local Government Review Panel. Health Reform workshop held 5 July 2021.

Key to acronyms

CCWG	Climate Change Working Group	CIOs	Chief Information Officers Group	CREDS	Canterbury Regional Development Strategy
CEF	Chief Executives Forum	CMF	Canterbury Mayoral Forum	CWMS	Canterbury Water Management Strategy
CEMG	Canterbury Engineering Managers Group	COF	Canterbury Operations Forum	DWRG	Drinking Water Reference Group
CFMG	Canterbury Finance Managers Group	CPF	Canterbury Policy Forum	ECan	Environment Canterbury

Report from:	Canterbury Climate Change Working Group
Date:	24 September 2021
Presented by:	Dr Tim Davie (Convenor)

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Policy Forum:

- 1 **note** the progress achieved to date by the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group on delivering its work programme for 2020/21

Significant activities in this quarter	<p>Progressed the detailed stage 2 Canterbury climate change risk assessment. Members of the working group held a detailed discussion on the climate change risk assessment at their most recent meeting. The Group provided detailed written and verbal feedback on the draft technical report and Working Group members identified several areas for improvement within the report. This feedback is now being actioned by Tonkin & Taylor and has caused some follow-on delays in the delivery of: the final technical report; the supporting public facing material; and the public communications and engagement approach planning material.</p> <p>Due to the Working Group meeting focusing on the risk assessment, the review of the Strategic Work Programme was postponed to the next meeting in November.</p> <p>The Climate Change Steering Group meeting (17 September 2021) has been postponed to accommodate the Risk Assessment delay. This delay is unlikely to impact the timeline for approval and presentation of final deliverables to the Mayoral Forum on 19 November 2021, however the risk of delay has increased.</p> <p>Work also continues on <i>Objective A: Capacity & capability building – Share information and leverage opportunities to build a common understanding of climate change amongst partner staff and governance, and within our communities. Grow Canterbury’s collective capacity to manage climate change risks, impacts and opportunities</i> through the ‘It’s Time Canterbury’ climate change communications campaign. Phase 1 of the</p>
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	<p>campaign has been received well and Phase 2 is under development. The delivery of Phase 2 will be in partnership with TAs and fit in with their local communications and engagement planning.</p> <p>Further detail on the It's Time Canterbury engagement statistics and next steps is contained in an information paper to Environment Canterbury's Climate Change Action Committee on 12 August.</p>
Contribution to Mayoral Forum three-year work programme	The CCWG continues to contribute to item 10a – Natural hazard risk management: monitor natural hazards management reform that includes climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation and the possible emergence of a National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards.
Issues / risks / opportunities	<p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment project timeline delayed due to extended engagement with expert groups, extensive feedback on project deliverables and restrictions due to COVID-19 lockdown. Presentation of final deliverables still expected on 19 November 2021. • Potential risks to project timelines and approval process due to any future COVID-19 lockdowns and delivery by the vendor. <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been signals that the National Emissions Reduction Plan will be released for consultation in this coming quarter. The Climate Change Working Group and the Regional Transport Committee will work together to create a joint submission for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's approval.

Canterbury Climate Change Working Group (CCWG)

Purpose	To develop a shared understanding of the likely implications of climate change for the region, and strategies to manage the associated threats and opportunities. The working group will also support the provision of consistent information and advice to the community.
Chair / Members	<p>Convenor: Dr Tim Davie – Environment Canterbury</p> <p>Members: Multi-disciplinary group of staff from territorial authorities, regional council, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and papatipu rūnanga.</p>

	Geoff Meadows – Waimakariri DC has stepped down from the group. The Working Group acknowledges his strong leadership in the climate change space during the lifetime from the group.
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Work programme 2021

What	Who	By when	Measures of success	Status
Objective A: Capacity & capability building Priority Initiative A1: Continue to share information and expertise about climate change amongst partners and with our communities.	CCWG	Ongoing	Common understanding achieved.	Work in progress
Objective B: Adaptation Priority Initiative B1: Utilise ECan's initial climate change impact scan (literature review) for Canterbury and iterate Initiative B2: Scope and deliver a first-pass climate change risk screening for Canterbury. Initiative B3: Scope and deliver a detailed climate change risk assessment for Canterbury.	CCWG CCWG CCWG	July 2019 July 2020 November 2021	Used in first-pass climate change risk screening. Screening reports released to public. Assessment deliverables released to public.	Complete Complete Work in progress.
Objective C: Transition & mitigation Priority Initiative C1: Continue to support councils to understand their in-house carbon emissions footprint and strategies to reduce this. Initiative C2: Identify key threats and opportunities associated with transition and opportunities for partners to support a just and equitable transition for Canterbury.	CCWG CCWG	Dec 2020 June 2021	Corporate Forum leading joint procurement. Threats and opportunities identified in risk screening. Opportunities for partners to support identified.	Complete Complete

What	Who	By when	Measures of success	Status
Objective D: Advocacy & engagement Priority Initiative D1: Work with the Climate Change Steering Group to engage with Central Government on climate change matters, including through submissions	CCWG	Ongoing	Evidence of central government engagement.	Work in progress