

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

BOARD PACK

for

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Friday, 14 February 2025

8:30 am (NZDT)

Held at:

Commodore Hotel

449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch

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AGENDA

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 14 February 2025
Time:	8:30 am to 1:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Marie Black, Craig Pauling, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Gary Kircher, Neil Brown, Phil Mauger, Sam Broughton, Karen Morgan
Attendees:	Alex Parmley, Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Jeff Millward, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Maree McNeilly, Amelia Wilkins, Ann Fitzgerald
Apologies:	Anne Munro, Mayor Monique Croon, Paul Eagle, Stuart Duncan
Guests/Notes:	Minister James Meager (Item 3.1); Leeann Watson, Business Canterbury (Item 5.1); Ali Adams (CE) & Emma Renowden (Aerospace Cluster Lead) ChristchurchNZ (Item 5.2); Diane McDermott Regional Public Service Commissioner (Item 6.1)

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Karakia, welcome, introductions and apologies

8:30 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Ko Ngā Tiritiri o te Moana ngā maunga

Ko ngā wai huka ngā awa i rere tonu mai

Ko Ngā Pākihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha te whenua

Ko Marokura, ko Mahaanui, ko Araiteuru ngā tai

Tīhei mauri ora!

The Southern Alps stand above

The snow-fed rivers continually flow forth

The plains of Waitaha extend out

To the tides of Marokura, Mahaanui and Araiteuru

Behold, there is life!

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

8:35 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

8:40 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.3.a	Minutes : Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 29 Nov 2024	9
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1.4 Action List

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.4.a	Action List	19
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2. Working Dinner discussion

2.1 Future regional and local government for Canterbury 8:45 am (15 min)

Hamish Riach

Supporting Documents:

2.1.a	CMF Future regional and local government for Canterbury Feb 2025.docx	20
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3. Discussion

3.1 Minister James Meager 9:00 am (60 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

3.1.a	CMF Briefing Note Minister James Meager Feb 2025.pdf	29
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4. Morning tea

4.1 Morning tea 10:00 am (20 min)

5. For discussion and decision

5.1 Economic Priorities next steps with Business Canterbury 10:20 am (30 min)

Nigel Bowen

Leeann Watson

Supporting Documents:

5.1.a	CMF Economic Priorities next steps with Business Canterbury Feb 2025.docx	36
5.1.b	CMF Economic Priorities next steps with Business Canterbury Attachment 1 Feb 2025.pdf	38
5.1.c	CMF Economic Priorities next steps with Business Canterbury Attachment 2 Feb 2025.docx	47

5.2 Canterbury Aerospace Strategy 10:50 am (30 min)

Nigel Bowen

Ali Adams, CHCHNZ

Supporting Documents:

5.2.a	CMF Canterbury Aerospace Strategy Feb 2024.pdf	54
5.2.b	CMF Canterbury Aerospace Strategy Attachment 1 Feb 2025.pdf	56

5.3 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation 11:20 am (15 min)

Dan Gordon

Supporting Documents:

5.3.a	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Year 1 Implementation Feb 2025.docx	71
5.3.b	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Year 1 Implementation Attachment 1 Feb 2025.docx	75
5.3.c	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Year 1 Implementation Attachment 2 Feb 2025.docx	78
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5.3.f	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Year 1 Implementation Attachment 5 Feb 2025.docx	90
5.3.g	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Year 1 Implementation Attachment 6 Feb 2025.docx	91

5.4 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update 11:35 am (15 min)

Craig Pauling

Supporting Documents:

5.4.a	CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy update Feb 2025.docx	92
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5.5 Light-touch proposal Regional Deals 11:50 am (20 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

5.5.a	CMF Light-touch proposal Regional Deals Feb 2025.docx	112
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5.5.d	CMF Light-touch proposal Regional Deals Attachment 3 Feb 2025.docx	147

6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update 12:10 pm (15 min)

Diane McDermott

Supporting Documents:

6.1.a	CMF Regional Public Service Commissioner update Feb 2025.docx	156
6.1.b	CMF Regional Public Service Commissioner update Attachment 1 Feb 2025.docx	157

6.2 Chief Executives Forum report

12:25 pm (5 min)

Hamish Riach

Supporting Documents:

6.2.a	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Feb 2025.docx	159
6.2.b	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 1 Feb 2025.pdf	161

6.3 Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements

Supporting Documents:

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7. General business

7.1 General business

12:30 pm (10 min)

7.2 Meeting review

12:40 pm (5 min)

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Closing karakia

12:45 pm (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Kia tau te rangimarie ki runga I nga iwi o te ao

Haumi e

Hui e

Taiki e

Let peace reign on all the people of the world

Fixed

Bound as one

8.2 Close the meeting

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

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 29 November 2024
Time:	8:30 am to 12:40 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Marie Black, Anne Munro, Craig Mackle, Craig Pauling, Gary Kircher, Neil Brown, Phil Mauger, Sam Broughton, Craig Rowley
Attendees:	Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Angela Oosthuizen, Jeff Millward, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor, Maree McNeilly, Ann Fitzgerald, Amelia Wilkins
Apologies:	Dan Gordon, Paul Eagle, Mayor Monique Croon, Stuart Duncan, Alex Parmley
Guests/Notes:	Neville Atkinson, Deputy Mayor Waimakariri District Council attending on behalf of Mayor Dan Gordon, Cameron Smith item 2.3, Marie Ward for Diane McDermott, item 6.1

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Karakia, welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Craig Pauling to his first meeting as Chair Environment Canterbury, Deputy Mayor Neville Atkinson attending for Mayor Gordon, and Ameila Wilkins who has recently joined the regional forums secretariat.

Apologies were received from Mayor Dan Gordon, Mayor Monique Croon and Paul Eagle from Chatham Islands, Stuart Duncan and Alex Parmley.

An apology for lateness was received from Mayor Phil Mauger.

Apologies for early departure (12 noon) were received from Mayor Kircher Mayor Mauger, and Mary Richardson,

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

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

- How Canterbury councils function together in the future (Sam Broughton)
- Transport funding – 2025 (Nigel Bowen)
- Community CCTV camera functions (Marie Black)
- LINZ funding reductions (Craig Rowley)

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

Economic Priorities discussion 30 Sept 2024, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum 30 Aug 2024, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Decision

The minutes of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting held on 30 August 2024 were confirmed as presented

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Sam Broughton
Seconder: Nigel Bowen
Outcome: Approved



Decision

The minutes of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum Economic Priorities discussion held on 30 September 2024 were confirmed as presented.

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Sam Broughton
Seconder: Nigel Bowen
Outcome: Approved

1.4 Action List



CMF engagement with Ministers and Members of Parliament

Forum members agreed to continue a targeted approach with individual Ministers, taking opportunities to meet with Ministers and members of parliament on specific matters of importance to the Canterbury region, with alignment to central governments agenda. There is still strong interest from CMF members to meet with Hon Shane Reti, Minister of Health.

Due Date: 20 Jan 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly

2. For discussion and decision

2.1 Canterbury Biodiversity Champions: Regional Biodiversity update

Craig Pauling outlined the progress to date on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy, noting good engagement with stakeholders across the region.

There was discussion on the following points that had been raised at the regional meetings

- integration of biodiversity functions with the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, noting that the CWMS itself requires review
- a perception in some territorial authorities that biodiversity is a regional council responsibility, members agreed that there needs to be more emphasis on the shared responsibility for biodiversity, including regional councils, territorial authorities and community groups
- Nigel Bowen and Anne Munro agreed to continue as CMF representatives on the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions – requesting that meetings be scheduled for the whole year to get them into calendars.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Craig Mackle
Seconded: Gary Kircher
Outcome: Approved



Action

Secretariat to request the Biodiversity Champions secretariat to schedule all the 2025 meetings.

Due Date: 20 Dec 2024
Owner: Maree McNeilly

2.2 Canterbury Water Mangement Strategy update

Craig Pauling and Stefanie Rixecker provided a general update on progress towards implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), and the meeting noted

- ECan has made the decision to pause work on the Regional Policy Statement until January 2026 in light of the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024, and to engage with the Minister for the Environment to clarify if there is a pathway available to notify Plan Change 8 before January 2026
- the rollout of freshwater farm plans across the country have been paused, except for Southland
- consideration is being given to how other matters in the RPS, that are not freshwater related, will continue
- Regional Coastal planning will start in 2025
- The Te Mōkihi new Governance Group has three new priority projects - spatial plan, wilding conifer control and water shortage, and is working to avoid duplication. The structure of the governance group was discussed, noting the importance of role clarity and keeping things simple.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Gary Kircher
Seconded: Anne Munro
Outcome: Approved

2.3 CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 – reporting and next steps

Cameron Smith was welcomed to the meeting for this item. Craig Pauling summarised the review process to date. The meeting noted

- the consensus from stakeholder engagement is that the CWMS principles are sound

- important that territorial authorities, regional council and mana whenua are involved in water management leadership, with the focus on freshwater leadership, rather than the structure itself
- the proposed local leadership model requires more discussion
- current Zone Committees were set up for planning, not implementation, further discussion is needed to ensure the local leadership model can progress work on Zone Implementation Plans
- significant work is planned for early 2025 to progress the review and the CWMS targets
- there is a technical report to support the review that will be circulated to members by mid - December
- some current Zone Committees are continuing to work well, however a “one size fits all” approach does not suit all areas, and it is important to take time to ensure the new structure is appropriate
- while catchment groups are part of the picture, they do not necessarily need to come under the CWMS umbrella and opportunities for connections should be explored
- it is important to keep Zone Committees engaged during the interim period
- the Ashburton District Council’s review into the Zone Committee in their district concluded it is no longer fit for purpose
- an online hui to update Zone Committee Chairs and Deputies is scheduled for 11 December.



Action

Cameron Smith to share technical report, via secretariat, with CMF members by mid- December.

Due Date: 11 Dec 2024
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Key messages to be delivered at the Zone Committee hui on 11 December 2024 will be shared with Mayoral Forum members prior to the hui.

9 December - email with key messages sent to CMF & CEs

Due Date: 8 Dec 2024
Owner: Craig Pauling



Action

Discussion with Ashburton Chief Executive regarding findings of Ashburton District Council review of the Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes Zone Committee.

Due Date: 11 Dec 2024
Owner: Craig Pauling



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. acknowledged that the Review has been completed, with the full technical report provided to territorial authorities, Papatipu Rūnanga, and zone committees
2. agreed that a single zone committee structure may no longer be the preferred approach

3. agreed that a proposed model of local freshwater leadership groups with core membership of territorial authorities, mana whenua, and regional council be investigated in early 2025
4. endorsed work to be undertaken to refine the operation of this core model and to report back to the Mayoral Forum in May 2025, seeking agreement to the proposed model
5. agreed that this work should be undertaken collaboratively by staff from territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, and Rūnanga
6. agreed that this work continues to be supported by a working group of Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and the Environment Canterbury Chair.

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Craig Mackle
Seconded: Craig Rowley
Outcome: Approved

2.4 Launch update - Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Maree McNeilly provided an update on planning for the Canterbury Climate Partnership launch on 13 December, noting the opportunity for Mayoral Form members to engage with guests. The invitation list has been circulated.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum noted the preparations and planning for the launch of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea

4. For discussion

4.1 Impact of key Central Government policy changes on local government

Hamish Riach introduced the paper, acknowledging the work Stefanie and Environment Canterbury staff have done to compile the overview of the key policy changes and the fundamental shifts that will impact local government.

Key Policy changes

Significant shifts and trends at central government are impacting across local government. The changes are extensive, involving governance; functions, roles and accountabilities; funding, costs and efficiency; and partnerships and relationships; and a shift in established ways of working.

Detailed commentary on the RM changes, in particular, was provided, noting that it is becoming a highly political and contested space. There are seven new pieces of national direction under the RMA, and 14 amended. Phase 3 of the RMA proposals to require a single plan for a region and shift focus from consents to compliance monitoring. The meeting noted the impact on council staff working in areas affected by the planned changes, particularly those legislative changes with a significantly short time frame for responding. Consideration will also be required around managing compliance of projects following decisions under the Fast Tracking processes.

A drive to reduce regulation is a cause for concern given recent prosecutions under the Health and Safety Act.

Other matters raised include navigating Te Tiriti article 2 (natural environment and rangatiratanga), the prospect of rates capping, and the sheer volume of change and uncertainty.

Regional opportunities

The LGNZ combined sector meeting (November 2025) discussed the Minister of Local Government's desire for a regional approach on multiple levels. Opportunities for regional cooperation were also discussed, noting that at a previous LGNZ meeting a significant percentage of members agreed fundamental change in the sector is needed.

Regional leadership will be critical.

Members noted that these changes are a catalyst for a broader discussion around regional and local government and want to explore this further at their February 2025 meeting and asked the Chief Executives to prepare a paper to support the discussion.

A broad discussion on what regional local government might look like, and what might be best delivered nationally/ regionally/locally was preferred by members as a first step. The discussion should consider the outcomes our communities want and options for working towards this. It was acknowledged that change requires significant work and cost, for example simply amalgamating systems/databases, which needs to be considered.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. discussed the impact of key central government shifts and trends impacting local and regional government
2. requested further advice and analysis from the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum on this matter.

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Craig Rowley
Seconder: Marie Black
Outcome: Approved



Action

Secretariat to circulate the Local Government Futures: A Discussion Paper.
 Hon. Dame Fran Wilde and Peter Winder report as background information.
 5 Dec - report circulated to CMF & CES

Due Date: 12 Dec 2024
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Chief Executive Forum to prepare paper for further discussion at the 14 February meeting

Due Date: 3 Feb 2025
Owner: Hamish Riach

4.2 Economic development priorities for Canterbury

The Business Canterbury "Canterbury Ambition" workshop held on Monday 25th was discussed, and a first cut summary from the day was circulated.

Members noted that the workshop and initial outputs were of value and look forward to receiving further outputs from the day. It was agreed that regardless of regional deals, this is a valuable piece of work for the region to do with the private sector. The recent government announcement on regional deals, and the timeframe of 18 December 2024 for Expressions of Interest were noted.

After considerable discussion on what and how to submit, it was agreed an Expression of Interest will be submitted on behalf of Canterbury region. It will not identify projects or focus areas at this stage.

This allows the Mayoral Forum time to consider, and align with, the Government's initial request for detail on governance structure ahead of further deal specifics.

Gary Kircher left the meeting. 11.58am

Phil Mauger and Mary Richardson left the meeting 12.00pm



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum approved the lodgment of an expression of interest for a regional deal.

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved



Action

Secretariat to prepare EOI document for lodging with Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Chair Chief Executives Forum included as key contacts.

Due Date: 18 Dec 2024
Owner: Maree McNeilly

5. For discussion and decision

5.1 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation

Hamish Dobbie introduced the paper, summarising key points and noted in particular the process for the implementation of the CCPP.

The role of the Climate Change Action Planning Reference Group going forward was briefly discussed, with some members noting the value of and support for the group for the region. This matter will be included in the February Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting agenda.



Decision

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted that staff across the Canterbury Councils have initiated the collaborative implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan
2. agreed that the councils leading actions will develop decision papers for their respective actions as and when needed, and speak to those at regional fora
3. agreed that the Policy Forum provides operational direction, as required, on the implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan actions
4. agreed to proceed with Option 2 for decision making for the implementation of Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan actions i.e. the Policy Forum is the initial approver, and the Chief Executives Forum and Canterbury Mayoral Forum are the second and final approvers respectively for decisions relating to key actions
5. noted that the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group will present the scope for the implementation of Year 1 actions at the next Canterbury Policy Forum meeting on 16 December, for its

recommendation to the Chief Executives Forum for approval at its meeting in January 2025

6. agreed that the Policy Forum will provide quarterly progress updates to the Chief Executives Forum and Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the implementation of actions
7. agreed that councils will individually update their elected members regarding the implementation progress of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan in a timely manner and in way that is appropriate to their council.

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Marie Black
Seconders: Craig Rowley
Outcome: Approved

5.2 Canterbury Local Authority audit fees

Angela Oosthuizen introduced the paper, noting the key concerns expressed by individual councils.

Sam Broughton outlined the work LGNZ is doing, and recent discussions with the Minister.

To progress the Canterbury local authority concerns the next step is to raise the matter with the Office of the Auditor General, Audit New Zealand and Local Government New Zealand.



Decision

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the information provided in this paper on the Canterbury Local Authority Audit Fees
2. nominated Anne Munro and Dan Gordon, and Angela Oosthuizen and Jeff Millward to lead a discussion with the Office of the Auditor General, Audit New Zealand and Local Government New Zealand to consider ways that audit performance could be optimised to improve audit outcomes and reduce audit costs.

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconders: Marie Black
Outcome: Approved

6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Marie Ward (on behalf of Diane McDermott, Regional Public Service Commissioner) presented the November 2024 Regional Public Service Commissioner update including

- Regional Leadership Group focus area
- Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory work
- recent visits to mid and south Canterbury councils, with visits to other councils in the region planned
- cross agency work that is underway
- recent legislation in Australia around social media bans for under 16 year olds, noting she is not aware of any similar discussion in New Zealand at present



Decision

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Neil Brown
Seconded: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved

6.2 Chief Executives Forum report

Hamish Riach noted recent work on regional cooperation opportunities and progress on the work programme.



Decision

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the quarterly report from the Chief Executives Forum
2. noted updates on work under way or completed on the key actions in the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Craig Rowley
Outcome: Approved

6.3 Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements

This paper was taken as read, noting that a further invitation to meet has been sent to the Minister of Health.



Decision

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Decision Date: 29 Nov 2024
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Craig Pauling
Outcome: Approved

7. General business

7.1 Meeting review

7.2 General business

Community CCTV camera functions (Marie Black)

While the Mayoral Forum supports this community work, it was suggested that each council is approached individually about opportunities within their district.

Regional transport funding advocacy– 2025 (Nigel Bowen)

The Mayoral Forum agreed to draft a letter to Ministers and MPs about the continued concerns with the level and allocation of transport funding for Canterbury along with supporting an approach to Canterbury Members of Parliament to advocate for transport funding for the region.

How Canterbury councils function together in the future (Sam Broughton)

This item of general business was covered in Item 4.1.

CMF meeting – May 2025

It was agreed that the May 2025 meeting will be held in Kaikōura.

LINZ funding reductions (Craig Rowley)

LINZ has recently reduced/stopped funding for the control of wilding pine and noxious weed control, including lake weeds in the Waitaki lakes area. There will also be a reduction in funding for regular surveys.

**Action**

Canterbury Mayoral Forum to write to Minister Penk in support of continuing existing funding, to ensure recent gains in controlling these pest species are not lost.

Due Date: 27 Jan 2025

Owner: Maree McNeilly

8. Close Meeting**8.1 Closing karakia****8.2 Close the meeting**

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

Signature:_____

Date:_____

Action List

Canterbury Mayoral Forum



As of: 5 Feb 2025

Action **Not Started**
Cameron Smith to share technical report, via secretariat, with CMF members by mid- December.

Due Date: 11 Dec 2024
Owner: Maree McNeilly
Meeting: 29 Nov 2024 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 2.3 CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 – reporting and next steps

Action **In Progress**
Canterbury Mayoral Forum to write to Minister Penk in support of continuing existing funding, to ensure recent gains in controlling these pest species are not lost.

Due Date: 27 Jan 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly
Meeting: 29 Nov 2024 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 7.2 General business

Latest Update:

In efforts to get information to inform this letter, Mayor Anne Munro provided copies of letters they had sent regarding this issue, and we spoke to ECan staff who are also involved with TAs in this matter.

For effective advocacy on this issue, the advice we have received is to draft letters to:

- the Minister for State Owned Enterprises requesting that State Owned Enterprises benefiting from the programme provide funding to support the programme.
 - the Minister for Conservation requesting that with the increase in International Visitor fees that a baseline of funding for the programme be provided over an agreed number of years to further boost the existing government funding
 - the Minister for Land Information that he considers budgeting beyond the national programme to manage seed sources on LINZ land given that the national programme is not funded to do so.
- If the Forum agrees with this approach, staff will draft letters for review and approval.

Amelia Wilkins | 5 Feb 2025

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 14 February 2025

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chair Chief Executives Forum

Future regional and local government for Canterbury

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide background and information to support a workshop discussion at the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on future regional and local government for Canterbury.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **note the information provided in this paper to support a discussion on future regional and local government for Canterbury.**

Background

2. At the November 2024 Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) meeting members discussed the impact of key central government legislative and policy changes on local government, noting the changes are extensive, involving governance, functions, roles and accountabilities, funding, costs and efficiencies, partnerships and relationships and a shift in established ways of working.
3. The CMF noted that these changes should be regarded as a catalyst for a broader Forum discussion around regional and local government.

Review into the Future for Local Government (2021-2023)

4. The previous Labour Government established the Review into the Future for Local Government in 2021. The Review Panel engaged with every New Zealand local authority, hapū and iwi representatives, Pacific leaders, public sector and local government leaders, business and community representatives, and rangatahi. They met with democracy and governance experts from New Zealand and overseas and commissioned research from experts relating to key issues.

What's the problem?

5. In the final report (June 2023) of the Panel for the Review into the Future for Local Government a number of challenges facing local government were identified:

- current legislative framework for local government is highly prescriptive, reflecting low central government trust in the sector
- significant funding challenges constrain local government's ability to deliver services to their communities and mean there is limited capacity or resource to work with communities on more complex challenges, exacerbated by unfunded mandates from central government to perform more roles without additional funding
- local-central government relationship is strained and competitive due to misalignment of operating environments and decision-making processes
- engagement between councils and communities is often transactional rather than relational
- council systems are under pressure due to constrained resources and challenging political environments which make change difficult and slow.

Recommendation

6. The review proposed 17 recommendations in their final report, most of which required central government action. Following the October 2023 general election, the Minister of Local Government confirmed that the Coalition Government would not be responding to the review's recommendations¹.
7. It is understood that for the most part the problems identified in the Future for Local Government review reports remain as significant challenges for local government.

Coalition Government Legislation and Policies

8. The Coalition Government has implemented a number of legislative and policy changes that will have a significant impact of the role of local government.
9. The Prime Minister and the previous Minister of Local Government have made a number of statements about "keeping councils focussed on basics"², "... Pick up the rubbish. Fix the pipes. Fill in potholes. ... ratepayers expect to pay for it in exchange. But what they don't expect to pay for is the laundry-list of distractions and experiments that are plaguing council balance sheets across the country"³, "expectations of greater transparency, accountability and cost-effectiveness"⁴.
10. Changes will likely occur to the current structure of local government through:

¹ [Minister concludes local government review | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/minister-concludes-local-government-review)

² [State of the Nation 2025 | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/state-of-the-nation-2025)

³ [Speech to LGNZ SuperLocal conference | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech-to-lgnz-superlocal-conference)

⁴ [Speech to the Local Government New Zealand Conference | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech-to-the-local-government-new-zealand-conference)

- Local Water Done Well
- Resource Management Reform
- Building Consent System Reform
- Regional Deals
- Local Government Reform Programme.

11. Details of each of this is provided below.

Local Water Done Well

12. Local Water Done Well is the Coalition Government's response to New Zealand's water infrastructure challenges. Under the new legislation each territorial authority must ensure water services are provided in its district but has discretion to determine the optimal structure and delivery method for its local circumstances.
13. At the LGNZ Combined Sector meeting Minister Brown stated that there is a strong expectation that councils will look regionally. "The Government's expectation is that, in many—if not most—cases, councils will work together to establish joint water organisations. This principle underpins Local Water Done Well, reflecting the need for collaboration to deliver sustainable and efficient water services. Regional collaboration is not just an option; it's a practical necessity. By forming joint water organisations through the new regional council-controlled water organisation model, councils can create structures that are both cost-effective and operationally efficient. These regional CCOs allow councils to pool resources, improve access to financing, and reduce costs for ratepayers, all while maintaining ownership of their assets.⁵"
14. At this stage it appears unlikely that the sector will meet the Government's expectations on this matter.

Resource Management Reform

15. The Coalition Government's resource management reform is underway in three phases. The first phase was repeal of the Natural and Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act. Phase two started with the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024; followed by the Resource Management (Freshwater and other Matters) Amendment Act 2024.
16. The **Fast Track Approvals Act**'s one stop shop approach consolidates and speeds up the multiple approval processes under different legislation which are typically required for large and complex projects. Infrastructure and development projects can apply directly for consideration by an Expert Panel. The Expert Panel must invite comments from the relevant local authorities, however decisions to approve or decline an application will be made by the Panel, or the relevant Minister if the decision is called in.

⁵ [Simeon Brown - Speech to LGNZ combined sectors.pdf](#)

17. The **Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024** amends the Resource Management Act 1991 and several national direction instruments.
18. **The Resource Management (Consenting and other System Changes) Amendment Bill** has passed its first reading and is currently at the Select Committee stage. Submissions on the Bill close on 10 February 2025. The Bill proposes a number of changes to the resource management system across a number of areas, including empowering the Minister to direct a council to initiate plan changes, and empowering the Minister to direct the type of planning process councils must use to implement national direction.
19. Phase three of the Resource Management reform is replacing the Resource Management Act 1991 with two new laws. One law will focus on managing the environmental effects that arise from activities that use natural resources and the other will focus on enabling urban development and infrastructure. This second law will be aligned with the Government's Going for Housing Growth plan and its 30-year National Infrastructure Plan.
20. Cabinet has agreed that the new resource management system should, amongst a range of matters, use spatial planning and a simplified designation process to lower the costs of future infrastructure and require one regulatory plan per region jointly prepared by regional and district councils.

Building Consent System Reform

21. There are 67 building consent authorities (BCA) responsible for building control functions, which includes checking that building work will comply with the Building Code and the building consent, and issuing code of compliance certificates. The reform process notes that having many BCAs with differing interpretations of compliance with the Building Code risks inconsistent decisions and outcomes in different parts of the country.
22. The Coalition Government has agreed to investigate significant reform of the building consent system to drive consistency, certainty and efficiency.
23. Initial investigations will centre around:
 - a new BCA structure, by developing options that include either:
 - facilitating voluntary consolidation
 - consolidation into regional consenting authorities
 - establishing a national single point of contact for building consent applications
 - increasing the scope of building work exempt from a building consent
 - providing for private insurance to take a greater role across the building system, including potentially as an alternative to a building consent

- changes to liability settings across the building system to ensure participants have consistency and certainty around the risks of their work.

Regional Deals

24. The Coalition Government is promoting Regional Deals as a partnership between local and central government, built on shared objectives and outcomes, focused on economic growth and productivity, delivering connected and resilient infrastructure and improving the supply of affordable, quality housing.
25. Minister Brown noted in his speech to the Local Government New Zealand conference in August 2024 “we will only finalise deals with regions that focus on the basics and are committed to spending ratepayers’ money responsibly”⁶.
26. In Minister Brown’s speech at the LGNZ Combined Sector meeting in November 2024, the Minister outlined how a regional deal will work.

“Councils will be asked to work together on initiatives they wish to propose as part of a regional deal, and to submit one regional deal proposal per region. A ‘region’ for Regional Deals, as defined in our strategic framework, is a clearly defined economic and geographic area with a functioning local authority.

...

Regional Deals offer councils an unprecedented opportunity to engage in long-term planning regionally and with central government. We want to see councils demonstrating greater collaboration, shared services, and innovative thinking. The more that this is demonstrated in a regional deal, the more attractive that will be for central government”⁷.

Local Government Reform Programme

27. In December 2024 Minister Brown announced the local government reform programme⁸ to:
 - refocus local government on basics, guiding council decision-making and avoiding duplication of roles with central Government.
 - benchmark council performance
 - modernise outdated rules, including removing requirements for newspaper notices, to drive efficiency and cost savings.
28. The first benchmarking report on local councils will be released in the middle of 2025 and is expected to include a number of key council performance metrics:

⁶ [Speech to the Local Government New Zealand Conference | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

⁷ [Simeon Brown - Speech to LGNZ combined sectors.pdf](#)

⁸ [Government getting local government back to basics | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

- rates – so that ratepayers know the amount of rates levied per unit, the change in rates since the previous year, and the forecast change in rates over the next 10 years.
 - council debt – including debt per rating unit, percentage change in council debt since the previous year, and forecast change over the next 10 years.
 - capital expenditure – including a breakdown by activity class such as roading and water services.
 - balanced budget – to show whether a council is balancing its budget or borrowing to support expenditure
 - road condition – so that ratepayers can compare the state of their local roads with councils across the country.
29. Cabinet will consider additional measures next year, which will be included in legislation introduced mid-2025 and passed by the end of 2025. These will consider investigating rates pegging similar to New South Wales, Australia, reform of codes of conduct, reviewing audit requirements, and the establishment of a written question system to give councillors more access to information.

Other drivers of change and opportunities for the region

30. Along with the Coalition Government's reform programme other drivers for change include, but are not limited to, the ability to:
- improve efficiency
 - minimise duplication
 - address limited resources (financial and skills)
 - address underinvestment in key infrastructure across the region
 - address environmental issues that require coordinated and integrated efforts (e.g. climate change)
31. Opportunities for the region to be considered through this discussion include, but are not limited to:
- relationships with central government and its agencies – opportunity for greater influence
 - collaborative, collective and enduring decision making at a local/regional/central level
 - improved Ngāi Tahu relationships
 - community and stakeholder relationships

Problem statement

32. The commentary above has highlighted the challenges identified through the Future for Local Government Review, the significant government reform programme and some drivers of change and opportunities for the region.
33. The next section poses a number of questions around governance and service delivery for local government.
34. Responses to the questions will be influenced by members' views on what the problem is that is being addressed through possible changes to regional and local government.
35. Landing on agreed problem statement will help focus the discussion and provide a better chance of agreeing what a solution(s) may look like.

Governance structures and service delivery questions

36. What are the current strengths and weaknesses of the existing local government structure in Canterbury, particularly with a view to local representation and influence, e.g. previous Government's approach to large water entities?
37. How can we ensure that any new structure enhances local democracy and representation?
38. What governance models have been successful in other regions or countries, and how can they be adapted to Canterbury? New Zealand?
39. What options are available for change?
 - **services delivered in partnership** – partnership between councils to delivery more locally by working together, e.g. Publica⁹ – a not-for-profit company (CCO) owned by four councils who work together to share skills and resources to deliver more for local communities, residents and businesses, services are delivered on behalf of the four, but to different standards set by each of the four councils
 - **shared management** - there is no one-size-fits-all model but there is overlap between the different arrangements used. Shared management¹⁰ generally involves the appointment of a single chief executive across more than one council and may extend to joint appointments of directors, heads of service and move further down the layers within a council. These officers work across local authority boundaries but are responsible to the individual democratic structures in place in each.
 - **shared services** – councils sharing resources and services to improve efficiency and reduce costs, often on a service by service basis

⁹ [Delivering more locally by working together | Publica Group Ltd](#)

¹⁰ [Stronger together: shared management in local government](#)

- **regional cooperation** – enhanced collaboration between councils on regional issues like transport and environmental management
 - **amalgamation** – combining smaller councils into larger entities (territorial authorities / unitary authorities) to streamline governance and reduce duplication – often not supported by communities e.g. Wellington Region reorganisation¹¹ where three Wairarapa districts submitted a reorganisation proposal for a union of Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa district councils and constitution of a unitary authority for the united area. The Local Government agreed to accept and assess the proposal. The Commission received a reorganisation application from the Greater Wellington Regional Council for the constitution of a unitary authority covering the entire area of the existing Wellington Region including the Wairarapa, the application included the establishment of eight local boards for the area. The Commission agreed to assess the applications, publicly notify them and invite alternative applications. Following public notification and analysing the feedback the Commission decided not to proceed with the proposal due to lack of public support.
40. Which services should be delivered at the national, regional, and local levels to maximise efficiency and effectiveness?
 41. How can we improve the coordination and integration of services across different levels of government?
 42. What are the potential benefits and challenges of shared services and regional cooperation?
 43. How is the principle of localism and subsidiarity for governance and decision making maintained?

Further considerations

44. Depending on the outcome of discussions related to those questions posed above, consideration will also need to be given to Ngāi Tahu partnership, community engagement; financial, environmental and social considerations; implementation and transition; and legal and regulatory frameworks.

Other New Zealand current discussions

45. The Dunedin City Council considered a paper at their December 2024 meeting that outlined options for advancing discussions regarding a possible unitary authority for Otago. The Council resolved to progress discussion about a possible unitary authority for Otago with an initial meeting in early 2025 of elected members of Councils in Otago or their representatives.

¹¹ [2017: Wellington Region reorganisation - Local Government Commission](#)

46. Southland District Council has proposed a restructure of Southland councils into two unitary authorities, one urban-focused centred on Invercargill City and one district-focused incorporating Gore and Southland District Councils. The council resolved at its August 2024 meeting to approve further information to be prepared to enable a formal proposal to be lodged with the Local Government Commission and endorsed the lodgement of a formal reorganisation investigation proposal by Southland District Council to the Local Government Commission.
47. Nelson City discussed a potential Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council merger at their strategy day in January 2025. where a report written for the Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce¹² was presented to elected members about what one council could mean for the region.
48. Minister James Meager attended the event and he noted "Central government's position is that locals should decide for themselves what their structure should be and if they want some support from central government to implement that, then it is probably a conversation worth having¹³."

Next steps

49. Next steps will be dependent on the outcomes from today's discussions.

¹² [ONE REGION? | Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce](#)

¹³ [Report urges re-consideration of Nelson-Tasman councils merger | RNZ News](#)

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

Hon James Meager

Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport

Briefing notes for Canterbury Mayoral Forum 14 February 2025

Introduction

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council, supported by our chief executives. The purpose of the CMF is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.

The eleven local authorities are: Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council.

The CMF was established to facilitate discussion and collaboration on matters of significance for Canterbury and its communities and enables all eleven local authorities to speak with one strong voice. The CMF's aspirations are to achieve sustainable development across the four interdependent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing) and the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital).

We have put together a comprehensive briefing across a number of portfolios given the breadth of your portfolio as Minister for the South Island. We would not expect to cover all of these in depth in our first initial meeting, however, have provided these for future reference.

In this first meeting we would appreciate hearing from you about your ambitions for the new Ministry, and how the Canterbury Mayoral Forum can work with you for the benefit of Canterbury and the South Island.

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

Secretariat, E: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz W: www.canterburymayors.org.nz
C/- Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140 T: 03 345 9323

Ashburton District Council • Canterbury Regional Council • Christchurch City Council • Hurunui District Council
Kaikōura District Council • Mackenzie District Council • Selwyn District Council • Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council • Waimate District Council • Waitaki District Council

Plan for Canterbury

Each triennium the CMF prepares a strategy and action plan to guide its work. The [Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025](#) summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity, and the Plan is focused on three priority areas:

- sustainable environmental management
- shared prosperity
- climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Within the priority areas, we have identified 9 key actions that make up our work programme. These are:

- ongoing oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.
- continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection
- support of the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework
- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
- continued encouragement, support and advocacy for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production
- support the region to foster partnerships and to investigate barriers, and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community economy, and environment
- advocacy with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions
- develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them.
- oversee the completion of the Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan.

Canterbury's transport network

Canterbury is the largest region in New Zealand by land area, with 44,508 square kilometres of diverse communities and landscapes, extending from north of the Clarence River to south of the Waitaki, and from the main divide of the Southern Alps to the South Pacific Ocean. We comprise some of the largest and fastest-growing urban areas in New Zealand. Greater Christchurch is New Zealand's second most populous urban area and the decentralisation of people and jobs away from Christchurch's central city post-earthquakes has had a substantial impact on our transport networks.

Outside of the main urban areas, Canterbury is sparsely populated, and our rural communities often need to travel significant distances to access even basic services. This is particularly the case in our least populated districts; Kaikōura, Mackenzie and Waimate, which represent three of the four least populated districts in the country. There is effectively no transport choice in these areas other than private vehicle, which makes these parts of the region almost entirely dependent on improvements in our vehicle fleet to reduce transport sector emissions.

Christchurch and Timaru are serviced by thriving public transport systems. Nearly 7.5 million passenger trips have been taken on the Metro services in Greater Christchurch year to date, and almost 135,000 passenger trips taken on the on-demand MyWay and South Canterbury services. This is an increase of 8.3% and 3.4% respectively on patronage compared to this time last year. Some Councils have discussed new and innovative approaches to lift transport choice within and between their districts, but funding and regulatory barriers exist.

Canterbury's current transport network is made up of a number of nationally and regionally significant transport routes connecting people and communities in the region to the north, south and west. Freight travels across the network via land (road and rail), sea and air. The main seaports at Lyttelton and Timaru are connected via the existing rail and state highway networks, while Christchurch International Airport is connected via the state highway network with opportunities for a future rail connection. Lyttelton Port Company operates the inland port at Rolleston, a major freight hub for the South Island with rail connection to the seaport.

Transport strongly influences economic development, supporting supply chains and plays a key role as an enabler for each sector of the regional economy. Efficient and effective transport options are critical for our communities and businesses. Maintenance of the existing transport network, and additional investment to respond to changes in how roads are being used, is therefore critical to sustaining the region's prosperity.

We welcome the Government's commitment to the second Ashburton bridge and the Woodend Bypass, and the recent announcement to progress the Brougham Street upgrades. The CMF is also keen to see the Greater Christchurch Partnership's mass rapid transit business case be approved and funded. The business case sets out compelling reasons for why a mass rapid system is needed and the range of benefits – economic, environmental, and social – that would result from it. The CMF notes that the Government has committed to investigating the business case only at this stage; we urge you to commit funding to this important project.

More generally, we want to see a review of transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions.

Transport network funding issues

Current funding sources (a combination of council contributions and funding through the National Land Transport Fund) are not sufficient to ensure the region's transport network is fit for purpose. We have previously advocated that significant additional investment of \$1 billion is required to ensure road maintenance, network resilience, and emissions reductions are managed appropriately.

The Canterbury region represents approximately 12 per cent of New Zealand by population but 13 per cent of national GDP and over 16 per cent of the national roading network by length. However, Canterbury only ever receives approximately 5-8 per cent of forecast National Land Transport Programme funding. Our expectation is that a higher share of the revenue generated from our region is returned to be spent in Canterbury this NLTP period.

The CMF wishes to work with the Government to find an integrated and more sustainable approach to transport funding to bridge this gap. This is reflected in our *Plan for Canterbury* - "to advocate with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions".

Network resilience – natural hazards and climate change

Our transport network needs to have a long-term focus on ensuring it can continue to operate in times of stress or adversity, rather than one that focuses on recovery each time an event occurs.

Canterbury has a range of natural hazard risks that impact on the resilience of the transport network, most notably river flooding, surface flooding and coastal inundation. The severity and frequency of these events are increasing. The result can often be the isolation of communities and significant disruption to supply chains, as happened in the 2019 flooding of the Rangitata river, and the 2021 flooding that caused severe damage to the Ashburton bridge.

Earthquake risk also continues to be a key natural hazard risk for the region, particularly in relation to an alpine fault rupture. The damage, and resulting disruption, to road and rail networks following the 2010-11 earthquake sequence in the region, and the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake, are well-known.

Canterbury has a heavy reliance on bridges for river crossings on critical freight and visitor routes. The changing climate is expected to increase network vulnerability, with increased exposure to risks associated with sea level rise, coastal erosion and storm surges. Much of the region is low-lying, and key transport corridors (including State Highway 1 and the Main North rail line) are coastal.

Flood protection co-investment

Canterbury has over 78,000km of rivers and streams, and flooding is a significant natural hazard risk for our region. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The CMF is strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and we need to ensure our region is as prepared and protected as possible from the impacts of flooding.

Co-investment with central government would enable our councils to deliver works faster and more efficiently than rates alone can afford. This will protect homes, businesses, property and infrastructure – and mean people can obtain and afford insurance cover to protect what's important. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged - the CMF considers it vital that we prepare now for these events by looking at rivers with a holistic, systems and intergenerational viewpoint to value, protect and restore them now and into the future.

Tourism and Hospitality

While agriculture contributed 6.7% of regional GDP in the year to March 2020, and manufacturing contributed 11%, with primary manufacturing contributing 64% of that, tourism is also a key driver in our economy, particularly for the Kaikōura, Hurunui and Mackenzie districts. Tourists can ski, snowboard, Bungy jump, hike, jet boat, fish, mountain bike, raft, surf, swim, golf, see whales, dolphins, and seals, visit wineries and gardens, shop, and more - all within two hours of Christchurch.

We understand the spotlight on increasing tourism and welcome the economic growth for our region and districts that may come from this, however there are also significant challenges associated with the funding of growing tourism levels, which often places an onerous financial burden on the small ratepayer bases of those areas with significant tourist numbers, such as Mackenzie, Kaikōura and Hurunui, along with our other smaller council areas. To support growth in tourism it is critical that we have the infrastructure and services to provide a first-class experience to our visitors (both domestic and international).

The impacts and challenging cost of servicing tourism requires an enduring equitable external funding source to be established with the assistance of central government.

Improved tourism infrastructure would support our region's economic growth. From smaller infrastructure like public toilets and EV and e-bike charging facilities through to improved and resilient infrastructure to manage cruise ships, tourist accommodation, road, walking and cycle trail maintenance, and events, there is an ongoing need for central government support. We are aware that as part of National's 'Boosting Tourism' policy, the proposed National Infrastructure Agency will be asked to work with local councils to ensure destinations with high visitor numbers, but low ratepayer bases, can access the funding they need to support tourism infrastructure. We look forward to hearing more from the Government on this policy.

High visitation numbers also have an impact on housing supply, particularly in those areas with a proliferation of short-term accommodation providers in the district, e.g. Tekapo has about 47% of existing housing being taken up with AirBnBs. Having these houses taken up as commercial activities reduces what is available for workers or growth in resident population to rent and unduly impacts on the value of rents, making it unaffordable for many.

Energy

The CMF was pleased to read the Government's *Electrify NZ* policy. As the policy notes, 40% of New Zealand's emissions come from transport and energy; transitioning those sectors to clean electricity could deliver a significant reduction in emissions.

Renewable energies are therefore a recognised and important part of responding to the impacts of climate change. Canterbury's diverse landscape and climate has much potential to generate renewable energy through water, wind and sunshine.

In Canterbury some key renewable energy projects under way or proposed include:

- a solar farm located near Christchurch Airport that will span around 300 hectares on land just behind the airport's runways. It will consist of approximately 300,000 solar panels, making it among the largest solar farms in New Zealand
- Genesis Energy, as part of a joint venture with an Australian company, is developing and building a solar power farm (90,000 hectares) in Lauriston on the Canterbury Plains
- a planned wind farm near Waipara, with 93-megawatt capacity
- Lodestar energy has plans to develop three solar farms at Clandebye, Mt Somers and Dunsandel.

We have identified energy as an opportunity in the *Plan for Canterbury* because energy security will be critical for Canterbury as we look to the challenges ahead – there are clearly strong connections in Canterbury between energy, water, food production and climate change. Canterbury has an opportunity to be at the forefront of an energy transition to attract and retain talent, investment and technologies. The CMF will support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment.

Canterbury Energy Inventory

The CMF is developing a Canterbury Energy Inventory as a key piece of the evidence base to support a shared understanding of the energy system in Canterbury and inform future work – including helping to identify options to progress a future regional approach to energy, such as an energy strategy, action plan or framework (if required). The energy inventory will draw on relevant published data and information, as well as engagement with subject matter experts and key sector stakeholders.

Key progress on the energy inventory includes targeted engagement with key energy sector stakeholders and subject matter experts, and a workshop (with around 50 attendees from key sectors) to discuss emerging findings and explore key opportunities and challenges facing the region. Through the engagement phase there has been support for a regional approach, and recognition of the linkages between energy and regional economic growth and development.

Following completion of the energy inventory recommendations will be made on the next steps of the project. The details of what form this may take are still being worked through, however there is consensus that there should be collective and collaborative involvement to set the direction/goal from – technical experts, local and central govt, big industry, energy sector, individuals and communities.

Funding and financing of local government

The CMF strongly supports the concept of localism and subsidiarity in that the function of governance and decision making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities.

One of our key areas of concern for local government's future relates to funding and financing. The current funding system for local government is not sufficient for the future – the continued reliance on rates, even

following review and simplification, as the principal mechanism for funding local government is unlikely to address this issue. Local government's share of overall tax revenue has stayed at around 2 per cent of GDP over the past 70 years, despite it having a growing number of roles and responsibilities.

We note the Government's Local Government System improvement work programme covers a range of issues relation to funding and financing local government and we want to partner with the Government to ensure local government is sustainable for the future and can deliver on community needs and expectations. We welcome a review of the current legislation to enable new funding mechanisms that sit alongside rates, along with the redesign of the long-term plan and rating provisions to enable a more simplified and streamlined process.

Local government in Canterbury has demonstrated its capability in so many ways to deliver positive health care, education, housing, and public safety outcomes based on a better understanding of our communities need. We seek to leverage our capability and experience in these areas with greater delegation of central government funding and responsibility to allow local government to deliver what is required, at the right level and at a faster pace than central government can deliver.

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

The CMF launched the [Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan](#) (CCPP) in December 2024. The CCPP is a comprehensive strategy developed by all 11 local authorities in Canterbury to address climate change and build a sustainable, resilient and low-emissions future, in collaboration between councils, iwi, communities and businesses. Minister Simon Watts attended the launch and noted that it was welcoming to see Canterbury councils leading the way with a united, coherent and enduring approach, driving regional action to tackle the challenges of climate change.

All 11 councils are contributing to the implementation of the CCPP and the delivery of the ten actions in the CCPP over the next 3 years.

Health

Many local authorities have included outcomes relating to healthy communities amongst the community outcomes within their long-term plans, despite not actually having a role in the delivery of "front-line" health services. This is because the impacts of health policies set at a national level, or investment decisions made by Te Whatu Ora, impact the local level. A good example of this is that issues in the mental health system or with addiction services often manifest themselves in increases in crime, rough sleeping/homelessness and the like across local communities.

Despite local government having a legislated mandate to improve communities' wellbeing, at present, local authorities have limited opportunities to influence health outcomes at the community level. However, there are some ways in which we can, and do, impact health and health outcomes already. For example:

- councils provide recreation and leisure facilities intended to promote physical activity and to have a positive impact on community health including reducing the cost of health treatment for district health boards. Most of these facilities are heavily subsidised by council rates.
- cycleways and walking facilities also provide health benefits in addition to being sustainable modes of transport.
- council regulatory services are undertaken with a health perspective, including food premises licensing and inspection and building and resource consenting.
- local authorities regularly advocate to central government and other providers for health resources and facilities.
- many local authorities support the local provision of medical services through funding, ownership of health facilities and other support.

We see a need for a much stronger voice for local government in the health structure. This goes back to our support for the subsidiarity principle, whereby that the function of governance and decision-making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities. Local government knows our communities and their challenges, and can provide valuable input into health plans to ensure they are fit for purpose for all the diverse communities. This needs to be recognised.

Health workforce issues

As you'll be aware, accessing GP services is an increasing issue across the country, but particularly in rural areas, similarly access to mental health services is also a challenge. Given these workforce issues, the CMF is interested to learn about the Government's plans to train more doctors, nurses and midwives and will keep a watching brief on progress. We are also interested to know what plans are in place to address the more immediate needs of our communities for an increased health workforce across all disciplines.

Wilding Pines

The CMF is concerned about the significant drop in funding to address the removal of wilding pines across Canterbury, but particularly in the Mackenzie District which has the largest wilding pine problem in the country.

Without control of wilding pines we will lose native species, precious water resources and land for food production, tourism and recreation. Research in the Mackenzie Basin has shown that the conversion of tussock grasslands to tree plantations or wilding forests could result in 25-30 per cent less water reaching streams and lakes. This would have a huge effect on native fish and invertebrate populations in streams, and loss of recreational opportunities such as fishing and boating, as well as impacting hydro-electricity production.

Initial investment was made as part of Budget 2020, with \$100m committed over four years. This allowed national wilding pine control operations to scale up significantly and make great progress. This funding is now reducing to \$10m a year from 2023-2024. Canterbury has been the largest beneficiary of funding from the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme (NWCCP), and while that sounds positive, it is a reflection of the scale of the problem in the region.

It is not only the economic contribution Canterbury makes to the national economy from tourism and agriculture that is at risk, but also homes, lives and livelihoods of people that live and holiday here. We want to keep working with the Government on addressing this critical issue.

Conclusion

We appreciate that this briefing covers wide range of issues and we look forward to working with you on these and other opportunities to improve outcomes for all of our Canterbury and South Island communities, and look forward to our meeting on Friday.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 14 February 2025

Presented by: Nigel Bowen, Chair

Economic Priorities next steps with Business Canterbury

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's approval of the feedback to the Canterbury Regional Leadership Discussion held at Business Canterbury and support a discussion on next steps of the work being undertaken with Business Canterbury.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **approve the draft feedback to the Canterbury Regional Leadership Discussion held at Business Canterbury**
2. **note the information provided in this paper to inform a discussion on next steps of the work with Business Canterbury on development of regional economic priorities for all of Canterbury.**

Background

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum has agreed to work with Business Canterbury on the development of regional economic priorities for all of Canterbury.
3. Business Canterbury has facilitated two workshops, the first with some of their members and the second with local government representatives, Business Canterbury members and a range of businesses from across Canterbury. Both workshops were facilitated by Beca.
4. A draft workshop summary (attachment 1) has been provided, following the combined workshop in November and feedback is being sought from all attendees.

Draft feedback on workshop report feedback

5. Members of the Canterbury Economic Development Forum provided initial feedback on the draft report. This was discussed at the Chief Executives Forum (CEF) and the draft feedback has been updated to reflect the discussion at the CEF, and further refinement based on staff discussions.

6. High level feedback is:

- general support for development of a unified economic framework for the region
- document should serve as an overarching framework, while acknowledging all existing economic strategies, which cover a much broader view, integrating efforts from across the region and providing clear leadership talking points
- framework will enable regional leaders to use a shared language, fostering alignment and collaboration
- the framework should remove references to regional / city / sub-regional deals – framework is an opportunity to be in charge of own destiny
- recognition of the critical importance of the private sector and partnership between local government and the private sector.

Next steps

7. Leeann Watson, CEO Business Canterbury will attend the CMF meeting to provide an update on broader feedback received on the workshop summary and outline the next steps for this work.

Attachments

- **Attachment 1** – Driving the future of Waitaha Canterbury. A Canterbury Regional Leadership Discussion
- **Attachment 2** – CMF draft response to the Canterbury Regional Leadership discussion held at Business Canterbury on 25 November 2024.

Driving the future of Waitaha Canterbury.

A Canterbury Regional Leadership Discussion

SUPPORTED BY:



CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

A recap on previous conversations.

Over the last six months, Business Canterbury and the Canterbury Mayoral Forum have been working together to identify what the private sector vision is for Waitaha Canterbury.

This vision, which will evolve over time, aims to provide clarity around the drivers of economic growth, which is led by the private sector and enabled and supported by local government and central government.

The sessions run to date have clearly demonstrated a commitment to developing an aspirational vision and ambition for our region together. One that balances economic growth with environmental stewardship and appropriately leverages our natural resources and unique assets, building on the momentum of the past decade.

The work done so far also establishes a solid foundation for Canterbury's long-term growth, regardless of whether the region secures a Regional Deal. The vision aligns with national priorities while focusing on what makes

Canterbury unique, emphasising the role of both the private sector and local government in achieving progress for our region and for New Zealand Inc.

This document summarises at a high-level Canterbury's unfakeable assets, undeniable constraints, priority focus areas, and provides a solid platform for further conversations about the actions required to bring the vision to life and deliver results.

This initiative is just the beginning of an enduring partnership between the private sector and the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. It reflects Canterbury's commitment to shaping a great future that balances growth with environmental care, ensuring the region's leadership role within New Zealand and beyond.

Right now, there is more feedback required to ensure that this work reflects a vision that is truly 'Canterbury' and is bold and ambitious reflecting the Canterbury pioneering spirit.

Our unfakeable assets.

Unfakeable assets are the unique qualities, resources, and strengths inherent to Canterbury that cannot be replicated or substituted by other regions. These assets position Canterbury as a standout contributor to New Zealand's success, driving outcomes that surpass what other regions can deliver. They represent the region's competitive advantage—its distinctive combination of natural, economic, cultural, and innovation-driven capabilities that enable exceptional and sustainable growth for both the region and the nation:

- Provincial heart with global reach
- Driven and with a desire to win
- Engineering and education excellence
- Ngāi Tahu: A cultural leader and economic partner
- Christchurch: A global city connecting the region, at our doorstep
- Rich soils and abundant water
- The largest region in New Zealand
- Innovative and resilient with a fresh eye to the future
- Communities built on history and tradition
- Tourism experiences from mountain to sea
- Vast renewable energy potential
- A quality of lifestyle on our doorstep

QUESTIONS FOR FEEDBACK:

1. What are assets that if leveraged will create the biggest impact for our region?
2. Have we been specific enough in the descriptors above?
3. How will these feed into creating a bold uniquely Canterbury ambition?

Our undeniable constraints.

Undeniable constraints are the inherent challenges or limitations that Canterbury faces. While these constraints may initially appear as barriers, they can be reframed and strategically addressed to minimise their impact, or even leveraged as opportunities.

- Distance to markets and connectivity
- Limited Government presence and representation
- Perception of 'already invested'
- Lack of identity and long-term vision
- Geographic infrastructure spread
- Dispersed population
- Capital constraints
- 'Low' GDP per capita and productivity
- Modesty and avoidance of storytelling
- Lack of 'big' companies and start ups
- Lack of resilience in our connectivity infrastructure
- Environmental constraints

Headlines for the future.

Headlines of the future articulate Canterbury's aspirational identity and potential. They indicate what success could look like in the coming years and should serve as a guiding narrative for future conversations and the development of actions that will help get us there.

These can broadly be grouped into two categories -

- We live locally, collaborate regionally, lead nationally, and deliver globally.
- We are a region where shared ambition fuels individual and collective success.
- Our environment supports us in being New Zealand's capital for environmental innovation and world leaders in agriculture, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, education, and tourism.
- We are a region driven by our vast and abundant environment, with a global city at our doorstep.
- Our economy is supported by a deep sense of history tradition and innovation, and we are paving the way for future generations to come.
- We are a region powered by our abundant environment and anchored by a globally connected city.
- Canterbury is the renewable energy capital of New Zealand
- Canterbury is the Gateway to New Zealand, for tourism and trade.
- Cantabrians are the highest educated in New Zealand

QUESTION FOR FEEDBACK:

1. Is the above bold enough?
2. Is the above based on where we are at present versus where we aspire to be in 10,20,30 years?
3. Understanding that our collective aspirations are key to our individual district success – does the above represent sustainable growth opportunities for the whole region?

Aligning priorities to our advantages

Taking our unfakeable assets and what we want to see as headlines for the future, we can start to really show how we can prioritise activity and effort around the environment and innovation. For each of the priority areas discussed at the forum, further work can be done to understand how each could be refined to solve for the environment and innovation to be truly ‘Canterbury.’

EXAMPLE ASSET FRAMEWORK

Tourism

Agriculture

Education

Aerospace

Energy

Advanced Manufacturing

Environment	Innovation
Leverage our vast and diverse environment and proximity to great tourism destinations to become the gateway to New Zealand (not South Island)	Leverage dark skies to create a uniquely Canterbury tourism experience

QUESTIONS FOR FEEDBACK:

1. How do each of the priorities above link to both environment and innovation in a way that makes them truly ‘Canterbury’
Are there any priorities missing, based on our unfakeable assets, undeniable constraints, and what we want to see as headlines for the future?

What do we need to enable to deliver on our ambition?

Energy Infrastructure

- With energy prices a significant and rising cost for business, increasing fuel in the system to stabilise the energy prices needs to be considered throughout the decarbonisation transition (e.g. gas could provide a stabilising impact). Risk to business and attracting industry if there is no certainty around energy pricing and supply.
- Advocacy in supply chain to enable industry to get products to market more efficiently – specifically those exports that are already at a carbon/sustainability disadvantage due to Aotearoa's geographic location.

Transport Networks and Connections

- Strong and resilient networks. We have the basics in place but what is needed in the next 30-years to ensure we have the required level of connectivity across our communities and to move increased levels of exports and support population growth.
- Preparedness of the networks to accommodate continued scaled growth in Selwyn and Waimakariri. (e.g. Lincoln, Rolleston, Rangiora could be future cities, are we planning for the inter-city connection – work in Sydney was used as an example where three 'cities' were created within the city with accessibility to education, health, and transport facilities within 30 mins reach).
- Acknowledging the ability of the private sector to take risks/leverage investment opportunities when there is greater certainty that policy and legislation will not be upended every three years. Strong business sector support to lengthen political terms and/or gain bipartisan agreement on long term projects for the region.
- Christchurch is considered the gateway to the South Island - how can we leverage to become the gateway to New Zealand.

**Accessibility and
Public Transport**

- Leverage for greater 'ease of access' from the surrounding South Island to this region providing opportunity for import/export, business resilience and resilient corridors.
 - Create a front door for the South Island for businesses to set up trade. What are the models needed to underpin this and what would help unlock this i.e. policy settings.
-

Housing Supply

- What is the type of density required across the region that will continue to support our quality of life that is currently sought after and valued.
 - Population growth is projected to continue in the region - there is land available and rezoning and planning for strategic growth is critical.
 - Access to student accommodation or suitable housing surrounding our universities will be essential in maintaining the level of service(s) being offered to students who contribute to the regional economy, communities, and in turn are our future business owners/leaders.
-

**Industry
Attractiveness**

- Regulations to facilitate effective and efficient consent processes that enable the private sector to invest and grow.
 - Alignment of industry on what the region is willing to 'trade-off.'
 - Advocate for bipartisan agreement across our region's priority industries (noted under Transport Networks and Connections as well).
 - Identify, develop, and leverage our resilience story – the past, the present and looking to the future.
-

Retention of Talent

- Our universities are successfully attracting increasingly higher student numbers. How do we provide industry wrap around to cement this talent to this region after graduation?
 - Acknowledgment of the anchor role our universities play in the region and the opportunity to further build deliberate partnerships in research and development anchoring our tertiary institutions to our city drivers and vision. (e.g. UC is the power educator of
-

choice and have the only high voltage labs in NZ. A good news story when Transpower Christchurch is the fastest growing office for their business).

- Continue to create opportunity for the residing talent via the businesses that already call this region home.
-

Innovation and Scale

- Considered scale of farming and agri-business across the region and the impact it has on the regional economy. Consider the infrastructure assets that contribute to the success of this sector and risk to the future resilience and operation of those assets (e.g. irrigation schemes, aged road bridges, aged and limited rail infrastructure).
 - Planned sustainable growth that is supported by city-hub(s) - inbound, freight and export capacity.
 - Supported visitor growth targets that can bend and flex.
 - Include the rural sector/agri-business strong-holds (i.e. carrot seeds) to profile our unique offerings to the world. A united vision between our rural-folk and city-folk that articulates our points of difference.
-

Alignment with existing economic development strategies:

These are all the initiatives and strategic focus areas across the region that tie into the Canterbury Ambition.

- | | |
|--|---|
| – Regional collaboration & strategic partnerships | – Community engagement & empowerment |
| – Sustainable development | – Economic diversification & prosperity |
| – Infrastructure improvement (energy, water, transport networks) | – Sustainable environmental management |
| – Workforce development & retention | – Climate adaptation and mitigation |
| – Innovation & technology | – Housing supply |
| – Tourism promotion | – Accessibility & public transport |

Next steps.

Early next year, Business Canterbury will bring together a small subgroup of attendees from both sessions to further refine what our regional economic ambition might be. This session will be broken into sector specific groups who will take a lead on each of the priorities and make suggestions based on the criteria below. Invites for this session and further information will be in the New Year. Please email your feedback based on the questions in this document, and any further reflections to taitd@cecc.org.nz by 7 February 2025.

Step 1 – Summary and request for feedback (17/12/2024 – 07/02/2025)

Step 2 – Sector specific sub-groups advance criteria (~18/02/2025)

Step 3 – Re-group (~04/03/2025)

Step 4 – Develop Execution Plan (~11/03/2025)

Step 5 – Implementation

*Dates are for discussion, above are starting points only.

QUESTIONS FOR FEEDBACK:

Are we being ambitious enough?

How can we make our priorities Canterbury centric and truly unfakeable?

What is required as collective action to realise our headlines of the future?

To be put on CMF letterhead when finalised

Draft response to the Canterbury Regional Leadership discussion held at Business Canterbury 25 November 2024

Please find attached initial comments on the workshop summary following the Canterbury Regional Leadership discussion held at Business Canterbury on Monday 25 November 2024.

General comments

The Mayoral Forum supports this work to establish a unified economic statement for the region. We recognise the critical importance of the private sector in this work and welcome the partnership between local government and the private sector.

We appreciate that this is a workshop summary, and there is still more work to be done together to get to a final product and our comments are based on providing feedback for us to work together on to ensure a robust product.

At this stage, we consider that the final document should serve an overarching framework for the region, while acknowledging all existing local government economic strategies, which cover a much broader view, integrating efforts across the region and providing clear leadership talking points.

We would prefer not to use Canterbury Ambition, as this title has already been used in other areas, not least ChristchurchNZs Economic Ambition for Christchurch, we would suggest something along the lines of the title on the workshop summary “Driving the future of Waitaha Canterbury”, but very happy to discuss this.

Our unfakeable assets

We are of the view that a list of unfakeable assets would be stronger if they are specific, evidence based and justifiable, as opposed to things that relate to the intangible ‘culture of Canterbury/Cantabrians’

A number of these statements, while applicable, are not unique to Canterbury:

- Driven and with a desire to win
- Innovative and resilient with a fresh eye to the future
- A quality lifestyle on our doorstep
- Ngāi Tahu: a cultural leader and economic partner – the Ngāi Tahu takiwa is greater than just Canterbury

Other assets that make us stand out and are unique to Canterbury are:

- Christchurch, and Canterbury, is the gateway in and out of the South Island
- New infrastructure (post-earthquakes) that is in place with less risk for economic investment (should we have another major event we are well prepared to absorb the economic shock)
- Proximity and access to Antarctica and the Pacific Region

- Direct access to Australia and other international ports e.g. Singapore

Questions

What are the assets that if leveraged will create the biggest impact for our region?

- **Engineering and education excellence** – this is a real selling point given all the other factors that come into people wanting to live here i.e. housing prices, cost of living etc.
- **Innovative and resilient with a fresh eye to the future** – this has been shown post-earthquake in the rebuild of Christchurch with so much more opportunity for innovation. We have built resilience into our region post-quake infrastructure (still some major challenges/investment required across Canterbury), but this puts us ahead of other major cities/regions in NZ that are subject to so much natural hazard risk (which is why it is not attractive for business to invest).
- **Research and innovation** – broader than engineering, based both in the private sector and tertiary sectors.
- **Agriculture, horticulture, viticulture** – we grow it and process it – value adding in Canterbury
- **Tourism experiences** – capturing visitors via provincial tourism; farm tourism, food tourism, cycle trails connecting all of Canterbury
- **Water storage** – water provides options for farmers, diversification and could be a game changer for Canterbury

Have we been specific enough in the descriptors above?

The descriptors would be stronger if they included data and evidence that shows Canterbury is more advanced in these areas than every other region.

How will these feed into creating a bold uniquely Canterbury ambition?

It will depend on what we decide we want to be (Vision). Do we want to build on what we have done to date (our positives) and move away from our negatives, or do we want to shift gear into something else quite different? We welcome the opportunity to keep discussing this with you.

Our undeniable constraints

We agree with the undeniable constraints but would make the following comments.

Along with geographic infrastructure spread we would also note the age of infrastructure across Canterbury, i.e. the road and rail bridges across our rivers.

We would also include the following for consideration:

- natural hazard risks across Canterbury / West Coast – flooding, slips, snow, earthquakes, coastal inundation (rail line), drought, fire
- water availability/scarcity – current and future drought conditions as a result of climate change – impact on irrigation, food production, dairying etc

Headlines for the future

The length of the list of headlines is unhelpful to focus actions. We would suggest narrowing to 2-3 options based on the assets and constraints outlined in the earlier sections. Being more specific will drive action.

- We live locally, collaborate regionally, lead nationally, and deliver globally. – this is how we operate and seems more like a marketing slogan. *Is this our headline for the future of our economy?*
- Our environment supports us in being New Zealand's capital for environmental innovation and world leaders in agriculture, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, education, and tourism. *Are we limiting ourselves if we say 'environmental' innovation?*
- We are a region driven by our vast and abundant environment, with a global city at our doorstep -*this is slightly reworded and repeated.*
- Canterbury is the renewable energy capital of New Zealand – *is capital the right word?*
- Cantabrians are the highest educated in New Zealand – *this statement is not true when checked against StatsNZ census data.*

Questions for feedback:

Is the above bold enough?

Along with the comments on some of the headlines above we note that they do not make mention of the cultural heritage of Canterbury and the special place of Ngāi Tahu, which is mentioned as one of our unfakeable assets.

The one headline that may put the region on the map is the renewable energy capital of New Zealand as this is different from what we currently do or could grow/aspire to be.

Is the above based on where we are at present versus where we aspire to be in 10,20,30 years?

The headlines for the future reflect a lot of what we currently do – good or bad, based in today's situation and do not take into account how Canterbury or New Zealand will change across 10-30 years. Experiencing climate change impacts, impacts/opportunities from NZ economic strategy, global economic and other pressures, etc.

How can we develop an understanding of where Canterbury might be in 10-30 years based on the drivers we understand today, and then consider where we might 'desire' or drive the region to go against that backdrop? Futures exercise / horizon scanning would be useful.

There is opportunity to enhance, particularly when it comes to being 'world leaders in agriculture, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, education, and tourism' – this is an opportunity but is it realistic?

Understanding that our collective aspirations are key to our individual district success – does the above represent sustainable growth opportunities for the whole region?

As a region we need not compete with each other but be better together.

There are overlapping parts of the region, but some parts of our region will be suited for different aspects of our economy, it is important that we recognise this and not compete for resources (skills and finance).

A good understanding of what each part of our region is known for and does well economically which can be enhanced and built on would be good e.g. Mackenzie for tourism, our great lakes, hydro for renewables, dark sky, etc whereas Selwyn may be for agriculture, education (Lincoln University), and Ashburton for dairying. Each district has its strengths and opportunities but not at the expense of others. The individual EDAs will be in a position to highlight each of their districts' strengths.

Aligning priorities to our advantage

The forum has not been in the position to go through each of the priorities to link both environment and innovation at this stage.

What do we need to enable to deliver on our ambition

Energy Infrastructure

- changing nature of land use and our economy may mean that some energy assets are redundant, or the way we access energy is different. e.g. solar farm adjacent to the airport may generate sufficient energy to power the airport and all of the surrounding businesses and therefore may not need to connect to the national grid, thus less reliance on hydro as a main source of electricity into the future. Regional energy inventory/strategic approach will look at these challenges into the future, needs to sit alongside our economic work
- diversity of energy for different uses based on geographical constraints
- not sure about the 'advocacy in supply chains' statement - how this is related to energy infrastructure, seems more appropriate to the transport networks and connections section below

Transport Networks and Connections

- Growth in Selwyn and Waimakariri is not anticipated to be of city scale in next 30 years (Rolleston may technically if reaches 50,000 population, but not Lincoln or Rangiora). The Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan looks at integrated land use and transport and this can be referenced in this work.
- Rather than focus on lengthening political terms, an enduring, long-term infrastructure plan partnering with private sector to deliver could overcome this. An enduring long-term infrastructure plan would also apply to public transport and energy

- Value seen in the rationalisation of ports and airports and associated functions across the South Island. All roads lead in and out of Christchurch to the two main airports/seaports.

Accessibility and Public Transport

- It is not clear what the 'ease of access' issue is from the rest of the South Island to Canterbury for imports/exports – is it road or rail freight? What is the issue, congestion? Lack of resilience? Cost?
- What does it mean about front door for trade and why is it in this section?
- There is no mention of anything public transport related in this section. Investment in Public Transport Futures and Mass Rapid Transit in Greater Christchurch as a 'city shaping' initiative (as agreed in the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan) would be of utmost importance over the next 10-15 years to support the economic growth and prosperity of the second largest city in NZ and gateway to Canterbury and the South Island.
- Joined up advocacy from business and local government to central government on issues such as public transport, transport and housing investment that will contribute to a more connected and vibrant region.

Housing Supply

- The Mayoral Forum is developing a Regional Housing Strategic Plan, and the Greater Christchurch Partnership has developed their Joint Housing Action Plan. These plans will contribute to identifying the issues and opportunities for housing supply in Canterbury.

Industry Attractiveness

- What does the statement 'alignment of industry on what the region is willing to 'trade-off' mean?
- Advocate for bipartisan agreement across our region's priority industries could also include where we want these located across the region, so each district is not competing for the same industries.

Retention of Talent

- Need a pipeline of jobs in Canterbury related to the courses undertaken at universities and through vocational training (e.g. Ara and private training establishments) in Canterbury. Focusing solely on universities sells the tertiary sector short, PTEs are attractive to immigration and grow vital industry skills.
- Is there any possibility of tertiary institutions in South Canterbury, particularly with an agricultural focus? Second campus of Lincoln? Future jobs in that sector related to the university focus and again support growth across South Canterbury

Innovation and Scale

- What do we need to do in this space, how do we attract/facilitate innovation within our economy?

- The statement ‘consider the infrastructure assets that contribute to the success of this sector and risk to the future resilience and operation of those assets (e.g. irrigation schemes, aged road bridges, aged and limited rail infrastructure)’ would sit more comfortably under the transport and network connection section.
- Should there be an additional section for Infrastructure which covers energy, telecommunications, roading, education, community etc
- Planned sustainable growth that is supported by city-hub(s) - inbound, freight and export capacity would also sit better under transport and/or an infrastructure section.
- This section does not seem aspirational enough. Why we are the best region to visit, live, work, etc?

Alignment with existing economic development strategies

This section could also include the following and would be strengthened with an analysis of the specific strategies that are in place:

- Ngai Tahu economic planning and development
- Education and community service planning – schools, tertiary institutions, hospitals, medical etc
- Food resilience planning
- Emergency management and recovery – post disaster economic recovery e.g. post-earthquake construction boom
- Construction sector
- Immigration – skills sets etc

Next Steps

We support the idea of sector specific sub-groups and would recommend using the expertise of the region’s Economic Development Agencies and council economic development staff to bring together and contribute to the sub-groups. We recognise the challenges with engaging with businesses across the region, however the sector sub-groups may entice businesses as they will be genuinely interested in their sectors.

QUESTIONS FOR FEEDBACK

Are we being ambitious enough?

- We think we can be more ambitious for Canterbury to be **THE** region to be in.
- Canterbury has so much to offer across so many sectors, and opportunity to set us ahead of other parts of the country and overseas. Are we delivering to the potential that we have?
- Do we want to reimagine what our economy looks like and transition to it over the time?

- How do we encourage high value tourism?
- How do we continually maintain and grow our economy with the right industries which aren't at the expense of our environmental, social and cultural values?

How can we make our priorities Canterbury centric and truly unfakeable?

- It is not clear from the document what our priorities are, we need to do more work together to define these.
- We need to be able to articulate our Vision for our economy and then understand what we are going to prioritise as actions to achieve that vision, and within what timeframe.
- We need to develop the Framework for Canterbury that we want, but we must also consider buy-in from Government to support the Framework and recognise Canterbury as the largest region in the country, second largest by population, and having the second largest city in the country.

What is required as collective action to realise our headlines of the future?

- Coming up with an enduring Visions and Framework and sticking to it.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 14 February 2024

Presented by: Ali Adams, ChristchurchNZ

Canterbury Aerospace Strategy

Purpose & Background

We are seeking the Mayoral Forum's endorsement of the draft Canterbury Aerospace Strategy.

The Canterbury Aerospace Leadership Group (CALG) was established in 2023 to represent the diverse and growing aerospace industry in our region, with representation from local stakeholders including the Christchurch City Council, Tāwhaki & the University of Canterbury. Since formation, the group has focused on developing the "Aerospace in Canterbury vision and strategy" to harness our region's unique strengths, world-class research capabilities, and manufacturing infrastructure. Initiatives like the Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre and Canterbury's existing expertise, such as in manufacturing and research, make our region not only a leader in New Zealand's aerospace industry but also a globally relevant hub for innovation.

The draft strategy emphasises "Aerospace for Good," focusing on delivering shared value across the Canterbury region. It outlines opportunities for industries to benefit from the space economy, such as using satellite data to enhance agriculture, manufacturing, and other key sectors. By aligning with Central Government priorities and connecting to a dynamic ecosystem, we have an opportunity to attract both public and private investment to our region, delivering long-term benefits for our communities.

Recommendations

We would welcome the Forum's endorsement of this strategy and their advice on how best to engage the region as a whole as we move into implementation.

Key points/ Executive Summary

The Canterbury Aerospace Strategy outlines a bold vision to position Canterbury as a global leader in aerospace innovation and development. This strategy, crafted by the Canterbury Aerospace Leadership Group (CALG), leverages the region's unique strengths and collaborative culture to create a thriving aerospace ecosystem.

By 2030, we aim for Canterbury's aerospace sector to be a key contributor to both the regional and national economy, recognised globally for its research and innovation.

To achieve this, we will shape the ecosystem by building robust infrastructure, attracting global companies and R&D programs, and developing a world-class workforce. Canterbury's unique regulatory advantage will be leveraged to create a flexible and supportive environment for future aerospace technologies. We will support local and national businesses to grow and scale, establishing a commercial accelerator program and building specialised services expertise.

Creating a rich and diverse investment environment is crucial. We will advocate for sector incentives, establish a venture fund, and attract both private and public investment to drive innovation and development. Collaboration is in our DNA, and we will build strategic partnerships locally, nationally, and globally to stay connected and at the forefront of aerospace advancements.

Telling the story of Aerospace in Canterbury is essential. We will promote our unique value proposition, targeting global-scale problems that align with our strengths. By engaging with local residents, we will educate them on the benefits of aerospace technologies and inspire the next generation to pursue careers in this dynamic field.

Our commitments are clear. We will promote aerospace for good, focusing on non-defence applications to address societal challenges and promote sustainability. We will work proactively at the national level, aligning our regional strategy with national goals. Building our global reputation is paramount, and we will showcase Canterbury's capabilities on the international stage, fostering cross-border partnerships and contributing to global research initiatives.

By implementing this strategy, Canterbury aims to create a vibrant and supportive ecosystem that drives growth, innovation, and shared value, positioning the region as a leader in the global aerospace sector.

Next steps

If the Mayoral Forum endorses the strategy, we will look to draft an introduction/foreword on behalf of the forum.

Where relevant, we would seek further engagement with Canterbury Councils/EDAs to support implementation, based on the recommendations of the Forum.

Attachments

1. Draft Canterbury Aerospace Strategy

Confidential: Canterbury Aerospace Strategy

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Introduction

Introduction/forward to be agreed.

The Canterbury Aerospace Leadership Group

This strategy has been prepared on behalf of the Canterbury Aerospace Leadership Group (CALG). The CALG is made up of a cross section of actors representing the existing and emerging sector in the region.

Our purpose is to collectively grow an environment in which a globally significant aerospace ecosystem can thrive, to unlock the economic and wider benefits of aerospace for good.

Current members of the Canterbury Aerospace Leadership include:

- ChristchurchNZ
- Christchurch City Council
- Tāwhaki
- Aerospace New Zealand
- Christchurch Airport
- University of Canterbury
- Air Force Museum of New Zealand

Executive Summary: A strategy to put Aerospace in Canterbury on the global stage

Our vision is to establish a globally renowned ecosystem that delivers innovative aerospace solutions, advancing humanity and positively impacting our people and place.

The Canterbury Aerospace Strategy outlines a bold vision to position Canterbury as a global leader in aerospace innovation and development. This strategy, crafted by the Canterbury Aerospace Leadership Group (CALG), leverages the region's unique strengths and collaborative culture to create a thriving aerospace ecosystem. By 2030, we aim for Canterbury's aerospace sector to be a key contributor to both the regional and national economy, recognised globally for its research and innovation.

To achieve this, we will shape the ecosystem by building robust infrastructure, attracting global companies and R&D programs, and developing a world-class workforce. Canterbury's unique regulatory advantage will be leveraged to create a flexible and supportive environment for future aerospace technologies. We will support local and national businesses to grow and scale, establishing a commercial accelerator program and building specialised services expertise.

Creating a rich and diverse investment environment is crucial. We will advocate for sector incentives, establish a venture fund, and attract both private and public investment to drive innovation and development. Collaboration is in our DNA, and we will build strategic partnerships locally, nationally, and globally to stay connected and at the forefront of aerospace advancements.

Telling the story of Aerospace in Canterbury is essential. We will promote our unique value proposition, targeting global-scale problems that align with our strengths. By engaging with local residents, we will educate them on the benefits of aerospace technologies and inspire the next generation to pursue careers in this dynamic field.

Our commitments are clear. We will promote aerospace for good, focusing on non-defence applications to address societal challenges and promote sustainability. We will work proactively at the national level, aligning our regional strategy with national goals. Building our global reputation is paramount, and we will showcase Canterbury's capabilities on the international stage, fostering cross-border partnerships and contributing to global research initiatives.

By implementing this strategy, Canterbury aims to create a vibrant and supportive ecosystem that drives growth, innovation, and shared value, positioning the region as a leader in the global aerospace sector.

What does success look like for Aerospace in Canterbury by 2030?

Section under development

The best way to predict the future is to create it. Aerospace (space and advanced aviation) is a new industry in New Zealand, one that already outperforms the productivity of other sectors in New Zealand. By 2030, Aerospace in Canterbury will be a key contributor to the Canterbury and New Zealand's economy. We are committed to supporting the government's target of doubling exports by 2030 and to do this we will be recognised globally as a hub for research and innovation in target segments.

Outcome	Measure (e.g.)	Target (e.g.)
Revenue Growth	Export revenue growth, % new sources of export growth, market growth	Double export revenue by 2030
Employment Growth	Types of jobs, number of jobs, people working in the local ecosystem, R&D activity	Increase high-quality aerospace jobs by 50% by 2030
Productivity Growth	Revenue per employee, technology diffusion rate	Achieve a 30% increase in revenue per employee by 2030
Research and Development	Local R&D spend, year-on-year change, R&D spend from international research organisations	Double local R&D spend and attract three major international research collaborations by 2030
Investment Growth	Amount of FDI and EDI	Increase FDI and EDI by 40% by 2030
Startup-Scaleup Health	Innovation speed through TRL	Reduce TRL progression time by 20% by 2030
Ecosystem Health	Number of start-ups and scale-ups, overall ecosystem health indicators	Achieve a 30% increase in start-ups and scale-ups by 2030
Sustainability	Implementation of sustainable propulsion technologies, reduction in carbon emissions	Achieve a 50% reduction in carbon emissions from aerospace activities by 2030
Reputation	Global reputation score, recognition in international aerospace rankings	Achieve a top 10 global ranking for aerospace innovation and research by 2030

Aerospace in Canterbury

What does Aerospace mean to Canterbury?

In Canterbury, we're building an aerospace sector that reflects our unique strengths and ambitious vision for the future. Our definition aligns closely with the New Zealand Space and Advanced Aviation Strategy 2024–2030 but includes specific elements that highlight our region's distinctive opportunities and focus areas. Here's what we mean by "aerospace" in the context of Canterbury:

Aerospace, for us, encompasses a dynamic range of technologies and systems that operate at various altitudes and scales. This includes:

- Aircraft and spacecraft that operate at different altitudes, from drones that operate at low levels to rockets that reach the earth's orbit and beyond.
- Satellites and satellite subsystems.
- Ground stations or aerospace enabled services such as technical analysis and data storage; and
- Technologies that harness aerospace data.

The scope of our activities

Canterbury's aerospace sector thrives in a diverse range of activities that propel us to the forefront of innovation. Our work includes:

- Research, development, testing, manufacturing and maintenance of aircraft, space launch vehicles, spacecraft, satellites, and satellite subsystems; and
- Products and systems that contribute or rely on aerospace technologies, including sustainable propulsion technologies and alternative fuels.

What's not included.

While our definition is broad, there are specific areas that we exclude from Canterbury's aerospace sector:

- Commercial airline services
- Military defence and armaments: To maintain Canterbury and New Zealand's reputation as a neutral and trustworthy testing ground, military defence systems and armaments, including projectiles and explosive technologies with exclusively military applications, are not included. However, we acknowledge the complexities of defining these boundaries, as some aerospace technologies may have dual-use applications that serve both civilian and military purposes.

This definition helps Canterbury position itself as a unique and attractive aerospace hub. It shapes our focus on innovation, research, and collaboration, aligning with our vision to be a global leader in space and advanced aviation technology while upholding values that champion sustainability, safety, and the responsible use of aerospace capabilities.

Why Canterbury? The Aerospace Advantage

Canterbury is an ideal launchpad for the aerospace sector, spanning space and advanced aviation. With its unique combination of geographical assets, innovative business capabilities, and a culture of deep collaboration, it's clear Canterbury is the home of Aerospace in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Test-Bed Facilities: Canterbury is an ideal location for aerospace testing and development. Equipped with state-of-the-art public and private environmental testing facilities, the region offers unmatched opportunities for rapid development and experimentation. Our responsive regulatory environment ensures that new technologies can move from concept to reality swiftly. The Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre provides a nationally significant capability for test and evaluation, while Christchurch Airport provides excellent air infrastructure, complemented by Lyttleton's strategic seaport facilities, creating a seamless connection for aerospace activities.

Physical Attributes: Our region's geography is a natural advantage. With low air traffic and relatively low rainfall and cloud cover, Canterbury offers the ideal conditions for the development and counter-seasonal testing of aerospace technologies, and our skies are clear for innovation. This unique environment provides a playground for forward-thinking aerospace technologies to thrive.

Manufacturing Capability: Christchurch is at the heart of New Zealand's electronic manufacturing landscape, home to 18% of the country's electronics and electrical businesses¹ and employing a third of the nation's manufacturing workforce. This strong cluster is complemented by an extensive network of manufacturing expertise throughout the wider Canterbury region, giving international aerospace firms direct access to high-quality aerospace-adjacent value chains. Renowned for its engineering excellence, the region delivers precision manufacturing capabilities and unmatched expertise in high-value, low-volume components, positioning our region as a powerhouse for crafting complex, high-tech parts and systems.

Deep Collaboration: Collaboration is in our DNA. Our aerospace community is highly connected, thanks to Christchurch's close-knit nature. We've built a robust ecosystem that includes aerospace companies, innovative entrepreneurs, expert subject-matter professionals, and government organisations. This collaboration drives innovation, opening doors for partnerships that bridge the gap between tertiary institutions, the private sector, and investors. With the region's small size and strong network, collaborative solutions flourish here, creating opportunities that would be harder to find elsewhere.

Workforce Capability: Canterbury is committed to cultivating a world class workforce capability. Our universities, including the University of Canterbury—home to New Zealand's only aerospace minor as well as specialised master's programs—provide a steady pipeline of highly trained professionals. Ara, Lincoln University and our local CRI's are adding complementary and aerospace adjacent talent, ensuring that businesses in the aerospace sector have access to the

¹ Statistics NZ Business Demography (2024)

wide range of skills and expertise they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving global market. The region's talent pool is educated, adaptable, and primed for innovation.

Cost of Doing Business: Affordability is a key strategic advantage. The cost of doing business in Canterbury is competitive, with lower labour and material costs compared to New Zealand's other main economic centres². This advantage is evident in areas such as commercial rental space and inflation growth, where Canterbury proves more cost-effective.

Research and Innovation: Canterbury is emerging as a preferred location for research, testing, and evaluation (RTE), supported by a nuanced ecosystem. As one of the five global gateway cities for Antarctic research, Christchurch has provided critical logistical support for over 60 years. This legacy, combined with our robust logistics and transportation capabilities, uniquely positions us to support international research programs and facilitate global knowledge exchange.

Values and Culture: Aerospace in Canterbury is Values led. Canterbury's values are deeply ingrained in its people. Shaped by our history, the resilience shown during the earthquakes, and our journey as New Zealand's newest city, we prize innovation, sustainability, and collaboration. Our culture values Kaitiakitanga—stewardship and respect for our land and communities. These principles drive us to develop transportation solutions and aerospace technologies that not only push boundaries but also benefit our local and global communities, solving real-world problems and enhancing daily life.

Overall, Canterbury is an incubator for aerospace innovation, where creativity meets practical solutions. It's a region that embodies the spirit of collaboration and forward-thinking, where global challenges are met with local ingenuity.

We're not just building the future; we're shaping it.

² Statistics NZ Median Hourly Earnings (2024)

Canterbury's role in the National Strategy

Section under development

Canterbury aims to be a key player in delivering the National Space and Advanced Aviation Strategy 2024-2030, and we are committed to working at the national level.

National Strategy	Relevance for Canterbury
<p>Objective 1: Develop our sovereign space capabilities with a national space mission</p> <p>Satellites deliver a wide range of essential services that underpin daily life in New Zealand. Improving our capability to develop, access and use space technologies will deliver benefits for New Zealanders and demonstrate the capability of our space and advanced aviation sectors to the world.</p>	<p>Canterbury's aerospace strategy supports the development, manufacture, launch, and operation of sovereign satellites. By leveraging our robust infrastructure and research capabilities, we can contribute to national missions that enhance maritime and space domain awareness. Our focus on innovation and commitment to act at the national level aligns with the goal of improving access to aerospace-enabled data for public services like disaster response and recovery.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Establish a world-leading regulatory environment for space and advanced aviation</p> <p>Efficient and easy to navigate regulatory regimes for advanced aviation and space will position New Zealand as a world-leading location for development, testing, launch and flight operations.</p>	<p>Canterbury's unique advantages and key assets, position us to support rapid iteration and testing of advanced aviation technologies. Our strategy includes fostering collaboration with regulatory bodies and local stakeholders to create a flexible environment that enables innovation and protects New Zealand's interests. This aligns with the national objective of developing efficient regulatory frameworks.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Unlock trade and investment</p> <p>Increase trade and investment in New Zealand companies (foreign)</p>	<p>Our strategy aims to foster a vibrant investment landscape by advocating for sector incentives, establishing a venture fund, and attracting both private and public investment. By promoting Canterbury's aerospace sector through international events and trade missions, we align with the national objective of increasing trade and investment in New Zealand companies. Our efforts to build strategic partnerships globally will help reduce barriers to trade and enhance co-operation.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Build an Aerospace Capable workforce</p> <p>New Zealand's aerospace sector requires a talented and skilled workforce to expand to</p>	<p>Canterbury is committed to developing a world-class workforce through comprehensive educational programs and creating an environment that attracts top talent. Our strategy includes initiatives to inspire and educate the next generation,</p>

meet its potential. We will need to grow our domestic talent pool and compete to attract international talent.	aligning with national efforts such as the Prime Minister's Space Prizes and the New Zealand Space Scholarship. By addressing skill we will support the national goal of expanding the aerospace talent pool.
<p>Objective 5: Accelerate aerospace innovation</p> <p>For New Zealand's aerospace sector to attract customers, investors, and skilled workers we need to continue to produce innovative and novel products that meet global market demands.</p>	Our strategy emphasises innovation through partnerships with international research institutes and the development of cutting-edge technologies. By fostering a supportive environment for start-ups and scale-ups, we aim to produce novel products that meet global market demands. This aligns with the national objective of accelerating aerospace innovation to attract customers, investors, and skilled workers.

Our themes

The Aerospace in Canterbury Strategy is organised into three separate yet complementary themes. A theme is made up of a set of priorities which combine to deliver the results the strategy targets.

Theme One: Shape the Ecosystem

To achieve our ambition, we must proactively and intentionally shape our future and for that we need a dynamic ecosystem that builds on what we have, in order to become globally relevant. This theme is organised around several ecosystem shaping priorities including infrastructure development, business attraction, talent and capability to enable start-ups to flourish.

Priority one: Build the Aerospace in Canterbury hub infrastructure

We will continue to build the Aerospace in Canterbury Regional Hub network, to bring together stakeholders, researchers, innovation, prototyping, testing, manufacturing, and more. This involves establishing a robust and integrated network of infrastructure to include natural environment, physical infrastructure, digital infrastructure, education & research facilities, and intellectual property.

We will do this by:

- Optimising our ecosystem by addressing existing physical infrastructure gaps, while protecting existing key assets
- Attracting private infrastructure providers for essential infrastructure
- Establishing the digital infrastructure needed to drive technological development and establish Canterbury as a leader in aerospace data analysis and innovation
- Strengthening energy & connectivity infrastructure to meet future needs

Priority Two: Attract established global companies & R&D programmes to Canterbury

We will attract established global companies and R&D programs to Canterbury by leveraging our unique ecosystem assets, regulatory environment, and ease of doing business. This is essential for building a sustainable and advanced workforce, as talent retention depends on career advancement opportunities. Our industry needs to scale up to establish a critical mass of businesses, ensuring long-term resilience and success.

We will do this by:

- Delivering targeted attraction interventions to attract complementary companies and R&D programmes to Canterbury that align with our values
- Conducting specific market research and establish an always on market monitoring capability

Priority Three: Shape a world class workforce capability

We will develop a future-ready workforce that positions Canterbury as a global leader in aerospace. We will achieve this by building a robust workforce capability, developing comprehensive educational programs across tertiary and trades institutions, and creating an environment that makes Canterbury the best place to work in aerospace. By focusing on these objectives, we aim to attract and retain top talent, ensuring long-term growth and innovation in the region's aerospace industry.

We will do this by:

- Building a future ready workforce capability to strength the sector
- Developing educational programmes across our tertiary and trades institutions
- Being the best place to work in aerospace in Aotearoa New Zealand

Theme Two: Grow the Environment

We aim to foster rapid and sustainable growth in the aerospace sector, benefiting all stakeholders and promoting regenerative practices. By addressing growth barriers and creating a supportive environment for start-ups, businesses, researchers, and investors, we will attract capital to Canterbury. This includes offering diverse investment opportunities and funding mechanisms. Our goal is to support progress, encourage shared value creation, and retain businesses in Canterbury for the benefit of the entire aerospace ecosystem.

Priority One: Leverage our global regulatory advantage to create a vibrant commercial environment

New Zealand has a unique global regulatory advantage, characterised by a best-practice regulatory regime for space and high-altitude activities. This advantage allows Canterbury to create a flexible and supportive environment for future aerospace technologies. Our ability to respond on a case-by-case basis to technological advancements positions us uniquely to support rapid and sustainable growth in the aerospace sector.

We will do this by:

- Creating a layered, city wide approach to test & evaluation, utilising our digital and physical infrastructure and the support of city stakeholders
- Fostering collaboration with regulatory bodies, local sector stakeholders, and councils to create a flexible local environment

Priority Two: Support local and national businesses to grow and scale

We are committed to enhancing our ability to grow and attract start-ups and scale-ups in Christchurch. While we have many necessary resources, we lack sufficient entrepreneurs and capital. By collaborating with Central Government, we aim to establish a commercial accelerator program to support business growth. This will involve innovative programs that address current barriers and build specialised services expertise within the sector.

We will do this by:

- Establishing a commercial accelerator in Canterbury to support start-ups, scale-ups, capital curation, investments, business activation, incentives & talent development
- Building specialised services expertise within the aerospace sector
- Enhancing our manufacturing capabilities by fostering precision manufacturing expertise
- Developing programmes to grow new aerospace start-ups & to scale-up existing businesses

Priority Three: Create a rich and diverse investment environment

We aim to foster a vibrant investment landscape that supports the growth and sustainability of the aerospace sector in Canterbury. By advocating for sector incentives, establishing a venture fund, and attracting both private and public investment, we will create a robust financial ecosystem that drives innovation and development.

We will do this by:

- Advocating for sector incentives at the national and local level
- Establishing a venture fund to provide financial support for start-ups and scale-ups
- Attracting both private and public investment to support sector growth

Priority Four: Foster collaboration and partnerships, locally, nationally and globally

Collaboration is in the Canterbury Aerospace Sector's DNA, and we want to leverage this strength to build strategic partnerships at all levels. Our focus on partnerships is crucial for staying globally connected and ensuring that we remain at the forefront of aerospace advancements.

We will do this by:

- Building on our position as a hub for research programmes, specifically leveraging our status as an Antarctic Gateway
- Attracting & growing world-class business events that align with our values and create opportunities to build collaboration & partnerships across NZ and the world
- Optimising Ōtautahi's participation in the global Space Cities Network

Theme Three: Tell the Story

We will position Canterbury as a global leader in aerospace by highlighting our unique strengths and commitment to innovation. We aim to tackle global challenges that align with our capabilities and values. Through strategic initiatives and participation in international events, we will showcase Canterbury's achievements and potential, creating a vibrant and supportive ecosystem that drives growth and innovation. By engaging with local residents, we will educate them on the benefits of aerospace technologies and inspire the next generation to pursue careers in this dynamic field.

Priority One: Promote Aerospace in Canterbury

We will grow our global visibility and reputation for Aerospace in Canterbury by clearly defining our unique value proposition. We will target global-scale problems that align with our ecosystem strengths and competitive advantages, emphasising our commitment to aerospace for good. By telling our unique story and targeting the right audiences, we aim to attract stakeholders and create shared value opportunities. Continuous monitoring of the global landscape will enable us to identify and seize opportunities for Canterbury and New Zealand.

We will do this by:

- Evolving our advantage into a differentiated value proposition & engaging with our target audiences
- Establishing a global portal to showcase Aerospace in Canterbury to the world, via the New Zealand Aerospace Ecosystem Platform
- Placing Aerospace in Canterbury on the global stage through attendance at offshore events, and through inbound and outbound missions

Priority Two: Engage with our local people and educate & inspire the next generation into the aerospace sector

We aim to actively engage with local residents, educating them on the benefits of aerospace technologies for Canterbury and its people. By fostering a deeper understanding of the sector, we will inspire and educate the next generation to pursue careers in aerospace, ensuring a vibrant and skilled workforce for the future.

We will do this by:

- Engaging with local residents, educating them on the ways that aerospace technologies can benefit Canterbury and our people
- Educating & inspiring the next generation into the aerospace sector

What are we committed to?

At its core, Canterbury's aerospace sector is about more than just pushing the boundaries of technology. It's about using our unique strengths to make a positive difference in the world. We are committed to fostering aerospace solutions that address real-world challenges—whether that's harnessing satellite data for better climate monitoring, developing sustainable propulsion systems that cut carbon emissions, or innovating new technologies that improve daily life.

To promote Aerospace for Good

As we develop our aerospace sector, we are committed to doing so in a way that protects our environment and respects the balance of our place, with a focus on Kaitiakitanga and environmental stewardship. This commitment extends to implementing cutting-edge, eco-friendly technologies, supporting sustainable fuel alternatives, and integrating responsible manufacturing practices. Our sustainability goals align with global efforts to combat climate change and reduce the environmental impact of our industry. We will champion aerospace for good by prioritising non-defence applications of aerospace technology, from advancing climate monitoring and disaster response capabilities to enabling precision agriculture and enhancing global connectivity. While we recognise the complexities of dual-use technologies, Canterbury plans to remain as a neutral and trustworthy testing ground, fostering solutions that serve humanity and the planet. Our mission is to lead with purpose, ensuring aerospace innovation creates shared value and contributes to a more sustainable, equitable future.

To work proactively at the national level

Collaboration is key to building a thriving aerospace sector, and we are committed to working closely with central government and other stakeholders. By aligning our regional strategy with national goals, we aim to create a seamless connection between Canterbury's ambitions and wider governmental initiatives. This includes advocating for policies that support research and development, funding opportunities, and regulatory frameworks that allow us to test and scale new technologies efficiently and responsibly. We are partners in progress, building a framework that helps the sector grow while supporting broader economic and social outcomes.

To build our global reputation

We want to promote Canterbury's aerospace sector as a leader in innovation and excellence on the global stage. We are dedicated to showcasing our region's capabilities, from groundbreaking research and world-class manufacturing to a highly skilled and collaborative workforce. By participating in international aerospace events, fostering cross-border partnerships, and contributing to global research initiatives, we aim to solidify Canterbury's reputation as a hub for forward-thinking, responsible aerospace solutions. Our region is small but mighty—full of big ideas, resilient spirit, and a track record that speaks to the quality and impact of our work.

Canterbury's aerospace sector isn't just about the sky; it's about grounding our ambitions in shared values, sustainable practices, and a commitment to progress that benefits our place.

Learn more

To find out more about Aerospace in Canterbury, visit christchurchnz.com/aerospace

Key contact details

Website and Contact details for all CALG members:

- ChristchurchNZ
- Christchurch City Council
- Tāwhaki
- Aerospace New Zealand
- Christchurch Airport
- University of Canterbury
- Air Force Museum of New Zealand

Links to all Canterbury Councils / EDAs

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 14 February 2025

Presented by: Dan Gordon, Chair of the Climate Action Planning Reference Group

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Year 1 implementation

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's approval of the scope and approach of key actions 1, 2, & 4 of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, receive the first quarterly report and recommend a revised and ongoing role for the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **provide feedback on the implementation overviews for key actions 1, 2 & 4**
2. **subject to any feedback provided through recommendation 1 above, approve the implementation overviews of key actions 1, 2 & 4**
3. **agree to extend the completion date of action 4.1 from 30 June 2025 to 31 October 2025**
4. **agree to continue the Climate Action Planning Reference Group and review the Terms of Reference with the members.**
5. **receive the first quarterly Progress Report and budget summary.**

Background

2. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP) was approved by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) in August 2024. In response, the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) has started implementing the plan.
3. The CMF agreed that the Canterbury Policy Forum (CPF) would be the initial approver for all CCPP actions, except for the following four actions:
 - a. Action 1: Develop a Canterbury-wide risk visualisation tool
 - b. Action 2: Build a regional low-emissions transitions strategy
 - c. Action 3: Develop and implement a best practice approach to adaptation planning
 - d. Action 4: Develop a region-wide blue-green network

4. These key actions are complex in scope, likely to be costly and have a significant number of stakeholders. The Chief Executives Forum (CEF) and CMF are the second and final approvers respectively for decisions relating to key actions.

Overall approach

5. Action 10 of the CCPP is to assemble and coordinate an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the CCPP. This action has been completed.
6. The Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) will form the core subject matter experts, with ongoing overall project management and administrative support from the CCWG and CMF Secretariats. Project management and delivery of individual actions is shared between councils as agreed previously.
7. Action leads are in the process of identifying sub-groups to utilise technical expertise, from within and external to councils, as and when required to deliver the actions.
8. Tim Davie, Director of Science at Environment Canterbury, recently stepped down as Convenor of the CCWG. Jesse Burgess, Senior Manager Strategic Programmes at Environment Canterbury, was subsequently appointed by the CPF as the new convenor.

Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group

9. The Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group (Reference Group), made up of elected members from each council, was originally formed to provide governance and decision making during the development of the CCPP. It has now fulfilled its existing terms of reference.
10. Reference Group members had previously expressed that there should be effective oversight, monitoring and evaluation of the CCPP to demonstrate accountability to ratepayers, and some members of the group were supportive of continuing in their roles. Additionally, at the November 2024 CMF meeting members indicated that there is merit in continuing with a councillor group to support climate change initiatives.
11. I recommend that should the CMF wish for the reference group to continue, that the Terms of Reference be reviewed by the members and brought back to the CMF for approval.

Year 1 actions and key actions

12. Action leads have developed implementation overviews detailing the scope and approach of year 1 and key actions. These have been reviewed and endorsed by the CPF and CEF, and the CCWG is now seeking feedback and approval from the CMF on key actions 1, 2 and 4 (Attachments 1 - 4).
13. The implementation overview for Action 3 (adaptation planning) will be brought to the CEF and CMF either at the May meetings or through an out-of-cycle email

communication. Hurunui District Council is leading this action and has now appointed a new staff member who has started work on this action.

14. A small change to the timeframe is sought for Action 4.1 (from June 2025 to end of October 2025). As noted in the implementation overview for this action (Attachment 3), this is to align the approval process for a robust deliverable with regional forums meeting dates.

CCPP Budget

15. When the CCPP was approved in August 2024, an overall budget of \$1,471,332 was identified and contributions set aside in council LTPs to deliver the Plan's 10 actions over the next three years. Environment Canterbury is the administrator of this budget and has received relevant year 1 contributions from all councils.
16. The budget for year 1 for all actions was advised as \$190,140 (including GST). At the time of the plan's approval, this funding had been estimated across the relevant actions based on indicative resourcing requirements for each action.
17. However, many of the year 1 actions will include procuring reports or information and the resourcing requirements for these actions are still uncertain at this stage. The market for these services has not yet been tested, therefore some of the indicative budgets for the various actions may need to be modified (within the total budget available) in the coming months to account for these matters.
18. To ensure the efficient delivery of these actions with the overall year 1 budget, the Convenor of the Climate Change Working Group will hold responsibility for making any amendments to how the agreed total budget might be shared across the actions during year 1.
19. The CPF will receive updates on the budget as part of each quarterly update. The first progress report, including financial information, is included in Attachments 5-6.

Cost and compliance

Financial implications

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

Risk assessment and legal compliance

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

Next steps

22. The CCWG will amend the approach of key actions as per feedback from the CMF on the implementation overviews and proceed with the implementation of year 1 actions.

23. An overall project plan for the implementation of the CCPP, implementation overviews for actions 3-8 and the second quarterly report will be presented to the March 2025 CPF. The project plan will be presented to the CPF and CEF at their respective March and May meetings for information.
24. Pending the CMF feedback on the repurposing of the Climate Action Planning Reference Group to a Climate Action Champions group, draft terms of reference and a proposed timeline for reinstatement will be brought to the May 2025 CMF meeting.

Attachments

- Attachments 1-4 – Implementation overviews for actions 1, 2, 4.1 & 4.2
- Attachment 5 – Quarterly Progress Report 1 (September – November 2024)
- Attachment 6 – CCPP Implementation Finances

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP)

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

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

Implementation overview for Canterbury Mayoral Forum

ACTION NAME	1. Understanding climate risk and improving resilience 1.1 Scope and develop a canterbury-wide visualisation tool for use by councils to support climate adaptation and resilience planning	KEY ACTION
PROJECT TEAM Roles and Responsibilities	Action Lead: Veronica Spittal - Principal Policy Analyst Climate Change & Sustainability - Waimakariri District Council Project Team: Helen Street - Corporate Planner Gordon Tupper - Information Services Manager - Ashburton District Council (to be confirmed) Other members – ECan science team (to be confirmed) Project Advisors: Andy Keiller - Chief Information Officer - information & technology services - Waimakariri District Council Sheryl Cowan - Geospatial Team Leader - Waimakariri District Council Jane Morgan - Coastal Hazards Team Leader - Christchurch City Council	
SCOPE & APPROACH	Description This project aims to scope and deliver a shared online spatial tool that will enable a consistent regional approach to understanding natural hazard risk and how different climate scenarios might exacerbate this over time. Councils will be able to use the tool for evidence-based decision making around infrastructure provision, levels of service and standards, land-use planning, community climate adaptation and resilience planning and CDEM functions. Scope Initially the tool will be developed for in-house use, including use for storytelling at public meetings, but the longer-term intention would be to provide stakeholder and public accessibility to some data layers. A detailed scope for the product will be determined in consultation with the proposed users. Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm project team and project plan. • Identify individual council requirements and use cases. • Investigate opportunities to leverage work of other council's and Te Uru Kahika in spatial tool development. • Reach agreement on project scope including delivery approach, procurement process, governance arrangements, contractual approach, minimal viable product (MVP). • Complete regional gap analysis, including inventory of available datasets and assessment of the quality of these datasets. • Reach agreement on the baseline datasets needed to deliver outcomes and data standards (including creating these where they don't already exist). • Prepare a detailed project scope and undertake procurement process to identify and secure suitable IT solution. • Conduct legal review of supplier contract. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop Council partnership agreement.• Solution provider to manage the collation of data from each council in an agreed format, including blue-green network data from actions 4.1 and 4.2 (pending decision on tool to use for this project), and appropriate national data.• Identify key gaps in data and a plan for filling these.• Carry out user group training and testing of tool and identification of data gaps.• General roll out of tool across councils.												
KEY DELIVERABLES & TIMEFRAMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm project team and project plan - by 20 December 2024• Identify individual Council requirements - by 28 February 2025• Complete regional gap analysis/data inventory - by 30 April 2025• Sign-off project scope/request for proposal document - by 30 June 2025• Complete legal review of contract and sign Council partnership agreement - by 30 September 2025• Procure system - by 20 December 2025• Populate tool with data - by 30 June 2026• Carry out user training and roll tool out within councils - by 1 July 2026• Ongoing development, maintenance and licensing - July 2026 onwards												
BUDGET	<div>Total project budget provided in Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is \$520k</div> <table><tr><th>Sub- actions</th><th>2024/25</th><th>2025/26</th><th>2026/27</th></tr><tr><td>1.1</td><td>Initiate (In-kind)</td><td>Execute & complete (\$450k)</td><td>Maintenance & licensing (\$70k)</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$0</td><td>\$450k</td><td>\$70k</td></tr></table>	Sub- actions	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	1.1	Initiate (In-kind)	Execute & complete (\$450k)	Maintenance & licensing (\$70k)	Total	\$0	\$450k	\$70k
Sub- actions	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27										
1.1	Initiate (In-kind)	Execute & complete (\$450k)	Maintenance & licensing (\$70k)										
Total	\$0	\$450k	\$70k										
GOVERNANCE	CEF/CMF												
Who signs off?													
PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS	<p>Internal users - Council CDEM, natural hazard, climate resilience, GIS staff and asset managers</p> <p>Potential external users - Ngāi Tahu and hapū, Canterbury Lifelines Group</p> <p>External data providers - NIWA, MfE, GNS/SeaRise Programme, NEMA, EQC, FENZ, Landcare Research</p>												
RISKS & MITIGATION	<p>Confirmation of action - the Christchurch City Council’s existing commitment to the Resilience Explorer portal provided by Urban Intelligence will make it impossible to deliver a single regional tool if a different product is procured. Waimakariri District Council has also significantly invested in Resilience Explorer to date. Some of the smaller councils have recently indicated the ongoing licensing cost of Resilience Explorer is prohibitive for them and they are exploring the development of GIS data layers in-house which may be sufficient to meet their needs. ECan may have the desire/inhouse capability to use a more powerful tool such as RiskScape to inform their work but local authorities will struggle to have the technical capability to use this product. There are also other discussions currently being held at a regional level for the development of a national tool, but this could be some years away. Commitment to proceeding with scoping this action at this time needs to be reconfirmed before proceeding much further.</p> <p>Available budget - the tool will require a sizeable investment on an ongoing basis to provide a consistent approach across the region. Insufficient budget has been provided in the CCPP 2026/27 budget for the tool to continue to be licensed and Councils may not have</p>												

the funding to individually maintain and develop the tool on an ongoing basis. It may therefore need to be funded through regional rates.

Limited number of suppliers - this may impact the price, quality and durability of the product. The Government may become a supplier of a national tool within the next five years of a higher quality and at less cost to councils. This is not guaranteed and there is a gap in the meantime.

Data access and consistency - there may be some reluctance for individual councils to share data due to security and data quality concerns. Some existing data and associated quality/methodologies may differ and require explanation or recalibration to an agreed set of standards.

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP)

CANTERBURY
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Implementation overview for Canterbury Mayoral Forum

ACTION NAME	<p>Action 2: Emissions Reduction</p> <p>Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New Zealand's commitments towards global greenhouse gas emissions reduction</p>	KEY ACTION
PROJECT TEAM	Project Leads: Amanda Wall (full project); Alina Toppler (sub-action 2.1)	
Roles and Responsibilities	Project Team: Tracey Dickinson (Ashburton), Rhys Taylor (Timaru), Tony Moore (Christchurch), Jesse Burgess (Environment Canterbury) – provide feedback on scope, input into deliverables as capacity allows.	

SCOPE & APPROACH	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>Achieving our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets will require enduring, transformational action by and with local government, central government, mana whenua, businesses and communities. These actors need to see bold emissions reduction as achievable, and as something that will deliver significant benefits and opportunities for our region.</p> <p>Transitioning to a low-emissions future will require ongoing and sustained action beyond the three-year timeframe of this project, so it is important that the project sets this up well by building relationships, securing cross-regional leadership support for the work, and facilitating real action. It will also require urgency – to meet 2050 net zero commitments, achieving significant emissions reductions over the next decade is critical.</p> <p>Over the next three years this project will develop, alongside partners and stakeholders, a compelling pathway, value case and narrative to build alignment around opportunities in and drive key decisions across the region to support and invest in the changes needed to deliver the transition to a low-emissions future.</p> <p>To deliver a transition strategy by mid-2027, the emissions reduction action in the Partnership Plan is broken down into three sub-actions, to be completed over the lifespan of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-action 2.1: collate data and develop models to prepare greenhouse gas emissions inventories and identify emissions pathways for Canterbury to support New Zealand's greenhouse gas commitments • Sub-action 2.2: based on the emissions pathways identified for Canterbury, undertake a regional transition risk and opportunities assessment, considering social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts, to inform an equitable and inclusive transition to a low-emissions region • Sub-action 2.3: work with partners, communities, and key stakeholders to build a regional low-emissions transition strategy that supports equitable, inclusive local pathways to a thriving, climate-resilient region meeting emissions reductions targets.
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APPROACH

To achieve each of these sub-actions, the approach is to follow these steps:

Stage 1 (mid-2024 to mid-2025):

- trial and gain approval on the IT solution that will deliver the project's data, modelling and reporting needs (sub-action 2.1)
- develop a strategic overview and identify key transition opportunities (preparation for sub-actions 2.2 and 2.3)
- confirm scope for remainder of project (preparation for sub-action 2.2 and 2.3)

Stage 2 (mid-2025 to mid-2026):

- model transition pathways and opportunities (sub-action 2.1)
- complete regional transition risk and opportunities assessment (including assessing social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of scenarios and interventions) (sub-action 2.2)
- update the Environment Canterbury GHG inventory and publish its key findings (sub-action 2.2)
- initiate action planning for transition strategy (preparation for sub-action 2.3)

Stage 3 (mid 2026 to mid-2027):

- draft transition strategy for 2027 LTPs with partners and stakeholders, setting out equitable and inclusive pathways, goals and actions (sub-action 2.3).

The details of Stages 2 and 3, including partner and stakeholder engagement and updated risks, connectivities and dependencies, will be set out in the confirmed scope to be developed at the end of Stage 1.

SCOPE

The scope of the full project covers:

- GHG emissions and sequestration in the Canterbury region, and Canterbury districts, that is accounted for as part of New Zealand's national GHG commitments – with a priority on gross emission reduction (including sector modelling and data)
- IT tools to deliver a GHG emissions reduction pathway model, inventory data inputs for this model, user interface/s for strategy and policy practitioners to use the inventory and model, and publication of key outputs
- council actions and potential partnerships with mana whenua and industry for region-wide emissions reduction
- alignment with and support for the values, goals and actions in Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu climate plan, Te Kōunga Paparangi
- emissions reduction pathways for the Canterbury region (with the model configured to provide district-level pathways for individual councils as desired)
- identification of key opportunities (and risks) for GHG reduction across Canterbury (and where relevant, inter-regionally and across the wider South Island), including actors involved and mana whenua interest
- wider benefits of opportunities and interventions e.g., economic, social, environmental, including how these relate to mana whenua priorities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national emissions reduction targets (with the potential for key performance indicators to drive performance towards these). <p>Out of scope are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integration of GHG management across ECan science functions • organisational GHGs (i.e. inventories and pathways for Councils' own emissions) • GHG assessment tools to support individual Council teams (e.g. consents, construction and procurement) • impacts of successful vs unsuccessful global GHG emissions reduction (e.g. RCP 2.5 vs RCP 6.5) • sequestration that is not part of New Zealand's GHG accounting, e.g. biodiversity management • implementation of the recommended emission reduction actions (the strategy will set out the agreed goals and actions; the implementation of these will be a next phase for the project) • setting new regional or district emissions reduction targets. <p>DEPENDENCIES AND CONNECTIVITIES</p> <p>The approach to this project is dependent on a range of variables and other connected work programmes.</p> <p>The approach to undertaking the steps in Stages 2 and 3 above (including engagement) is somewhat dependent on the outcomes of the Strategic Overview and identification of key transition opportunities, as well as the IT solution chosen to deliver the project's data, modelling and reporting.</p> <p>The work will also connect in with building the evidence base for the integrated Canterbury Regional Plan, and the development of the Canterbury regional energy inventory.</p> <p>Key dependencies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integration between delivery of the strategy and the development of 2027-37 long term plans so that the project delivers a comprehensive and regionally-agreed action plan • central government climate policies and actions, including the next Emissions Reduction Plan, emissions targets and budgets as this will impact pathway assumptions, available levers to reduce emissions, and the viability of potential key actions in the strategy • provision of underpinning air science data and technical advice from Environment Canterbury to support scenarios, analysis, modelling and monitoring during the project and development of the strategy and action plan • development of a revised Canterbury Regional Policy Statement • regional transport planning decisions over the life of the project • the potential (or not) for the Local Emissions Data Platform Initiative (LEDPI) to be the IT platform that will deliver the project's modelling and reporting.
KEY DELIVERABLES & TIMEFRAMES	<p>Project Year 1 deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Overview report identifying key transition opportunities • report recommending the tool the project will use to assess, model and report on emissions pathways

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> scope for Stage 2 and 3 of project <p><i>Timeframes for Year 1 deliverables:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> drafts to Policy Forum: June 2025 deliverables to Chief Executives Forum: July 2025 deliverables for final endorsement to Mayoral Forum: August 2025 <p>Intended deliverables for remainder of project (to be confirmed as part of scope for Stages 2-3):</p> <p>Stage 2: update emissions inventory data and report on transition pathways and opportunities, complete regional transition risk and opportunities assessment, and develop draft indicative actions for transition strategy</p> <p>Stage 3: finalise transition strategy and actions for inclusion in 2027 LTPs, and launch strategy and action plan and publish evidence base</p>
BUDGET	<p>Budget for Stage 1: Staff in-kind resourcing (action leads and support from subgroup members).</p> <p>There is up to \$80k (made up of contributions from the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan and Environment Canterbury CAP budgets) ear-marked for Year 1 – this is subject to a procurement process/testing the market, but intended to be used to fulfil parts of the first 2 deliverables. It could include procuring reports for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying emissions reduction barriers and opportunities in sectors of high interest to councils evaluating available tools for emissions reductions pathways modelling, assessment and reporting (including LEDPI) mana whenua perspectives and ensuring the approach taken to drafting a transition strategy adequately addressed Te Tiriti and is undertaken with a Te Ao Māori and mātauranga Māori lens <p>Budget for Stages 2-3: Budget for stages 2 and 3 of the project will be outlined in the scope that will be developed as part of the deliverables for Stage 1.</p>
GOVERNANCE Who signs off?	<p>Canterbury Policy Forum: provides feedback and endorsement on project scope and direction, and reviews draft deliverables prior to these going to the Chief Executives Forum.</p> <p>Chief Executives Forum: reviews and approves deliverables being provided for endorsement/approval by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.</p> <p>Canterbury Mayoral Forum provides final sign-off as Partnership Plan governors.</p> <p>Environment Canterbury council to receive updates as this action is also an action in its Climate Action Plan.</p>
PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS	<p>Partners and stakeholders relevant to the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mana whenua Canterbury councils

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actors in key emissions industries <p>As Stage 1 of the project is about scene-setting and information-gathering, engagement will largely be limited to knowledge-holders at councils (primarily through the Climate Change Working Group) and building connections with mana whenua.</p> <p>Actors in key emissions industries (agriculture, energy, waste, transport) will be identified through the Strategic Overview report in preparation for targeted engagement in Stage 2 as the draft indicative actions are developed.</p> <p>The scope for Stages 2 and 3 of the project will outline the engagement approach with partners and stakeholders for the remainder of the project.</p>	
RISKS & MITIGATION	Risk	Mitigation
	Lack of buy-in for GHG emissions reduction by some industries, government, councils and communities could mean that individual councils and actors do not agree to invest in transition actions	Provide a compelling narrative that focuses on opportunities and co-benefits so the case is not based on GHGs alone. Take a united, region-wide approach under CCPP to help gain traction with individual councils and key industry actors
	If this project is not able to drive action by key decision-makers, it will have limited impact, and Canterbury is unlikely to successfully achieve local and national emissions reduction commitments.	As part of the first stage, identify key actors and decision-makers for ongoing engagement.
	Sufficient data on the emission reduction, costs and benefits of specific interventions may not be available to develop a compelling value case for investment. This could undermine worthwhile climate actions.	Use best available information and clearly state limitations and assumptions.
	Internal resourcing is likely to be insufficient to deliver the level of engagement that would be desirable to deliver this project.	This project proposes to take a highly targeted approach for engagement that focuses on agreeing strategic direction with governors. This will be considered as part of the scoping of the project for Years 2 and 3.
	<p>If the pathways modelling tool is not able to assess all interventions in enough detail, then this will limit its ability to assess GHG impacts to support decision-making.</p> <p>The tool is likely to give outputs that are less precise, or accurate, than existing sector-specific models in use by other Council work programmes – resulting in reduced quality and perceived credibility of advice.</p>	Complement the pathways modelling tool with other analysis, sector-specific modelling, and engagement, so decision-making for GHG impact is not wholly reliant on its outputs. Use the best available information and clearly state its purpose, outcomes, limitations and assumptions.

	<p>If LEDPI is not the tool of choice, this project cannot rely on LEDPI to deliver model configuration, data loading, or development of a user-friendly interface for internal users and external publication. All of these steps will need to be completed as part of delivery of the preferred model, which may result in increased budget and FTE requirements for the project.</p>	<p>Consider budget and resourcing impacts of different tools as part of the criteria for IT solution scoping.</p>
	<p>If Canterbury Councils commission their own GHG inventories or pathway models for their district, there are likely to be significant differences in their outputs, leading to reduced perception of credibility. It will also result in unnecessary Council spending.</p>	<p>Delivery by CCWG Transition Action subgroup, with regular engagement with CCWG, to ensure the approach meets all councils' needs for GHG inventory and pathway modelling.</p>

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP)

CANTERBURY
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Implementation overview for Canterbury Mayoral Forum

ACTION NAME	Sub-action 4.1: Develop a Canterbury-wide natural ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment.	KEY ACTION	Yes
PROJECT TEAM	Action Lead: AnaCapri Mauro – Environment Canterbury		
Roles and Responsibilities	<p>Project Team: Veronica Spittal, Dr Bex Dollery, Sophie Allen, Melanie Liu – Waimakariri District Council, Christian Chukwuka – Ashburton District Council</p> <p>Technical Review Support: Alex Morgan, Verity Halkett, Justin Cope – Environment Canterbury</p> <p>Pending: Ben Baird – Selwyn District Council, Acting Head of Strategy and Policy</p>		

SCOPE & APPROACH	<p>Description: This sub-action sits as a part of <i>Action 4: Nature-based solutions</i> and serves as a key part of the evidence base for sub-action 4.2, which seeks to develop a blue-green network plan for Waitaha Canterbury. The climate change risk and vulnerability assessment will provide a spatial and narrative understanding of which ecosystems in the region may be more exposed to climate change impacts and their ability to cope with these changes under different climate scenarios. The data and analysis gained from this process will aid in the decision-making and prioritisation processes that will be needed during the development of the blue-green network plan.</p> <p>Scope: For this first iteration of an ecosystem risk and vulnerability assessment, the focus will be on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (including freshwater and estuarine ecosystems) and will exclude marine ecosystems. The assessment will gather and analyse data such as land cover, biodiversity, and climate hazards, with additional criteria for sensitivity and adaptive capacity metrics, to assess and display spatially explicit risk and vulnerability considerations for Waitaha Canterbury ecosystems based on projected climate change impacts. These data will be mapped and analysed under current and future time horizons (mid- and late-century) and two different climate scenarios (intermediate greenhouse gas emissions, SSP2.5-4, and high emissions, SSP3-7). Considerations will be made for the exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity of these ecosystems. A comprehensive species-specific review outside the scope of this assessment, though some species-level data will likely be used to evaluate the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of a whole ecosystem.</p> <p>The specific methodology used for this assessment, as well as the exact outputs, will be determined through the procurement process. The project team notes that the Ecological Impact Assessment guidelines from the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand may provide a helpful baseline.</p>					
KEY DELIVERABLES & TIMEFRAMES	<p>This project is set to be completed by 30 June 2025. As outlined in the Risks and Mitigation section, this timeframe is a key risk. Below are two options.</p> <table><tr><td>Current timeframe</td><td>Suggested timeframe</td></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Project scope and approach – by 20 December 2024</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Project scope and approach – by 14 February 2025</td></tr></table>		Current timeframe	Suggested timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project scope and approach – by 20 December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project scope and approach – by 14 February 2025
Current timeframe	Suggested timeframe					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project scope and approach – by 20 December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project scope and approach – by 14 February 2025					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collation of existing ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability data, including spatial data – by 20 December 2024• Literature review – by 20 December 2024• Request for Proposals prepared – by 20 December 2024• New/additional data procured [if needed] – by 31 March 2025• Final deliverables for the region-wide climate change risk and vulnerability assessment for ecosystems due – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collation of existing ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability data, including spatial data – by 14 February 2025• Literature review – by 14 February 2025• Request for Proposals prepared – by 14 February 2025• New/additional data procured [if needed] – by 30 April 2025• Final deliverables for the region-wide climate change risk and vulnerability assessment for ecosystems due – 17 October	
BUDGET	Project budget provided in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan: \$100k		
	Resourcing	Cost	Note
	Environment Canterbury staff member: 0.4FTE	In kind	Climate Change & Community Resilience Team
	Other Council staff: 0.2FTE	In kind	Project team contribution
	Other Council staff: 0.1FTE	In kind	Review, input, advise
	Consultant	\$100k	Subject to procurement process
GOVERNANCE Who signs off?	This is a sub-action of key action 4 therefore the CPF is in the initial approver and CEF, CMF the second and third approvers respectively.		
PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS	Canterbury Councils, Environment Canterbury, Ngāi Tahu, ngā papatipu rūnanga, Department of Conservation, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, Biodiversity Champions group, Biodiversity Officers group (TLA biodiversity hui), local universities.		
RISKS & MITIGATION	Risk	Mitigation	
	Short timeframe leading to incomplete or unusable result	This project will be broken down into individual parts with clear deadlines for each small deliverable. With regional forum processes, it will be challenging to have everything completed by June 2025. With action 4.2 depending on the quality of this assessment, it is important to have a usable deliverable, rather than a fast and incomplete one. It is therefore recommended that the deadline for this project be pushed out to October 2025. This will not impact the delivery of 4.2.	
	Duplication of efforts	Taking the time to conduct a thorough literature review and stocktake of spatial data prior to procurement will be critical, as well as ongoing stakeholder engagement.	
	Data – content, access, consistency, completeness	Producing a stocktake and gap analysis of the available data will help mitigate this, as well as using Council GIS and Science team resources to confirm data robustness and advise on gaps or inconsistencies. Technical input from biodiversity experts, including DOC, to enhance local biodiversity data will also be important.	

	Incompatibility with future regional database	Any spatial outputs from this assessment will also be available as GIS layers to ensure widespread compatibility with this future database.
	Gaps identified, but insufficient funding to address	This is the first iteration of this assessment and there will inevitably be data gaps that we are unable to fill. The final report will be clear about what these gaps are and how they may influence the decision making and/or prioritisation processes for dependent projects. The final report will include suggestions for future iterations.

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP)

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Implementation overview for Canterbury Mayoral Forum

ACTION NAME	4. Nature-based solutions 4.2 Develop a blue-green network plan for Canterbury and accompanying guidance to support locally-led implementation (including delivering on sub-actions 4.2a, 4.2b and 4.2c)	KEY ACTION
PROJECT TEAM Roles and Responsibilities	Action Leads: Veronica Spittal - Principal Policy Analyst Climate Change & Sustainability - WDC, Ben Baird - Head of Strategy and Policy, SDC Project Team: Dr Bex Dollery - Ecologist - Acting Biodiversity Team Leader – Waimakariri District Council Sophie Allen - Water Environment Advisor 3 Waters - Waimakariri District Council AnaCapri Mauro - Strategy Advisor - Climate Change and Community Resilience - ECan Tammy Philips - Senior Strategy Advisor - ECan Melanie Liu – Infrastructure Resilience Manager – Waimakariri District Council Christian Chukwuka – Ashburton District Council	

SCOPE & APPROACH	<p>Description - This project facilitates all Canterbury Councils and other key partners working together to develop a cohesive spatial plan and guidelines for a region wide blue-green network, providing nature-based solutions to reduce the effects of climate change on people, infrastructure and ecosystems. It has the co-benefit of addressing the significant biodiversity loss the region is facing by protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity.</p> <p>Scope An ecosystem-service approach (which includes valuing the co-benefits identified in the blue-green network business case) will be taken when considering terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems located on publicly owned land between the mountains and the sea. Estuaries, coastal wetlands, foreshore and dunes are included but other marine environments seaward of MLWS are excluded. Indigenous biodiversity will be prioritised, while recognising the secondary role exotic species play in supporting indigenous flora and fauna, including highly mobile species. Consideration will be given to private land which have SNAs/QEII Trust Covenants located on them and sites that may form a vital strategic link in the network.</p> <p>Initiate project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with the Greater Christchurch Partnership team re maximising synergies between this action in the GCP Spatial Plan and the CCPP. • Confirm project team and complete detailed project plan. <p>Background research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct literature review for best practice guidance and examples and identify need/specific requirements for additional guidance. • Complete regional inventory of relevant information such as Iwi Management Plans, environment and climate strategies, blue-green network plans, progress and opportunities. • Investigate options for the primary spatial data operating system and procure/develop spatial tool (there is a possibility the same tool developed in action 1.1 could be used for this project). • Map existing BGN information on spatial tool, including indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem values, land ownership (TA, Crown), soil types, water catchments and natural hazard and climate information. • Map natural ecosystem climate risk and vulnerability data from action 4.1 on spatial tool.
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	Develop blue-green network plan for Canterbury <ul style="list-style-type: none">Procure consultant to prepare a strategic framework for a BGN. This includes collaboratively working with partners and key stakeholders, particularly the Greater Christchurch Partnership, to agree on desired outcomes, principles and objectives.Consultant to conduct a gap analysis of existing and proposed network opportunities to inform the development of a BGN spatial plan, identifying priority locations for implementation, and integrating the results of action 4.1.Obtain signoff of strategic framework and spatial plan from participating local authorities.Initiate public consultation process.Obtain final sign-off from CMF.																																		
KEY DELIVERABLES & TIMEFRAMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirm project plan - by 20 December 2024Complete literature review - by 30 June 2025Complete regional inventory - by 30 June 2025Procure or develop spatial tool - by December 2025Populate spatial tool with existing BGN information - by 30 June 2026Populate spatial tool with climate risk and vulnerability data from action 4.1 (by Dec2025)Procure consultant services - by 31 July 2026Complete BGN strategic framework - by 20 December 2026Complete draft Canterbury-wide BGN spatial plan - by 30 June 2027Complete public consultation process - by 30 September 2027Finalise strategic framework and spatial plan - by 20 December 2027Complete any additional BGN implementation guidance required - by 20 December 2027Obtain final sign-off from CMF - first meeting in 2028																																		
BUDGET	Total project budget provided in Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is \$490k. <table><tr><th>Sub- actions</th><th>2024/25</th><th>2025/26</th><th>2026/27</th><th>2027/28</th></tr><tr><td>4.2</td><td></td><td>\$150k</td><td>\$190k</td><td>Complete</td></tr><tr><td>4.2a</td><td>In kind</td><td>\$20k</td><td>\$50k</td><td>Complete</td></tr><tr><td>4.2b</td><td>In kind</td><td>In kind</td><td>In kind</td><td>Ongoing/ In kind</td></tr><tr><td>4.2c</td><td></td><td>In kind</td><td>\$80K</td><td>Ongoing/ In kind</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>\$0</td><td>\$170k</td><td>\$320k</td><td>\$0</td></tr></table>					Sub- actions	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	4.2		\$150k	\$190k	Complete	4.2a	In kind	\$20k	\$50k	Complete	4.2b	In kind	In kind	In kind	Ongoing/ In kind	4.2c		In kind	\$80K	Ongoing/ In kind	Total	\$0	\$170k	\$320k	\$0
Sub- actions	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28																															
4.2		\$150k	\$190k	Complete																															
4.2a	In kind	\$20k	\$50k	Complete																															
4.2b	In kind	In kind	In kind	Ongoing/ In kind																															
4.2c		In kind	\$80K	Ongoing/ In kind																															
Total	\$0	\$170k	\$320k	\$0																															
GOVERNANCE Who signs off?	This is a key action 4 therefore the CPF is in the initial approver and CEF, CMF the second and third approvers respectively.																																		
PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS	Canterbury councils, Environment Canterbury, Greater Christchurch Partnership, Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga, community boards and residents’ groups, Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Landcare Research, Lincoln and Canterbury universities, environmental groups, local drainage advisory groups, Water Zone committees, SNA/QEII Trust private landowners.																																		

RISKS & MITIGATION	
	<p>Duplication of effort - compiling a comprehensive regional inventory of existing and planned work is a crucial step in minimising the risk of this occurring.</p> <p>Lack of project management resources - the business case recommended a project manager be appointed due to the large scale and complexity of this project, but available funding was not sufficient for this. Using limited 'in kind' project management resources could delay progress at times. The project team will need to be a 'working' group.</p> <p>Obtaining data - Some areas may have better data to inform the project than others. The spatial plan will therefore need to take a high-level approach with specific investigations carried out as part of local implementation processes.</p> <p>Lack of funding for implementation at a local level - Some identified work may already be funded but other priorities for implementation will need to be considered by individual councils as part of their 2027 LTP planning processes.</p>

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Implementation Plan Progress Report

Quarter 2: September-December 2024 - Progress Report #1

NB the action wording has been summarised. For a full account of the actions, please refer to page 42 of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Action theme		Primary action	Sub-actions	Lead	Scope, Budget, Timeframes	Commentary	Risks
1	Understanding Climate Risks and Improving Resilience	Understand climate hazards and risks in Canterbury to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience.	Sub-action 1.1 Risk visualisation tool	Waimakariri District Council	On track	Implementation overview completed for feedback by CPF December 2024.	
			Sub-action 1.2 Climate change risk and urgency assessment	Environment Canterbury	On track	Work to begin Year 4 onwards	
2	Emissions reduction	Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New Zealand's commitments towards global greenhouse gas emissions reduction.	Sub-action 2.1 Develop carbon inventories and identify transition pathways	Environment Canterbury	On track		
			Sub-action 2.2 Regional transition risk and opportunities assessment	Environment Canterbury		Work to begin Year 2	
			Sub-action 2.3 Regional low emissions transition strategy	Environment Canterbury		Work to begin Year 2.	
3	Adaptation planning	Support best practice approaches for local adaptation planning with communities	Sub-action 3.1 Best practice approach for adaptation planning and implementation by councils in Canterbury	Hurunui District Council		Not started due to staff vacancy at Hurunui District Council.	
4	Nature Based Solutions	Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature-based solutions to climate change effects.	Sub-action 4.1 Ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment	Environment Canterbury	On track		
			Sub-action 4.2 Blue-green network plan for Canterbury	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Council co-leading		Work to begin in Year 2.	
			Sub-action 4.2a Collaborate with key stakeholders to provide guidance on blue-green infrastructure placement and hazard resilience investment	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Council co-leading	On track	Stakeholder identification underway. Initial conversations started.	
			Sub-action 4.2b Collaborate and align with Greater Christchurch Partnership and key stakeholders to deliver a blue-green network	Waimakariri & Selwyn District Council co-leading	On track	Initial conversations held between co-leads, and GCP staff.	
			Sub-action 4.2c Investigate the feasibility of establishing blue-green infrastructure on council-owned land	All councils		Work to begin in Year 2.	
5	Climate Change Education and Advocacy	Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action.	Sub-action 5.1 Continue to develop the "It's Time, Canterbury" initiative	Environment Canterbury	On track	Implementation overview to be presented to CPF in March 2025.	
			Sub-action 5.2 Produce communications materials with CDEM that integrate climate action and resilience to natural hazards	Environment Canterbury		Work to begin in Year 2.	
6	Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga	Support papatipu rūnanga with climate action at place and provide continuing opportunity for their involvement with the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.	Sub-action 6.1 Understand the climate action requirements of papatipu rūnanga across Canterbury	All councils	On track	Scoping in progress. Implementation overview to be presented to CPF in March 2025.	
			Sub-action 6.2 Support councils to work in partnership with papatipu rūnanga on climate action planning	Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat	On track	Scoping in progress. Implementation overview to be presented to CPF in March 2025.	
7	Integrating climate change considerations in council processes	Work collaboratively to build local government capability and enhance its capacity to adapt to the climate change challenges it faces	Sub-action 7.1 Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations across all council business	Ashburton District Council	On track	Work initiated by action lead and sub-group. Council survey conducted. Implementation overview to be presented to CPF in March 2025.	
8	Climate Funding and Financing	Identify co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience.	Sub-action 8.1 Advocate to central government for funding to be made available for the climate-related actions	Christchurch City Council	On track	Implementation overview to be presented to CPF in March 2025.	
			Sub-action 8.2 Explore the feasibility of a Canterbury Climate Commitment	Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat	On track		
9	Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitor and report on progress towards achieving the actions and outcomes of the Partnership Plan.	Sub-action 9.1 Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan	Environment Canterbury	On track		
10	Implementation	Assemble an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.		Environment Canterbury (with action leads)	Completed		

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Finances as at 30 November 2024

30/11/2024	Opening balance	0.00
Revenue		
Date	Councils	Amount
14/10/2024	Mackenzie District Council	4,130.43
14/10/2024	Kaikoura District Council	4,130.43
14/10/2024	Waitaki District Council	6,521.74
14/10/2024	Waimate District Council	6,443.48
14/10/2024	Hurunui District Council	8,591.30
14/10/2024	Timaru District Council	16,191.30
14/10/2024	Ashburton District Council	16,191.30
14/10/2024	Waimakariki District Council	17,678.26
14/10/2024	Selwyn District Council	17,678.26
14/10/2024	Christchurch City Council	33,913.04
14/10/2024	Environment Canterbury	33,913.04
	Total contribution (exclusive of GST)	<u>\$165,382.58</u>
Spend		
Date	Supplier	Amount
		0.00
	Total spend	<u>\$-</u>
	Balance (excluding GST)	<u>\$165,382.58</u>

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 14 February 2025

Presented by: Craig Pauling, Chair Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Zone Committee Review; initiation of the CWMS 2025 Targets Progress Report; and the CWMS Zone Committee updates.
2. The paper also provides an update on Central Government and Environment Canterbury planning and policy work.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receives the progress update for the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Review 2024 and identified next steps to be undertaken in 2025 towards establishing the proposed local leadership groups**
2. **notes the initiation of the CWMS 2025 Targets Progress Report that will be presented to the Mayoral Forum in May 2025**
3. **receives the update for October to December 2024 on the region-wide work underway to implement the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.**

Review of CWMS zone committees 2024 and proposed Local Leadership Groups

3. The first stage of the CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 ('the Review'), which the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) requested in August 2023, is now complete. A summary of the Review's outcomes and recommendations for next steps were endorsed by the CMF on 29 November 2024 (see [page 56 of the 29 November 2024](https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Canterbury-Mayoral-Forum-Agenda-29-November-2024.pdf) Canterbury Mayoral Forum agenda)¹. A technical report that covers the Review's findings and

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Canterbury-Mayoral-Forum-Agenda-29-November-2024.pdf>

engagement feedback is being finalised and will be shared with territorial authorities, Rūnanga, and zone committees.

4. Key outcomes from the Review include a shared view that, while the CWMS vision and principles remain sound and provide a good basis for future work, zone committees as a consistent one-size-fits-all structure across Canterbury are no longer the preferred approach in some areas. This followed an assessment that the majority of committees have not been well placed or supported to move from planning-centric work to implementing work programmes, although it was acknowledged that some committees work well, and opportunities should be created to keep the momentum and membership of these committees.
5. Through the Review a preferred base model was identified. This base model centres on connecting territorial authorities, mana whenua and the regional council at a leadership level and at place, with connections to local communities critical, along with the need to reflect a maturing partnership with mana whenua. Connections to Central Government and industry alongside, and as part of, local communities may also be important for future success (see Figure 1).



Figure 1 Base model to connect TLAs, mana whenua and regional council at a leadership level and at place

6. It was recognised that the relationship of these three partners should be meaningful and have clear purpose – it ought to extend beyond loose connections and involve direction setting, tracking of progress, and support to guide funding decisions to achieve outcomes. This outcome may be summarised as follows:
 - it is about these local leadership groups confirming an action plan of local priorities and then utilising their resources, mana, and networks to support delivery towards these priorities.
7. Regarding the scope of these leadership groups, it was agreed that the fundamentals of the CWMS and guiding plans (e.g. Zone Implementation Programmes) remain crucial for identifying freshwater management priorities and focus efforts. Leadership groups may, however, wish to extend the scope of local priorities to other overlapping cross-boundary issues, such as land use, biosecurity, biodiversity and natural hazards.

8. The Review identified that an approach is needed that achieves a degree of regional consistency from a membership and function perspective, with enough flexibility to enable locally suitable solutions, which will include determining at place the mechanisms for local community engagement and setting of priorities.
9. Future options should be effective and efficient without duplicating existing structures or recreating known challenges to achieving outcomes. Successful examples of partnership approaches across Canterbury may serve as points of reference (e.g. Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon Catchment Strategy and Whakaraupō Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour).
10. It was acknowledged that the success of future options will depend on clear responsibilities and accountability, with the support of councils and Rūnanga being critical.
11. Zone Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs were updated on the CMF's endorsement of the Review's outcomes and proposed next steps on 11 December 2024. There was consistent feedback that zone committee members need clarity on the future of zone committees, and the sooner the better. Some members also supported the proposed approach and the opportunities it presents to better focus and drive efforts towards achieving CWMS Targets.
12. It is intended that zone committees continue their work in their current form until new groups are established. This can include finalising their 2024/25 CWMS Action Plan budget allocation, informing the CWMS 2025 Targets Progress report (see below), and advising on what local priorities could be focused on by the proposed local leadership groups.

Next steps

13. Staff are now working to finalise details of the proposed local leadership groups ahead of seeking final endorsement at the CMF in May 2025. As part of this, the following key design questions need to be worked through by the existing working group of Mayors, Environment Canterbury Chair and Rūnanga representatives:
 - firstly, should these leadership groups operate according to existing CWMS zone boundaries, district boundaries, or be based on proposed freshwater management units?
 - secondly, options for how these leadership groups are mandated need to be determined. Zone committees are joint committees of territorial authorities and Environment Canterbury, whereas other mechanisms, such as Whaka-Ora, are underpinned by a voluntary partnership reflected with a Collaborative Agreement.
 - thirdly, operational details (e.g. options for wider membership, meeting format and frequency, and administrative support) need to be investigated further.
14. Workshops for this group are being planned for late February (to work through remaining key design questions) and April (to consider feedback received from local council and Rūnanga discussions)

15. Briefings with each Canterbury council are now being scheduled for March/April 2025, while engagement with Papatipu Rūnanga is also being planned. Staff are engaging across Canterbury Councils via the Canterbury Policy Forum.

16. These steps are summarised in Table 1.

Timeframe	Tasks
Feb 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft design for new local leadership groups • First workshop with the working group to test draft design • Update and feedback from Canterbury Policy Forum
Mar 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with each Council (dates TBC) • Discussion with Papatipu Rūnanga • Progress update to zone committees
Apr 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of draft design based on collected feedback • Second workshop with the working group to finalise design (TBC)
May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise advice and recommendations for CMF's May meeting • Recommendations to CMF on model for new local leadership groups
June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZC disestablishment/new group establishment decisions sought from each territorial authority • Progress update to zone committees • If agreed, progress implementation of new local leadership groups

CWMS Targets Progress report 2025

17. Environment Canterbury has initiated work to assess progress on achieving the 2025 goals across the CWMS target areas. The Targets – which cover 10 broad areas – are an agreed way to measure progress against the vision, priorities and principles of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. The Targets have a set of goals for 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030 and 2040. The goals cover long-term environment, social, economic and cultural areas reflecting a sustainable development approach.

18. The Targets Progress Report was last produced in 2021 and can be found on the [Environment Canterbury](#) website.

19. An initial step for this work was to check that the 2025 goals were fit for purpose. The analysis was underpinned by the understanding that the CWMS vision, principles and priorities remain sound.













20. The analysis considered (in no particular order):

- the impact of new legislation
- the intent of and alignment with the 2030 and 2040 goals
- the data sources that could be used to support reporting

- merging goals where there was duplication.
21. Goals which no longer align with legislative requirements (e.g. Drinking Water goals which seek to maintain untreated potable water) have been revised. Initial results of the analysis however, identified that the majority of the goals remain fit for purpose and continue to support the intent of the original CWMS goals from 2010 to 2040.
22. The Canterbury Operations Forum will oversee development of the report, and will provide key insights on the work being undertaken by territorial authorities to deliver the CWMS targets and specifically the 2025 goals.
23. It is expected that the Progress Report will demonstrate the significant effort towards CWMS goals that has been made across Canterbury, but also highlight that considerable effort is still required to meet many of the goals. Staff are considering how the proposed local leadership groups could provide increased impetus and prioritisation of effort towards the CWMS goals.
24. The high-level timeline for the Progress Report is provided below.

January/February	Project updates to Chief Executives and Mayoral Forums via quarterly reports
March	Operations Forum workshop on initial assessment of progress on 2025 Goals
April	Draft assessment of 2025 Goals on “monitoring CWMS progress” webpage presented to Operations Forum via online meeting
May	Operations Forum final report on CWMS Targets Progress Report to Chief Executives and Mayoral Forum
June	Updated Monitoring CWMS Progress webpage goes live.

25. The high-level Gantt chart below shows key timings across both the zone committee review/local leadership group proposal and the Targets Progress report. The Zone Committee review is complete with Local Leadership Group design and the Targets Progress Report both underway. Scope of the latter projects is yet to be decided and are dependent on final zone committee/local leadership group decisions.

CWMS Project	Project Status	2024				2025				2026			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Zone Committee review	Completed												
Local Leadership Group design	Underway												
CWMS Targets Progress Report	Underway												
TA/RC decisions on future of zone committees	To be decided												
Local body elections													
Local Leadership Group establishment	To be decided												
Refocused Local Leadership water programmes	To be decided												

CWMS zone committee updates

26. To date, seven zone committees have fully allocated their 2024/25 Action Plan budget of \$50,000 to implement on the ground actions to support the delivery of CWMS targets and goals. Waimakariri and Upper Waitaki zone committees will meet early this year to finalise the allocation of their funding.
27. Attachment 1 provides an update on key regional projects and campaigns.
28. Attachment 2 provides a summary of the last three months' progress of zone committee projects.

Update on central government action that may impact freshwater outcomes

Resource Management Act reform

29. The Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024 passed into law, taking effect on 25 October 2024. Amendment papers tabled during the Committee of the Whole stage of the legislative process mean the Act will also prevent notification of freshwater planning instruments that have the purpose of giving effect to the National Policy Statement-Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM). This has implications for progressing the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement- see below. The Act also paused the rollout of freshwater farm plans across the country.
30. The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill was introduced to Parliament on 10 December. The Bill proposes changes to the RMA to help achieve the Government's priorities across five key areas: infrastructure and energy, housing, farming and the primary sector, natural hazards and emergency management, and RMA regulatory powers (consenting, compliance and enforcement). The Bill passed its first reading on 17 December and was referred to the Environment Select Committee with a closing date for submissions of 10 February 2025. The Select Committee will report back to Parliament by 17 June 2025. Minister Bishop has indicated that the Government aims to pass the Bill into law by mid-2025.

Changes to Freshwater Farm Plan direction

31. The Government continues its work to reduce the cost and complexity of freshwater farm plans with initial changes proposed to Part 9A via the Resource Management (Consenting and other System Changes) Amendment Bill. The proposals support the use of approved industry organisations to deliver certification and audit services. Further changes to the Resource Management (Freshwater Farm Plan) Regulations are expected in the first half of 2025.

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

32. The Fast-track Approvals Bill passed its second reading on 13 November 2024, its third and final reading on 17 December and became law. Applications for projects to be considered using the new Fast Track regime will be accepted from 7 February 2025.

Local Water Done Well

33. The Local Government (Water Services) Bill is the third piece of legislation in the Government's three-stage process for implementing Local Water Done Well. The Bill had its first reading on 17 December 2024. It sets out key details relating to the water services delivery system, the economic regulation and consumer protection regime for water services, and changes to the water quality regulatory framework.
34. The Bill has been referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee with a closing date for submissions of 23 February 2025. It is expected to be enacted by mid-2025.

Update on Environment Canterbury's planning work programme

Regional Policy Statement

35. Changes to s80A of the Resource Management Act 1991 has changed the process for notifying freshwater planning instruments such as the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS). Environment Canterbury considered options for progressing the CRPS at its 27 November Council meeting and resolved to pause the development of the CRPS until January 2026.
36. Current CRPS objectives and policies continue to apply in the interim.

Plan Change 8

37. Environment Canterbury has been working on plan changes for the following issues:
- Take and Use ("AWA") – providing for the take and use of water for infrastructure and allowing the use of water to be changed where there are environmental benefits
 - make it easier to construct wetlands
 - preserving the intent of the expiring provisions in the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater – Agricultural Intensification and Intensive Winter Grazing.

38. Changes to s80A of the Resource Management Act 1991 changed the process for undertaking plan changes for freshwater planning instruments, such as Plan Change 8. Environment Canterbury considered options for progressing Plan Change 8 at its 27 November Council meeting and resolved to contact the Ministry for the Environment to see if a pathway was available for notification.
39. Those who were invited, such as territorial authorities, to provide feedback through Clause 3 consultation have been informed of the delay and next steps being undertaken by Environment Canterbury. This delay may lead to additional cost and delays to infrastructure development.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Key regional projects/campaigns October to December 2024

Attachment 2: Zone Committee Action Plan overview October to December 2024

Attachment 1: Key regional projects/campaigns October to December 2024

1. The CWMS is implemented in the Canterbury region by the CWMS partners through a range of statutory and non-statutory obligations and by working with agencies and community groups.
2. This section of the update provides information on the delivery of actions by CWMS partners to meet the 2025 goals under the ten CWMS Targets areas², although not all ten Target areas are intended to be covered each quarter. Progress against the CWMS Targets is reported on Environment Canterbury's [website](#)³.

Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes

3. Restoring the mauri of the Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes continues to be a high priority for Environment Canterbury, mana whenua, key agencies, environmental organisations and landowners. This work supports progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target.
4. Statutory agencies have continued to provide input into the Draft Integrated Catchment Plan identifying the actions and timelines they will work towards to improve the health of the lakes. The 26 September 2024 hui which focussed on developing the 'Environmental Goal' actions, also recognised that developing and obtaining agreement across the agencies on the plan will take longer than originally anticipated.
5. The working group will meet on 18 February 2025 to agree on an approach and timeframe for this mahi.
6. The most recent water quality monitoring results, as well as progress updates on other relevant actions, are available at www.ecan.govt.nz/otuwharekai.

Whakaora Te Waihora Programme

7. The Whakaora Te Waihora Programme is a long-term, operational programme of the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group to restore and rejuvenate the mana, mauri and ecosystem of Te Waihora/ Lake Ellesmere. The Co-Governance members are Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council, and Department of Conservation (DOC).

² There are ten target areas within the Canterbury Water Management Strategy each with a number of more specific goals. The target areas are: Environmental Limits, Ecosystem Health/Biodiversity, Natural Character of Braided Rivers, Kaitiakitanga, Drinking-water, Recreational and amenity opportunities, Water use efficiency, Irrigated land area, Energy security and efficiency and Indicators of Regional and National Economies.

³ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/measuring-cwms-progress/>

8. The Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project continues to be a model for 'Treaty Partnership' and delivery. As important as 'what' the project is doing (restoring the mid-lower stretches of Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream), is 'how' it is doing it (led by Te Taumutu Rūnanga, and co-managed between Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Environment Canterbury).
9. The project made significant advances from October to December with:
 - maintenance of the almost 40,000 riparian plants installed by the project
 - completion of the procurement process for the construction of the Te Repo o Partnership Programmes (works to start in January 2025)
 - continued delivery of the project's mātauranga Māori and water quality monitoring programme
 - continued predator control for, and monitoring of, the Nationally Critical matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern.
10. The Whakaora Te Ahuriri project is restoring wetland habitat in Ahuriri Lagoon. Actions from October to December included planning works to improve fish passage, water retention in the constructed wetland, and the restoration of adjacent habitat to the constructed habitat.
11. The programme is co-funding the Weed Strikeforce (delivered by Department of Conservation), who control willows and woody weeds around the lakeshore of Te Waihora that results in the natural regeneration of lakeshore wetlands.
12. The programme is funding the Te Waihora, Matuku-hūrepo project (delivered by Department of Conservation), that is delivering predator control for, and monitoring of, the nationally Critical matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern.
13. The restoration of Te Waihora is a huge job, which cannot be achieved by any one organisation. It requires long-term commitments, and working collaboratively across organisational boundaries to share strengths, opportunities, ideas, and resources. That is why work is underway to further support the Whakakōhanga Kōrero, which is an inter-organisational forum (of mana whenua, councils, farmer-led catchment groups, community organisations, NGOs etc) who are delivering environmental management actions around Te Waihora.
14. The group meets quarterly to share current work and identify opportunities to work together. Work underway to further support the group include a publicly visible digital map, where organisations can share and display the locations of their projects. The map is expected to be publicly available by July 2025. This will aid operational decisions (the development of projects, developing working partnerships with other organisations), strategic decisions (where to focus resources, funding applications), and communicating to the public.

Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme

15. The Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme is designed to improve the environmental and cultural values of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour. It is a partnership between Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council, and Lyttelton Port Company to action the Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Catchment Management Plan.
16. Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour continues to build relationships in the focal landscape and attends many high-level groups/workshops and hui such as Te Kākahu Kahukura (TKK) which is currently chaired by Environment Canterbury Chair Pauling. The programme feeds into technical approaches in the landscape and supports other partners to be successful in their mahi within the catchments of Whakaraupō.
17. The programme's Senior Managers Group is developing prioritisation strategies and targeted delivery plans. Delivery progressed on the programme's current projects include the Kororā | White-flipped Penguin conservation, TITI feasibility study, Mahinga Kai site collaboration with Rod Donald Trust, and the Marine settlement plate research and education project.

Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon

18. The Our Waitarakao partnership (the Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and Timaru District Council) have endorsed the catchment strategy for adoption, and plans are now underway to formally sign the document and celebrate this major milestone in March 2025.
19. The working group is transitioning into supporting implementation of the Strategy's actions while community led on-the-ground activities continue.

Te Mōkihi Programme

20. The Te Mōkihi Programme focuses on improving environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes in Te Manahuna/Mackenzie Basin. It is a partnership between Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Te Rūnanga o Waihao, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, Land Information NZ, Mackenzie District Council and Waitaki District Council.
21. As the programme management positions are currently vacant, the programme has had to put most of its work on hold, until programme staffing is resolved.
22. The Governors Group met on 18 November. One item raised during this meeting was the current vacancies for the Programme Manager and Programme Coordinator. An outcome of the meeting was that the Co-Chairs are reviewing the position descriptions and available funding.

23. There was a meeting of all the parties regarding Ōmarama Reserve and mana whenua aspirations. Apart from this piece of work, the rūnanga-led projects are on hold until their future is decided by the Senior Officials Group.

Attachment 2: Zone Committee Action Plan overview October to December 2024

Kaikōura Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Natural Character of Braided Rivers Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga wahi taonga & biodiversity	Enhance biodiversity, and improve amenity and recreation values Support our community to respond to changing requirements, and share resources for good management practice Facilitate understanding of catchment systems within the zone, build community knowledge and connection to these systems and increase public participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October, the Kaikōura Zone Committee visited an Amuri Irrigation Company constructed wetland pilot project site and John Faulkner's Biodiversity/Mahinga kai restoration site. Other groups on the field trip included the Hurunui District Landcare group, the Amuri Irrigation Company and Culverden Farmsource. The Committee appreciated seeing first-hand the great mahi underway in the area in the freshwater and biodiversity space. • In early November, Committee members joined a number of stakeholders & interested community members at the Annual Waiau Toa/ Clarence Community Hui to receive an update on the weed control mahi being undertaken over the last ten years, under the Waiau Toa / Clarence Weed Management Strategy. Boffa Miskell, who leads the work along with ECan, LINZ, MDC, DOC and landowners, also talked about work planned for the 2025/26 period. • The Committee fully allocated its 2024/25 Action Plan budget of \$50,000, including its recommendation to fund \$9630 to Clarence River Rafting Weed Control Project 24/25. • At its November meeting the Committee workshopped with the Wai Connection project team community uses for the 'Kaikōura Plains' Focus Catchment Map Series.

Waimakariri Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Drinking Water Natural Character of Braided Rivers Recreation and Amenity Opportunities Kaitiakitanga	Improve monitoring of water resources Biodiversity improvements Braided Rivers Recreation resources Mahinga kai improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October, the Waimakariri Zone Committee had a workshop to review the 12 applications it had received seeking funding. Two further applications were received in November with a total request over \$148K for the \$50K available. The Committee confirmed it will finalise recommendations for funding at its 3 February meeting. • At its November meeting, the Committee received two reports. Waimakariri District Council (WDC) provided a report on saline incursions in the Kaiapoi and Ruataniwha Cam Rivers. This report examines community observations in 2024 regarding changes in the Kaiapoi and Ruataniwha Cam Rivers, including emergent and submerged macrophyte (weedbed) dieback and freshwater mussel (kākāhi) deaths. This report raises possible options for management by WDC and areas for WDC and Environment Canterbury to work together to understand and consider management options. • The second report received by the Committee was the Environment Canterbury 2023-24 annual summary report of water quality monitoring for contact recreation. • The committee concluded the year with a short field visit to one of the projects seeking funding, followed by a briefing with staff where the committee outlined its preferences for allocation of the available budget across the 12 applications received.

Christchurch-West Melton		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga Recreation and Amenity opportunities	Enhance mahinga kai Engage with community Enhance ecosystem health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christchurch-West Melton Zone Committee members were invited to the Comprehensive Stormwater Network Discharge Consent Annual Report hui on 9 October, hosted by the Community Waterways Partnership. The hui provided a series of presentations addressing the key findings, challenges and recommendations of the report. The Committee received the Christchurch City Council's 2023 Surface Water Quality Targets Report, which is now available online. https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Environment/Water/Monitoring-Reports/2024/CSNDC-Annual-Surface-Water-Quality-Report-2023-final.PDF On 31 October the Committee held a workshop with representatives for the five projects applying for support from the 2024/25 CWMS Action Plan Budget. The project presentations were well received by the Committee, which provided a sound basis for their endorsement of the \$50K allocation available across the five projects at their 28 November meeting. The 28 November meeting also saw the Committee receive four reports for projects supported through the CWMS Action Plan Budget in previous years. The Committee received the Environment Canterbury 2023-24 annual summary report of water quality monitoring for contact recreation and two updates from the Community Waterways Partnership. Oscar Bloom (Chair) and Mike Patchett (Deputy) attended the CWMS Zone Committee Triannual Reporting to the Christchurch City Council at their 11 December meeting. This update from the three committees (Christchurch West Melton, Banks Peninsula, Selwyn Waihora) focused on the outcomes of the CWMS Zone Committee Review initiated by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. City Councillors expressed their expectation to be engaged on what local leadership group/s for the CWMS will be for Greater Christchurch.

Banks Peninsula Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga	Engage with community Supporting new and existing catchment groups Advocate for and be engaged in improved erosion and sediment control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October and November, the Banks Peninsula Zone Committee considered applications and made recommendations to Environment Canterbury to fund several local projects using its Action Plan Budget, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Predator control works ○ Environmental education and research ○ Protecting and enhancing sustainable biodiversity including planning and projects ○ Building capability and capacity • The first of six fundraising focussed workshops for Banks Peninsula groups was held on 2 December. The purpose of the workshop series is to build the capability and capacity of groups to meet their funding goals. Twelve groups/organisations attended. The workshop series is co-funded with Rātā Foundation and facilitated by the Fundraising Agency. • In December, the Committee had a fieldtrip to Wairewa/Little River to hear about the mahi being undertaken by Wairewa Rūnanga and Wairewa Mahinga Kai Catchment Group and learn about some of the issues in the catchment. This was followed by a BBQ with the catchment group to wrap up the year.

Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Natural Character of Braided Rivers Kaitiakitanga	Raising awareness about the risks to private drinking water Catchment nutrient targets and water quality outcomes Enhance mahinga kai, recreation and amenity values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October and November, the Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee, along with Selwyn District Council and Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Incorporated, co-hosted three well water testing events. The purpose of the events was to educate and raise awareness of nitrate levels in private water supplies, safe drinking water standards and associated risks such as bacterial contamination, responsibilities of private water suppliers around testing and maintenance, onsite wastewater management systems and solutions. Experts and suppliers supported the events to explain results and discuss solutions to bore issues. Over 140 samples were tested. • In September and October, the Committee considered and made recommendations to Environment Canterbury to put funding towards several local projects using its Action Plan Budget. Projects recommended support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental education ○ Biodiversity protection and enhancement ○ Wetland restoration • In November, the Committee received a presentation from Enviro Collective with the purpose of sharing the work they undertake with their catchment communities and schemes to improve outcomes on farm and for the environment. • In November, the Committee received a presentation from Peter Langlands, Wild Capture Research on the Matuku-hūrepo/Australasian Bittern and the proposal to create additional wetland habitat near Te Waihora, specifically raupō, to increase their numbers. There may only be around 30 remaining in Canterbury. The links this project has with some ZCAP funded projects and the objectives of the Zone Committee and noted as being something that could be built on.

Ashburton Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Environmental Limits Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity	Improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets Supporting Hakatere / Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek) and Hekeao Hinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October, the Ashburton Zone Committee considered applications and made recommendations to Environment Canterbury to fund several local projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity protection and enhancement, and improving freshwater outcomes Predator control Weed control and planting In October and November, the Committee received updates from several catchment groups through the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective and from the Whitecombe Landcare group. The updates highlighted the progress being made by each group to achieve their outcomes and support freshwater improvements. In October, the Committee received a presentation from Environment Canterbury regarding the Hakatere/Ashburton River hāpua and its degraded state following a request from the Committee to provide an explanation as to how the degraded state was determined.

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga	Protection, enhancement and restoration of mahinga kai sites Focus on tuhituhi o neherā sites and mahinga kai and how best to manage these Host a field trip to Taniwha Gully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Canterbury has one of the highest densities of Māori Rock Art Sites in Aotearoa with a total of 412 sites. There are hundreds of local drawings in the zone. Under the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP), farmers have a responsibility to protect Rock Art Sites and the wider freshwater ecosystems and mahinga kai values associated with them. The Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee funded a tour of the Taniwha Gully rock art site at Ōpihi on 15 October hosted by Te Ana Māori Rock Art. Attendees included farmers, consultants, museum staff, Arowhenua Nursery and interested locals. The group learned about the history from Rachel Solomon (Kaiwhakahaere, Te Ana Rock Art Trust) and Amanda Symon (Archaeologist) and gained an appreciation of this taonga and how to protect it. Landowners can take advantage of free consultation from Te Ana Rock Art Trust to ensure farming activities do not negatively impact Rock Art Management Areas.

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity opportunities Kaitiakitanga	<p>Support catchment groups taking collective action to reduce losses of contaminants, prioritised where they are addressing identified at-risk areas</p> <p>Explore opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways, such as the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee had a workshop on 18 October at which ECan presented on the most recent TLI monitoring for Lake Benmore and the Ahuriri catchment. This was a follow up from a presentation from consent holders in this catchment earlier in the year. The Committee received an update from ECan on the Love our Lakes campaign for this summer and provided feedback on options and how it could support the campaign. At its final 2024 meeting on 8 November the Committee received progress reports from Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa Ltd on the Twizel and Omarama biodiversity demonstration plots, and from Ōhau Conservation Trust on the Cultural Values Statement for Lake Middleton. Both projects will be further advanced in 2025 and report again to the Committee. Updates were also received from three of the catchment groups in the Mackenzie Basin – Ahuriri Community Catchment Group, Omarama Stream Water Group, and the Wairepo Catchment Group. The Environment Canterbury 2023-24 annual summary report of water quality monitoring for contact recreation was received with the Committee providing several points of feedback and follow up for its next meeting in February 2025. The committee endorsed the recommendation to support the Pioneer Drive enhancement project that will be overseen by Lake Tekapo Recreational Park Incorporated. This leaves approximately \$8K available from the 2024/25 CWMS Action Plan Budget, with a project identified that the Committee could look to support in 2025. In concluding the final meeting of the year, the Committee discussed what meaningful engagement it could do in early 2025, given the outcomes of the CWMS Zone Committee Review. It was agreed to write to the Chair of Waihao Rūnanga to express how much the Committee had valued the contributions of its current and former Waihao Rūnanga representatives, in response to the recent decision to not reappoint Waihao Rūnanga representatives on CWMS Committees.

Lower Waitaki Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity opportunities Kaitiakitanga Drinking Water	Increase engagement to support opportunities to improve water quality and quantity across the wider community, including with schools Educating, motivating and inspiring rural and urban communities, through the use of community events Engaging with communities to establish and support new and existing catchment and urban groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee hosted a stand at the Waimate Strawberry Fare to showcase the environmental protection and enhancement work being undertaken across the zone. They were joined by members of local catchment and community groups who had the opportunity to engage with the community and show what they have achieved. The stand also included interactive educational games for children.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 14 February 2025

Presented by: Nigel Bowen, Chair

Light-touch proposal Regional Deals

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek a decision from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on whether it wants to progress a light-touch proposal for a Regional Deal.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **agree to progress a light-touch proposal for a Regional Deal by 28 February deadline**
2. **agree to nominate a sub-group of Chief Executives to develop the light-touch proposal for the Regional Deal**

Key points

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a Regional Deal in December 2024. The EOI, provided at attachment 1, did not include any details on what might be included in a Regional Deal.
3. Light-touch proposals for a Regional Deal are due 28 February 2025.
4. The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has advised that it is possible to amend the configuration of councils from the original EOI. As a region we have options to progress a variety of sub-regional deals that together are mutually beneficial for the entirety of Canterbury.
5. The CMF will need to decide at this meeting if they are going to progress a light-touch proposal for a Regional Deal, nominate those who will contribute to the development of the light-touch proposal and agree sign-off timeframes to meet 28 Feb deadline.
6. Lodgement of a light-touch proposal for a Regional Deal shows the CMF's ongoing commitment to its advocacy with Central Government and the commitment to partner with government to deliver for our communities.

Background

7. A Regional Deal is the Coalition Government's initiative for establishing long-term agreements between central and local government to unlock funding and resource opportunities to support councils to make improvements in their region, for example to roads, infrastructure and the supply of quality housing.
8. "Regions" in the context of Regional Deals could be regional, sub-regional or another appropriate scale, as long as they are defined economic and geographic areas with functional local authorities.
9. Regions must include one regional council, and regional councils may choose to participate in more than one Regional Deal.
10. Each Regional Deal will cater to local priorities while sharing the following foundational components:
 - 30-year vision for the region
 - 10-year strategic plan with clear outcomes and actions
 - rely on existing resources to achieve shared goals over new funding
 - establish a framework for allocation of new funding when it becomes available.
11. Partnerships will involve central and local government with opportunities for the private sector and iwi/Māori to participate.

Light-touch proposals

12. The objectives for a Regional Deal are set out in the Regional Deals Strategic Framework (see Attachment 2) and the light-touch proposal template has been developed to support proposals for Regional Deals. The template is provided at Attachment 3.
13. The light-touch proposal needs to:
 - outline the region's vision for a deal, the region's economic role in New Zealand and the economic objectives for the regional deal
 - list the projects/initiatives to be included in the deal and the project outcomes to be delivered because of the deal
 - articulate what the region is contributing to the deal
 - articulate what the region is seeking from Government to achieve the outcomes to be delivered
 - demonstrate how the proposal aligns with the priority objectives of the strategic framework
 - identify areas of growth, existing and potential in the region and the key drivers of growth

- provide a summary of previous/current collaboration between councils involved and central government, including crown entities and government departments
- demonstrate how the deal would support other Central Government work programmes
- demonstrate a commitment to regional spatial priorities, and how existing spatial priorities would support the deal and how a deal would support the spatial priorities
- articulate the region's readiness to implement and deliver a regional deal
- articulate the proposed governance arrangements between local authorities included within the deal and with any others such as private sector and iwi/Māori.

Canterbury Opportunities

14. The Greater Christchurch Partnership Mayors/Chair have advised that at this stage any work required on regional deals will be led by the CMF. At the GCP meeting in December 2024, Mana whenua indicated that they would like to be included in any conversations on potential Regional Deals with the Crown, in whichever forum these are occurring.

Business Canterbury

15. The CMF is currently working with Business Canterbury, including businesses from across the region on identifying what the private sector vision is for Canterbury (see item 4.1). The aim is to provide clarity around the drivers of economic growth, which is led by the private sector and enabled and supported by local and central government. While being progressed regardless of a Regional Deal, the work will be able to support any future Regional Deal.

Mayoral Forum work programme

Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan

16. The CMF is currently developing a Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan. The project objectives for the Strategic Plan are:
- to identify current and anticipated future housing needs (over a 10-year horizon) across the housing continuum on the basis of all communities having access to healthy, accessible, affordable housing to meet their needs.
 - to identify the gaps (and the drivers) between current and anticipated housing needs with what is available or likely to be delivered in the near to medium term.
 - to establish a regional monitoring and reporting framework that allows housing sufficiency to be tracked over time including the effectiveness of regional interventions.
 - to identify key moves supported by a 'menu' of actions to influence or directly improve the delivery of quality, affordable housing outcomes.

17. The final report for the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan is due mid 2025.

Waitaha Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory

18. Work on the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory is progressing with the final report due May 2025. The energy inventory will be a key piece of the evidence base to support a shared understanding of the energy system in Canterbury / Waitaha and inform future work for the region.

Regional Spatial Planning

19. Foundational work is underway to support the consideration of a regional spatial plan for Waitaha Canterbury. The work includes an initial stock take of existing Waitaha Canterbury spatial plans and strategies, followed by the development of an options paper around the process to develop a regional spatial plan.
20. Progressing this foundational work is a pro-active first step towards a possible regional spatial plan, in the context of changes to the resource management system signalled by Government and the opportunity for regions to partners with Government through Regional Deals.

Tourism infrastructure and services

21. The Government wants to increase tourism numbers to the country. Tourism brings many benefits, however it also comes with significant costs, particularly for those areas with small ratepayer bases, relative to visitor numbers.
22. Challenges associated with high visitor numbers include the pressure on accommodation, infrastructure, roads and transport. The Prime Minister wants central and local government to work together in partnership through Regional Deals as a way of ensuring support for increased visitor numbers¹.

Greater Christchurch Partnership

23. The Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan (GCSP) is the sub regions blueprint for accommodating and encouraging growth over the next 30 years, through targeted intensification in and around centres and along the mass rapid transit corridor, along with the prosperous development of kāinga nohoanga on Māori Land and within urban areas. The GCSP has a high level of support from the partners and the community and is now being actively implemented by the Greater Christchurch Partners.
24. The GCSP highlights key opportunities and directions that can be directly linked to the Regional Deals priority objectives and could contribute to a Canterbury wide regional deal.

¹ [PM Christopher Luxon says government will move 'with pace' on tourism infrastructure | RNZ News](#)

Next steps

25. If the CMF agrees to the lodgement of a light-touch proposal for a Regional Deal the following actions will be required:

- nominate a sub-group of Chief Executives to develop a light-touch proposal
- indicate to the sub-group the range of topics to be included in the light-touch proposal
- include in the development of the light-touch proposal engagement with mana whenua, Business Canterbury and others identified today and through the development of the proposal
- agree that the draft light-touch proposal will be circulated to Chief Executives by 21 February for review prior to going to CMF for approval for lodgement before the 28 February 2025 deadline.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Canterbury Mayoral Forum Expression of Interest
- Attachment 2 – Regional Deals Strategic Framework
- Attachment 3 – Light-touch proposal application form

Regional Deals

Registration form

The purpose of this form is to confirm your region's intention to submit a proposal for a Regional Deal by 28 February 2025. Please note that 'regions' in the context of regional deals should be a configuration of territorial authorities within a defined economic and geographic area and must include the regional council where relevant.

Please include:

- The councils that intend to form a region for the purposes of a Regional Deals' proposal.

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM

Canterbury Regional Council

Ashburton District Council

Christchurch City Council

Hurunui District Council

Kaikōura District Council

Mackenzie District Council

Selwyn District Council

Timaru District Council

Waimakariri District Council

Waimate District Council

Waitaki District Council

- Key contact people (including names, titles, contact details).

Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Mayor Timaru District Council

Hamish Riach, Chair Canterbury Chief Executives Forum, CE Ashburton District Council

C/- Secretariat, Canterbury Mayoral Forum, secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz, PH 0273818924

Optional:

- Please identify any projects/focus areas you are considering including in your final proposal. Note you will not be assessed on this, this is to assist in central government coordination.

To be confirmed

Please complete the attached registration form and submit it to RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz by 18 December. For further questions, please contact your DIA Partnership Director below or email us at RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz.

<i>Regions</i>	<i>DIA Partnership Director</i>	
Northland/Auckland/Waikato	Vanessa Blakelock	Vanessa.blakelock@dia.govt.nz [021 832 417]
Bay of Plenty/Gisborne Tairāwhiti/Hawkes Bay/Manawatū Whanganui/Taranaki	Caroline Dumas	Caroline.dumas@dia.govt.nz [022 652 5199]
Wellington/Otago/Southland	Warren Ulusele	Warren.ulusele@dia.govt.nz [021 227 8187]
Nelson City and Tasman /Marlborough/Canterbury/ West Coast	Paul Barker	Paul.barker@dia.govt.nz [027 610 7508]



REGIONAL DEALS

Strategic Framework



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Foreword

I am excited to be introducing this new opportunity for how central government, local government and the private sector can be working together to deliver for communities.

We are facing significant economic challenges, including the affordability of housing and how we provide for critical infrastructure. These challenges affect all of us, whether we are living in urban, regional or rural areas. We have been elected as a Government to address these challenges and find practical solutions to fixing them.

Central and local government have powerful tools and mechanisms at their disposal to meet these challenges, unlock economic growth and boost productivity. Regional deals will be a practical and enduring way to ensure that these tools and mechanisms are used in a coordinated way to ensure we are doing everything we can to support New Zealanders

Regional deals will unlock growth in specific geographic areas by providing a regional-level approach. They will focus on funding and financing tools, regulatory relief mechanisms, efficient and innovative use of existing funding and planning mechanisms and improved central government coordination. The deals will align with local government's 10-year planning cycles, allowing for more effective delivery and shared objectives and outcomes. They will reset systems to enable local government, with central government support, to deliver for communities.

Regional deals provide an opportunity for central and local government to agree on joint priorities, and how they wish to accomplish common objectives. Deals are about doing things differently, making the best use of what we already have, and empowering local authorities to support growth for their communities.

This Strategic Framework is just the beginning of this exciting journey to implement an effective and enduring regional deals model for New Zealand. I'm excited about the potential of this new way of doing things and looking forward to working together with local government to deliver the infrastructure investment and economic growth our communities are asking for.



Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

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Executive Summary



New Zealand's economic growth and the prosperity it affords to communities goes hand in hand with the growth of our regions

To be a world-class, competitive actor in the 21st century, our regions need to be productive and efficient in the use of their resources and tools. Unlocking economic opportunities will require all levels of government to define shared priorities, actions, and timeframes, and consider all available levers at their disposal to support improved regional economic outcomes. It will also require developing optimal conditions for collaboration with the private sector.

The Speech from the Throne set out the Government's intention to partner with local government to create Regional Deals. Regional Deals provide a long-term approach to address some of the underlying issues impacting economic development and productivity by providing a focus on regions as integrated economic areas.

This strategic framework sets out the Government's expectations for Regional Deals and criteria for selecting regions for deals. Development of this framework includes consideration of local government objectives for Regional Deals as set out in Local Government New Zealand's *'What communities need from the framework for city/regional deals'*.¹

Regional Deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government. Deals will be long-term commitments, intended to endure, promoting economic growth and productivity, delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, and improving the supply of affordable, quality housing.

Regional Deals will be a vehicle for greater regional collaboration and coordination, improved local government decision-making and funding and financing, promoting innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government, and ensuring resilient cities and regions. They will provide a holistic approach to aligning and delivering agreed outcomes tailored to local conditions and national priorities. The regional deals timeframe includes reviews and evaluation of outcomes to ensure deals continue to reflect current needs.

Priority Objectives

Building economic growth

Delivering connected and resilient infrastructure

Improving the supply of affordable and quality housing

Secondary Objectives

- Greater regional and private sector collaboration
- Improved local government decision-making and funding
- Promoting innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government
- Ensuring resilient and sustainable cities and regions

Guiding Principles

To ensure a consistent approach across all Regional Deals, the following principles will apply:

- **partnership**
- **adaptability**
- **certainty of decision-making and funding and financing**
- **accountability and transparency**

Partnerships will involve central and local government, with opportunities for the private sector and iwi/Māori to participate.

Regional Deals will require sustainable funding and financing to develop and implement. Central and local government presently face fiscal constraints, but central government will unlock a range of funding and financing tools (existing and new), regulatory relief, and regional-central government coordination to support the deals.

Regional Deals will be led by Ministers as the main interface with local government leadership. Ministers will have delegated decision-making authority and will manage alignment across portfolios, ensuring that all necessary central government levers are available in support of the system.

Once a deal is finalised, central and local government partners from the region will establish an oversight body. The composition and membership of oversight bodies will be agreed by both parties and will have independent chairs, and senior partner representatives. Involvement of the private sector and iwi/Māori entities will be encouraged.

Regional Deals will be finalised in a staged 'waves' approach, with the first deal finalised in 2025.

Introduction and Purpose

This strategic framework for Regional Deals is the first step for giving effect to the National Party manifesto commitment and the National and ACT New Zealand coalition agreement commitment to institute long-term regional deals. This commitment is also reflected in the Speech from the Throne for New Zealand's 54th Parliament.²

The framework is a guide for discussions between central government and councils (territorial and regional authorities), and relevant private sector entities (including domestic and international investors), to deliver Regional Deals in support of shared objectives and outcomes.

Context

Current settings do not support local government to foster economic growth in their regions. Councils' existing funding and financing tools are an example of this, where councils are not rewarded for economic growth. Instead, increased tax revenue from local growth flows to central government, not local government. In practice, this means that councils and ratepayers are bearing the costs of growth. In many cases, local communities are either unable or unwilling to embrace growth and development, leading to local decisions that impede economic growth and contribute to New Zealand's significant infrastructure deficit and unaffordable housing market.

This misalignment is also reflected in central and local government's budget cycles: whereas central government operates on yearly budget cycles, local government makes most significant funding decisions through 10-year plans, produced every three years. This makes securing long-term public funding for infrastructure challenging, which in turn translates into reduced certainty for capturing private investment.

New Zealanders are facing significant affordability challenges. For example, New Zealand ranks amongst the least affordable housing markets in the OECD, with inflation-adjusted house prices rising by 256 percent between 2000 and 2021.³ Addressing housing affordability will require strong and aligned central and local government leadership to unlock more land for housing developments, to unlock funding and financing tools for councils, and to develop the right local incentives to encourage housing growth.

Affordability is also reflected in the infrastructure our communities need to thrive and prosper. New Zealand has a significant infrastructure deficit, driven by a combination of historic underinvestment and future challenges like servicing a growing population and decarbonising the economy.⁴ Building bridges, sewerage systems, roads and water supplies has also become increasingly expensive for councils.⁵

Addressing affordability and cost of living issues requires an all-of-New Zealand approach, where central and local government work together to identify and mobilise all available funding and financing and policy levers in a way that better incentivises and distributes the benefits of economic growth.

Regional Deals, will provide an opportunity to focus on getting the basics right by supporting regions to deliver the best for their communities, and the country as a whole.

What are Regional Deals?

Regional Deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government

Regional Deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government. Deals will be long-term commitments, intended to endure, to promote economic growth and productivity, delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, and improving the supply of affordable, quality housing. To better deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government, the deals will align with local government 10-year planning cycles rather than central government's three-year planning cycles.

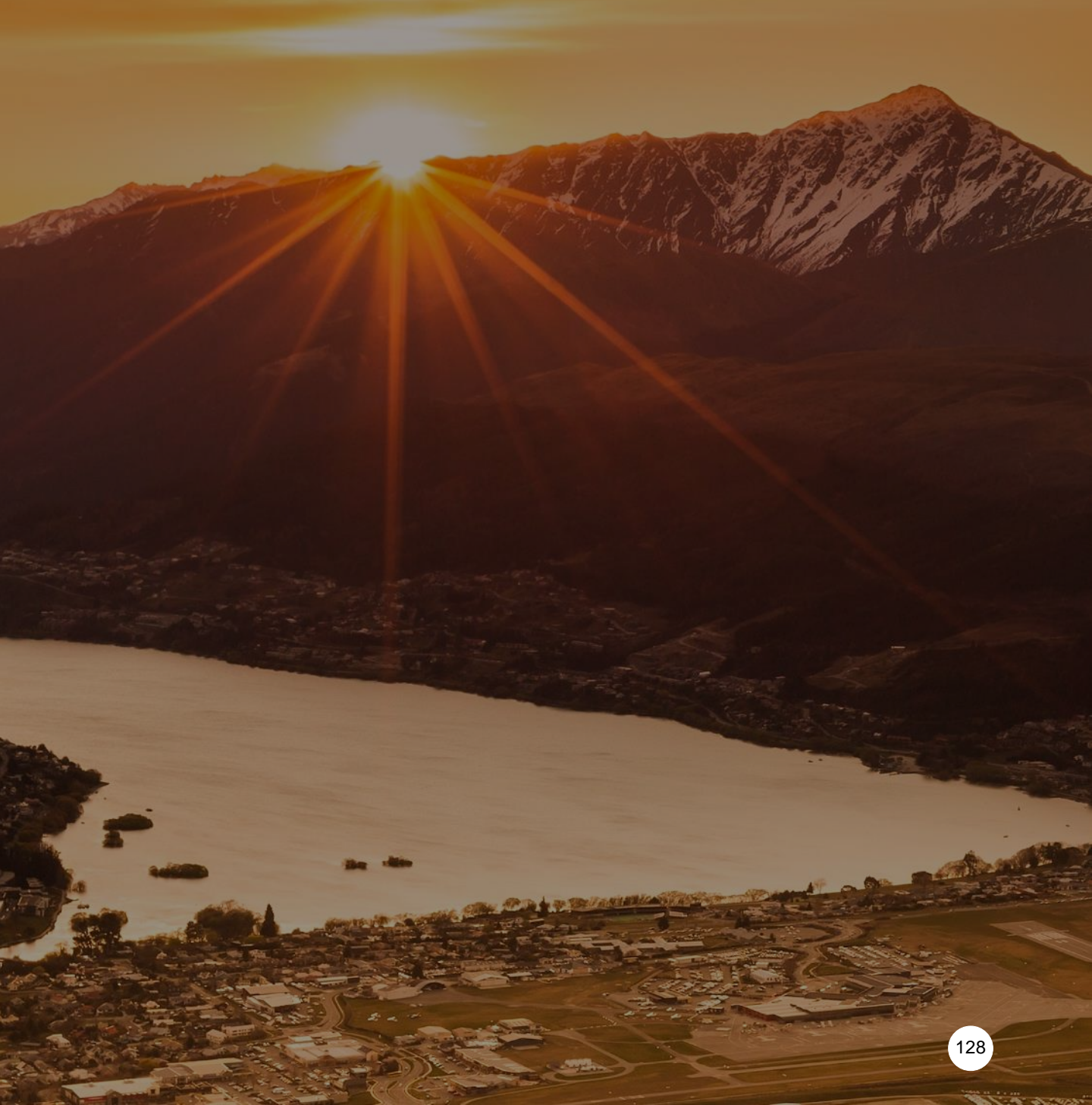
Regional Deals will be a vehicle for greater regional collaboration and coordination, enhanced private sector involvement, improved local government decision-making and funding and financing, promoting innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government, and ensuring resilient cities and regions. Deals will work to unlock economic and regional growth, remove regulatory bottlenecks, and support investment in infrastructure funding and provisions, in exchange for a commitment of planning liberalisation. This will provide better value for ratepayers and taxpayers who are one and the same.

By working together through a Regional Deal, central and local government will aim to provide a more strategic vision for how to enable and support economic growth in New Zealand, while generating greater certainty and long-term stability for public- and private-sector investments.

Implementing deals will create system change through:

- enabling competition for growth between regions;
- promoting the best use of planning processes for growth;
- ensuring the right incentives drive growth, including unlocking potential new revenues for local government; and
- certainty over future investment pipelines.

Regional Deals in New Zealand



Regional Deals will be enabling, empowering, enduring and adaptable

Regional Deals will empower local government and enable them to achieve their objectives. While Regional Deals will include specific central governmental priorities and objectives, projects and investments within each deal will be identified regionally through available spatial planning instruments. Regional Deals will coordinate and align central government work programmes and levers, bringing together solutions.

Regional Deals will need to be both enduring and provide the certainty needed to attract and retain the necessary investments to deliver change, especially over several central and local government electoral cycles. They will also need to be adaptable and evolve to different circumstances. To balance these competing requirements, deals will need to be made in a high-trust environment between central and local government. They will need to have strong political commitments to create enabling policy, regulatory and funding and financing environments, followed by contractual arrangements with providers. They will also need to provide for prioritisation and sequencing of investments in a way that aligns with agreed-upon objectives and outcomes.

Foundational components of Regional Deals

Though each Regional Deal will cater for local priorities, they will share the following foundational components:

- A defined economic/geographic area;
- a 10-year strategic plan with clear outcomes sought and the actions required to achieve them;
- decision-making arrangements, delivery timeframes and accountabilities;
- the capital and operational investments required;
- performance metrics with monitoring and reporting requirements; and
- regulatory and institutional settings to support the deal.

‘Regions’ in the context of Regional Deals could be regional, sub-regional or another appropriate scale, so long as they are defined economic and geographic areas with functional local authorities.

Objectives and outcomes

This framework includes the following priority and secondary objectives for central government to pursue across Regional Deals in New Zealand. The objectives aim to focus both central and local governments to build economic growth.

Priority objectives	Outcomes
Build economic growth ⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased jobs and skills Improved standard of living Increased productivity
Deliver connected and resilient infrastructure ⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better connected communities and businesses through infrastructure Infrastructure built (and identified investment in support of it) is more resilient against the impacts of natural hazards and climate change Infrastructure built enables development, including housing objectives
Improve the supply of affordable, quality housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased supply of build ready land (both greenfield and brownfield), including ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place for development. Improved housing affordability for rental and home ownership
Secondary objectives	Outcomes
Greater regional and private sector collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better connections across regions, between urban and rural communities to allow for economic growth, infrastructure delivery, and improvements in the supply and quality of our housing, and improved collaboration with the private sector.
Improve local government decision making and funding and financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government can use an increased mix of funding tools to fund local infrastructure (water, transport, community infrastructure), housing and growth.
Promote innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of government work more effectively and efficiently because of innovative processes. Central and local government have increased agility to respond to changing conditions.
Ensure regions are resilient and sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities are better prepared for the future, including being able to plan and manage our natural and built environment.

Given the current constrained fiscal environment, Regional Deals will initially be focused on the priority objectives. Central and local government will need to agree on what projects will be best placed to support these objectives, which could involve trade-offs and priority setting as regional deals are negotiated.

Specific outcomes for Regional Deals will need to be agreed between deal partners, allowing for iteration of the deal over time. Identifying outcomes requires an in-depth understanding of the regional economic and social conditions, and the projects and activities that will unlock opportunities and growth.

Through a Regional Deal partners will agree an approach for monitoring progress against these objectives and outcomes. More detail is in the **monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms** section.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles ensure a consistent approach across all Regional Deals. This framework includes four principles to guide how the deals should be undertaken to achieve the desired objectives and outcomes

Partnership

Regional Deal partners will work in good faith on a no surprises basis to develop long-term, high-trust partnerships that clearly reflect shared long-term objectives and outcomes, and strong commitments to work together. Partnerships will involve central and local government, with opportunities for the private sector and iwi/Māori to participate.

Adaptability

Regional Deals will be adaptable to meet the pace, scale and nature of proposals. They will consider the capability and capacity and readiness of different partners to deliver.

Certainty of decision making and funding

Regional Deals will aim to improve clarity around decision making processes and funding and financing to ensure the integration of long-term strategy and planning. Certainty from Regional Deals will also aim to attract and retain private sector investments.

Accountability and transparency

Regular reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will hold partners to account, will ensure public awareness of outcomes, and will measure success and provide for lesson learned.

Regional Deal Partnerships

Regional Deals will primarily be between central and local government, with participation as appropriate from other partners, including the private sector and Māori/iwi organisations

Regional Deals will reflect the guiding principle of ‘partnerships’. It will be critical for trust between partners to be built early so it enables agreement over joint priorities and ways of working, to ensure smooth project implementation.

Central and local government

Regional Deals will be a tool used to help unlock funding and financing tools, provide regulatory relief, and be supported by regional-central government coordination. Local government will provide its unique place-based knowledge and apply the necessary planning, funding and financing, and other regulatory processes to ensure successful delivery of projects.

Central and local government will agree on joint priorities and projects and identify how they will each mobilise their individual levers and tools to support Regional Deals. Partners will agree initially to a limited number of projects (five) to progress as part of a Regional Deal.

Both central and local government partners will be able to mobilise existing working relationships as foundations for their Regional Deals, especially when it involves complex, large-scale projects.

Private sector

The private sector’s expertise and investment capability will be a key component of Regional Deals. Private sector entities involved in a deal will have the opportunity to access new central government levers, leading to cost savings and new growth opportunities.

Combined commitments from central and local government will be aimed at creating an enabling investment environment to attract private sector capital where appropriate, and engagement with the private sector at the earliest possible stages is recommended.

Māori organisations and entities

There is significant potential for Māori organisations and entities to be involved in Regional Deals. The framework encourages local government to engage early with Māori organisations and entities to identify opportunities to partner with Māori, to attract iwi investment, and to use Māori/iwi expertise in Regional Deals and projects under Regional Deals. Regional Deals will also need to honour pre-existing Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

Unlocking funding and financing tools, providing regulatory relief mechanisms and coordination

This framework proposes that the Regional Deal system initially follow an approach that combines:

- unlocking funding and financing tools;
- regulatory relief mechanisms;
- efficient and innovative use of existing funding, financing and planning mechanisms; and
- improved central government coordination.

To support Regional Deals, central government and local government will work together to enable a range of options. Potential options could include:

1. a clear commitment to support agreed projects across agency investment pipelines and coordination of capital commitments to funding for transport, schools, hospitals and other aspects of growth relevant to the region;
2. enabling new user charges, value capture, targeted rates, tolling and congestion charging, an enhanced Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act;
3. proposals for the reallocation of existing government funding (e.g. from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy);
4. enhanced Going for Housing Growth payments which could include a share of GST for local government;
5. sector specific commitments, which could include sharing royalties generated by new and reestablished exploration of the mineral estate, or other forms of regional economic development; and
6. specific legislative changes to be advanced through legislation.

Regional Deals will need to align with local government planning and budgetary cycles including long-term plans and are not intended to supersede independent decisions made by government funding agencies. Regional Deal partners will still need to follow regular funding application and approval processes as set out by relevant agencies.

Leadership and Direction

Strategic leadership and direction, oversight and delivery structures for Regional Deals

Leadership and strategic direction

Leadership and strategic direction over Regional Deals will be provided by both local and central governments. The Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group will provide this direction for central government. This Ministerial Group will have delegated decision-making authority and will manage alignment across portfolios, ensuring that all necessary central government levers are available in support of the system, as well as interfacing with local government leadership.

The Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group will be supported by the Department of Internal Affairs with support from relevant agencies as required.

Oversight bodies

Once a deal is finalised, central and local government partners from the region will establish an oversight body for the Regional Deal. The composition and membership of the oversight bodies will be agreed by both parties and will have independent chairs, and senior partner representatives.

Because Regional Deals could build on existing relationships between central and local government (such as those in support of urban growth), oversight for Regional Deals will need to consider and align with existing oversight arrangements. Initially, the oversight bodies might be extensions of existing structures.

Because private sector investment and expertise will be critical for the success of Regional Deals, these oversight bodies will be encouraged to consider involvement of the private sector.

Implementation and delivery

Decisions regarding the implementation, delivery and evaluation of Regional Deals is contingent on further policy development, discussions with local government and delivery bodies, and the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission's development of a National Infrastructure Plan.

This framework envisages that initially each deal will have the support provided by a central government delivery agency (or agencies) who will coordinate central government and receive input from local government delivery agencies. Delivery agencies will optimise and manage effective prioritisation/sequencing of project milestones, and support procurement and delivery models for delivering infrastructure.

Entities involved in implementation and delivery will also lead on monitoring and evaluation.

Monitoring, evaluation, and accountability measures

A framework for monitoring, evaluating and accountability mechanisms will be developed for all Regional Deals to allow for comparisons and consistency across deals. Bespoke performance indicators for each deal, including metrics and a baseline – against which progress can be assessed on a regular basis – will need to be negotiated between partners and included in the deal. Continuous evaluation and negotiation of new commitments will occur over the lifetime of the deal.

In considering these mechanisms, partners will need to consider:

Complexities in evaluating the impact of deals

For example, outcomes related to economic growth (usually measured by Gross Domestic Product or Gross Value Added for a region) can be affected by many policies and circumstances, which makes it difficult to isolate how much an individual policy has contributed to a particular outcome.

Evaluation timeframes may need to be considered over a longer time horizon

While assessment of whether deals are on time, budget and meeting specific targets is possible within a shorter timeframe (for example annually, or three-yearly), it may be more realistic to assess the wider, strategic achievements over a longer time horizon. Consideration of central and local government election cycles will be important.

Capacity in local authorities

The process of developing a Regional Deal is unique to each deal, a large amount of executive time and negotiation can be required over a significant period. The capacity and skill set within local authorities to deal with the additional demands for project assessment and monitoring that comes with a Regional Deal is likely to be variable. The potential resource burden on local government needs to be monitored over time.

Coherence with existing accountability mechanisms

Consideration needs to be given to how any Regional Deal reporting and monitoring framework would integrate and align with existing legislation and regulatory frameworks for central and local government planning and reporting, and which bodies are best placed to assess regional deal progress.

Adaptability to changing circumstances

Consideration also needs to be given to how any variations to a regional deal will occur and how these will integrate with existing processes operated across agencies who are already involved in delivering infrastructure projects with local government partners.

Examples could include macroeconomic targets and council performance metrics such as GDP, population spend metrics, financial accountability measures, joint governance effectiveness; tourism numbers, housing consents, compliance certificates issued.

Timeframes and Sequencing

Regional deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes, to provide optimal time for evaluation of outputs and delivery of projects with long-term outcomes

Timeframes

Regular reviews will be imbedded within the lifespan of deals (e.g. annually) to assess progress and project delivery using the measures discussed in the ***monitoring, evaluation and accountability measures*** section.

The lifespan will cover multiple parliamentary and local government electoral and planning cycles, which will ensure both a long-term approach to growth infrastructure, and capture and retain private sector investment. Regional Deals will need to consider other relevant central and local government planning and funding cycles.

Deal making milestones

Regional Deals will follow a staged approach with the following phases:

- **Milestone 1:** a letter from the Minister of Local Government inviting the regions to apply and laying out the government's expectations for proposals
- **Milestone 2:** consideration of proposals
- **Milestone 3:** a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- **Milestone 4:** final stage negotiation of a deal

Milestone 1

Release a national regional deal framework

Decision makers: Cabinet

A high-level framework that sets out what the government wants to see in Regional Deals. A public version of this document will be used by councils to prepare proposals for Regional Deals.

The framework is not specific to local needs and does not make specific promises of regulatory relief or funding and financing.

Milestone 2

Consideration of proposals

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | selected councils.

Central government invites expressions of interest (up to five in the first wave). Selected councils provide a light-touch proposal with an outline of the following:

- drivers of economic growth in a region: regions to identify their own areas of growth and key economic drivers;
- what the region will do to unlock growth: regions to identify what actions they intend to take to unlock or enable growth; and
- what the region needs from central government to assist: regions to identify policy and legislative action they need from central government.

Regional Deal Criteria

Light touch proposals assessed against (but not limited to):

- alignment with the strategic framework
- growth potential
- commitment to a regional spatial plan
- capability, capacity, readiness to deliver
- commitment to fiscal prudence
- that councils meet all their regulatory standards (economic and water quality regulation).

Milestone 3

Signed Memorandum of Understanding

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | LG Partners

Central government will confirm initial intent to progress into an MOU with selected regions.

Central and selected local government partners both develop and agree an MOU setting out intended areas to work together. Central government will provide guidance to support the MOU process to minimise council expenditure during this phase.

A region will need an MOU to enter the pre-deal queue.

Milestone 4

Final Stage Negotiation for a Deal

4.1 Pre-deal Queue

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | Office of Regional Deals | LG Partners

Ahead of a deal, regions will undertake work that may be needed to support the deals (for example: zoning decisions, community agreement, establishment of any necessary committees, cross-council collaboration, including proposals to establish CCOs for cross-council service delivery).

Central and local government will agree monitoring and reporting metrics to measure overall regional performance (e.g. GDP, population, spend metrics, tourism numbers, housing consents, compliance certificates issued).

4.2 Funding and Financing

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | Office of Regional Deals | LG Partners

Central government will assess what is needed from local government for a deal. This could include a mix of the following:

Funding and Financing tools

- A pipeline of project funding as set out in the GPS Transport;
- commitment to support the agreed projects across agency investment pipelines and capital commitments;
- value capture/ support for a targeted rate;
- new user charges;
- enhanced Going for Housing Growth payments. For example: share of GST for local government and/or potential earn back mechanisms;
- legislation + other tools to better enable longer term funding and financing commitments, for example, enhanced IFF; or
- sector specific commitments – for example a greater sharing of royalties from an activity like mining.

Regulatory Relief

- Fast track consenting for projects

Coordination

- Coordination of decisions around planning and programming of schools, hospitals, for example, needed to support a growth region

Milestone 4

4.4 Finalised regional deal

Decision makers: Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group | Office of Regional Deals | LG Partners

Partners sign the Regional Deal. The first deal will be finalised in 2025.

A regional deal is likely to have the following characteristics:

- A defined economic/geographic area;
- 10-year strategic plan with clear objectives, outcomes and actions to meet shared objectives and outcomes;
- alignment with 30-year National Infrastructure Plan;
- clear leadership arrangements, delivery timeframes and accountabilities;
- identified capital and operational investments and operating costs;
- clear performance measurements and regular monitoring and reporting;
- clear operational roles and responsibilities defined and an operating model that balances flexibility and responsiveness with accountability; and
- regulatory and institutional settings to support the deal.

Sequencing

Given the time and resourcing required to negotiate, implement and monitor Regional Deals, this framework proposes that deals be finalised in a staged approach.

The Government intends to complete the first deal in 2025.

Region Selection



Selection of regions for Regional Deals will be made by Ministers using a set of standardised criteria. Guidance will be issued to local government on what they will need to provide to be eligible for a Regional Deal

High level criteria

Local authorities will generally be selected for Regional Deals by the Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group (IIMG) based on assessments against standardised criteria:

- alignment with the strategic framework;
- growth potential;
- commitment to a regional spatial plan;
- capability, capacity and readiness to deliver;
- commitment to fiscal prudence; and
- commitment to broader government reform objectives such as Local Water Done Well and Going for Housing Growth.

First wave or tranche

Five regions will be invited to provide light-touch proposals for a first wave of Regional Deals. Selection of regions for the first wave will be led by Ministers, based on selection criteria, and agreed to through a Cabinet process. Selection will be supported by the high-level criteria with particular emphasis on:

- councils being in a growth area that has clear objectives around economic growth, productivity and infrastructure in alignment with the Regional Deal strategic framework;
- councils with an already identified functional economic area, such as through an existing urban partnership, and therefore have initial supporting structures, spatial plans and future development strategies in place, including where relevant, funding and financing proposals for infrastructure development and delivery; and
- councils being ready to deliver on a deal, including having the capability and capacity, a clear plan for the city/region, and a track record of having worked successfully with central government, other councils in the region, private sector and iwi/Māori.

It is noted that central and local government are part of several partnerships that may already satisfy the above criteria, including for example, Urban Growth Partnerships. These urban partnerships could be mobilised as foundations for Regional Deals.

Subsequent waves or tranches

Subsequent Regional Deals will build on the lessons learned from previous Regional Deals to ensure the system is refined as more deals are established. Regions or sub-regions for subsequent waves will be selected through an open expressions of interest process. Proposals received from the expressions of interest will be assessed against the high-level criteria set out in this strategic framework and consideration by the Office of Regional Deals.

Advice to the Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group will follow this assessment, and subject to their approval, will proceed to a Cabinet process for formal agreement.

Sources

1. https://img.scoop.co.nz/media/pdfs/2405/Framework_City_and_Regional_deals.pdf
2. Speech from the Throne <https://gazette.govt.nz/managePDF?file=2023/2023-vr5697.pdf>
3. <https://www.hud.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Cabinet-papers/Cabinet-Paper-Fixing-the-Housing-Crisis.pdf#:~:text=Unaffordable%20housing%20has%20far%2Dreaching,standards%20for%20all%20New%20Zealanders>
4. Report into New Zealand's Infrastructure Challenge, Sense Partners for the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Oct 2021, <https://media.umbraco.io/te-waihanga-30-year-strategy/lhbm5gou/new-zealands-infrastructure-challenge-quantifying-the-gap.pdf>.
5. A report commissioned by Local Government New Zealand demonstrates that in the last three years, building bridges, sewerage systems, roads and water supplies has become 38%, 30%, 27% and 27% more expensive to build respectively
https://d1pepq1a2249p5.cloudfront.net/media/documents/Analysing_increases_in_local_government_costs_LI2BVKU.pdf
6. LGNZ media release: <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/news/media-releases/drivers-behind-rates-rises-across-the-country-laid-bare/>
7. Economic growth is a broad concept that may involve many industries. Funding and financing and regulatory frameworks that underpin industry-specific projects will vary and will need to be considered when regional deals are formalised.
8. Infrastructure refers to “the fixed, long-lived structures that facilitate the production of goods and services, including transport, water, energy, social assets, and digital infrastructure such as our broadband and mobile networks” as defined by the Treasury
<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/infrastructure>
9. Including the Department of Internal Affairs (as initial lead), the Treasury, the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry for the Environment. Involvement from the infrastructure Commission is also expected in support of the infrastructure portfolio.



Regional Deals

Light-Touch Proposal Template Guidance

The purpose of this template is to support the development of proposals for regional deals. The content in this template will help central government confirm alignment with the objectives set out in the [Regional Deals Strategic Framework](#), confirm the proposed areas of work to be included in a potential Memorandum of Understanding between central and local government, and provide early indications for the work required to support a potential regional deal.

Use this template to complete and submit your “light-touch” Regional Deals proposal, consistent with the [Regional Deals Strategic Framework](#).

Regional Deals will be based on a 30-year vision, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans to deliver shared objectives and outcomes between central and local government. Deals will be long-term commitments, intended to endure, to promote economic growth and productivity, delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, and improving the supply of affordable, quality housing.

Your proposal should outline the economic objectives and project outcomes that your region is proposing will be delivered. It should also include what actions your region will take to unlock or enable growth, and what policy, legislative or other actions your region needs from central government to assist in achieving the objectives of the regional deals strategic framework.

Light-touch in the context of this template means that you should provide brief answers to the questions. Evidence and data included should be from sources that are already available such as Long-Term Plans (2024-2034), economic development and infrastructure strategies and other pre-existing information. It is not envisaged that regions prepare a full business case or deal proposition at this stage. The intention is to gather initial information that can inform a deal proposition. We also do not encourage the use of external consultants or preparing detailed supporting information to complete the light-touch proposal.

Please complete one application per regional deal, approved by all councils included in the region. Further supporting information may be attached as an appendix.

For further questions, please contact your Department of Affairs (DIA) Partnership Director or email us at RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz.

Final proposals to be sent to RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz by 28 February 2025.

Region and Contact Details

Please confirm your region's economic/geographical area and list all the local authorities involved, contact names and roles, emails addresses and phone numbers. Highlight the primary contact point(s) for all future correspondence related to this proposal.

For this section please include:

- *A description of the region's economic/geographical area*
- *Please list all local authorities involved*

Insert details here...

Light-Touch Proposal

1. Executive Summary

Please provide a title for the proposal.

Insert details here...

Present a high-level vision for your region and your region's economic role in New Zealand. Please also include a summary of the proposed regional deal, with clear economic outcomes sought and the actions required to achieve them. List up to five projects/initiatives and clearly state for each project/initiative the outcomes you are proposing will be delivered, aligned with the Strategic Framework. You should also include what your region/councils will be contributing towards your regional deal. Please add what your region is seeking from central government to achieve these outcomes.

For this section please consider:

- *Outline your region's vision for a deal, your region's economic role in New Zealand and the economic objectives for your regional deal.*
- *List the five projects/initiatives your region seeks to be included in the deal and include the project outcomes to be delivered because of your regional deal. Note that more detail on proposed projects/initiatives is to be covered in Section 7.*
- *What is your region/councils contributing towards your regional deal?*
- *What is your region seeking from central government to achieve these outcomes?*

Insert Text Here (maximum 4 paragraphs only):

2. Alignment with the Strategic Framework

Identify how the proposal aligns with the priority objectives of the Regional Deals Strategic Framework to build economic growth, deliver connected and resilient infrastructure, and/or improve the supply of affordable, quality housing. This is required as part of the application.

You may also include alignment to the secondary objectives of greater regional and private sector collaboration, improving local government decision-making and funding and financing, promoting collaborative ways of working between central and local government, and ensuring regions are resilient and sustainable. This is optional.

For this section please include:

- *Alignment with one or more priority objectives*
- *Alignment with secondary objectives (optional)*

Insert Text Here (maximum 4 paragraphs only):

3. What drives growth in your region?

Please identify the areas of growth, existing and potential, in your region and key drivers of that growth. What actions do you intend to take to unlock or enable growth? What do you need from central government to support growth? What is the anticipated growth that would be triggered by a regional deal?

For this section please include:

- *Key Growth Sector(s) (identify which sectors, annual expected growth in revenue and % increase)*

Insert Text Here (maximum 4 paragraphs only, additional information may be attached):

4. Central and Local Government Partnership

Please include:

- a summary of any previous/current collaboration between the councils involved in this application and central government, including but not limited to any urban, regional or provincial partnerships, etc., including information on how long they have been in existence, broadly the activities they cover etc., and their outcomes. Please note relationships outside of existing central government partnerships, such as with New Zealand Land Transport, Ministry of Education, Kainga Ora etc., that may need to be engaged as part of a Regional Deal.
- A brief comment on any previous or current central and local government partnerships or arrangements and, from your perspective, how they may support a regional deal. This may also include progress towards delivery of current central government funded projects.

Please note that one of the selection criteria in the Regional Deals Strategic Framework is to support delivery of other government work programmes. This could include current and planned progress towards alignment with the following reforms and objectives:

- Water reforms (Local Water Done Well)
- Transport (Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, including Roads of National and Regional significance, Rural roads)
- Increasing Housing Supply (Going for Housing Growth)
- Infrastructure (Alignment with the National Infrastructure Pipeline and/or where appropriate for those infrastructure projects of national significance included in the Infrastructure Priorities Programme)
- Fast-track consenting Bill
- Resource Management Reforms
- Any other central government reforms/objectives that you consider relevant for your deal, such as the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, Medium Density Residential Standards, etc.

For this section please include:

- *Central and local government partnerships (including crown entity and department relationships)*
- *Actions councils in the region can take to achieve reform outcomes*
- *How can central government help councils meet reform expectations*

Insert Text Here (maximum 6 paragraphs only):

5. Commitment to Regional Spatial Priorities

Please confirm if there is an existing commitment to clear regional spatial priorities as set out in a regional plan, growth strategy, Future Development Strategy (FDS) or any similar strategic document.

Comment briefly on how these priorities could be supported by a regional deal.

Comment on how the regional deal could change/improve your spatial plan.

For this section please consider:

- *Is there a commitment to clear regional spatial priorities?*
- *How can the regional spatial priorities support the deal?*
- *How could the regional deal change/improve your spatial plan?*

Insert Text Here (maximum 4 paragraphs only):

6. Capability, Capacity and Readiness to Implement and Deliver

Please outline your region's readiness to deliver a regional deal. How will the projects/initiatives be successfully implemented and delivered? This can include proven existing partnerships with central government, other councils in the region, private sector and iwi/Māori. Provide examples of delivering infrastructure projects and how these were managed. Please note support from the private sector and iwi/Māori for the regional deal, including what role they may play in funding and implementing projects/initiatives. The proposed governance arrangements between local authorities working together within the regional deal. Please include proposed arrangements with other key actors in your region such as the private sector and iwi/Māori.

For this section please consider:

- *Readiness to implement and deliver a regional deal (including projects/initiatives). This may be demonstrated by including proven existing partnerships, avenues for implementing and funding projects/initiatives, examples of successful implementation and delivery of infrastructure projects.*
- *Proposed governance arrangements between local authorities included within the deal and (optional) with any others, such as the private sector and iwi/Māori.*

Insert Text Here:

7. Regional Deal Priority Projects/Initiatives

Please provide a brief description of priority projects or initiatives that the regional deal could include and how they will contribute to your region's overall vision. Projects/initiatives should be aligned with the objectives outlined in the Strategic Framework. For the top five priority projects or initiative include, an outline of what information is currently available:

- A summary of economic benefits and costs from the projects/initiatives to be included within the regional deal, including both local and national.¹
- The anticipated economic costs and benefits (monetised and non-monetised) – both local and national.
- The anticipated costs, any revenues and a summary of how the project/initiative will be funded.
- how the project/initiative will unlock economic growth in your region or otherwise contribute to the vision of your region through a deal.
- estimated timeframes to commence and complete.
- whether the projects/initiatives are included in current council planning, such as in the long-term plan and infrastructure strategy.
- For any proposed infrastructure projects/initiatives, please note if these are included in the National Infrastructure Pipeline and/or the Infrastructure Priorities Programme (as managed by the Infrastructure Commission – Te Waihanga). Include any initiative identifiers from these systems to support easy identification
- how the projects/initiative relate to the central government interventions requested. Note any potential risks and how these will be mitigated.
- If the proposed project/initiative relates to a central government priority and how (note not all projects need to align with government reforms)

Please note that if the above information is not available, we do not expect analysis to be developed. Only include what is available from pre-existing information.

Insert details here (continue over)...

¹ The economic summary should outline the monetised and non-monetised benefits, and costs, to evidence value for money for the overall proposal. The economic proposition should align to the Strategic Framework objectives. Detailed economic analysis is not required for the light-touch proposal, however if supporting material this has previously been developed it can be attached as supplementary material.

Insert details here (continued)...

8. What will your region bring to a regional deal?

Summarise what your region will bring to a regional deal (this may be covered above). This could include (but is not limited to):

- coordination of planning and funding tools;
- planning decisions;
- funding and financing; and
- contributions in-kind.

Insert details here ...

9. What are you seeking from Central Government as part of a deal?

Outline what policy, legislative or other actions the proposal requires from central government to advance or unlock expected economic growth (this may be covered above), deliver connected and resilient infrastructure and or improve the supply of affordable, quality housing. This could include regulatory relief, improved use of existing or new funding and financing tools, better central government coordination. Outline in order of priority, under each category, how each intervention applies to your proposed projects/initiatives.

For this section please consider:

- *Regulatory relief*
- *Improved use of existing or new planning and funding and financing tools*
- *Government coordination*
- *What, if any, reprioritisation of specific existing central government spending in government departments/entities in the region?*

Insert details here...

10. Further Supporting Information

Additional supporting information may be provided but may be excluded from consideration in the assessment process. Please provide a schedule of any additional supporting information provided.

Insert schedule of additional information here...

11. Approval

As mentioned in the guidance, there is to be one application per regional deal, approved by all councils included in the region.

Please indicate that this regional deal proposal is approved by each local authority included within the deal (listed in Page 1). You could do this by each local authority providing a signatory or have it signed by an authorised person on behalf of all local authorities to be partners to the regional deal.

Approval of proposal
<p>Title of the proposal: Enter Title Here</p> <p>Chair/Mayor names and signatures: Insert names and signatures here</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date: Click or tap to enter a date.</p>

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 14 February 2025

Presented by: Diane McDermott, Regional Public Service Commissioner

Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Purpose

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

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. receive the written update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner on the Regional Leadership Group Waitaha priorities.

Background

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

Regional Public Service Commissioner Update

4. A written report is attached.

Attachment

- Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Regional Public Service Commissioner (RPSC) Update

Mayoral Forum 14 February 2025

Purpose

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

Priorities

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

Regional Leadership Group (RLG)

The Regional Leadership Group is comprised of senior leaders across Public Service agencies and also includes three local government reps- Hamish Riach, Sharon Mason, and Mary Richardson.

Their two priority focus areas are:

- **Children and Youth** - a subgroup has been established to progress this work and comprises membership from Regional Public Service, NZ Police, Corrections, MoE, MSD, MoJ, Oranga Tamariki, Health NZ, Te Puni Kōkiri and Kāinga Ora.
 - Work is underway in the initial phase to better understand service delivery and supports available for children and young people in Canterbury (by particular cohorts). This aims to identify any duplication, where there are gaps, and understand what is going well and what isn't – this will then help determine next steps.
- **Economic Development** - a subgroup has been established to progress this work and comprises membership from Regional Public Service, MSD, Te Puni Kōkiri, and the CE's from Ashburton, Selwyn and Christchurch Councils.
 - To avoid duplication, we will look to support the action plans due in Feb, resulting from the Economic Priorities Business Canterbury workshop (25/11/2024) and compliment efforts across the region and consider any identified gaps.

Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory

RPS contribution to the Regional Energy Inventory:

- RPS has agreed to continue its resourcing contribution to the Energy Inventory project and will reassess this at the end of March.

Where the project is at:

- The engagement phase is now largely complete with targeted engagement undertaken and with the successful delivery of a workshop (approx. 50 attendees from key sectors).
- There was significant enthusiasm in the engagement phase on the importance of a regional approach, the links with economic development and growth and realising the benefits for Canterbury.
- The focus is now on the drafting phase and incorporating the insights gained from the stakeholder engagement.
- It is anticipated that the inventory will be largely complete by March/April 2025 with sign off and publication planned for June/July 2025.



RPSC Team

- Di and Marie will be visiting Hurunui and Waimakariri Councils in Feb/March. A reminder that these will be annual visits to the councils, however, please don't hesitate to reach out when needed. We will also connect at the Mayoral and Economic Development Forums.
- Changes to Cabinet and Ministerial posts in February saw the introduction of a new South Island Ministerial position assigned to Hon. James Meager alongside the Hunting and Fishing, Youth, and Associate Minister of Transport portfolios. We have reached out and introduced the RPSC.

Other activities

- The work continues with Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA) to facilitate a **healthy homes project** on the Chatham Islands and phase one of the project (assessment of homes) is now well underway.
- The **MacKenzie District cross agency youth working group** has convened and scoping is underway District to address outstanding needs for youth in the Twizel area. There has been interest across agencies in this mahi seeing Police and DIA join the group.
- The 2025-2030 **Te Aorerekura Action plan** (Te Aorerekura National Strategy) [Second-Te-Aorerekura-Action-Plan.pdf](#) was launched in Dec 2024. This is a key commitment of the Government to reduce violent crime. Areas in particular for Canterbury are:
 - Development of local system improvement plan
 - Exploring opportunities for alignment between Family violence and Fast track responses
- Expansion of the **Fast track programme** is planned for Christchurch to include up 17-year-olds under the Oranga Tamariki's Reduced Child and Youth Offending Delivery Plan [Target-3-Delivery-Plan-For-Proactive-Release-Accessible-Version.pdf](#). Initially Fast Track was a cross-agency community led response to children aged 10-13 years who are apprehended for a serious offence.



Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 14 February 2025

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chief Executives Forum

Chief Executives Forum report

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to report on the work of the regional forums since November 2024.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. receive the quarterly report from the Chief Executives Forum
2. note updates on work under way or completed on the key actions in the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

Regional Forums activity

2. Since the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's (CMF) November meeting:
 - the Corporate and Operations Forums met online on 9 December
 - the Communications and Engagement Forum met in person on 6 December
 - the Economic Development and Policy Forums met online on 16 December
 - the Chief Executives Forum met in person (hybrid option was available) on 27 January.

Chief Executives Forum

3. Key agenda items discussed at the 27 January meeting included:
 - a roundtable discussion that covered:
 - opportunities to meet with James Meager, Minister for the South Island
 - the 2025 local government elections
 - progress on Annual Plan/Long Term Plan Year 2 budget preparation
 - update on councils' progress with Local Water Done Well
 - update on District Plan reviews
 - noting that the Ministry for Primary Industries has released an RFI to gauge interest in a proposal to explore partnership opportunities to afforest (plant native or exotic trees) or promote native forest regeneration on Crown-owned

land (excluding National Parks) that has low farming value and low conservation value that councils may wish to consider responding to.

- future regional and local government for Canterbury
- response to the Business Canterbury workshop summary “Driving the future of Waitaha Canterbury”
- an update from Diane McDermott, the Regional Public Service Commissioner
- an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy
- discussion on the implementation approach for the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Year One key actions 1, 2 and 4
- a discussion on the approach to reducing underfunding in the Canterbury transport network
- a discussion on a proposed approach to regional spatial planning
- an update on the December Regional Forum meetings, covering a range of issues including progress on the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan and Waitaha Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory
- the draft CMF agenda for 14 February 2025.

4. Chief Executives will meet next on 5 May 2025.

Triennium strategic workplan

5. The Mayoral Forum’s Plan for Canterbury highlights nine specific actions against the three priority issues of sustainable environmental management, shared prosperity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. A strategic workplan has been developed to monitor progress on the actions and will be updated with high-level commentary and reported quarterly to the CMF (see attachment 1).
6. To support the strategic workplan, the Chief Executives Forum uses a workstream tracker to track and report on progress of the range of initiatives under way that sit under each of the Plan for Canterbury’s action areas. The workstream tracker also tracks progress against key projects and programmes from the regional forums. The workstream tracker is updated and reported quarterly to the Chief Executives Forum.
7. The strategic workplan and workstream tracker are both living documents with the ability for additional items to be added as issues for regional collaboration arise.

Attachment

- Attachment 1 - Strategic workplan

Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2023-2025

Updated 31 January 2025
Refreshed Plan 23 February 2024

#	Workstream	Plan for Canterbury priority	Key updates	Planned outcomes	Outcomes achieved
1	Continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection	Sustainable environment Shared Prosperity Climate Change	Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May 2023 and included in briefings to Ministers sent 1 March 2024 Hosted Minister Paterson in Canterbury, which included visits to the sub-regions and river areas	Government provides permanent co-investment for flood protection	The Government has confirmed some co-investment to enhance the resilience of flood-prone communities. The funding will enable 42 projects to go ahead, including \$5.7 million for Waitaha/Canterbury.
2	Advocate with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury	Shared prosperity	Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May 2023 and included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024. Consultant engaged to progress Labour Market Intelligence work to identify detailed evidence to support Forum advocacy	Government adopts a more regional approach to immigration policies	
3	Advocate with Government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions	Shared prosperity	Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024 Included in joint RTC/CMF submission on GPS Land Transport 2024 Discussed at meeting with Minister of Transport in July 2024 RTC Transport Funding Project reporting to RTC Feb 2025	Ability for local councils to access additional transport funding	
4	Continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy	Sustainable environment	Updates provided to Chief Executives and Mayoral Forums Review of Zone Committees workshopped May 2024, report Feb 2025 (item 4.4)	CWMS remains fit for purpose and the region retains a shared understanding of water management issues	
5	Support the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework	Sustainable environment	Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024. A discovery session with partners to discuss the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy was held on 10 April 2024. Scoping a regional biodiversity monitoring framework is nearing completion. Next steps will consider future implementation of scoped monitoring methodologies. Update provided Nov 2024 (Item 2.1)	A new (refreshed/updated) Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, including the regional biodiversity monitoring framework	
6	Continue to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production	Shared prosperity	Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May 2023 and included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024	Investment in research and technology for the pastoral sector reflects the sector's importance to Canterbury and New Zealand's economy	
7	Develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them	Shared prosperity	The Urban Advisory engaged to deliver Regional Housing Strategic Plan Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024	The Forum has clarity on housing issues affecting communities in Waitaha/Canterbury and understands pathways for improvement	

8	Oversee a Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan, which will confirm a collaborative vision for regional adaptation planning, an 'urgency assessment' to support prioritising climate actions, and a funding plan laying out a regional/aligned approach for accessing finance for climate actions in Canterbury	Climate change	Partnership Plan approved August 2024, launched 13 December 2024. Implementation process provided at Item 4.3	Completion of the Climate Change Partnership Plan and agreement on action planning	Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan completed Funding agreed and approved Implementation of action planning underway
9	Support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment	Shared prosperity Environmental Sustainability Climate Change	Regional Energy Inventory underway. Stakeholder workshop held Jan 2025	Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory to support the development of a Regional Energy Strategy	

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 14 February 2025

Presented by: Secretariat

Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements – December 2024 to February 2025

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of activities, engagements, and correspondence since the last Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) meeting on 29 November 2024.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receive the update on Canterbury Mayoral Forum activities, engagements and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 29 November 2024.**

Background

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

Meetings and engagements

3. The following meetings and engagements were held in addition to the regular quarterly meeting schedule:
 - Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Launch 13 December 2024.

Correspondence

4. Since the November 2024 meeting the Mayoral Forum wrote to:
 - China Southern Airlines supporting the airlines recommencement of flights to and from Christchurch airport (Attachment 1).
 - the Chairs of the Papatipu Rūnanga, TRONT & Ngāi Tahu Holdings providing an update on the CMF work programme, including the Waitaha Canterbury Regional

Energy Inventory, Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan, Economic Priorities, and the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (Attachment 2).

- Minister James Meager congratulating him on his appointment as Minister for the South Island, along with Hunting and Fishing, Youth, and Associate Minister of Transport, and inviting him to meet with the Mayoral Forum on 13/14 February 2025 (Attachment 3).
 - Minister Chris Bishop congratulating him on his appointment as Minister of Transport and inviting him to meet with the Mayoral Forum on either 27 or 28 February when a number of members are in Wellington (Attachment 4).
 - Minister Louise Upston congratulating her on her appointment as Minister of Tourism and Hospitality and inviting her to meet with the Mayoral Forum on either 27 or 28 February when a number of members are in Wellington. (Attachment 5).
 - Minister Simon Watts congratulating him on his appointment as Minister of Energy and Minister of Local Government and inviting him to meet with the Mayoral Forum on either 27 or 28 February when a number of members are in Wellington. (Attachment 6).
5. The Mayoral Forum received the following correspondence since the November 2024 meeting
- China Southern Airlines, acknowledging receipt of the letter of support from the CMF and the role this route will play in facilitating connections with the Canterbury region (Attachment 7).

Submissions

6. The following submission was made since the November meeting. Submissions are available on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website: www.canterburymayors.org.nz.
- Canterbury Mayoral Forum submission - Aotearoa New Zealand's 2035 international climate change target (Attachment 8).

Briefings

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

Media Releases

- Launch Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan December 2024 (Attachment 9).

Attachments

- Correspondence
- Submission
- Media release

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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21 November 2024

Mr. Han Wen Sheng
President
China Southern Airlines
Guangzhou
China

致信于：中国南方航空公司韩文胜总经理

Dear Mr Han, 尊敬的韩总：

We the below signed mayors of the Canterbury region write to you to acknowledge the commencement of the New Zealand summer season and the return to our skies of the familiar China Southern aircraft. We want to wish you and China Southern all the very best for the season and to let you know you are welcomed to our region.

我们是坎特伯雷地区的市长们，共同签字致函给您，表达我们对南航复飞新西兰夏季从广州到基督城航班的诚挚欢迎和衷心感谢，让我们熟悉的南航木棉花尾翼再次出现在我们的城市和地区，我们预祝本航季飞行圆满成功！

The connection you bring linking the south of China with the South Island of New Zealand is important to us for many reasons. The high value Chinese visitors coming to our region as tourist are returning in greater numbers and we are confident they will receive warm and genuine hospitality, something we refer to as “manaakitanga”. Our colleges and universities are seeing Chinese students return in greater numbers and our local peoples look forward to exploring the world aboard China Southern.

南航基督城航线直接连结着新西兰南岛与中国华南地区，对两国两地区起着非常重要的桥梁作用。中国高净值的旅游观光客人到访南岛，人数越来越多，受到了热情好客的南岛人民的欢迎，也给南岛人民尽地主之仪的机会，给与游客服务、照顾和分享文化等不一般的体验，这也是我们新西兰毛利文化中的精髓。我们本地的大学里也有与日俱增的中国学生来这里求学，我们本地的新西兰人也纷纷搭乘南航航班去全球旅游与探索。

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Our region is predominately an agricultural and high value food producing region. The value your aircraft bring providing regular cargo and freight services into China and Asia is recognised by us and appreciated.

我们坎特伯雷区主要是农业区，是多种世界级高品质的农作物产区。南航定期客机航班提供货运机会，让我们农民小业主的优质产品出口到中国以及亚洲各地，深得我们大家的赞赏与感激。

We offer our support and wish to express our gratitude to China Southern as you enter ten years of flying to Christchurch.

在这第10年南航开启基督城航线的重要时刻，我们希望能表达对南航的感恩之心和支持之举！

Yours sincerely



Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council



Marie Black
Deputy Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Hurunui District Council



Craig Mackle
Mayor Kaikōura District Council



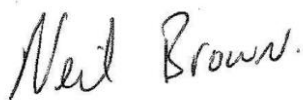
Dan Gordon
Mayor Waimakariri District Council



Phil Mauger
Mayor Christchurch City Council



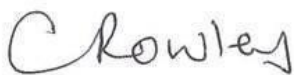
Sam Broughton
Mayor Selwyn District Council



Neil Brown
Mayor Ashburton District Council



Anne Munro
Mayor Mackenzie District Council



Craig Rowley
Mayor Waimate District Council



Gary Kircher
Mayor Waitaki District Council



Craig Pauling
Chair, Canterbury Regional Council

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6 January 2025

Tania Wati Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri Tania.Wati@Whitiora.org.nz	Liz Brown Te Taumutu Rūnanga Elizabeth.Brown@ngaitahu.iwi.nz
Rik Tainui Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku rtainui@gmail.com	Fiona Pimm Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua fspimm@gmail.com
Mishele Radford Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Mishele.Radford@ngaitahu.iwi.nz	Jaleesa Panirau Wairewa Rūnanga Jaleesa.Panirau@ngaitahu.iwi.nz
Hariata Kahu Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura Hariata.Kahu@hotmail.co.nz	Justin Tipa Te Rūnanga o Moeraki justin.tipa@gmail.com
Mananui Ramsden Te Rūnanga o Koukourarata mananui.ramsden@ngaitahu.iwi.nz	Dardanelle McLean-Smith Te Rūnanga o Waihao dms.waihao@gmail.com
Ben Bateman Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	Todd Moyle Ngāi Tahu Holdings

Tēnā koe «First_name»

I hope you have had a happy and safe holiday season.

I am writing to let you know about a number of pieces of work that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum has recently initiated, the development of a Regional Energy Inventory for Waitaha Canterbury and a Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan. Both of these pieces of work will also support development of economic priorities for the region, a piece of work that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum is currently progressing with Business Canterbury.

We would value any input or involvement that you may like to have in this mahi and have also extended this invitation to [*ngā Papatipu Rūnanga Chairs: Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu: Ngāi Tahu Holdings*]. We acknowledge the time and resourcing pressures that exist and will await your direction on how you think it best that we work together and/or how you would like us to keep you updated on any of this work.

Waitaha Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory

The Energy Inventory will provide a solid evidence base to inform future work – potentially the development of a strategy or action plan for energy in the Waitaha Canterbury region. It is planned that the

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Energy Inventory will be largely complete within the first quarter of 2025, with publication nearer the middle of the year.

The team working on the Energy Inventory has provided a slidepack (attached) that gives further detail on the scope and project timeframes. The team are very happy to meet, discuss and explore any further information that may be helpful to you – if you would like to connect directly key contacts for this work are Jesse Burgess (Steering Committee Chair Jesse.burgess@ecan.govt.nz) and Vania Llewellyn (Project Lead Advisor vania.llewellyn001@msd.govt.nz).

A half-day workshop, bringing together key energy sector stakeholders and others with an interest in this area, is planned for late January, and we welcome you or anyone you would like to nominate to attend. If you, or another nominated person, would like to attend please let us know and we'll organise a formal invitation to be sent out.

Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan

We have recently engaged a consultant, The Urban Advisory, to support the development of a Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan, a key action in our Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury.

Broadly, the strategic plan aims to enable enhancement of the quality, quantity, affordability and accessibility of housing across the region and across the full housing continuum. It recognises that while local government cannot by itself meet every single community housing need, through the continuum, it is able to identify where housing barriers exist and what options, resources and or agencies are best placed to help resolve them. The Strategic Plan and resulting Implementation Plan will identify the roles and activities the Canterbury Mayoral Forum partners can play collectively and individually to contribute to better housing outcomes for the people of Waitaha.

The Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan recognises the work done by the Greater Christchurch Partnership through their Housing Action Plan and Implementation, and other council's plans and strategies and is not seeking to duplicate these, rather align with, and complement these to foster a collaborative and informed approach to housing in Waitaha.

The team are very happy to meet, discuss and explore any further information that may be helpful to you – if you would like to connect directly key contacts for this work are Simon Hart (Steering Committee Chair simon.hart@wmk.govt.nz) and Maree McNeilly (secretariat support secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz).

Economic Priorities

The Mayoral Forum has been working with sections of the private sector, through Business Canterbury to provide clarity around the drivers of economic growth, particularly that which is led by the private sector and enabled and supported by local and central government. This work is at the early stages of development and will be supported by the work through the Energy Inventory and Regional Housing Strategic Plan.

Again this is an area that we would welcome your input if you wish to be involved and I would be happy for you to contact me to discuss.

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Paragraph to ngā Papatipu Rūnunga

I have written to you previously about the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, which we launched in Christchurch on Friday 13 December. The Plan highlights 10 key actions that we are now starting to implement. As noted in my earlier letter to you our intent is to improve our understanding of what is important to our Treaty partners, understand the climate action requirements of Papatipu Rūnanga across Canterbury, and support councils to work in partnership with papatipu Rūnanga to integrate your requirements into local climate action planning.

Paragraph to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Ngāi Tahu Holdings

I have written previously to ngā Papatipu Rūnanga about the [Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan](#), which we launched in Christchurch on Friday 13 December. The Plan highlights 10 key actions that we are now starting to implement. As noted in my earlier letter to ngā Papatipu Rūnanga our intent is to improve our understanding of what is important to our Treaty partners, understand the climate action requirements of Papatipu Rūnanga across Canterbury, and support councils to work in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga to integrate your requirements into local climate action planning.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 027 622 1111 or nigel.bowen@timdc.govt.nz

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

Cc: «office_email»

Encl. Energy Inventory Information slidepack

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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20 January 2025

Mr James Meager
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Email: James.meager@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe James

INVITATION: CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM FEBRUARY 2025

Congratulations on your appointment to Minister for the South Island, along with Hunting and Fishing; Youth, and Associate Minister of Transport.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum, comprised of mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the chair of the regional council, has always been a strong advocate for Canterbury and the South Island. We welcome the opportunity of working with you as your Ministry develops.

Our next Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting is scheduled for Friday 14 February, with a working dinner held the evening before and we would like to invite you to be our guest at dinner on Thursday 13 February. Details for the dinner are:

Date: Thursday 13 February
Time: 6.30pm (for 7pm dinner)
Location: Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Ave, Burnside, Christchurch

If the dinner does not suit, you would be very welcome to attend for a time at the meeting on Friday 14th February, which is at the same location.

Please RSVP to secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phoning Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

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Congratulations again on your appointment and we are all looking forward to working with you in your new roles.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nigel Bowen', with a small dot at the end.

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

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27 January 2025

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister of Transport
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6011

Email: c.bishop@ministers.govt.nz

Kia ora Chris

Invitation and briefing from Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Transport. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role, as we have done with respect to your other Ministerial roles. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet again in the near future to hear your vision for the transport portfolio and how we can work in partnership with Central Government to deliver great outcomes for our communities.

Canterbury's transport network

We welcome the Government's commitment to key Canterbury transport projects such as the second bridge in Ashburton and the Woodend Bypass in North Canterbury. We are also strongly supportive of the mass rapid transit business case for Greater Christchurch.

Transport strongly influences economic development, supporting supply chains and plays a key role as an enabler for each sector of the regional economy. Efficient and effective transport options are critical for our communities and businesses. Maintenance of the existing transport network, and additional investment to respond to changes in how roads are being used, is therefore critical to sustaining the region's prosperity.

Canterbury is the largest region in New Zealand by land area, with 44,508 square kilometres of diverse communities and landscapes. We comprise some of the largest and fastest-growing urban areas in New Zealand. Greater Christchurch is New Zealand's second most populous urban area and the decentralisation of people and jobs away from Christchurch's central city post-earthquakes has had a substantial impact on our transport networks. Outside of the main urban areas, Canterbury is sparsely populated, and our rural communities often need to travel significant distances to access even basic services. This is particularly the case in our least populated districts; Kaikoura, Mackenzie and Waimate, which represent three of the four least populated districts in New Zealand.

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We want to work with you and your Government to ensure transport investment, along with RM reform and infrastructure investment, is delivering for all our community needs and expectations, and look forward to continuing these conversations with you.

A number of our members will be in Wellington on 27th and 28th February and could meet with you then, alternatively meetings can be arranged through our secretariat – secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Bowen', with a small dot at the end.

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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28 January 2025

Hon Louise Upston
Minister for Tourism and Hospitality
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: l.upston@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Upston

Invitation and briefing from Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Tourism and Hospitality. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum looks forward to engaging with you on this important portfolio for both Waitaha Canterbury and the country as a whole.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council, supported by our chief executives. Waitaha Canterbury is New Zealand's largest region by land size and second largest by population.

Tourism is a key driver in our economy, and is thriving.

Tourists can ski, snowboard, bungee jump, hike, jet boat, fish, mountain bike, raft, surf, swim, golf, see whales, dolphins, and seals, visit wineries and gardens, shop, and more, all within two hours of Christchurch.

As I am sure you are aware there are significant challenges associated with the funding of growing tourism levels (both domestic and international), which often places an onerous financial burden on the small ratepayer bases of those areas with significant tourist numbers, such as Mackenzie, Kaikoura and Hurunui, along with our other smaller council areas. Improved tourism infrastructure would support our region's economic growth. From smaller infrastructure like public toilets and EV and e-bike charging facilities through to improved and resilient infrastructure to manage cruise ships, tourist accommodation, road, walking and cycle trail maintenance, and events.

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We want to work with you and your Government to ensure we can continue to provide a great tourism experience for all our visitors, both international and domestic. We look forward to working together to achieve growth and find funding sources to help fund investment in mixed use and tourism infrastructure so it doesn't fall solely to ratepayers. Growing with social licence is important.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in the near future to discuss your vision for the tourism and hospitality portfolio. A number of our members will be in Wellington on 27th and 28th February and could meet with you then, alternatively meetings can be arranged through our secretariat – secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Bowen', followed by a small blue dot.

Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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28 January 2025

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Climate Change
Minister of Energy
Minister of Local Government
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6011

Email: s.watts@minister.govt.nz

Kia ora Simon

Invitation and briefing from Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on your appointments as Minister of Energy and Minister of Local Government. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in these roles, as we have done with respect to your role as Minister of Climate Change and would appreciate the opportunity to meet again in the near future.

We appreciated your attendance at the launch of our Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan in December and to hear that you value the Canterbury councils' ways of working together to tackle challenges for our communities. While we may not have another launch event for you to attend at this stage, we welcome the opportunity to meet to continue our discussion on climate change, and also work with you in the energy and local government spaces to improve outcomes for our communities.

Energy

We have identified energy as an opportunity in the *Plan for Canterbury* because energy security will be critical for Canterbury as we look to the challenges ahead – there are clearly strong connections in Canterbury between energy, water, food production and climate change.

Canterbury has an opportunity to be at the forefront of an energy transition to attract and retain talent, investment and technologies. The Mayoral Forum will support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment.

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

Secretariat, E: secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz W: www.canterburymayors.org.nz
C/- Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140 T: 03 345 9323

Ashburton District Council • Canterbury Regional Council • Christchurch City Council • Hurunui District Council
Kaikōura District Council • Mackenzie District Council • Selwyn District Council • Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council • Waimate District Council • Waitaki District Council

To this end the Mayoral Forum is currently developing a Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory, as a foundational piece of work to support energy conversations and processes. The energy inventory will provide an evidence base to support a shared understanding of the energy system in Canterbury, drawing on relevant current state data and information along with engagement with subject matter experts and key stakeholders. The energy inventory will set out the national legislative and regulatory policy context, a regional overview of Canterbury's energy profile, energy use/demand, and energy resources, assets and networks.

Local government

The Mayoral Forum strongly supports the concept of localism and subsidiarity in that the function of governance and decision making should be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities.

One of our key areas of concern, and also a concern for your government, is the funding and financing of local government. The current funding system for local government is not sufficient for the future. The continued reliance on rates, even following review and simplification, as the principal mechanism for funding local government is unlikely to address this issue.

We want to work with you and your Government to ensure local government is sustainable for the future and can deliver on community needs and expectations, and look forward to continuing these conversations with you.

A number of our members will be in Wellington on 27th and 28th February and could meet with you then, alternatively meetings can be arranged through our secretariat – secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Ngā mihi nui



Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

December 3, 2024

Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Mayor Timaru District Council
 Marie Black, Deputy Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Mayor Hurunui District Council
 Craig Mackle, Mayor Kaikōura District Council
 Dan Gordon, Mayor Waimakariri District Council
 Phil Mauger, Mayor Christchurch City Council
 Sam Broughton, Mayor Selwyn District Council
 Neil Brown, Mayor Ashburton District Council
 Anne Munro, Mayor Mackenzie District Council
 Craig Rowley, Mayor Waimate District Council
 Gary Kircher, Mayor Waitaki District Council
 Craig Pauling, Chair, Canterbury Regional Council
 Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch
 New Zealand

Dear Mayors,

Thank you for your letter.

The Guangzhou-Christchurch route has been successfully restored on October 27, to be followed by increased flight frequency in the upcoming peak season from mid December. By then there will be daily operations between Guangzhou and Christchurch to offer greater convenience and more choices for passengers. On behalf of China Southern, I would like to thank you all for supporting this route.

As the only carrier that operates flights between Chinese mainland and Christchurch, China Southern has established its presence in the Christchurch market for many years and gained good reputation with the support of Christchurch Airport and other South Island partners. We are delighted to see that the Guangzhou-Christchurch route has brought real benefits to tourism, education and trade in the South Island and served as a bridge that connects our two regions and even our countries.



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and New Zealand. As our countries engage in deeper exchanges and closer cooperation, I believe this route will play a greater role in facilitating our connections. We look forward to your continued support to China Southern, and we are always ready to work with all partners from the South Island to explore opportunities and seek common development.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '韩文胜' (Han Wensheng).

Han Wensheng

President

China Southern Air Holding Company Limited

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

6 December 2024

Ministry for the Environment
Climate.engagement@mfe.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou

Canterbury Mayoral Forum Submission: Aotearoa New Zealand's 2035 international climate change target

1. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum thanks the Ministry for the Environment for the opportunity to provide feedback on *shaping Aotearoa New Zealand's 2035 international climate change target*.
2. The following submission has been developed with input from across Canterbury Councils and focuses on matters of general agreement. Some of our Councils will make individual submissions, which while in general alignment with this submission, will be slightly different on some matters.

Canterbury context and existing climate action

3. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury), supported by our chief executives. The purpose of the Forum is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.
4. The eleven local authorities are: Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council.
5. Canterbury is a bustling centre of urban landscape, agricultural lands, and has both international and domestic connections to top tourist destinations. Canterbury is known as an innovative, research-backed, forward-thinking region, actively supporting Aotearoa New Zealand's contribution to our own, and the world's, emissions reduction targets

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6. The Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-25 identifies three priority issues for leadership and advocacy, all of which intersect with the purpose and focus of this feedback.
 - Sustainable environmental management of our habitats
 - Shared prosperity for all our communities
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation
7. In August 2024, the Forum approved the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan 2024-27 which sets out our vision of a thriving, climate resilient, low-emissions Canterbury. It outlines the six key outcomes and objectives we are seeking through the delivery of our ten primary actions and supporting sub-actions. This builds on and continues the work that was done in the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022.
8. Overall, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
 - **Strongly supports** prioritising the continued alignment with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement – to limit global warming to well below 2°C, and pursue efforts to limit global average temperature rise to 1.5°C.
 - **Supports** an ambitious international target for Aotearoa New Zealand and **recommends** the new target be suitably ambitious to help reach the 1.5°C temperature goal.
 - **Supports** the independent expert advice provided by the Climate Change Commission around the development of this target. The Climate Commission has clearly indicated where New Zealand can make robust and viable emission reductions, and we encourage the Government to prioritise this advice.
 - **Acknowledges** the outcome of the Global Stocktake, and the concerns we will not meet the internationally agreed limiting of global warming if we continue on this trajectory.
 - **Supports** bold climate leadership from central government and a clear plan to reduce domestic gross emissions.
 - **Recommends** the Government carefully consider the costs, including social costs, that will increase with inaction and also the cost savings of lower emissions alongside the capital and operational costs to deliver.
 - **Supports** an equitable transition for both our international partners and on our domestic shores.
 - **Supports** co-operation and co-ordination of central government, local government, mana whenua and community groups to enable and support ambitious emissions reduction shifts.

A more detailed analysis of the above points follows below.

Submission points

9. We **strongly support** prioritising the continued alignment with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement – *to limit global warming to well below 2°C, and pursue efforts to limit global average temperature rise to 1.5°C*. We are already seeing an increase in extreme weather events and the severity of these, the enormous costs of repair, and insurance companies are considering the future of cover and premiums in higher risk areas. There is a raft of evidence-based measures we can undertake to mitigate the impacts of climate change and avoid the worst impacts on communities, especially the people within these who are the most vulnerable.

10. We **recommend** the new target be suitably ambitious to help reach the 1.5°C temperature goal. The Global Stocktake analysed worldwide progress on meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. The results showed significant concern with how countries are tracking to limit warming to 1.5°C and highlighted the need for urgent action. Aotearoa New Zealand's future prosperity is greatly dependant on the climate actions of other countries, and as a highly innovative and well-respected country, we must set an example for others to follow.
11. We **support** the independent expert advice provided by the Climate Change Commission (Commission) around the development of this target. The Commission's report was developed under robust processes and principles and is based on significant underpinning analysis. We **recommend** that their advice be thoroughly considered as the Government moves forward setting this target.
12. The Commission's advice demonstrates that Aotearoa New Zealand can achieve greater net emissions reductions in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2 period than NDC1 through domestic action alone, but only if we set ourselves up now. With respect to this increased capacity for reduction, and accounting for the need for urgent action to limit warming, we **recommend** that the new target be suitably ambitious to help reach the 1.5°C temperature goal.
13. We **support** a clear plan for action from Central Government to reduce *gross domestic emissions* over net reductions. In our submission on the draft second emissions reduction plan, we raised queries about relying too heavily on the Emissions Trading Scheme and offshore credits. This leaves us vulnerable to availability and changes in market pricing when those same funds could be used to invest locally. We **recommend** the Government carefully consider the substantial costs of inaction and the numerous and far-reaching benefits of acting, and acting early.
14. Local government is poised to connect with communities and is the governing body on activities that can support or negate change, for example public transport, city and district planning, and consenting. Having a strong national lead provides efficiencies and cost savings in evidence-based best practice, research and development, climate change mapping, and data collection and findings, to name a few.
15. While Aotearoa contributes less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, in 2021 we were ranked 4th in the OECD for emissions per capita. The NDC2 consultation document acknowledges our large agricultural sector, and that we are a nation of car drivers. Rationalising this as a fault of our long narrow geography and dispersed population ignores our continued underinvestment in domestic coastal shipping infrastructure, rail (including Cook Strait rail ferries), and public transport, alongside the permitted sprawl of developments. To reiterate our point above, the Commission has demonstrated a pathway in which we can reduce domestic emissions, and we **recommend** the government explore and act on all options to rapidly reduce domestic emissions.
16. The United Kingdom (UK) has ceased burning coal for electricity generation and recently announced their next target of an 81% reduction of emissions. 'Green jobs' are increasing at a rate four times faster than that of overall UK employment. We **encourage** the government to consider the co-benefits of climate action, for example, as a way to stimulate the economy and employment, foster Kiwi ingenuity, and protect our unique indigenous biodiversity.
17. We **support** an equitable transition, both nationally and internationally. We would expect this to consider all forms and functions of land use, sectors, and sub-groups of society. Examples include, farming, industrial settings, seaside living, urban/rural commute patterns, demographics and socio-economic positions, availability of, and capital outlay on, new technologies. A particular area of

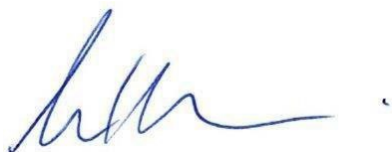
interest for parts of Canterbury is the consideration of reducing stock numbers. This must be fairly balanced with alternative land use to ensure that the reduction does not unduly affect the economy both locally and nationally. The more we can mitigate now, and share in our efforts of emissions reduction, the greater the options we will have to adapt in future.

18. With a comparatively high per capita emissions profile, we are well-placed to ease the burden on developing countries by focussing on reducing domestic emissions. Off-setting should be the last resort for countries and industry sectors that will struggle with technology to achieve a significant reduction in emissions.
19. Effective climate action relies on collaboration and partnerships. We must embrace our relationships with mana whenua, come together with central government, and tap into the existing grassroots movements to support a major shift.

Conclusion

20. The Climate Commission has outlined a reasonable pathway to achieve emissions reduction and outlined a number of actions we can implement to achieve this. It is time to act. As a nation known for being 'Clean and Green' and handy with a bit of No. 8 wire, our size and resources should be tapped into. As generations of New Zealanders have paved the way for world leading action, we are prime candidates to do this again by setting, and achieving, our own bold targets.
21. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to help shape Aotearoa New Zealand's 2035 international climate change target. Our secretariat is available to provide any further information or answer any questions about our submission. Contact details are: Amelia Wilkins, Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat, secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz, 027 243 4304.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

MEDIA RELEASE

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan officially launched

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum has today launched the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP), a comprehensive strategy developed by all 11 councils in Canterbury to address climate change and build a sustainable, resilient, and low-emissions future.

In celebrating the launch, former chair of the Climate Change Commission Dr Rod Carr says the Canterbury region is already being impacted by the changing climate.

“The plan shows risks and opportunities for our businesses and communities. The technologies to reduce energy costs, improve health outcomes, manage down agricultural emissions and build resilience in our region exist today.

“The plan shows the contribution local leaders can make by working with communities to achieve an inclusive and affordable transition. We can make this great region better by phasing out the combustion of fossil fuels in the open air as soon as possible.”

Canterbury Mayoral Forum Chair Mayor Nigel Bowen says the CCPP aims to build a climate-resilient Canterbury through collaboration between local councils, iwi, communities, and businesses.

“The impacts of climate change don’t stop at territorial boundaries, so it was important for us to work together, share our resources and provide an equitable response to climate challenges in Canterbury.

“I’m proud of where we have landed. It is just the first step on our collective journey, but we now have a strong strategic framework and actions which give us a clear direction. The plan is not just about mitigating risks it also creates opportunities to be innovative in our approach to addressing climate challenges.”

The CCPP aligns with the Mayoral Forum’s Plan for Canterbury and represents a significant milestone in the region’s collective journey towards sustainability.

Mayor Dan Gordon chaired the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group which oversaw the development of the CCPP.

He says the plan doesn’t detract from the work individual councils are doing to tackle the impacts of climate change. Instead, he says it aligns work programmes, maximises efficiencies, and provides regional solutions to shared problems.

"The ten key climate actions we have developed for the next three years, include understanding climate risks, improving resilience, reducing emissions, supporting adaptation planning, and promoting nature-based solutions. Each action is designed to be inclusive, equitable, and informed by the best available science and Mātauranga Māori."

Climate Change Minister Simon Watts says councils have a deep understanding of their communities, making them an essential player in efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change.

"It's welcoming to see Canterbury councils leading the way with a united, coherent, and enduring approach, driving regional action to tackle the challenges of climate change," Mr Watts says.

To ensure the success of the plan, a dedicated implementation team will be formed to monitor and evaluate progress, adapt strategies as needed, and ensure that goals are met effectively and efficiently.

"The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is more than just a document. It is a call to action and a commitment that we will do everything we can for Canterbury. Together, we can build a future that is not only sustainable but also vibrant and full of opportunity," Mayor Gordon added.



Pictured at the launch, from left, Mayor Marie Black, Dr Rod Carr, Mayor Nigel Bowen, Mayor Neil Brown, Minister Simon Watts, Mayor Anne Munro, Mayor Phil Mauger, Chair Craig Pauling and Mayor Dan Gordon.