

Canterbury Mayoral Forum mid-term achievements 2019-2021

1. This report provides a summary of progress and achievements of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum at the mid-point of the 2019-2022 local government term.

Regional forums

2. The Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2019–22 mandates the work of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Chief Executives Forum, Policy Forum, Corporate Forum, Operations Forum and other regional and sub-regional forums and working groups (see Appendix 1). Regional forums generally meet quarterly.
3. As agreed in the Mayoral Forum Charter of Purpose, Environment Canterbury hosts a permanent regional forums secretariat: 2 FTE staff (funded through the regional general rate) and a CREDS Project Manager (fixed term, funded by a grant from the Provincial Growth Fund until August 2021 and following adoption of the Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan permanent thereafter).

Plan for Canterbury

4. In September 2020, the Mayoral Forum launched its Plan for Canterbury.
5. The Plan sets out the Mayoral Forum's vision for sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity. To expand on this, the Mayoral Forum's vision is that in Canterbury, all of us together:
 - care for our natural resources to secure both present and future opportunities
 - create shared economic prosperity so no one is left behind
 - nurture caring, hope and kindness, standing strong together to withstand and adapt to challenges and change
 - celebrate our diverse identities – and take pride in our common identity as Cantabrians.
6. For the remainder of this local government term (2020–22), the Forum will focus on five priorities where it can make a difference through leadership, advocacy and enabling partnerships. The priorities are:

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

- a. Sustainable environmental management of our habitats (land, air, water and ecosystems), focusing on land use and freshwater management.
 - b. Shared economic prosperity – through sustainable, value-added primary production, high-value manufacturing, high-value tourism, growing attracting and retaining a skilled workforce and attracting new businesses.
 - c. Better freight transport options – mode shift to optimise movement of long-distance freight by rail and coastal shipping to improve road safety, decrease carbon emissions and reduce wear and tear on the region's roads.
 - d. Climate change mitigation and adaptation – reducing our carbon footprint, building community resilience and making our infrastructure as strong as it can be.
 - e. Three Waters services – securing safe drinking-water supplies, and ensuring that infrastructure, institutional arrangements and regulation enable the sustainable management of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater in Canterbury.
7. The Mayoral Forum's three-year work programme reflects priorities identified in the plan, and delivery of this is overseen by the Chief Executives Forum, which reports quarterly to the Mayoral Forum.

Sustainable environmental management of our habitats

Oversight of CWMS

8. The Mayoral Forum has maintained active oversight of the implementation of the CWMS, receiving regular and comprehensive reporting on progress. To re-engage communities and stakeholders to nurture commitment to delivering the CWMS, the Mayoral Forum endorsed revised terms of reference for Zone Committees in November 2020.
9. In May 2019, the Mayoral Forum signed off on a review of the CWMS and agreed goals for 2025 and 2030. Environment Canterbury will lead development of an implementation plan (with resource implications), to inform development of councils' annual plans for 2020/21 and Long-term Plans for 2021–28.
10. The Mayoral Forum continues to work in partnership with Environment Canterbury on assessing the implications of Essential Freshwater reforms on the direction and implementation of the CWMS into the future.

Biodiversity champions

11. The Mayoral Forum supported the formation of a working group of Canterbury councillors to increase governance-level engagement on biodiversity issues and opportunities across all Canterbury councils. This working group, the Biodiversity Champions, responds to a need for local government to work closely together to implement new national direction for biodiversity and support the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.

Advocacy on Essential Freshwater reforms

12. To acknowledge the impact of these reforms on communities across the region, the Mayoral Forum established an Essential Freshwater Steering Group to oversee a regional response to

the Essential Freshwater package with a focus on community engagement and the development of a Communications Plan. The Group has met twice this year.

Shared economic prosperity

13. Canterbury councils and local rūnanga invest considerable time and effort in building and maintaining authentic partnerships for the benefit of the region. It was in this spirit that the Mayoral Forum and the Chairs of the ten Canterbury Papatipu Rūnanga have also begun building a closer relationship as a collective to work together for the greater wellbeing of Canterbury's people and land. The group has agreed to meet twice a year to establish an enduring and trusted partnership.
14. The Mayoral Forum supported and helped leverage funding to Canterbury councils from Crown Infrastructure Partners' shovel-ready fund. The Ashburton, Hurunui, Kaikōura, Timaru and Waimakariri District Councils, Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury secured a total of \$127m in funding on projects the Forum supported, including:
 - a co-ordinated package of flood protection works across Canterbury (Environment Canterbury, \$15.5m)
 - South Express and Nor'West Arc cycleway routes (Christchurch City Council, \$18m as part of a wider package of cycleway funding)
 - Ashburton District Civic Centre and Library upgrade (Ashburton District Council, \$20m)
 - Conical Hill flyline in Hanmer Springs (Hurunui District Council, \$2m)
 - Kaikōura Aquatic Centre (Kaikōura District Council, \$1m)
 - Theatre Royal update and new heritage facility (Timaru District Council, \$11.6m)
 - Kaiapoi stormwater and flood protection works (Waimakariri District Council, \$9m)
 - accelerated rollout of the Rural Broadband Initiative phase 2 (\$50m).
15. The Forum has advocated with ministers for education and immigration policies that deliver a skilled workforce now and into the future. It continues to support the Education and Training Governance Group and maintains links with the interim Regional Skills Leadership Group.
16. Maintaining momentum and finalising CREDS projects also continued. Details on this work are provided later in this report.
17. The Mayoral Forum supported collaboration on development of 2021-24 Long-term Plans by reconvening the Long-Term Plan Working Group, chaired by a member of the Chief Executives Forum.

Better freight transport options

18. The Mayoral Forum together with the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) hosted a freight tour of key Canterbury freight facilities, covering Christchurch International Airport, Lyttelton Port, Move Logistics and PrimePort Timaru. The tour was attended by members of the Mayoral Forum and RTC, along with some local MPs.
19. The Mayoral Forum and RTC met with the Minister of Transport in May to discuss a wide range of transport matters affecting the region. Ongoing engagement with the Minister and transport officials will enable further conversations on matters of mutual interest.

20. The Mayoral Forum has supported advocacy by the RTC to have greater engagement with KiwiRail, including advocating for KiwiRail to have a seat at the RTC table.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

21. The regional Climate Change Working Group established by the Chief Executives Forum in 2017 and the Climate Change Steering Group established by the Mayoral Forum in 2019 continue to address climate change adaptation for Canterbury.
22. The Steering Group established a group of Canterbury climate change councillors to ensure ongoing connections across the region on climate matters. The Group meets twice yearly, and includes presentations from guest speakers, including the Climate Change Commission.
23. The Steering Group has ensured the Mayoral Forum has a strong voice with central government on climate change matters, including coordinating regional submissions on government-led climate initiatives. The Mayoral Forum led the launch of the 'It's Time, Canterbury' climate change engagement campaign in May.
24. The Steering Group has also maintained a watching brief on the Mayoral Forum's initiative to complete a detailed regional climate change risk assessment, providing advice and guidance throughout the process. The finalised risk assessment reports will be presented to the Mayoral Forum in November.

Three Waters services

25. In light of the Government's three waters reform agenda, the Mayoral Forum convened a Three Waters Steering Group to oversee the delivery of the Canterbury Three Waters Service Delivery Review project. This project was undertaken in partnership with Ngāi Tahu. The project was undertaken to understand the probable impacts of the government's three waters reform on Canterbury councils. The Three Waters Service Delivery Review project was completed in May 2021.
26. Mayoral Forum collaboration with papatipu rūnanga and other councils on the path forward for three waters service delivery will continue into the second half of the local government term as the reform programme progresses.

Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS)

27. The Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) was introduced in August 2015 and established a number of initiatives for the Mayoral Forum. Delivery of projects initiated under the CREDS continued into the current local government term.
28. The following projects are complete:
 - mapping of Canterbury's state highways for mobile blackspots, with the top ten mobile blackspots agreed by stakeholders from Canterbury councils and emergency management agencies, and advocacy undertaken to resolve these gaps
 - with the agreement of all South Island Mayors and Chairs, a South Island Destination Management Plan for sustainable tourism was developed, with support from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and Tourism New Zealand. COVID-19 interrupted

progress with the Plan, though work on an appropriate approach to sustainable tourism continues.

- ChristchurchNZ along with the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University will continue to resource a more specific Job Ready programme over the next two years that will mentor international student graduates into jobs. A work integrated learning model programme is being developed which will eventually replace Job Ready.

29. Following the establishment of Aoraki Development's My Next Move youth transitions programme in South Canterbury, the programme is being adapted for other regions, and has received Ministry of Social Development funding for the next two years.
30. ChristchurchNZ and the University of Canterbury are delivering a multi-year project to boost value-added production focused on food, fibre and agritech and high-value manufacturing. This includes exploration of industry 'clusters' that exist and exploring how best to support and grow them; facilitating industry events, including the Food and Fibre Challenge, which saw over 50 high-quality entries, many of whom are now being mentored to grow their businesses; and the production of industry roadmaps that will support new businesses in finding the right pathways to market. The project is due to complete by mid-2022.

COVID-19 response

31. The Mayoral Forum increased its meeting frequency during the March/April 2020 COVID-19 lockdown to ensure members could stay across developing regional issues.
32. The Forum identified the need for high-level oversight of COVID-19 readiness, response, recovery and renewal and a mechanism for communication between central and local government in Canterbury. This resulted in the formation of a Canterbury COVID-19 Oversight Group, co-chaired by the Chair of the Chief Executives Forum.
33. The Mayoral Forum also took the following actions in response to the impact of COVID-19 on the Canterbury region since March 2020:
 - set up a shared workspace for Canterbury communications managers to coordinate and align communications in the region
 - advocated strongly for councils in regard to the timing of annual plans and LTPs, and implications for audit, rates and council finances
 - advocated for mayors to receive confidential pre-release information on virus cases in their regions to avoid TAs finding out details through the media
 - advocated for an accelerated roll-out of the Rural Broadband Initiative phase 2, and for progressing the Woodend bypass on State Highway 1 with central government
 - advocated for rural communities on extensions to essential business categories
 - provided general letters of support for employees at some Canterbury businesses, as well as letters of support for Entrada Travel Group and Sounds Air for financial aid/loans from central government
 - advocated for the plight of migrant workers with work visas who are unable to (re-)enter the country, and the resulting impact on economic recovery
 - advocated for fair phasing and prioritisation of Essential Freshwater reform implementation in Canterbury
 - supported the establishment of an interim Regional Skills Leadership group, co-chaired by the Chair of the Chief Executives Forum.

Other initiatives

34. The following initiatives, identified in the previous local government term, are “business as usual” for the regional forums reporting through to the Mayoral Forum:

- health and safety collaboration
- collaboration on stormwater management planning and consenting
- co-ordination of natural hazard risk management
- continuing to build on the Canterbury Maps shared service
- collaboration in procurement and contract management
- contaminated land shared services
- regional economic development indicators monitoring
- regional leadership and support for strategic information and records management
- building control and regulatory co-ordination
- collaborative resource management planning and decision-making.

Standing together for Canterbury

35. The Canterbury Policy Forum monitors central government policy and regulatory initiatives impacting on Canterbury and co-ordinates the development of regional submissions. Joint advocacy (‘one strong voice for Canterbury’) has been a strength of the Mayoral Forum.

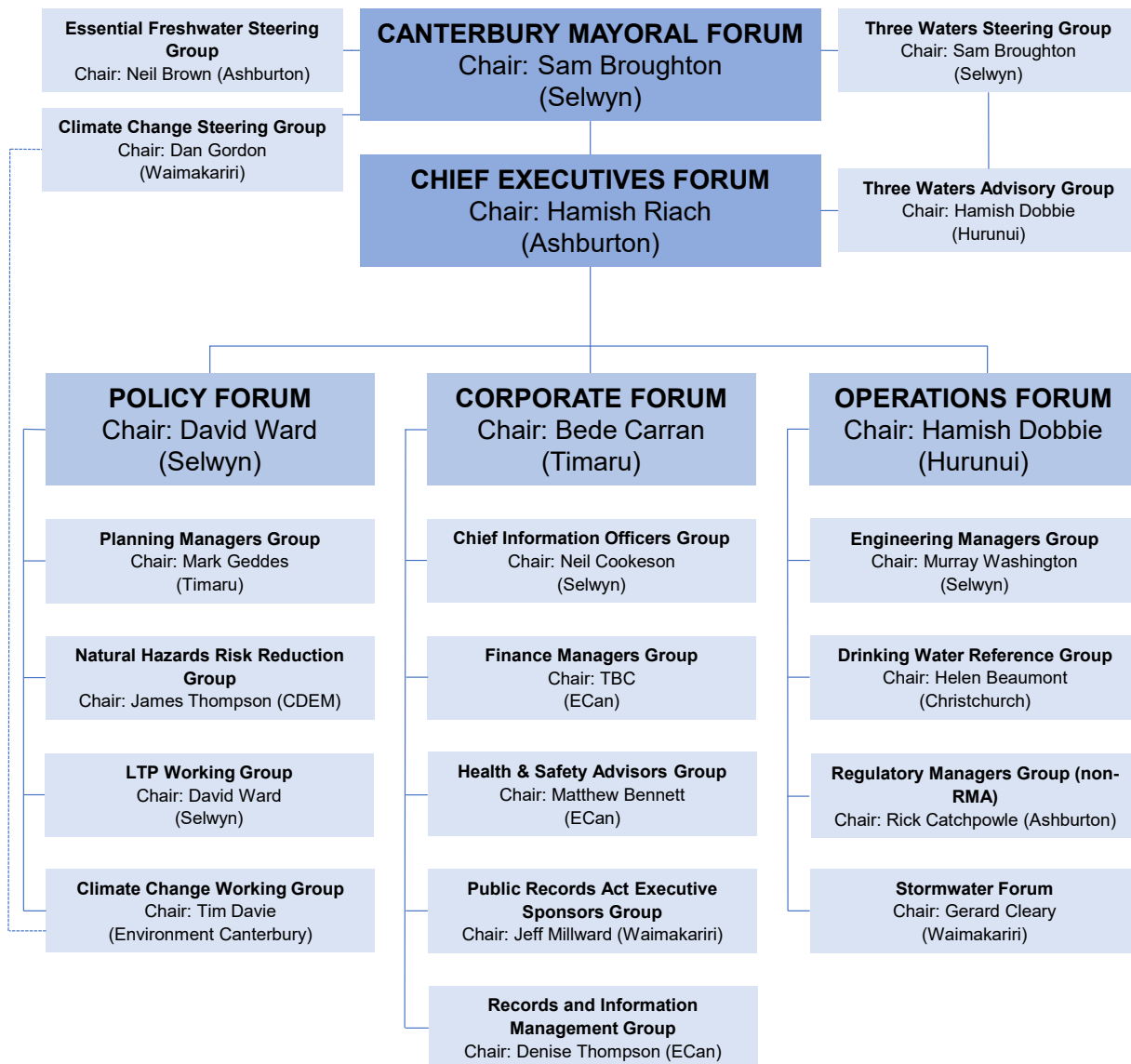
36. The following table summarises Mayoral Forum engagement and advocacy since local body elections in October 2019.

Date	Audience	Subject
Oct 2019	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on Action for Healthy Waterways discussion document
Dec 2019	New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST)	Letter of support for Ōtautahi/Christchurch as permanent location of the NZIST headquarters
Feb 2020	Resource Management Review Panel	Submission on Transforming the Resource Management System: Issues and Options Paper
Feb 2020	Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration, Energy and Resources, and Research, Science and Innovation	Spoke at Mayoral Forum dinner
Mar 2020	Canterbury Museum	Letter of support for Canterbury Museum’s redevelopment project
Mar 2020	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on Proposed National Environment Standard for the outdoor storage of tyres
Mar 2020	Canterbury Joint Waste Committee	Letter on Amberley tyre pile clean up
Mar 2020	Waste Minimisation Fund / Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund, Ministry for the Environment	Support for application from Accountability Action for Amberley tyre pile clean up
Mar 2020	Minister of Transport	Support for funding application: Upper Orari Bridge (SH79) two laning

Date	Audience	Subject
Apr 2020	Crown Infrastructure Partners	Letters of support for applications to the shovel-ready fund for Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury and Ashburton, Hurunui, Kaikōura, Selwyn, Timaru, and Waimakariri District Councils, as well as the Wheels for Waipara cycleway project, the Woodend bypass, SH1, and support for an accelerated rollout of the Rural Broadband Initiative phase 2
Apr 2020	Minister for the Environment, Minister of Agriculture	Letter about the implementation of Essential Freshwater package
May 2020	Entrada Travel Group	Letter of support for Entrada Travel Group as an essential service
May 2020	Sounds Air	Letter of support for Sounds Air as an essential service
May 2020	Leader of the National Party	Congratulations on appointment and invitation to Mayoral Forum dinner
Jun 2020	Minister of Immigration	Letter about the return of essential dairy workers to New Zealand
Jun 2020	Chair of the Climate Change Commission	Informal discussion of the work of the Climate Change Commission
Jul 2020	Kaiwhakahaere, Ngāi Tahu	Mayoral Forum engagement with papatipu rūnanga
Jul 2020	Minister for Infrastructure; Minister for Regional Economic Development	Letter about shovel-ready projects and COVID-19 recovery
Aug 2020	Greater Christchurch Group, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	Letter about S.71 proposal: Commercial film/video production facilities in Christchurch
Sep 2020	Minister of Conservation, Minister for Land Information, Associate Minister for the Environment	Attended Mayoral Forum.
Sep 2020	Minister of Internal Affairs	Letter about the future of tourism and freedom camping
Sep 2020	Minister of Local Government; Chair Joint Three Waters Steering Committee, Department of Internal Affairs	Letter about Three Waters reform: regional allocation Canterbury
Sep 2020	Minister of Health	Letter about Canterbury District Health Board
Oct 2020	Kaiwhakahaere, Ngāi Tahu	Letter about Mayoral Forum engagement with papatipu rūnanga
Nov 2020	Electorate and list MPs in Canterbury	Briefing letters introducing the Mayoral Forum, its work and priorities; lunch with the Mayoral Forum
Dec 2020	Incoming Ministers	Briefing letters introducing the Mayoral Forum, its work and priorities, and request to meet with the Mayoral Forum
Feb 2021	Minister of Local Government	Letter about Three Waters Reform consultation
Feb 2021	Electorate and list MPs in Canterbury	Invitation on freight tour (a couple attended).

Date	Audience	Subject
Mar 2021	Health Select Committee	Submission on the Water Services Bill
Mar 2021	Climate Change Commission	Submission on the Climate Change Commission's draft advice package to the Government
May 2021	MBIE	Submission on the Government's freedom camping discussion document
May 2021	MfE	Submission on proposed National Direction for industrial greenhouse gases
May 2021	Ministry of Transport	Joint submission with Regional Transport Committee on Hīkina te Kohupara discussion document (transport emissions)
May 2021	Ministers, Crown Infrastructure Partners and telecommunications companies	Advocacy letters seeking action on mobile blackspot areas on Canterbury state highways
May 2021	Minister of Transport	Letter about integrated transport in Canterbury, <i>Hīkina te Kohupara – Kia mauri ora ai te iwi – Transport Emissions: pathways to Net Zero by 2050</i> , integrated freight in Canterbury.
May 2021	Minister of Housing; Research & Innovation; Energy & Resources	Meeting to discuss spatial planning, social housing, innovation and economic performance, and rural doctors.
Jun 2021	Infrastructure Commission	Submission on draft 30-year infrastructure strategy
Jun 2021	Waka Kotahi; Minister of Transport	Advocacy letter on Waka Kotahi's NLTP funding
Jun 2021	Minister for Emergency Management	Advocacy letters on Canterbury flooding and funding
Jul 2021	Minister of Health	Advocacy letter on ambulance funding
Aug 2021	Ministry for the Environment	Submission on the draft Natural and Built Environments Bill exposure draft

Appendix: Regional forums and working groups (as at May 2021)



REGIONAL FORUMS SECRETARIAT (hosted by Environment Canterbury)		
Maree McNeilly	Principal Advisor	027 381 8924
Amanda Wall	Senior Advisor	027 234 6381
Rosa Wakefield	Project Coordinator	027 381 9406
secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz		https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/