

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

MEETING PACK

for

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Monday, 29 January 2024

9:00 am (NZDT)

Held at:

Selwyn District Council

2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston

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AGENDA

CANTERBURY CHIEF EXECUTIVES FORUM

Name:	Canterbury Chief Executives Forum
Date:	Monday, 29 January 2024
Time:	9:00 am to 12:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Selwyn District Council, 2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston
Committee Members:	Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Dobbie, Jeff Millward, Sharon Mason, Stuart Duncan, Will Doughty, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor
Attendees:	Maree McNeilly, Ann Fitzgerald
Apologies:	Amanda Wall, Hamish Riach (Committee Chair), Alex Parmley, Stefanie Rixecker

1. Open Meeting

1.1 Welcome, karakia and apologies 9:00 am (2 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Opening karakia: Whakataka te hau

Whakataka te hau ki te uru

Whakataka te hau ki te tonga

Kia mākinakina ki uta

Kia mātaratara ki tai

E hī ake ana te atakura

He tio, he huka, he hau hū

Tihei mauri ora!

Cease the winds from the west

Cease the winds from the south

Let the breeze blow over the land

Let the breeze blow over the ocean

Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.

A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.

It is the breath of life!

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda 9:02 am (3 min)

Hamish Dobbie

1.3 Confirm minutes 9:05 am (3 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

1.3.a	Minutes : Canterbury Chief Executives Forum - 6 Nov 2023	7
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1.4 Action list 9:08 am (2 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

1.4.a	Action List	15
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2. CE discussion time

2.1 Discussion 9:10 am (60 min)

3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea 10:10 am (15 min)

4. For discussion and decision

4.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update 10:25 am (10 min)

Ben Clark

Supporting Documents:

4.1.a	CEF Regional Public Service Commissioner update Jan 2024.docx	16
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4.2 Draft refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2022-2025 10:35 am (10 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

4.2.a	CEF Draft refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2022-2025 Jan 2024.docx	17
4.2.b	CEF Draft refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2022-2025 Attachment 1 Jan 2024.docx	21

4.3 Engaging with central government 10:45 am (10 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

4.3.a	CEF Engaging with central government Jan 2024.docx	42
4.3.b	CEF Engaging with central government Attachment 1 Jan 2024.docx	46
4.3.c	CEF Engaging with central government Attachment 2 Jan 2024.docx	50
4.3.d	CEF Engaging with central government Attachment 3 Jan 2024.docx	55

4.4 Water Reform 10:55 am (15 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

4.4.a	CEF Water Reform Jan 2024.docx	61
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4.5 Resource Management Reform

11:10 am (10 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

4.5.a	CEF Resource Management Reform Jan 2024.docx	65
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4.6 Future for Local Government and shared services

11:20 am (5 min)

Hamish Dobbie, Will Doughty, Sharon Mason

Supporting Documents:

4.6.a	CEF Future for Local Government and shared services.docx	68
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4.7 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

11:25 am (5 min)

Stefanie Rixecker

Supporting Documents:

4.7.a	CEF Canterbury Water Management Strategy update Jan 2024.docx	69
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4.8 Regional forums update

11:30 am (15 min)

Hamish Dobbie; Will Doughty, Stuart Duncan, Angela Oosthuizen, Secretariat

Supporting Documents:

4.8.a	CEF Regional Forums update Jan 2024.docx	81
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4.8.b	CEF Regional Forums update Attachment 2 Jan 2024.pdf	89
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5. For information

5.1 Draft Mayoral Forum agenda

11:45 am (5 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

5.1.a	23 Feb 2024 Draft Agenda Canterbury Mayoral Forum.pdf	93
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6. General business

6.1 General business

11:50 am (5 min)

6.2 Meeting debrief

11:55 am (5 min)

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Closing karakia

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

7.2 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Chief Executives Forum - 6 May 2024, 9:00 am

Other upcoming meetings:

- Mayoral Forum – Friday 23 February 2024 8.30am-1.00pm at Commodore Hotel

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY CHIEF EXECUTIVES FORUM

Name:	Canterbury Chief Executives Forum
Date:	Monday, 6 November 2023
Time:	9:00 am to 12:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Selwyn District Council, 2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston
Committee Members:	Hamish Riach (Committee Chair), Alex Parmley, Angela Oosthuizen, Bede Carran, Hamish Dobbie, Jeff Millward, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty
Attendees:	Amanda Wall, Maree McNeilly
Apologies:	Stuart Duncan, Dawn Baxendale, Sharon Mason
Guests/Notes:	Ewa Jankowska, secretariat; Jesse Burgess and Clare Pattison (Environment Canterbury) Item 4.1 and 4.2; Tim Harris for Sharon Mason

1. Open Meeting

1.1 Welcome, karakia and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia. Apologies were noted from Stuart Duncan, Dawn Baxendale and Sharon Mason. An apology for lateness was also noted from Bede Carran. The Chair welcomed Tim Harris, who was attending for Sharon, and Ewa, who is supporting the secretariat.

The Chair noted there were guests coming to the meeting from Environment Canterbury for items 4.1 and 4.2.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed without change. No items of general business were raised.

1.3 Confirm minutes

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum 31 Jul 2023, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Decision

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 July were confirmed.

Decision Date:	6 Nov 2023
Mover:	Will Doughty
Seconder:	Jeff Millward
Outcome:	Approved

1.4 Action list

The outstanding action is on hold pending discussion on item 4.4.

2. CE discussion time

2.1 Discussion

Chief executives discussed a range of top-of-mind issues.

Members also acknowledged this was Bede Carran's last Chief Executives Forum before he leaves Timaru District Council. Members thanked him for his contributions over the years to this Forum and the Corporate Forum particularly.



Action

Secretariat to seek an update on Snap, Send, Solve for the 11 December Corporate Forum meeting

22/12: CIOs Forum has not met in some months and an update was not available at the meeting. The Corporate Forum, through the chair, is encouraging the CIO Forum to meet to discuss this issue so it can report back to the Chief Executives Forum.

Due Date: 12 Dec 2023

Owner: Amanda Wall



Action

Secretariat to arrange a half-day session prior to Christmas for chief executives to have an initial discussion about the incoming government's proposal for three waters and the range of options for Canterbury

9 November: Meeting invitation sent for Monday 18 December Teams meeting

Due Date: 22 Dec 2023

Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Hamish Riach to check in with Dawn Baxendale on any work the Christchurch City Council may have commenced on the incoming government's proposal for three waters

Due Date: 22 Dec 2023

Owner: Hamish Riach



Action

Bede to share with members Timaru District Council's draft policy on council briefings and workshops

Due Date: 30 Nov 2023

Owner: Bede Carran

3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea

4. For discussion and decision

4.1 Draft Regional Land Transport Plan

The Chair welcomed Jesse Burgess and Clare Pattison (Environment Canterbury) to the table to present their report.

Jesse and Clare highlighted the key points of the paper and noted the following:

- the risk identified in the paper has now been resolved and statutory requirements met
- the large amount of work that was undertaken by the Transport Officers Group to get to this stage in the process
- the approach to the review and updated Plan was to ensure the Plan was balanced and allowed councils to get on and do the work required

Members noted that the draft plan is on the Regional Transport Committee's meeting agenda for 27 November.



Decision

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed to:

1. note the update on the development of the draft 2024-34 Regional Land Transport Plan.

Decision Date:	6 Nov 2023
Mover:	Jeff Millward
Seconded:	Angela Oosthuizen
Outcome:	Approved

4.2 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Funding

Hamish Dobbie introduced the paper and highlighted key points, noting that this was discussed at the last Policy Forum and members supported the proposal in principle for councils to collectively fund regional climate change initiatives. The intention following the discussion at this meeting is for the item to be considered by the Mayoral Forum at the 24 November meeting.

Jesse Burgess updated the Forum on the Climate Change Working Group's recent meeting, where further work on the draft collective actions continued. This includes incorporating feedback received from the community during a recent Environment Canterbury public engagement process on climate matters.

In terms of process to get to this stage, it was noted that Tim Davie, convenor of the Working Group, briefed councils on the Partnership Plan during the last few months. The actions and costings have been refined throughout the process, resulting in lower proposed costs across the actions than initially discussed with the Policy Forum in September.

Members discussed the importance of collective action and the need for good collaboration to achieve the Partnership Plan's objectives, without duplicating climate actions that might already be under way at individual councils. It was important to make it clear that the collective actions proposed would support the actions of individual councils, and not duplicate those efforts. It was noted that the better councils can collaborate with each other, the stronger the Mayoral Forum will be.

Members also noted that upcoming LTPs will be challenging, and there could be difficulty in ensuring there is adequate funding for these collective actions given financial constraints across councils. If not all councils agree to put funding into the collective actions, the collective actions may need to be re-prioritised.

Jesse Burgess noted that the draft action on the potential to establish a Mayoral Forum climate change response fund may be one that could be phased out over time, if councils would prefer to maintain their own fund for the same purpose. Jesse also noted that the proposed action around energy may change, as discussions on this are only at the very early stages.

Members agreed to support the paper's recommendation, subject to an amendment to make it clear that the purpose of the Plan and its actions are to complement or support the climate actions being undertaken at the individual council level, and will not duplicate them.



Decision

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed to:

1. endorse the current and planned placeholder bids to fund implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan through councils' Long-Term Plan budgeting processes
2. note that the regional actions in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan that are proposed to be collectively funded will complement or support (rather than duplicate) individual councils' climate change strategies and actions.

Decision Date: 6 Nov 2023
Mover: Hamish Dobbie
Seconded: Alex Parmley
Outcome: Approved

4.3 Central government election outcome

The Chair introduced the paper and noted the final election outcome resulted in two changes for Canterbury from the preliminary outcome – an additional Christchurch-based Green MP (Kahurangi Carter) and one fewer list MP (Tracey McLellan). The secretariat is preparing letters of congratulations to all successful Canterbury-based electorate and list MPs.

Members discussed the need for clarity on the range of reforms the last government put in place, what the regional/city/national deals might look like and involve, and the importance of being clear on our priorities for Canterbury so that the Forum can engage well with the new government.

Members also discussed the intention to hold a workshop at the November Mayoral Forum on engaging with the new government, and how this could feed into the conversation on regional and city deals. The Forum noted it would be worth looking at the Plan for Canterbury to ensure it was fit for purpose for the way the Forum might wish to engage with incoming ministers. It was also agreed that Alex and Dawn would present on their UK experiences with city deals and the key lessons the Mayoral Forum could take into account when considering what a regional or city deal might look like for Canterbury.



Decision

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed to:

1. note the information provided in this paper to support a discussion on the outcome of the general election and likely implications for Canterbury and local government.

Decision Date: 6 Nov 2023
Mover: Hamish Dobbie
Seconded: Bede Carran
Outcome: Approved



Action

Alex and Dawn to present their key learnings from experiences in the UK implementing city deals at the November Mayoral Forum as part of the workshop on engaging with the new government.

Due Date: 24 Nov 2023
Owner: Alex Parmley

4.4 Future for Local Government and shared services

Hamish Dobbie and Will spoke to the paper. The subgroup of chief executives had the view that work on shared services/greater collaboration is best undertaken on the basis of coalitions of the willing. The work so far has identified that there are opportunities to work more closely together,

sometimes regionally and sometimes sub-regionally.

The CE subgroup's intention is to build momentum with the work by starting small, with one or two areas to investigate, and once complete try another area or two. Rates collection and water quality could be areas that are worth starting the process on. Members noted it was a good start, and that it would be important to have good structures in place to drive the work as it progresses.



Decision

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed to:

1. support the approach undertaken by the subgroup of chief executives to build momentum on greater collaboration and shared services.

Decision Date: 6 Nov 2023
Mover: Jeff Millward
Seconded: Angela Oosthuizen
Outcome: Approved

4.5 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Stefanie introduced the paper and highlighted the key points, including ongoing work with mana whenua, that Zone Committees will be reviewed over 2024, and the uncertainty over the direction of resource management law and related freshwater and other regulations given the change in government.



Decision

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum:

1. received the report on region-wide progress of Canterbury Water Management Strategy partners' work towards implementing the CWMS for July to September 2023.

Decision Date: 6 Nov 2023
Mover: Alex Parmley
Seconded: Hamish Dobbie
Outcome: Approved

4.6 Regional forums update

The regional forum chairs spoke to the paper.

Hamish Dobbie highlighted the briefing the Policy Forum received on the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) review, and that the Policy Forum would be asked for feedback by the RPS team before Environment Canterbury discusses progress further with Te Rōpū Tuia in December.

Will noted the Communications and Engagement Forum's discussion on the role of public information management (PIM) outside of emergency events and the importance of clarity on what was expected of staff given their ongoing business as usual work.

Angela noted that the Corporate Forum received a presentation from the Audit Office and the Office of the Auditor-General at the last meeting and that a number of members found this valuable.

Dawn and Stuart were apologies so the Economic Development and Operations Forum's updates were taken as read.

The Forum discussed the terms of reference for each of the Forums. Key points included:

- ensuring that the right members were at the table
- the value of the working group chairs attending
- the agenda needed to match the staff level of the people attending

- sometimes general managers can't attend so they send a delegate; often this delegate is not able to elevate the conversation and commitment level needed
- the varying level of commitment and contributions by members across the forums
- clarifying the purpose of the forums, and what the Chief Executives Forum needs from them

It was noted that the forums do the 'heavy lifting' for the CEs Forum and provide the opportunity for relationship-building and networking that isn't available elsewhere. This is clear from the purpose outlined in each terms of reference.

The Forum took nominations for chairs of each of the regional forums for the next 12 months. The following were nominated and confirmed:

- Chief Executives Forum: Chair: Hamish Riach; Deputy Chair: Hamish Dobbie
- Corporate Forum: Angela Oosthuizen
- Operations Forum: Stuart Duncan
- Policy Forum: Hamish Dobbie
- Economic Development Forum: Dawn Baxendale
- Communications and Engagement Forum: Will Doughty.

As both Stuart and Dawn were absent, the decision to appoint them as chairs of their respective forums was made subject to their agreement.

Bede agreed to step into Hamish Riach's role at the next Mayoral Forum as both Hamish Riach and Hamish Dobbie would be absent.

Members also noted the meeting calendar for 2024 had been confirmed. The intention is for Ashburton District Council to host the May Mayoral Forum and dinner. It was noted that any agreement to hold meetings outside of the usual venue of the Commodore Hotel had to take into account the logistics needed to host the Regional Transport Committee and the Civil Defence Joint Committee.

The Chair acknowledged the workstream tracker as a useful tool for being able to quickly see the status and progress of each action item.

The Forum also discussed the budget. As a result of the conversation on shared services, members agreed that the action in the agenda that was on hold about the Local Government MahiTahi Collaboration Portal could now go ahead.

A question was raised regarding the regional forums funding formula and how the percentages from each council were determined. Members were advised that the formula was created through the Policy Forum in 2017/18, and based on council operating expenditure at the time.



Action

Secretariat to move forward with subscribing councils to the Local Government MahiTahi Collaboration Portal for one year as previously agreed.

8/11 - discussed with BOPLASS, arrangements under way

Due Date: 16 Dec 2023

Owner: Amanda Wall



Decision

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed to:

1. receive the quarterly reports on June 2023 regional forum meetings

Decision Date: 6 Nov 2023

Mover: Will Doughty

Seconded: Alex Parmley

Outcome: Approved

**Decision**

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed to:

2. suspend the operation of the People and Capability working group until it is needed for a specific task or project

Decision Date: 6 Nov 2023
Mover: Stefanie Rixecker
Seconded: Hamish Dobbie
Outcome: Approved

**Decision**

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed to:

3. endorse the terms of reference for the Corporate, Operation, Policy, Communications and Engagement and Economic Development Forums

Decision Date: 6 Nov 2023
Mover: Will Doughty
Seconded: Bede Carran
Outcome: Approved

**Decision**

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed to:

4. confirm the chairs for the Chief Executives, Corporate, Operations, Policy, Communications and Engagement and Economic Development Forums

Decision Date: 6 Nov 2023
Mover: Will Doughty
Seconded: Bede Carran
Outcome: Approved

**Decision**

The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum agreed to:

5. receive the quarterly update on the 2023-24 regional forums budget.

Decision Date: 6 Nov 2023
Mover: Stefanie Rixecker
Seconded: Will Doughty
Outcome: Approved

5. For information

5.1 Draft Mayoral Forum agenda

Members were reminded that the secretariat is awaiting responses from a number of Mayoral Forum members on the Future for Local Government survey that was sent out in October.

**Action**

Chief executives to facilitate a response to the survey and return to the secretariat.

Due Date: 10 Nov 2023
Owner: Maree McNeilly

6. General business

6.1 General business

No matters of general business were raised.

6.2 Meeting debrief

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Closing karakia

The Chair closed the meeting with a karakia.

7.2 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Chief Executives Forum - 29 Jan 2024, 9:00 am

Other upcoming meetings:

- Mayoral Forum – Friday 24 November 2023 8.30am-1.00pm at Commodore Hotel

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Action List

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

As of: 17 Jan 2024

Action

In Progress

Secretariat to seek an update on Snap, Send, Solve for the 11 December Corporate Forum meeting

22/12: CIOs Forum has not met in some months and an update was not available at the meeting. The Corporate Forum, through the chair, is encouraging the CIO Forum to meet to discuss this issue so it can report back to the Chief Executives Forum.

Due Date: 11 Dec 2023

Owner: Amanda Wall

Meeting: 6 Nov 2023 Canterbury Chief Executives Forum, 2.1 Discussion

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Date: 29 January 2024

Presented by: Ben Clark, Regional Public Service Commissioner

Regional Public Service Commissioner update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a quarterly regional public service commissioner update.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum:

1. **note the verbal update from Ben Clark, Regional Public Service Commissioner.**

Background

2. At the August 2021 Chief Executives Forum, it was agreed that a standing item be included on future Chief Executives Forum meeting agendas for the Regional Public Service Lead (now Regional Public Service Commissioner (RPSC)).

Regional Public Service Commissioner update

3. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Date: 29 January 2024

Presented by: Hamish Dobbie

Draft refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2022-2025

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Chief Executives with a draft copy of the refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 for their review and feedback prior to the seeking final approval from the Mayoral Forum.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum:

1. **provide final feedback and comments on the content of the refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025**
2. **agree that the updated refreshed Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 be submitted to the Mayoral Forum for their final approval.**

Background

2. The Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 (the Plan) was finalised following the February 2023 Mayoral Forum meeting. At that time, it was agreed that the Plan needs to be more agile and able to be updated as the triennium progresses.
3. The Mayoral Forum held a workshop at its November 2023 meeting to consider central government engagement and, as part of that workshop, how Canterbury might progress a city/regional deal, leveraging the Plan.
4. Following that workshop the Plan has been refreshed to update the actions to support the Forum's three priorities of sustainable environmental management of our habitats, shared prosperity for all our communities, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

What has changed

5. The Chair's foreword has been updated to reflect the changes made to the Plan, including a paragraph noting the opportunity to start and lead discussions on the drivers for change in Canterbury, which include our changing climate, regulations impact on the future of land use, including greenhouse gas emissions and water quality, and the need to capture more of the value from the diverse agricultural food and fibre production in

Canterbury and retain that value in the region to create more prosperity for our communities and business. These points have also been reflected through the refreshed plan as noted in the following paragraphs.

6. The Background to the Plan has been updated to reflect the process that has been undertaken to refresh the Plan., including the need to lead discussions on the drivers for change.
7. Our shared future section has been updated to talk about the value of Canterbury and the Mayoral Forum to New Zealand and our communities, as opposed to the discussion on the previous government's reform process.
8. The priority issues have remained the same, however the text has been updated under these sections to provide current context for the existing and new actions.

Sustainable environmental management

9. The discussion leading into the Canterbury Water Management Strategy has been updated to include the following paragraph.
 - *National and regional freshwater policy has changed since the inception of the CWMS, water is seen as an enabler for regional economic development, and more recently the relationship between water, food production and energy security and how these elements are linked to community resilience have surfaced. Consideration of water issues also needs to take place in the context of impacts/influences of climate change and how this may shape water and land management decisions going forward.*
10. The priority has been updated to be consistent with the above paragraph
 - The Mayoral Forum will continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, taking into consideration the changing national and regional policies, along with the relationship between water, food production and energy security.

Shared prosperity

11. There is a new action related to the opportunity to develop a regional action plan to address barriers and harness opportunities to decarbonise our energy systems. There is an explanation to support this action in the preceding paragraph, in particular the issue of energy security and the connection between this and water, food production and climate change.
12. The action for energy is also noted in the draft Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.
13. The transport action has been updated to reflect the discussion around funding opportunities for transport, and in particular advocating for legislation that empowers local authorities to develop local funding solutions.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

14. The climate change mitigation and adaptation section has been updated to reflect the current status of government policy and the progress that has been made to date on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Relationship engagement and management

15. This section has been updated to reflect the discussion at the Mayoral Forum workshop on the importance of engaging with key influencers within the region to progress, not only the specific actions in the Plan but also influencing and advocating for collective actions to create prosperity for the region.
16. A paragraph has also been provided to reflect the Government's policy announcements on regional/city deals.
17. In acknowledging the importance of key influencers there is an opportunity to consider inviting specific key influencers to the upcoming Mayoral Forum dinner (22 February) and meeting (23 February) to discuss the refreshed Plan and prospects to collaborate on opportunities for delivery.

Financial implications

18. Financial implications of implementing actions in the Plan have been taken into consideration by the Chief Executives Forum in adopting its regional forums budget for 2022/2023. Any additional funds required to implement actions in the Plan will be subject to consideration by the Chief Executives Forum. Most actions will primarily be implemented through the Forum's own leadership, facilitation and advocacy.

Communication

19. Subject to the Mayoral Forum's decision on the approval of the refreshed Plan and how they wish to publicise the Plan a communications plan will be prepared, which at a minimum will include:
 - a media release to be prepared and sent to local media
 - uploading to the Mayoral Forum website following formal approval
 - included in briefings to Ministers and MPs

Next steps

20. The secretariat will update the draft plan to reflect feedback received today.
21. The Plan brochure will be updated to reflect the immediate priorities and the web-based document will be updated.
22. The final draft Plan will be provided to the Mayoral Forum for their final approval.

23. Invitations will be extended to key influencers to the upcoming Mayoral Forum working dinner and meeting.
24. Following the Mayoral Forum's approval, the following will be prepared:
 - draft council briefing paper
 - draft media release
 - letters to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the chairs of the ten Canterbury Papatipu Rūnanga advising of the updates to the Plan, along with an invitation to meet
 - briefings for central government ministers (see item 4.3)
 - letters to all Canterbury MPs
 - an updated work programme to reflect the current actions

Attachments

- draft Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

Refresh Jan 2024

Ko Ngā Tiritiri o te Moana ngā maunga	The Southern Alps stand above
Ko ngā wai huka ngā awa I rere tonu mai	The snow-fed rivers continually flow forth
Ko Ngā Pākihi Whakatekata o Waitaha te whenua	The plains of Waitaha extend out
Ko Marokura, ko Mahaanui, ko Araiteuru ngā tai	To the tides of Marokura, Mahaanui and Araiteuru
Tihei mauri ora!	Behold there is life

Ki utu ki tai | from the mountains to the sea, Canterbury is a great place to visit, live, study, work and do business.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians, focussed on three priority areas:

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

The Plan provides a basis for conversation and partnership with Ngāi Tahu, Government, and the business, community and volunteer sectors.

Where our interests align, we can work together for the good of all.

Mā whero mā pango ka oti ai te mahi | With red and black the work will be complete

Who we are: (include a photo of the whole forum?)

The members of the Mayoral Forum are the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the chair of the regional council (Environment Canterbury), mandated by the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement.

Vision and Values

Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity.

Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei – for us and our children after us

All of us together:

- care for our natural resources to secure both present and future opportunities
- create shared 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

PRIORITY ACTIONS (TO BE UPDATED FOLLOWING FINALISATION OF THE REFRESHED PLAN)

Our three immediate priorities are:

Advocating with Government for permanent co-investment in flood protection to protect local and national assets and contribute to more sustainable regional economies.

- Flooding is the most common natural hazard in New Zealand, and Canterbury's 78,000km of rivers and streams puts us at substantial risk of major flooding events. Permanent co-investment in flood protection shifts the focus from disaster relief and recovery towards mitigation of flood risks, while reducing long-term costs.

Advocating with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury.

- Canterbury has many natural advantages, significant infrastructure and a range of universities and research institutes, but our GDP per person lags the national average. To lift wages and incomes we need more skilled jobs and skilled workers to fill them.

Seeking to collaborate with Government to develop an integrated approach to transport funding and increase the level of funding available for Canterbury transport networks.

- Our region's vast transport network provides connection and strongly influences economic development, supporting supply chains that are critical for getting our products to market. Current funding sources do not meet present or future transport network resilience

requirements. It is estimated that an additional \$1 billion is required over the next 10 years.

For more detail on the Plan for Canterbury, our full action plan, and why these are our immediate priority issues go to www.canterburymayors.org.nz/PlanforCanterbury.

Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury – update January 2024

Foreword

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

Tihei 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

Picture of Mayor Nigel Bowen, Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Ki utu ki tai | From the mountains to the sea, Canterbury is an amazing place to visit, live, study, work and do business. We offer an abundance of opportunities in construction, agriculture, manufacturing, professional and technical services, the arts, culture, sport, outdoor and community activities.

This Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury builds on the 2020-2022 Plan, and includes all four aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural).

We have narrowed our focus and attention on three priority areas: sustainable environmental management, shared prosperity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Within these priority areas we have identified specific actions that we will focus on to make a difference through our leadership, facilitation and advocacy. In January 2024 we refreshed the priorities and actions in our Plan.

The Plan provides the opportunity to lead discussions on the drivers for change in Canterbury which include our changing climate; regulation impacting on the future of land use, including greenhouse gas emissions and water quality, the need to capture more of the value from the diverse agricultural food and fibre production in Canterbury and retain that

value in the region to create more prosperity for our communities and businesses. We also want to be at the forefront of discussions with central government on opportunities for regional and city deals that will benefit both Canterbury and New Zealand.

While we have refreshed parts of this Plan, the Mayoral Forum will continue its central focus on advocating for governance and decision-making to be devolved to the level of government closest to affected communities.

Our Plan for Canterbury summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Cantabrians. It provides a basis for conversation and partnership with Ngāi Tahu, Government, tertiary education providers, and the business, community and volunteer sectors. Where our interests align, we can work together for the good of all.

Mā whero mā pango ka oti ai te mahi | With red and black the work will be complete.

We welcome the opportunity to work across our communities and with our partners to achieve our vision for Canterbury to develop sustainably while sharing prosperity and developing resilient communities who are proud of their identity.

About us – who we are – (Design Team: incl photo/map?)

The members of the Mayoral Forum are the mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the chair of the Canterbury Regional Council.

The Forum is mandated by the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement and is the primary mechanism for communication, co-ordination and collaboration between councils in New Zealand's largest region.

The Forum is supported by the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum, Policy, Corporate, Operations, Economic Development and Communications and Engagement Forums, regional working groups and a permanent secretariat hosted by the Canterbury Regional Council.

For further information, see our website <https://canterburymayors.org.nz>

Background to the Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

Consistent with the purpose of the Local Government Act, the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury, takes into consideration the four independent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural), along with the four 'capitals' that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital). The Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2020-2022 had five priority issues

- sustainable environmental management
- shared economic prosperity
- better freight transport options
- climate change mitigation and adaptation
- three waters services.

We have summarised achievements of the Mayoral Forum during 2019-2022 on our website¹.

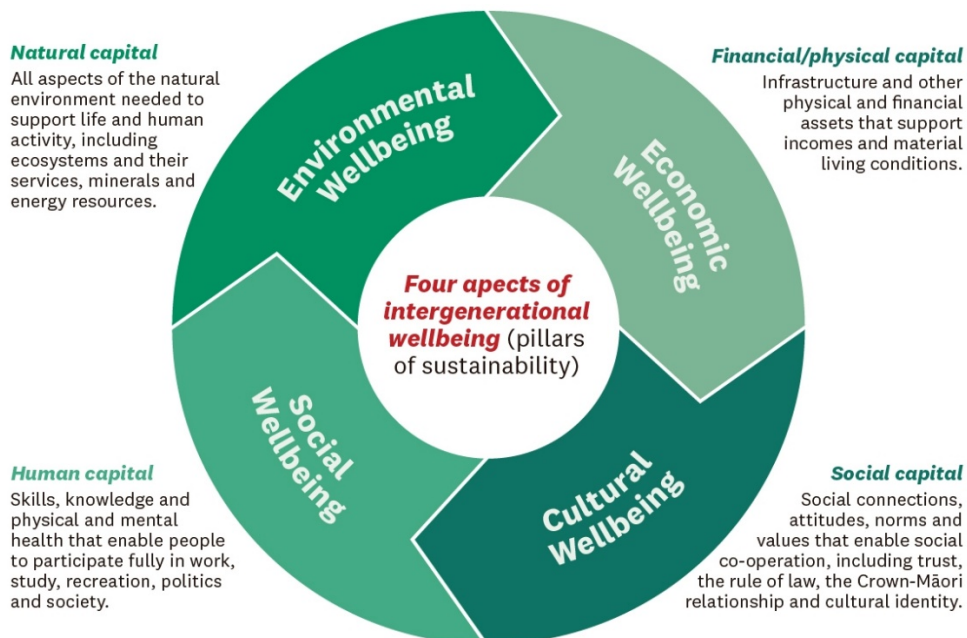
A wellbeing framework for sustainable development

Natural capital – All aspects of the natural environment needed to support life and human activity, including ecosystems and their services, minerals and energy resources.

Financial physical capital – Infrastructure and other physical and financial assets that support incomes and material living conditions.

Social capital – Social connections, attitudes, norms and values that enable social co-operation, including trust, the rule of law, the Crown-Māori relationship and cultural identity.

Human capital – Skills, knowledge and physical and mental health that enable people to participate fully in work, study, recreation, politics and society.



Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

At the first meeting of the triennium, the Mayoral Forum agreed that the Plan for Canterbury is fundamentally sound, with minor changes needed to the vision to widen 'shared economic prosperity' simply to 'shared prosperity' to ensure social prosperity is appropriately captured, and a sharper focus on priority areas for the Forum. The Plan has also been informed by Canterbury 2022: An Overview².

¹ [Mayoral Forum achievements 2019-2022 \(canterburymayors.org.nz\)](https://canterburymayors.org.nz)

² [Canterbury wellbeing overview 2022 - Canterbury Mayoral Forum \(canterburymayors.org.nz\)](https://canterburymayors.org.nz)

The Forum agreed that the Plan for Canterbury needs to be more agile and able to be updated (particularly the actions) as the triennium progresses.

With this agility in mind, the initial plan included both immediate priority actions, in light of the upcoming general election, and longer-term priorities for the full three years of this term and beyond.

This current version of the Plan for Canterbury has been refreshed to reflect updates to the priority actions to ensure that we are focused on priorities and actions that continue to support our communities now and into the future.

Outcomes from a Canterbury Mayoral Forum workshop, informed by current local government priorities and central government policies formed the basis for refreshing the Plan for Canterbury.

A key aspect in the consideration of the refresh was to lead discussions on the drivers for change in Canterbury which include our changing climate; regulation impacting on the future of land use, including greenhouse gas emissions and water quality, the need to capture more of the value from the diverse agricultural food and fibre production in Canterbury and retain that value in the region to create more prosperity for our communities and businesses.

We also want to be at the forefront of discussions with central government on opportunities for regional and city deals that will benefit both Canterbury and New Zealand.

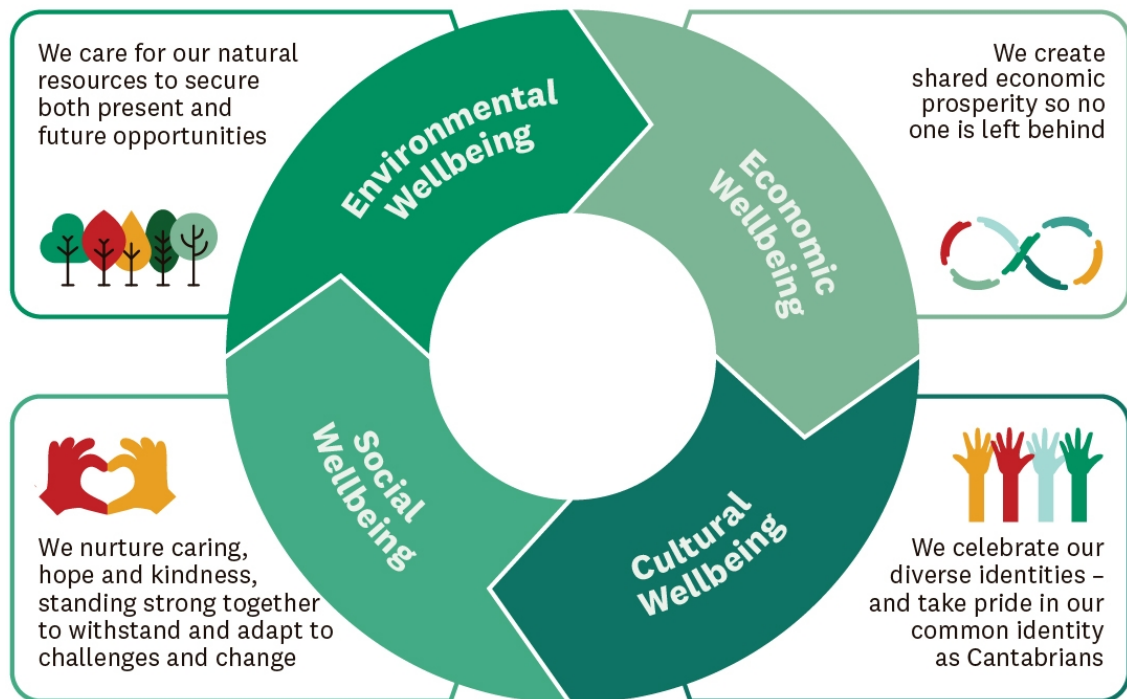
Our vision and values

Our vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and proud identity. We also want to make sure that sustainable development meets the needs of the present, while safeguarding the wellbeing of current and future generations.

In this we echo the guiding whakataukī of Ngāi Tahu: *Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei – for us and our children after us.*

To expand on this, our vision is that in Canterbury, all of us together:

- care for our natural resources to secure both present and future opportunities
- create shared 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.



We commit to prudent governance for the future that achieves balance between the four aspects of wellbeing. While we cannot tackle every aspect of wellbeing equally and everywhere at the same time, no single aspect of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social or cultural) is more important than any other.

We acknowledge our strength as Canterbury and strongly support 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.

Standing together for Canterbury, we celebrate a win for any part of the region as a win for the whole region. And during hard times and when disaster strikes, we all pitch in to help. A wise and balanced approach to sustainable development requires 'gifts and gains', recognition of our diverse interests and values, and reaching agreement where we can without pushing for consensus where it does not exist.

Our shared future

Canterbury has much to offer residents, visitors, businesses and New Zealand. Our region is the largest by land area, with diverse landscapes, abundant water (over 78,000 kms of rivers and streams), and large areas of flat land. We have a strong agricultural base, with innovative farmers and agribusiness making a significant contribution to the country's GDP. We are also a strong base for tourism, with the region featuring some of New Zealand's most spectacular scenery, including mountains, braided rivers, lakes and beaches. Our economy contributes 13 per cent of New Zealand's GDP. As a region Canterbury is well connected nationally and internationally and is the main gateway to Antarctica. Canterbury has the South Island's major international airport (Christchurch), a regional airport (Timaru), two seaports (Timaru and Lyttelton) and inland ports at Rolleston.

Through the Mayoral Forum we have well established structures and an established coordinated approach to working for our communities. We want to use these to our advantage to support discussions on addressing the drivers for change in Canterbury.

Our councils are facing significant challenges and change over the coming years. The impact of inflation, central government policies and addressing climate change resilience will influence the shape and functions of local government and the communities we serve.

Ensuring a strong local voice through any changes and into the design of outcomes will be important to ensure the continued success of our local communities.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum will take every opportunity to influence central government policies and programmes to support local communities and to influence and shape local government's future for the Canterbury community. There is a willingness to work with neighbouring Mayoral Forums and groups to extend this to a Te Waipounamu/South Island collaborative governance future.

As part of our advocacy work, the Mayoral Forum makes considered submissions on government reform programmes and other legislation to provide a whole-of-Canterbury view. This will continue as the term progresses. Submissions on previous government reform legislation and *He mata whāriki, he matawhānui* (review into the future for local government draft report October 2022) are available on our website³.

A key priority for the Mayoral Forum this triennium is to work collectively, and with central government, to deliver positive and enduring outcomes for our communities, while ensuring that our communities can see the 'local', and in particular 'their local'.

Our priorities

To achieve its long-term vision, the Mayoral Forum has identified three priority issues for the Mayoral Forum's leadership, facilitation and advocacy in this local government term:

- **Sustainable environmental management** of our habitats (land, air, water and ecosystems) – focusing on land use and freshwater management
- **Shared prosperity** for all our communities – focusing on building on our economic strengths and developing emerging sectors, growing, attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, improving the transport network and coordinating strategies for housing our communities
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation** – reducing our carbon footprint, working together on climate action planning, building community resilience and making our infrastructure as strong as it can be.

Selection of these three priority areas does not mean that other issues are unimportant. Some have greater sub-regional than regional significance (for example public and active transport is primarily an issue for the Greater Christchurch Partnership), some issues are well on the way to being addressed through other avenues, and there are a number of

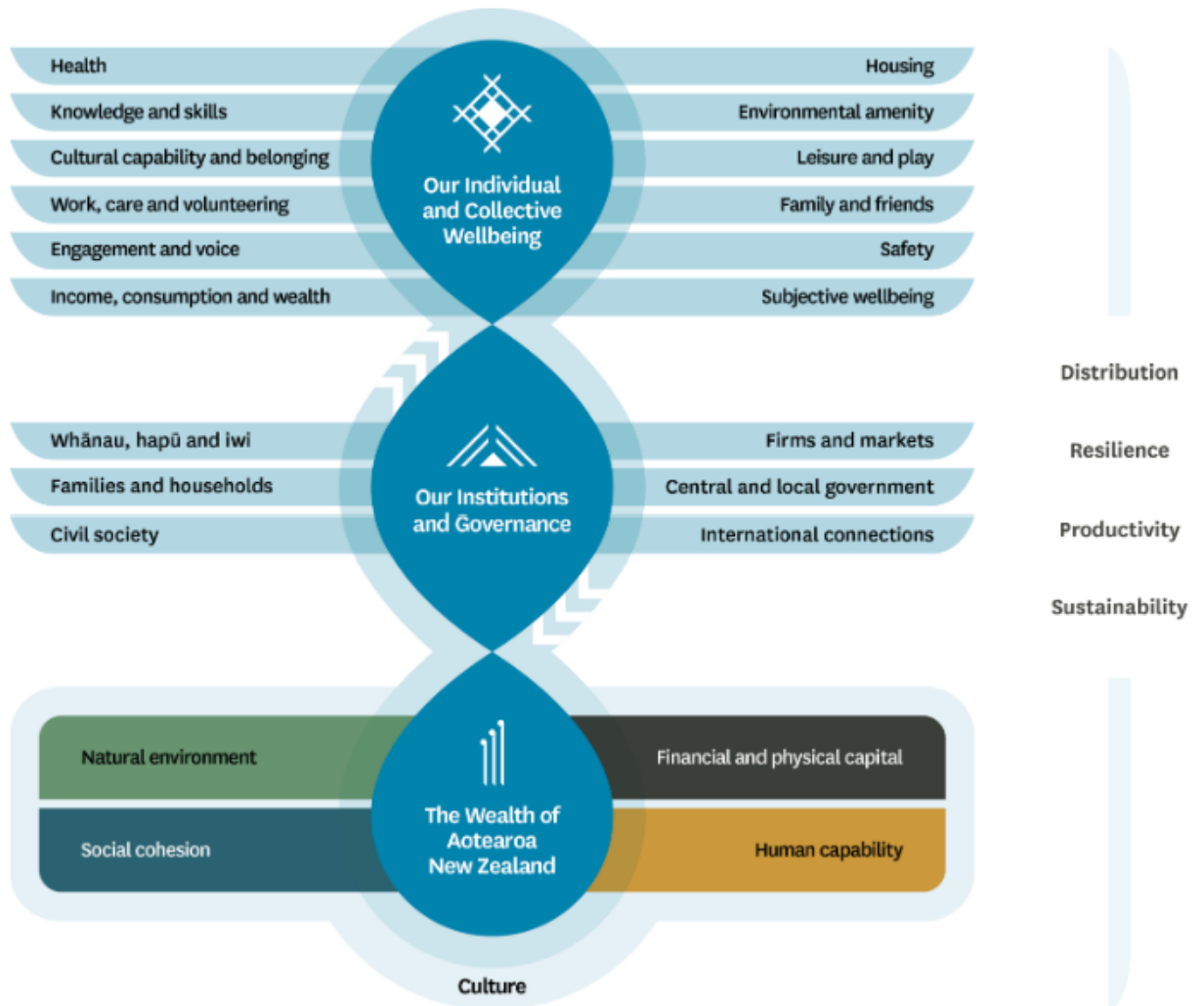
³ www.canterburymayors.org.nz

issues of importance that the Mayoral Forum care deeply about but have little or no ability to influence.

As in 2019, the Mayoral Forum used three sets of criteria to narrow a long list of issues.

Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this issue critical to the wellbeing of the region in 5-10 years' time? If we do nothing, will the issue still be important in 5-10 years' time? • Does this issue have sufficient scale, scope and complexity to require a regional focus? • Is this issue already being managed effectively by another agency or organisation?
Democratic mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there strong public concern about the issue? • Do our councils (elected members) care about the issue?
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the Mayoral Forum influence outcomes in a measurable way and if so, how?

In determining these priority areas, we have used Treasury's Living Standards Framework to prompt our thinking about wellbeing and policy impacts, and the interdependent nature of wellbeing across the four aspects that make up the wealth of Aotearoa New Zealand – the natural environment, financial and physical capital, social cohesion, and human capability. A copy of the framework is provided at Figure 1 below.



Why these are our priority issues?

Sustainable environmental management

Canterbury is New Zealand's largest region by land area. We have:

- 21% of New Zealand's highest quality soils
- 19% of the total area farmed in New Zealand
- Around 70% of New Zealand's groundwater
- 64% of the country's irrigated land area
- More than 4,700 lakes and tarns, over 78,000 km of rivers and streams, 800 km of coastline and 11,620 km² of coastal marine area.

Past land use decisions, agricultural intensification since the 1970s and increased urbanisation have, however, increased pressure on the region's rivers, streams and groundwater aquifers, and on indigenous biodiversity.

In 2009, the Mayoral Forum launched the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS)⁴ and continues to oversee its delivery. In 2019, the Forum commissioned the Fit for Future project to develop 2025 and 2030 goals for the ten target areas of the CWMS and a regional work programme to support delivery of the strategy.

National and regional freshwater policy has changed since the inception of the CWMS, water is seen as an enabler for regional economic development, and more recently the relationship between water, food production and energy security and how these elements are linked to community resilience have surfaced. Consideration of water issues also needs to take place in the context of impacts/influences of climate change and how this may shape water and land management decisions going forward.

A review of the zone committees, which support the delivery of the CWMS will take place over 2024. The review will focus on the evolution of zone committees and local leadership in freshwater management, taking into account the changes to national direction and freshwater management. Discussions will also need to take place to consider

The Mayoral Forum will continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, taking into consideration the changing national and regional policies, along with the relationship between water, food production and energy security.

Flooding is the leading most commonly occurring natural hazard in New Zealand – we only have to look across the country over the past few years to see this. Canterbury, with its more than 78,000km worth of rivers and streams, continues to be at huge risk of more events like those we saw in 2021. Future flood management solutions must consider ecological, environmental, whole of catchment and Te Mana o te Wai considerations, alongside spatial planning, managed retreat, building control and community preparedness responses.

⁴ [Canterbury Water Management Strategy | Environment Canterbury \(ecan.govt.nz\)](https://www.ecan.govt.nz/canterbury-water-management-strategy/)

The cost of improving the resilience of the protection provided by current river management schemes is significant, with regional councils estimating shortfall of investment to be in the order of \$150m per annum nationally⁵. Flood protection schemes protect local and national assets and contribute to more sustainable regional economies. Permanent co-investment in flood protection and river management shifts the focus from disaster relief and rehabilitation towards necessary top-of-the-cliff mitigation of flood risks, with reduced long-term costs.

The Mayoral Forum will continue to support the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa' business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection, an updated version of which was presented to the Government in 2022⁶.

A key part of sustainable environments is also enabling flourishing biodiversity. Native biodiversity in New Zealand is unique – many of our plants, birds, bats, insects, fungi, reptiles and fish are only found on our islands. We have a collective responsibility to safeguard our biodiversity for present and future generations. As part of this, in the last local government term the Mayoral Forum supported the formation of the regional Biodiversity Champions, an elected member group with representatives from all of Canterbury's councils, who work together to promote biodiversity and advocate for the role of councils and communities in weaving biodiversity through Canterbury's living and working landscapes.

The Mayoral Forum will continue to 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.

Shared prosperity

We want to build on Canterbury's strengths and create shared prosperity for all our communities.

Sharing prosperity amongst all of Canterbury's communities means all of us can benefit, ensuring better and more sustainable futures for ourselves and future generations.

Canterbury has many natural advantages, significant infrastructure, and a range of tertiary education providers and research institutes. We are well-placed for research-informed innovation in sustainable primary production and high-value manufacturing that lifts productivity and the prosperity of our region. There are opportunities to capture more of the value from the diverse agricultural food and fibre production in Canterbury and retain that value in the region to create more prosperity. These opportunities are also linked to the regional approach to water management, climate change mitigation and adaptation and energy security.

⁵ [Reports | Ko Tātou LGNZ](#)

⁶ [Reports | Ko Tātou LGNZ](#)

Despite this, Canterbury's GDP per person still lags behind the country as a whole. To lift wages and incomes, we need more skilled jobs and skilled workers to fill them – through 'growing our own' but also by attracting and retaining newcomers through internal and external migration.

The Mayoral Forum will continue to advocate with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury.

To build on our strengths, we need a sustained focus on the region's key industries, as well as an eye to transitioning the economy and developing emerging sectors. We know that agriculture plays a significantly more important role in Canterbury's economy than those of Auckland or Wellington, and generates a significant amount of economic activity from supporting industries including manufacturing, transport and warehousing, and financial and insurance services. Diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production improves market resilience and has potential to reduce environmental impact.

The Mayoral Forum will continue to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production.

Energy security will be critical for Canterbury to be able to continue to pick up and support opportunities for the region. There are strong connections in Canterbury between energy, water, food production and climate change. There are opportunities to support new technologies in the energy sector, as renewable energies become an increasingly important part of responding to climate change impacts. We need to be ready to pick up and support opportunities in these emerging sectors.

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 and co-develop a regional action plan to address barriers and harness opportunities to decarbonise our energy systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community economy and environment.

In addition, Canterbury is home to a burgeoning aerospace industry because of its topography, infrastructure and proximity to international air- and sea- ports. There are exciting prospects ahead that will benefit us all.

Our region has a vast transport network. It is how we connect with each other, within Canterbury, the South Island, the rest of the country and internationally. Transport strongly influences economic development, supporting supply chains that are critical for getting our exports to market and imports back to us. The system faces a number of challenges; an increase in the number of severe weather events around the country means that the transport network needs to be more resilient than ever. Climate change effects highlight the importance of reducing transport emissions and encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport.

Maintaining and renewing our transport system to keep it fit for purpose requires significant investment, whether it be to maintain the existing network, develop new roading options or

support increased public transport. Current funding sources from local authorities and the National Land Transport Fund will not meet current needs, particularly when faced with resilience issues.

It is estimated that \$11 billion is required over the next 10 years to materially impact the range of issues transport is facing in the region. Although there is no simple solution, there are options to be investigated. The Mayoral Forum will continue to support the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee to investigate options to increase the level of funding available for the transport network in Canterbury.

The Mayoral Forum will advocate with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions

Prosperity is also about looking after ourselves and each other, celebrating our diversity and taking pride in our common identity as Cantabrians. We know that the pandemic has exacerbated demand for mental health services in Canterbury, which were already elevated following the 2010-11 earthquakes and the 2019 terrorist attack. Hearteningly, in the 2021 General Social Survey, 85% of Cantabrians rated their overall life satisfaction between 7-10 (on a scale where zero is completely dissatisfied and 10 is completely satisfied). This was higher than the national average, as well as higher than those in Auckland and Wellington respectively.

The Mayoral Forum maintains close and regular engagement with the Regional Public Service Commissioner, who is leading a joined-up work programme across Government on the following social wellbeing priorities:

- all tamariki and rangatahi in Canterbury reach their full potential (including actions focused around school engagement and attendance)
- transitioning Canterbury to become a more highly productive and sustainable economy
- equitable access to services, safe housing and tenure
- addressing family violence and sexual violence
- ensuring whanau have access to services, resources and live in healthy environments that support mental wellbeing.

The Forum has much to contribute to this work programme given how close local government is to its communities. We will continue to support and monitor progress on these critical priority areas.

Relatedly, one of the priorities for the Forum this term will be developing a regional housing strategy. Many councils own and manage social housing, as well as supporting trusts and other community organisations to build affordable housing. Safe, secure and affordable housing are key to enhancing wellbeing and therefore prosperity. We know that in some parts of Canterbury, the key issue is the quantity and/or quality of social housing, while in others it is access to affordable housing, and in other areas the issue is the volume of housing stock available – and in some places, it is a mix of all three.

Housing shortages can cause significant issues for the ability of businesses to employ the staff they need, particularly in rural and regional areas. The tight accommodation puts off prospective employees and in some areas employers have given up advertising roles because they know even if they can find the labour, they cannot find housing for them. The labour market, particularly for seasonal workers, is an incredibly tight labour market, which in some instances, is driven by the lack of affordable worker accommodation.

The Mayoral Forum will 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.

The Forum also recognises we live in a landscape with a range of natural hazards, particularly floods, fires and earthquakes. There is a 75% probability of an Alpine Fault earthquake occurring in the next 50 years, and there is a four out of five chance that it will be a magnitude 8+ event⁷. The Forum wants to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for such an event, and that people, homes, livelihoods and communities are protected from the worst impacts. The Mayoral Forum strongly supports the work of the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Climate change is the biggest challenge of our time and has systemic and intergenerational impacts. It affects our weather, health and wellbeing, natural environment, taonga species, mahinga kai, food production, biosecurity, infrastructure, and economy.

Responding to climate change is an urgent issue. We are already seeing its impacts in more frequent droughts, extreme weather events and flooding, coastal erosion, and increased fire risk. The May 2021 floods in Canterbury are a clear example of this.

As a region, we need to reduce our carbon emissions and do what we can to mitigate the effects of climate change. We also need to prepare for the changes that are ahead of us and respond to the social, environmental and economic effects of our changing climate.

The first Emissions Reduction Plan was released in 2022. It is the first statutory plan, under the Climate Change Response Act, to require the Government to act to reduce emissions right across the economy, support the transition, and seize the opportunity to lower the cost of living and improve living standards.

The National Adaptation Plan was released in 2022. The Plan sets out how New Zealand will build resilience for an uncertain future. It contains more than 120 actions, and the Ministry for the Environment has published a summary of what the Plan will mean for local government more specifically.

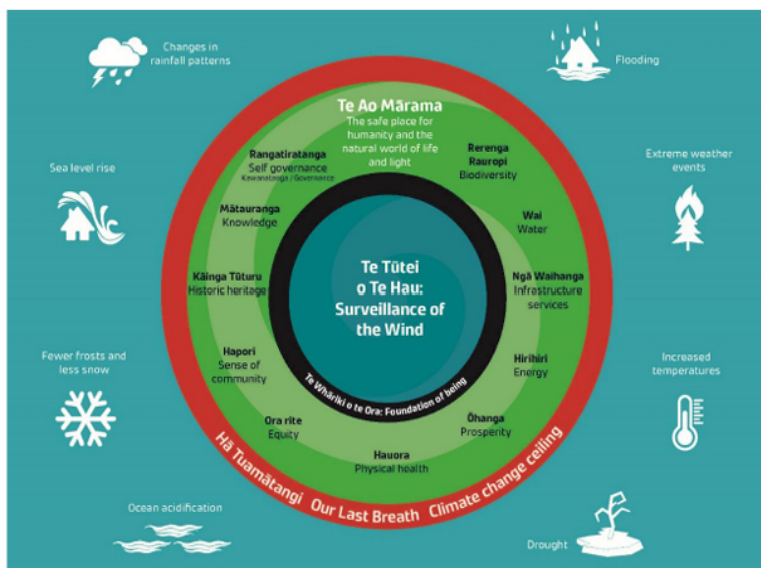
Responding to climate change underpins the priority we give to environmental management and extends to:

⁷ [AF8 \[Alpine Fault magnitude 8\]](#)

- measuring and reducing our own carbon footprint as individual councils
- contributing to the design of Government policy and regulation and advocating for strong Government leadership through multi-party agreements to minimise political short-termism
- planning ahead in our Long-Term Plans and 30-year Infrastructure Strategies to make our infrastructure as resilient as it can be.

Regional response to climate change

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum published the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment in early 2022⁸, which has been designed to build a shared understanding of climate change risks across the region, and to help us prepare and respond effectively. The assessment centres around a framework that aligns both a Te Ao Māori worldview and the National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA) framework.



Te Whāriki o te Ora: The black ring represents whakapapa, or genealogical connection, that extends from the spiritual realm to that of the human domain. It recognises that humans cannot exist without basic needs and a social foundation.

Te Ao Mārama: The green ring represents the area in which humans can exist when we are functioning within the capacity of our ecosystems. Ngā pono (the values) identified within this circle are critical for us to understand and respond to when considering climate risk.

Hā Tuamātangi: The red ring represents the upper limit in which humans, environments and ecosystems can continue to exist. Beyond this boundary, it is no longer possible to respond to risks proactively.

Understanding the risks and opportunities from climate change now and into the future is a vital step in our efforts to curb its long-term impact in our region.

⁸ [Canterbury-CCRA-Report_FINAL_V5.0.pdf \(canterburymayors.org.nz\)](https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/Canterbury-CCRA-Report_FINAL_V5.0.pdf)

The next step following the risk assessment is to develop a regional climate change partnership plan, which will determine regional adaptation and mitigation actions and support the individual climate plans and strategies of our 11 councils. Work commenced on this at the beginning of 2023.

The Mayoral Forum will oversee the completion of the 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.

Relationship engagement and management

Building positive and enduring relationships with mana whenua, the business community, tertiary education providers, central government, and our wider communities will play a key part in achieving our goals this term.

In working alongside mana whenua, a joint understanding of what partnership means will be important. The Forum wants to grow its collaboration with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as the Treaty partner in the region, as well as with the 10 Canterbury Papatipu Rūnanga. We are keen to explore what enabling mechanisms we have to assist the 10 Rūnanga with engaging and collaborating with us on the key issues for our region and communities.

The Mayoral Forum recognises the need to work across business, government at all levels, mana whenua and communities. Engaging with key influencers across the region and beyond to work collectively to address the drivers for change in Canterbury will be one way to create more prosperity for our communities and businesses.

We must also focus on strengthening our relationships with Ministers and Members of Parliament. We can do this by:

- leveraging our individual relationships for the benefit of the whole region
- actively making the most of opportunities to engage with Ministers and our local Canterbury-based MPs
- making better use of advocates through our relationships with regional public sector officials
- take opportunities, to demonstrate the value and importance of local government
- showcase our successes and the resulting benefits to NZ Inc.

The Government's policy announcements about regional/city deals and a provincial growth fund affords us the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of Canterbury to New Zealand's economic prosperity and the significance of fit-for-purpose infrastructure to future-proof our agricultural and tourism industries. We intend to engage with the Government at the earliest opportunity on this.

Our relationship with the business community and tertiary education providers is also crucial to achieving some of our economic development and climate resilience aspirations. We need to work closely with industry groups and representative organisations to understand what the issues are so we can target our advocacy appropriately.

Finally, we don't underestimate the importance of the relationship with our communities. Engaging Canterbury's communities in our work, and the work of local government more widely, can only serve to strengthen local democracy. One of the key things we can do is highlight and promote the importance of local government to everyday lives – people use a range of council services each and every day, from when they turn on the shower in the morning, use the transport network to get to and from work or school, borrow a library book, use a swimming pool or simply walk around a park.

Action Plan to address the priorities

1. The Mayoral Forum will continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, taking into consideration the changing national and regional policies, along with the relationship between water, food production and energy security.
2. The Mayoral Forum will continue to support the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa' business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection, an updated version of which was presented to the Government in 2022⁹.
3. The Mayoral Forum will continue to 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.
4. The Mayoral Forum will continue to advocate with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury.
5. The Mayoral Forum will continue to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production.
6. The Mayoral Forum will support the region to foster partnerships and co-develop a regional action plan to address barriers and harness opportunities to decarbonise our energy systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community economy and environment.
7. The Mayoral Forum will advocate with government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions.
8. The Mayoral Forum will 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.
9. The Mayoral Forum will oversee the completion of the 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.

⁹ [Reports | Ko Tātou LGNZ](#)

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Date: 29 January 2024

Presented by: Hamish Dobbie

Engaging with central government

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the Forum's views on the proposed approach, including draft briefings, to engaging with the Government.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum:

1. **approve the approach, including the draft briefings, on engaging with central government and that this be provided to the Mayoral Forum for their final approval.**

Background

2. The Mayoral Forum held a facilitated workshop at its November 2023 meeting to look at how it might engage with the incoming government and prepare for future conversations about regional/city deals, which form a part of the National Party's plan for infrastructure. The workshop also reviewed the actions in the Plan for Canterbury to ensure they were fit-for-purpose.
3. The workshop focused on the following questions:
 - what can Canterbury offer central government?
 - what does central government want from Canterbury?
 - what does Canterbury want from central government?
 - what governance and partnerships would enable us to deliver?
4. It then looked at when and how the Forum should engage with the new government, what it could do in the interim, and what the contents of a regional or city deal might look like.
5. Some of the key themes arising from the workshop were:
 - Canterbury has connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers
 - Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation, and a proven ability

to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the CREDS and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects

- good levels of trust need to be built between local and central government in the region so that there can be genuine partnerships
 - the Forum can help facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and so on
 - a recognition of the importance of building relationships with mana whenua, MPs, ministers and government departments, and supporting current engagements by others that are already under way, such as Te Uru Kahika, LGNZ
 - Plan for Canterbury vision and three key priority areas are still relevant and a good basis to begin engagement; some tweaking of action areas and focus areas within this, is needed.
6. The next steps were for the secretariat and workshop facilitator to analyse the workshop outputs and provide further advice on developing a plan to engage and the next steps to build a case for a regional/city deal.
 7. It was acknowledged that building a case for a regional/city deal will take time. Members discussed the possibility of either a regional deal business case, or a case that sets out the big picture for the region but has sections that focus on specific deals at the subregional level. This will be worked through as part of the next stage.
 8. Updates to the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury are discussed at item 4.2.

Proposed engagement approach

9. At the November workshop the Forum identified a range of options to build on its engagement with government and specifically with ministers:
 - connect with their local Government MP (electorate or list) to build relationships at the local level and seek their advice on improving engagement with ministers
 - support nationally-led conversations already under way; e.g. Te Uru Kahika
 - continue engagement with the Regional Public Service Commissioner to leverage connections into the public service
 - engage with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga
 - make initial connection with Hon Simeon Brown (Minister of Local Government and Transport)
 - identify key people of influence to build relationships and share the Forum's plans with – i.e. leaders of universities/tertiary institutes, key government departments or agencies, chambers of commerce, industry associations, non-government MPs
 - aim to lock in a regular meeting cycle with ministers, rather than one-offs
 - ensure the timing and focus of engagement is primed to influence Budget 2025

- look for initial meetings in March 2024, preferably in Wellington (same approach as May 2023 visit to Wellington)
 - develop consistent regional messaging on LTPs to support engagement
 - bring together all existing information on potential projects that could be included in a regional deal as the basis to develop a business case.
10. Since the Forum's workshop, the following engagement actions have been completed or are under way:
- a letter was sent to the Minister of Local Government in December 2023 seeking a meeting with the Forum for an initial discussion about regional/city deals
 - regional messaging on 2024 LTPs is under way with assistance from the Canterbury Communications and Engagement Forum
 - Invitations have been extended to William Rolleston and Rod Carr to attend the February Mayoral Forum dinner and meeting respectively
 - briefings to ministers are under way (see next section).
11. Amy Adams, Chancellor of Canterbury University, attended the November Mayoral Forum dinner. This was a useful foundation for building on further engagement.
12. There is an opportunity to invite Canterbury's Government MPs to lunch following the February (or May) Forum meeting, or to arrange a meeting outside of scheduled Forums.
13. The Forum's view is sought on whether the approach outlined above is appropriate, and what other actions members might consider are necessary to achieve the level of engagement with ministers sought by the Mayoral Forum.

Ministerial briefings

14. The Mayoral Forum has previously agreed to write to a range of ministers with relevant portfolios briefing them on the key issues (and issues of mutual interest) for Canterbury. Each of these briefings will reference city/regional deals where appropriate and contain a request to meet to discuss the issues in more detail.
15. Briefings are currently being drafted for the following ministerial portfolios:
- agriculture (Hon Todd McClay)
 - climate change (Hon Simon Watts)
 - economic development (Hon Melissa Lee)
 - tertiary education and skills, environment (Hon Penny Simmonds)
 - emergency management (Hon Mark Mitchell)
 - energy and resources, local government, transport (Hon Simeon Brown)

- finance (Hon Nicola Willis)
- housing, infrastructure, resource management reform (Hon Chris Bishop)
- health (Hon Shane Reti)
- immigration (Hon Erica Stanford)
- regional development (Hon Shane Jones)
- science, innovation and technology (Hon Judith Collins)
- rural communities (Hon Mark Patterson)

16. A high-level briefing to the Prime Minister has also being drafted.
17. Three examples of current drafts are attached. The remaining briefings will follow a similar approach and be included with the Mayoral Forum papers for their February meeting.

Next steps

18. Subject to any feedback on the draft briefings and the proposed approach, the secretariat will develop the remaining briefings. The proposed approach to engagement and briefings will also be brought to the Mayoral Forum for its consideration and approval.
19. The secretariat will also follow up with the office of Hon Simeon Brown about the invitation to meet for an initial discussion about regional/city deals.
20. Once briefings have been sent, follow-ups with ministers' offices will focus on securing a day trip to Wellington like the visit that occurred in May 2023.

Attachments

- Example draft briefings to Rt Hon Christopher Luxon; Hon Nicola Willis (Finance), and Hon Melissa Lee (Economic Development)

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

xx February 2024

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: C.Luxon@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Prime Minister

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum: Key issues for Canterbury

In our letter to you following the General Election, we noted the Forum would provide briefings for you and your ministers with background and context on the key issues for Canterbury and how these align with the government's policy agenda. This briefing covers the key matters at a high level we would like you to be aware of as Prime Minister. We will send more detailed briefings to your ministers, along with invitations for ministers to meet with us separately to talk about the key issues and how we will work together over the term.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

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.

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

The Forum 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 Forum's aspirations are to achieve sustainable development across the four interdependent aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing) and

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the four ‘capitals’ that enable wellbeing (financial/physical capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital).

Plan for Canterbury

Each triennium the Forum prepares a strategy and action plan to guide its work. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum’s Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025¹ 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 our 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 co-develop a regional action plan to address barriers and harness opportunities to decarbonise our energy systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community economy and environment
- advocate 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.

For a useful backgrounder on Canterbury’s economy, environment, and social and cultural wellbeing, we recommend reading *Canterbury 2022: An Overview*² – a document we developed to help inform the actions in the Plan for Canterbury.

City/regional deals

The Forum has noted with interest your Government’s policy on city/regional deals. This is something we are very keen to engage on, and soon.

¹ <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/forums/plan-for-canterbury-2023-2025/>

² <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/resources/canterbury-wellbeing-overview/>

Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth that will benefit the whole of New Zealand – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation. We also have connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy from 2015-2019 and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects. The Forum also plays a role in helping to facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and so on, which would be useful in developing regional/city deals with the Government.

While we wait for further detail on this concept and how your Government may implement proposed deals, we have written to the Minister of Local Government to suggest a meeting for an initial discussion on this topic. We will cover this matter in more detail in our briefing to Minister Brown.

Funding and financing of 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.

Our key areas of concern for local government's future relate 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 percent of GDP over the past 70 years, despite it having a growing number of roles and responsibilities. This is something we wish to partner with the Government on to ensure local government is sustainable for the future and can deliver on community needs and expectations. We would 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 exploit 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. Wellbeing stands at the heart of local government work and this contribution needs to be better understood and integrated with national systems and services.

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 Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes³. 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. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood

³ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

protection measures will be challenged - the Forum 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.

Ongoing engagement with the government

We look forward to working with you and your government this term on delivering for our communities. While we will engage directly with your ministers on issues of mutual interest, we would very much welcome meeting with you whenever you visit the region in 2024. Alternatively, our Forum meets on 23 February (in Christchurch), 31 May (in Ashburton), 30 August (in Christchurch), and 29 November (in Christchurch) if any of those dates work with your availability – if so, your office can contact our secretariat through secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Mayor, Timaru District
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum

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xx February 2024

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: N.Willis@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Willis

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum: Finance

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Finance. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to the Finance portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

Background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

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

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Plan for Canterbury

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

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- advocacy with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury
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- 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.

Our briefing covers matters across our three priority areas.

Canterbury economy

Canterbury's economy is largely based in the primary industries. Agriculture contributed 6.7% of regional GDP in the year to March 2020, and manufacturing contributed 11%. Primary manufacturing contributed 64% of that. Agriculture and manufacturing industries are responsible for approximately 32% of all employment in the region.

We have a burgeoning aerospace industry, and significant opportunities in science and innovation with a number of Crown Research Institutes and two universities in the region. 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

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whales, dolphins, and seals, visit wineries and gardens, shop, and more, all within two hours of Christchurch².

For more details on Canterbury's economy, environment, and social and cultural wellbeing, we recommend reading *Canterbury 2022: An Overview*³ – a document we developed to help inform the actions in the Plan for Canterbury.

The region has a number of key infrastructure projects under way or planned across the region, including:

- a second bridge over the Ashburton/Hakatere river
- construction of a new \$344 million Antarctica research base in Timaru before being transported to Scott Base
- the road-rail freight hub in Ashburton
- Woodend bypass
- development of Wakatu Quay in Kaikōura
- completion of the multi-use arena and Parakiore recreation and sports centre in Christchurch.

City/regional deals

The Forum has noted with interest your Government's policy on city/regional deals. This is something we are very keen to engage on, and soon.

As demonstrated above, Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth that will benefit the whole of New Zealand – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation. We also have connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy from 2015-2019 and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects. The Forum also plays a role in helping to facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and so on, which would be useful in developing regional/city deals with the Government.

While we wait for further detail on this concept and how your Government may implement proposed deals, we have written to the Minister of Local Government to suggest a meeting for an initial discussion on this topic. We will cover this matter in more detail in our briefing to Minister Brown but wanted to bring it to your attention as Minister of Finance.

Funding and financing of 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.

Our key areas of concern for local government's future relate to funding and financing. The current funding system for local government is not sufficient for the future – the continued reliance on

² <https://www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/choose-new-zealand/regions-cities/canterbury>

³ https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/7080_CMF_Canterbury_Wellbeing_Overview_SEP_2022.pdf

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 percent of GDP over the past 70 years, despite it having a growing number of roles and responsibilities. This is something we wish to partner with the Government on to ensure local government is sustainable for the future and can deliver on community needs and expectations. We would 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 exploit 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. Wellbeing stands at the heart of local government work and this contribution needs to be better understood and integrated with national systems and services.

Investment in research, science and technology

Greater investment in science, research and innovation is needed to help the pastoral sector manage challenges of climate change and consumer expectation and take up new opportunities. Investment in science is required to help identify the potential benefits of diversifying land-use. In the examples of successful on-farm land-use diversification that we are aware of, partnership with a research provider appeared to be a critical component. Some land-use diversification is likely to be needed to achieve climate goals while minimising impacts on productivity. We view land-use diversification as one example of the applied research and partnership areas that should be invested in within research funding options that government and industry make, or have made, available.

Given the importance of agriculture to the region's economic development, the Mayoral Forum has had a sustained focus over the past few local government terms on supporting the diversification of the pastoral sector and adding value to agricultural production. The Forum has recently completed a multi-year project, led by ChristchurchNZ and the University of Canterbury, to boost value-added production focused on food, fibre and agritech and high-value manufacturing. The project included exploration of industry 'clusters' that exist and exploring how best to support and grow them; facilitating industry events, including the annual Food, Fibre and Agritech Challenge, many of whom that have entered 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 Forum wishes to continue to support and advocate for continued investment in diversifying and adding value to the sector, and is interested in discussing how it can work more closely with central government on this.

Lincoln is home to Canterbury's science hub, where Lincoln University, AgResearch, Plant and Food Research, and Manaaki Whenua are based. As you will know, a key part of the work these research organisations are focused on is sustainable land use and moving the agricultural sector to a lower emissions future. Local government is keen to support improved government investment in the land-based CRIs, particularly on technologies to help mitigate climate change impacts, so they can drive innovation and improve outcomes in the pastoral sector.

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 Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes⁴. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and as our economy relies on agricultural production 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. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged - the Forum 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.

Engagement with the government

We trust this briefing has been helpful. We would like to meet with you to discuss these issues in more detail. The Forum is happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury. Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

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Mayor, Timaru District
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xx February 2024

Hon Melissa Lee
Minister of Economic Development
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

By email: M.Lee@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Lee

Briefing from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum: Economic Development

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Economic Development. The Forum looks forward to engaging with you in this role. The Forum is writing to you to brief you on key issues relating to this portfolio and how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.

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- 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.
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Our briefing focuses on our key priority area of shared prosperity.

Canterbury economy

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- completion of the multi-use arena and Parakiore recreation and sports centre in Christchurch.

It is also worth noting that the Forum governs the Canterbury Water Management Strategy⁴. Given the importance of agriculture to the economy, the way our communities store and use water are critical. For us, water is therefore an enabler for regional economic development, but it also impacts on food production and energy security – which in turn links to community resilience and wellbeing. The intertwined nature of economic and social development is the basis for our key priority area in the Plan for Canterbury of shared prosperity for all our communities.

Skills and immigration

The Forum is well aware that despite our advantages and economic contribution, Canterbury's GDP per person still lags behind the country as a whole. To lift wages and incomes, we need more skilled jobs and skilled workers to fill them – through 'growing our own' but also by attracting and retaining newcomers through internal and external migration.

During the last government term, the Forum engaged with the Canterbury Regional Skills Leadership Group to support its work on skills and workforce planning. Given the linkages between skills and immigration, we also advocated for immigration policies that work for Canterbury.

We are interested in learning more about the government's plan for growing skills and the future of vocational education in New Zealand.

In terms of immigration, we strongly support designing immigration settings that result in a more flexible system, rather than a one size fits all approach. Immigration policy needs to be able to better support rural and regional New Zealand, as well as the larger urban areas. We have previously advocated that the immigration system should be focused on:

- supporting economic growth and access for employers to skilled workforce
- supporting international connectivity

² <https://www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/choose-new-zealand/regions-cities/canterbury>

³ https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/7080_CMF_Canterbury_Wellbeing_Overview_SEP_2022.pdf

⁴ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-water-management-strategy/>

- responding to migrants' needs, providing clear and achievable pathways, and be easily navigable
- working in partnership across the country with employers, employees, government, and industry groups, enabling industry to provide solutions that are supported by Government

We also consider it imperative that the immigration system reflects the need for 'low' and 'medium' skilled labour. Immigration policy should acknowledge the reality that there are jobs that New Zealanders are not able, skilled, or willing to do at every level.

From a Canterbury perspective, the CMF believes there is value in considering the development of regional skills and labour shortage lists. In a region as large as Canterbury, we also need sub-regional skills shortage lists – e.g. Mid-Canterbury, North Canterbury, South Canterbury, and Greater Christchurch, for example. This is because the employment environment in the provincial and rural hinterland is quite different to that of Christchurch. We also support regional visas.

Infrastructure to support economic growth

The Forum is also focused on ensuring the region has the infrastructure to support economic growth. One of our key actions this triennium is to develop a housing strategy and action plan for the region. This is provide a whole-of-region overview of the various housing challenges experienced by our communities and the actions needed to resolve them. The work will support, rather than duplicate, the housing action plans already in place by some councils. The strategy and action plan are currently at the scoping stage and we would welcome a conversation with you and your colleagues on how we can work together on improving housing outcomes for our communities as part of the Government's 'Going for Housing Growth' housing policy.

The region is also cognisant that improved transport infrastructure is needed to support economic growth – so our communities and visitors can get around more easily and our goods can get to market more efficiently. While commitments at the central government level (though the 'Transport for the Future' policy) have been made for a second Ashburton bridge and the Woodend Bypass, the Forum is keen to see the Greater Christchurch Partnership's mass rapid transit business case⁵ be approved and funded. More generally, we want to see a review of transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions. This is something we will cover in more detail in our briefing to the Minister of Transport.

Tourism infrastructure is another significant area that would better 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.

City/regional deals

The Forum has noted with interest your Government's policy on city/regional deals. This is something we are very keen to engage on, and soon.

⁵ <https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz/urbangrowthprogramme/transport>

As demonstrated above, Canterbury has many opportunities for economic growth that will benefit the whole of New Zealand – in energy, aerospace, water storage, tourism, agribusiness, science and innovation. We also have connected leadership, with a strong Mayoral Forum ready to engage with ministers, and a proven ability to deliver in partnership; for example, implementation of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy from 2015-2019 and delivery of post-earthquake Greater Christchurch projects. The Forum also plays a role in helping to facilitate closer relationships in the region between local government, health, education, regional tourism organisations, NGOs and so on, which would be useful in developing regional/city deals with the Government.

While we wait for further detail on this concept and how your Government may implement proposed deals, we have written to the Minister of Local Government to suggest a meeting for an initial discussion on this topic. We will cover this matter in more detail in our briefing to Minister Brown but wanted to bring it to your attention as Minister for Economic Development.

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 Mayoral Forum is therefore strongly supportive of Te Uru Kahika's business case for central government co-investment in flood protection schemes⁶. Climate change is well and truly upon us, and as our economy relies on agricultural production 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. As the effects of climate change continue to be felt, our flood protection measures will be challenged - the Forum 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.

Canterbury Economic Development Forum

To support coordination across the region, the Mayoral Forum has established an economic development forum, which brings together the heads of each of the economic development agencies in Canterbury. The purpose of this group is to:

- support the Mayoral Forum to take a strong leadership role and provide strategic foresight for economic development in Canterbury
- maintain a regional overview of economic development opportunities to avoid duplication and provide support to all Canterbury councils
- understand gaps and opportunities for economic development in Canterbury
- work on joint collaborations for economic development in Canterbury.

Representatives from Kānoa and the Regional Skills Leadership Group attend these meetings. This provides a two-way conduit between central and local government for economic development initiatives.

Engagement with the government

⁶ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=4524603>

We trust this briefing has been helpful. We would like to meet with you to discuss these issues in more detail. The Forum is happy to travel to Wellington, or alternatively we can arrange a meeting next time you are in Canterbury. Meetings can be arranged through our secretariat - secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or by phone to Maree McNeilly on 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Nigel Bowen
Mayor, Timaru District
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Date: 29 January 2024

Presented by: Hamish Dobbie

Water Reform

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide background information to support a discussion on the water reform process proposed under the National Party's *Local Water Done Well* policy.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum:

1. **note the information provided in the paper to support a discussion on the water reform process proposed under the National Party's *Local Water Done Well* policy.**

Background

2. The Coalition Government has a policy to repeal the Three Waters legislation in their first 100 days. The bill will repeal all legislation relating to water services entities, and reinstate previous legislation related to the provision of water services (including local government legislation) to restore continued council ownership and control of water services and responsibility for service delivery.
3. The repeal bill is expected to be introduced in February 2024, and enacted as soon as possible.
4. The repeal bill will also include temporary modifications to local government legislation for the transitional period affecting 2024 long-term plans.
5. Following the repeal, the government will be introducing their *Local Water Done Well* policy.

Local Water Done Well

6. The Government's *Local Water Done Well* (National Party policy) proposes an approach that keeps community ownership and delivers high water quality while ensuring there is sufficient investment in water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

7. The policy requires councils to deliver a plan on how they will transition their water services to a new model that meets water quality and infrastructure investment rules, while being financially sustainable in the long-term.
8. The Minister of Local Government will sign off on councils' proposals once satisfied that they meet these requirements.
9. It will be up to individual /collective councils to determine their own model for water service delivery, the government will not mandate a model.

Water quality and infrastructure investment rules

Water Quality

10. The Government will amend the existing governing legislation for the Water Quality Regulator (Taumata Arowai) to exclusively target water quality. They will be responsible for the quality of potable water.
11. The new legislation will also cover wastewater and stormwater, with a goal to reduce or eliminate contamination of local beaches and waterways.

Infrastructure Investment

12. A new independent Water Infrastructure Regulator, within the Commerce Commission, will be established to work alongside the Water Quality Regulator.
13. The Water Infrastructure Regulator will have three main functions:
 - monitor councils to ensure they are investing adequately in maintaining pipes and upgrading their water infrastructure to accommodate growth. Assets will be required to be restored to meet minimum standards
 - ensure water pricing or charges for connection are fair for communities and councils, water assets should be self-funding, but communities should not be overcharged
 - set quality standards for water infrastructure so communities receive safe, reliable services.

Water services that are financially sustainable

14. The Government will introduce a requirement for water service delivery models to be financially sustainable and have defined this as:
 - revenue sufficiency – water services earn sufficient revenues, either directly from users or rates, to cover maintenance and depreciation of infrastructure
 - ringfencing – water services stand on their own two feet and do not put pressure on funding for other council services
 - funding for growth – water services can access borrowing to invest in infrastructure wherever users are willing to pay the costs of services.

15. Councils will have to show that they can meet their costs of infrastructure, including maintenance, depreciation and expected growth. It will be up to councils to decide what model they opt for to achieve financial sustainability.
16. Councils will not be able to propose water service models that involve privatisation.

Ability to pay for water services

17. It is expected that some councils will not need to change, as their current model is already working, others may just need to increase council borrowing, whereas others may need a new model that involves the ability to access long-term borrowing, such as through a regional Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) with other councils that can achieve balance sheet separation.
18. Should councils need transitional support the Water Infrastructure Regulator will provide expert advice to the Government on council proposals for the delivery of water services. Where the Government determines that a council cannot achieve financial sustainability by, for example long-term borrowing, it will provide limited one-off funding to bridge the gap.
19. This support will be determined on a case-by-case basis and not be able to be used for day-to-day delivery of water services, rather for projects needed to transition to a sustainable footing.
20. The Government will retain the allocated \$1 billion in Crown Funding for Three Waters, however councils will be required to use this for making the transition to a financially sustainable model, e.g. by upgrading water infrastructure, rather than unrelated activities. Funding will be allocated on a needs basis.

Canterbury discussions

21. In 2020, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum commissioned PWC to undertake a three waters service delivery review for Canterbury. The review was undertaken in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.
22. The purpose of the review was to provide a clear understanding of the Three Waters assets within the region, and the options available for service delivery and funding arrangements.
23. At the time of the report it was noted that Christchurch City Council dominates the region in terms of scale, expenditure and debt. Councils were forecasting expenditure of \$4.6 billion over the next ten years (\$3.2 billion capex and \$1.4 billion opex) and these costs were driving increased debt levels and high cost per serviced property.
24. The report noted that there are large variations in cost per serviced property across the region and while aggregation would result in cost efficiencies for some councils, others could experience increased costs per serviced property.

25. The report evaluated three options, alongside the status quo, for service delivery: a CCO, joint governance model (Canterbury), and joint governance model (Ngāi Tahu Takiwa). At the time of the study, it was noted that both the status quo and CCO models were not part of the Department of Internal Affairs potential models.
26. The weighted average score for each of the models resulted in the joint governance model (Ngāi Tahu Takiwa) scoring the highest against the criteria used for the assessment, followed by the joint governance model (Canterbury).
27. Given the change in focus with the Government's Local Water Done Well policy it is reasonable to expect that different criteria for assessment would be used going forward.

Wider South Island interest

28. At the end of 2023, the Canterbury Chief Executives met to have an initial discussion on next steps for water reform in Canterbury may be. At that time, it was proposed to write to the other South Island Chief Executives to gauge their interest in participating in these discussions with Canterbury.
29. A number of chief executives have responded that they would be interested in being involved in discussions across the South Island. The secretariat has advised these chief executives that we would be back in touch following this CE Forum meeting.

Next steps

30. Consider how Canterbury councils may wish to proceed with discussions on the water reform, based on the Government's Local Water Done Well policy, including at what stage to extend the discussions to include other South Island council Chief Executives.

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Date: 29 January 2024

Presented by: Hamish Dobbie

Resource Management Reform

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the current status of the resource management reforms.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum:

1. **note the information provided in this paper on the current status of the resource management reforms.**

Background

2. One of the commitments in the Government's coalition agreements was to repeal the Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 (NBA) and Spatial Planning Act 2023 (SPA) in its first 100 days in office.
3. Both pieces of legislation were repealed through the Resource Management (Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Repeal and Interim Fast-track Consenting) Act 2023. The Act received Royal Assent on 22 December 2024 and is now in force.
4. The Government has indicated that it will develop new legislation to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) during its term.
5. The Resource Management Act remains in force as the principal Act that guides all resource management decisions.

Natural and Built Environment Act repeal

Fast-track consenting

6. The repeal legislation carries through the NBA's fast-track consenting process into the Resource Management Act. Any consent issued under the NBA will be treated like a consent under the RMA.
7. The Government intends to develop replacement fast-track consenting legislation within the first 100 days of office.

Freshwater

8. The NBA amended the RMA to introduce a shorter maximum duration for certain freshwater consents.
9. Freshwater consents applied for since 24 August 2023 that have not yet been decided, will now have their duration determined in accordance with standard criteria set out in the RMA. The RMA allows for a maximum duration of up to 35 years.
10. Replacement freshwater consents applied for after 24 August 2023 that have not had a notification decision made will now be eligible for public notification under the RMA.
11. Any resource consents granted in accordance with the shorter duration consent provisions are still valid under the RMA.
12. The NBA also made an amendment to the RMA which extends the date by which councils must publicly notify their freshwater plans (previously 31 December 2024, now 31 December 2027).

Requiring authorities

13. A requiring authority is an entity that can designate land for a specified purpose (such as schools and roading) for planning and consenting. Requiring authorities also have access to the process for compulsory land acquisition under the Public Works Act.
14. The NBA gave council-controlled organisations (CCOs) the same automatic requiring authority status as councils. This has been reversed and CCOs no longer have automatic status.
15. Any in-progress applications to become a requiring authority under the NBA will not be processed and any granted applications will be revoked.
16. Notices of requirement lodged by requiring authorities granted their status solely under the NBA (this is likely to apply to CCOs only), will not be processed and any notices of requirement that have been confirmed will not be able to be exercised.
17. On 23 November 2023, the NBA also broadened the scope and number of 'non-network' entities that could apply to become a requiring authority.
18. Any applications that have been submitted will cease to be processed, although where an applicant meets the RMA definition of a network utility operator, they can re-apply under the RMA.
19. If any application has been approved, approvals will be revoked, except where an applicant meets the RMA definition of a network utility operator. In that event, the approval is treated as an approval under the RMA.

Treaty settlements

20. The NBA required information about consent applications to be provided to Post Settlement Governance Entities with statutory acknowledgements, even where equivalent requirements under Treaty settlements were time bound or had expired.
21. The repeal legislation amends the RMA to retain this provision.

Compliance and Enforcement

22. The repeal of the NBA reverses all of the compliance and enforcement amendments that applied under the RMA from 24 August 2023, and reverts to the compliance and enforcement provisions of the RMA in effect prior to the NBA's enactment.

Impact of repeal and reform process on Canterbury Mayoral Forum

23. Current resource management activities will continue under the RMA, continuing business as usual practices for local councils.
24. Once the Ministry for the Environment start the process for replacing the RMA there will likely be requests for working groups and expertise from local government.
25. It would be expected that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum will make submissions on any future discussion papers and/or legislation for resource management, through the usual stages. This would likely be led by the Canterbury Planning Managers Working Group.

Communication

26. This paper has been prepared from information provided in the Government's coalition agreements and the Ministry for the Environment website. As further information becomes available it is proposed that the Policy Forum and Planning Managers Working Group keep a watching brief on the reform process and provide timely updates to the Chief Executives Forum.

Next steps

27. Request the Policy Forum and Planning Managers' Working Group to keep a watching brief on the Resource Management reform process and provide updates to the Chief Executives Forum as required.

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Date: 29 January 2024

Presented by: Will Doughty, Hamish Dobbie, Sharon Mason

Future for Local Government and shared services

There is no paper for this item.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Date: 29 January 2024

Presented by: Dr Stefanie Rixecker, Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum with an update on region-wide progress of Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) partners' work towards implementing the CWMS for October to December 2023.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum:

1. **receive the update on the region wide progress of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy partners' work towards implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy for October to December 2023.**

Update on region-wide progress towards implementing the CWMS

CWMS zone committee updates

2. Environment Canterbury has commenced planning the 2024 zone committee review. This review will focus on what structure, function and resourcing are needed to support local freshwater leadership, including the role of zone committees.
3. Initial engagement with zone committee chairs and deputy chairs took place on 13 December 2023.
4. Feedback will be sought from the Mayoral Forum on what has worked, what has not, and what form of local freshwater leadership is needed into the future. A full project report including recommendations is expected by end of 2024, with an interim report providing a progress update by mid-2024.
5. Hurunui District Council continues to lead the establishment of a new Hurunui Water and Land Committee in conjunction with Environment Canterbury, and Kaikōura and Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga.

6. Zone committees continue to focus on implementing actions on the ground to support the delivery of the CWMS targets and goals. Through its 2023/2024 Annual Plan, Environment Canterbury agreed to increase this funding to \$75,000 per committee for the 2023/2024 year. Most committees have fully allocated the available funding to support the implementation of their action plans.
7. The second phase of community engagement on the review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) was completed in December. Environment Canterbury staff ran several all-day events seeking community feedback. Zone committees attended and, where needed, helped facilitate table discussions at these events.
8. Attachment 1 provides a summary of the last three months' progress of zone committee projects. Note that although the Hurunui Water and Land Committee is yet to be formed, a CWMS Action Plan project on the Waiiau Uwha River supporting braided river birds nesting sites has continued with the support of Kaikōura Rūnanga, Hurunui District Council, and Environment Canterbury.

Key regional projects/campaigns

9. 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.
10. This section of the update provides information on the delivery of actions by CWMS partners to meet the 2025 goals under the 10 CWMS Targets Areas¹, although not all 10 Target Areas are intended to be covered each quarter. Progress against the CWMS Targets is reported on Environment Canterbury's [website](#)².
11. Key agencies, organisations and landowners continue to work together to address the health of the **Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes**. This work is a key priority for the agencies, organisations and landowners working in this catchment in 2024 and supports progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target.
12. In November 2023, Environment Canterbury issued notices of consent review to the two landowners in Ōtūwharekai with existing consents. Environment Canterbury is also working with the two landowners in the catchment who have consent applications under consideration. Work is underway on potential conditions to ensure the consents appropriately protect the health of the ecosystems in Ōtūwharekai.
13. The Ōtūwharekai Working Group's integrated catchment plan is now close to completion, with the final draft expected in late March. The plan will set out a collaborative strategy and clear path forward to restore biodiversity and ecosystem

¹ There are ten target areas within the Canterbury Water Management Strategy each with a number of more specific goals. The target areas are: Environmental Limits, Ecosystem Health/Biodiversity, Natural Character of Braided Rivers, Kaitiakitanga, Drinking-water, Recreational and amenity opportunities, Water use efficiency, Irrigated land area, Energy security and efficiency and Indicators of Regional and National Economies.

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

health in the area. It is being prepared by an independent contractor with the engagement and input of the organisations, agencies and landowners working in Ōtūwharekai.

14. Restoring the mauri of the Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes continues to be a high priority for Environment Canterbury and mana whenua. The most recent water quality monitoring results, as well as progress updates on other actions, are available at www.ecan.govt.nz/otuwharekai.
15. The **Te Mōkihi Programme** is a programme focused on improving environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes in Te Manahuna/ Mackenzie Basin (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target). 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.
16. Te Kura Taka Pini (Ngāi Tahu Freshwater Group) and Rūnanga chairs presented the draft findings of the Scoping Report on Strategic Partnership in Te Manahuna & Waitaki Catchment to the Mackenzie Chief Executives and Mana Whenua Forum on 3 October 2023. A full day wānanga is planned for 1 March 2024 to progress discussions on strategic partnership options and next steps for the Te Mōkihi Programme.
17. The Te Mōkihi Programme continues to provide fora for agencies to communicate and work across organisational boundaries. These include:
 - the Interagency Steering Group, who met on 30 October 2023 to discuss the Strategic Partnership Research, the Ōmarama Reserve, and hot topics for the Mackenzie Basin (including wilding conifer control and solar farms)
 - the Mackenzie Interagency Officers Forum and the Interagency Communications and Engagement Group, who have been working on consent applications for solar farms on the Mackenzie Basin, and the re-consenting of the Waitaki Power Scheme.
18. For Ngā Rūnanga projects, discussions continue about the future use of Ōmarama Reserve. Waitaki District Council have asked for assistance from the other agencies with developing this work. LINZ have agreed to work with them on the next steps.
19. The **Whakaora Te Waihora** Programme is an operational programme of the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group to restore and rejuvenate the mana, mauri and ecosystem of Te Waihora/ Lake Ellesmere (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity and Kaitiakitanga Targets). The Co-Governance members are Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council, and Department of Conservation.
20. The programme includes Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai, a project to restore the mid-lower stretches of Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream which is led by Te Taumutu Rūnanga,

co-managed between Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Environment Canterbury, and funded by Environment Canterbury and the Government's Freshwater Improvement Fund.

21. Over the last quarter mātauranga Māori and water quality monitoring work continued and riparian sites have been prepared for planting in the autumn.
22. The Te Waihora GIS Platform project is developing a digital platform of projects around Te Waihora.
23. The team have been working across organisations to compile data on multiple project sites. This platform is independent of any organisation, allows organisations control over their data and to choose the data they share and displays project sites in both a 2D and 3D digital map. The platform will support a range of users to identify priorities, project planning and development, and improving communication and cooperation with partner organisations.
24. The **Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme** is designed to improve the environmental and cultural values of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour (supporting progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Target). 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.
25. Within this programme, the Whaka-Ora Pest Project (WOPP) has recently been expanded to include Governors Bay providing strong links to Summit Road Society and Living Springs. The WOPP has begun to train volunteers and a co-ordinator for areas outside the work of the Kaimahi for Nature team.
26. Also within this programme, the *Whakaraupō Sediment Control*: stock have been removed to ensure planting above Rāpaki for managing sediment flow can be maintained. A proposal is in place for student support to identify and map out sediment sources for Lyttelton to Cass Bay, with the work to be carried out over the coming year to identify solutions.

Update on a new planning framework

27. In 2023 community consultation to inform the Regional Policy Statement review was run over two campaigns in July and October. The first campaign, called '*What's our future, Canterbury?*' focused on understanding the visions and outcomes the community is seeking from the Regional Policy Statement review. The second campaign, called '*Let's pick a path*', sought feedback on broad policy direction.
28. Environment Canterbury is working with each of the councils' planning teams to ensure District and City Councils are informed and able to influence the development of the Regional Policy Statement. We have been working with staff to ensure elected members have the opportunity to hear about the Regional Policy Statement review. We have time

booked in with four Councils in January. Further information is provided on the Environment Canterbury [website](#)³.

Central government policy

29. The Government has committed to continuing to work to improve waterways health and working with iwi- Māori and local communities.
30. The Government has confirmed it will replace the **National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM)** in a process that is expected to take between 18 and 24 months. The Government has also decided to extend the time for councils to notify changes to freshwater regional policy statements and plans to the end of 2027 (from 2024).
31. These changes relate to the NPS-FM, not the freshwater farm plan regulations which were introduced as a separate piece of legislation in 2023. The Ministry and regional/unitary councils continue to implement the freshwater farm plan system which began in August 2023 in parts of the Waikato and Southland.
32. Environment Canterbury continues to work on its implementation of the freshwater farm plan programme (see section below).

Essential Freshwater implementation

33. Current regulations remain in place while the Government works to replace the NPS-FM over the coming months. Environment Canterbury continues to develop its approach to implementing the Essential Freshwater requirements with regular updates provided on the [Environment Canterbury website](#)⁴. To date this has included developing campaigns to help landowners understand the requirements for wetland protection, synthetic nitrogen cap and intensive winter grazing.
34. Current regulations require all farms with grazed land to not exceed 190kg/ha/year of synthetic nitrogen. Dairy farmers must report their use annually to Environment Canterbury by 31 July. As of 25 September 2023, Environment Canterbury had received reports from approximately 58% of dairy farms (an increase of 12% on last year). Reminder letters have been sent to those who have not yet submitted their report.

³ <https://haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz/about-our-future-canterbury>

⁴ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/essential-freshwater-package>

35. New winter grazing rules came into force on 1 November 2022. Under these rules, Canterbury farmers who cannot meet the Permitted Activity rules will need to apply for a resource consent for intensive winter grazing (IWG). A suite of information for farmers around IWG is available on the [Environment Canterbury website⁵](#).
36. As part of IWG monitoring, Environment Canterbury undertook four flyovers in the Ashburton and Waimakariri districts. Environment Canterbury followed up with farmers to support improvements and commended farmers where good practice was noted in preparing paddocks for intensive winter grazing. The focus for IWG implementation for the next 12 months is to identify those who require consent and support them to become compliant with current regulations.
37. We continue to work on our implementation programme of the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations (part of the Essential Freshwater package). Note that Freshwater Farm Plans are planned to be rolled out in Canterbury in mid-2025.
38. This programme focuses on planning the switch from existing Farm Environment Plans to Freshwater Farm Plans, developing catchment context, challenges and values (CCCV), establishing a certifier and auditor training and appointment process, and developing systems to manage farm plan data. Communication and engagement with the rural sector will be a key part of the implementation programme.
39. In the interim, audits of existing Farm Environment Plans are still required. Information on Freshwater Farm Plans is available on the Environment Canterbury [website⁶](#).

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Zone Committee Action Plan overview October to December 2023

⁵ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/farmers-hub/essential-freshwater-package-farmers-guide/intensive-winter-grazing/>

⁶ <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/farmers-hub/freshwater-farm-plans/>

Attachment 1: Zone Committee Action Plan overview October to December 2023

Kaikōura Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Natural Character of Braided Rivers</p> <p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga wahi taonga & biodiversity</p>	<p>Support “ki uta ki tai” projects and identify future projects</p> <p>Enhance biodiversity, and improve amenity and recreation values</p> <p>Facilitate understanding of catchment systems within the zone, build community knowledge and connection to these systems and increase public participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At their October meeting, the Committee made recommendations to support an additional project using the Kaikōura Zone Committee Action Plan budget for this financial year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tirohanga Wetland Stage 2 – a collaborative project with the landowner, involving supporting “on the ground” actions at Waitaha’s most northern coastal wetland. This includes permanent fencing with a generous buffer between the wetland and grazing, allowing wetland vegetation to continue flourishing. This work will allow substantial filtration of run-off prior to entering the wetland area, providing habitat for waterfowl. The project will also include weed control of Black Alders & willow. • The committee also heard from the Wai Connection project team, with further workshopping to occur in February 2024. • Planning is also underway to roll out a mini Stormwater Campaign early 2024, in conjunction with Kaikoura District Council and the Committee. This will lead into a collaborative programme of activities during Seaweeek 2024. • At the November meeting the committee received the Zone Delivery Quarterly update from the Kaikoura / Hurunui Zone Delivery Team. • ‘Let’s Pick A Path’ Summit was held in Kaikoura on 14 November. This was a well-attended event including community groups, Kaikoura Youth Council, Department of Conservation, Te Korowai, Kaikoura Coastal Guardians, farmers, Kaikoura District Council, Amuri Irrigation, Kaikoura Dark Skies and the Kaikoura Water Zone Committee. • On its’ successful end of year field trip on 1 December, the committee visited 3 Action Plan funded wetland sites near Kaikoura. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the end of a busy year, connect over kai in the field, visualise the good mahi many of the local landowners have underway and hear about the specialties of these sites, with Senior Biodiversity Officer, Heath Melville.

Hurunui Waiau Uwha Zone		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
	To be developed once the Water & Land Committee is established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC
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"> • The committee's Biodiversity Working Group supported the selection process for three inaugural environmental awards at the Waimakariri District Council's 2023 Community Awards ceremony on Wednesday, 18 October 2023. The awards were presented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cust School for the work undertaken to improve a stream feeding into the Cust River. The school plan to work with local farms to plant trees to improve water quality. ○ Oxford Dark Sky project for its work in supporting the application to become a Dark Skies site. The project has identified a number of benefits including improved human health, protected wildlife and ecosystems and lower use of energy and energy costs as well as a boost in astro-tourism to the region. ○ Noelene Francis for her work coordinating the restoration of the Silverstream Reserve. • The Committee held a workshop in December to consider funding of action plan projects for this year.

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"> At their November meeting, the Committee received a joint report and presentation from Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury. Presenters informed the Committee on progress made by each council on the erosion and sediment control resolutions passed by the respective councils in April, May and June 2023. In November, the Committee held the Stormwater Superhero Awards 2023 at the Christchurch City Council. The 2023 awards were to celebrate businesses that are being a Stormwater Superhero – doing their best to keep chemicals and contaminants out of the drain, rivers and sea. A secondary category was added this year seeking entries from industrial sites. Awards went to Cleanco Truck Wash, Oji Fibre Solutions (NZ) Ltd, Resource Recycling Technologies (NZ), IAG NZ Repairhub Ltd, Redmund Spur Ltd. The Committee held a workshop to consider projects to support using the Action Plan Budget and at their November meeting, made recommendations to support the full allocation of \$75,000 towards various projects. Involved in the “Let’s pick a path” engagement session in Christchurch which supports the development of the Regional Policy Statement.
Banks Peninsula Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga	Enhance ecosystem health Engage with community Supporting new and existing catchment groups Consider mahinga kai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued supporting the Wairewa Catchment Group which involves the major farmers in Wairewa Catchment and was formed in partnership with Wairewa Rūnanga. In October, the Committee held a workshop to consider projects to support using the Action Plan Budget and made recommendations to support five projects with focusses on supporting catchment groups and community group operations and erosion and soil control. The full \$75,000 is now allocated. Collaborated with Christchurch Envirohub and hosted the Stormwater Superhero trailer at five community events to help the community understand simple actions they can take to reduce pollution in waterways. The events attended were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyttelton Market in both October and November

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governors Bay Fete in October ○ Orton Bradley Park Spring in October ○ A drop-in session for the Akaroa Bays Forum and wider Akaroa community in December ● Involved in the “Let’s pick a path” engagement session in Christchurch which supports the development of the Regional Policy Statement.
Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Drinking Water</p> <p>Natural Character of Braided Rivers</p> <p>Recreation and Amenity opportunities</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga</p>	<p>Raising awareness of private drinking water supply risks</p> <p>Healthy Waikirikiri/Selwyn River</p> <p>Enhance mahinga kai, recreation and amenity values</p> <p>Catchment nutrient targets and water quality outcomes</p> <p>Healthy Te Waihora</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In October, the Committee held a planning workshop for a Huritini/Halswell bus trip. The Huritini/Halswell Stakeholder Bus Trip would improve understanding of the current context, create and tell the story of the catchment and identify next steps for a catchment and community engagement. ● The Committee held two briefing sessions in October and November to consider projects and initiatives to support using the Action Plan Budget. Recommendations were made at the November meeting to several projects with funding going towards projects that support school efforts, restoration and community planting projects, project mapping in Te Waihora catchment and zone committee led initiatives including well water testing days and bus trips. Environment Canterbury have now approved funding for all projects. Just under \$75,000 of the budget has now been allocated. ● In October, the Committee co-hosted a Farmers Curiosity Day alongside Quorum Sense. This was followed by a visit to the Near River Recharge site. The focus was on regenerative farming principles with presentations on soil, plant health and water quality, bale grazing research; and wintering cost comparisons and a farm visit to see trials being undertaken and the results yielded. The event was attended by farmers, industry representatives, and zone committee members. ● Involved in the “Let’s pick a path” engagement session in West Melton which supports the development of the Regional Policy Statement.

Ashburton Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Environmental Limits Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity opportunities	Support measures to enhance recreation and amenity opportunities Improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets Supporting Hakatere / Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek) and Hekeao Hinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October, Committee members attended the Staveley Camp's Weed Wrangling Weekend, an event to help tackle the weeds within the 10-ha forest remnant which surrounds the camp. This remnant is the last eastern-most patch of mountain beech left in the Ashburton District, and a rare reminder of what forests in the area once looked like. • In November, the Committee received a presentation from the Mid-Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC). An update was provided on the work undertaken by MCCC and various catchment groups to engage, educate and empower their communities which included events such as field days on biocontrol, and education on monitoring and analysis. • Involved in the "Let's pick a path" engagement session in Ashburton which supports the development of the Regional Policy Statement. • In November, the Committee received an update from Environment Canterbury planning staff on the Regional Policy Statement and Freshwater Management Unit development. This provided an opportunity for the committee and Mid Canterbury Vision Group to discuss and provide additional feedback.
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
Kaitiakitanga Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity Opportunities	Protect, enhance and restore mahinga kai and tuhituhi nehera sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October the Committee visited Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) wetland and riparian restoration, and subsequently recommended Action Plan funding for maintenance and purchasing more native plants.

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Recreation and Amenity opportunities</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga</p>	<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 Committee held a workshop in October to consider funding of action plan projects for this year. • Following the discussions in August and September on the Trophic Lake Index (TLI) of the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore for 2022/23 exceeding the early warning trigger in some irrigation consents in the catchment, the Committee organised a meeting with farmers in the Ahuriri Catchment in October to discuss this concerning TLI trend, and options to support local farmers in addressing this impact on the water quality of Lake Benmore. • The October meeting was well attended with participants agreeing that actions were needed to reduce impacts on the lake. A second meeting with local farmers is being planned for March 2024.
Lower Waitaki Zone Committee		
Target Area	Focus of the Action Plan	Highlights of practical work underway
<p>Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity</p> <p>Recreation and Amenity opportunities</p>	<p>Strive for increased engagement to identify and support improvement opportunities in water quality across the wider community.</p> <p>Improve water quality of the Waihao river and catchment area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November the committee recommended funding for willow control on the upper Waihao river and tributaries, and at the Kurow wetlands. • In December the Committee hosted a stall at Waimate Strawberry Fare to highlight positive environmental work being done in the Zone. They were joined by representatives from two catchment groups and four community groups doing great mahi in the zone.

Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

Date: 29 January 2024

Presented by: Hamish Dobbie, Angela Oosthuizen, Stuart Duncan, Will Doughty, Secretariat

Regional Forums update

Purpose

1. This report summarises outcomes from the regional forum meetings since the Chief Executives Forum last met on 6 November 2023.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum:

1. **receive the quarterly reports on December 2023 regional forum meetings and updates on the workstream tracker**
2. **confirm a new chair for the Economic Development Forum**
3. **approve the repurposing of \$35,000 funding to the Canterbury Records and Information Management Support Group from a three waters project to an information management maturity assessment for the region and a new workplan for the Group**
4. **receive the quarterly update on the 2023-24 regional forums budget.**

Background

2. The regional forums held regular quarterly meetings in December 2023:
 - the Communications and Engagement Forum met on 8 December
 - the Operations and Corporate Forums met on 11 December
 - the Policy Forum met on 15 December.
3. The Economic Development Forum did not meet as planned on 15 December as a new chair needs to be appointed by the Chief Executives Forum.
4. Forum meetings were not well-attended in December. This appears to be due to the impact of LTP development.

Communications and Engagement Forum (chair Will Doughty)

5. The Forum met in person on 8 December. Key agenda items were:

- an update from Canterbury CDEM on its work to build capability for public information management (PIM), including the range of PIM training planned for 2024. The Forum also endorsed the establishment of a Public Education Public Information (PEPI) group to enable multi-agency collaboration on communications
- reviewing the calendar showing the range of consultations being carried out by councils in 2023
- discussing the Mayoral Forum's request for some joined-up regional messaging on LTPs, and agreed to support the secretariat to develop these
- sharing updates and information on LTP development across the region
- a roundtable to discuss top-of-mind issues for each council
- a discussion of items to include in its work programme for 2024.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 March.

Corporate Forum (chair Angela Oosthuizen)

7. The Forum met online on 11 December. Key agenda items were:

- a demonstration of the Local Government MahiTahi Collaboration Portal by BOPLASS ahead of council staff being given access to the Portal¹
- an update on progress with undertaking council carbon footprint assessments across the region
- a roundtable discussion on progress and challenges with LTPs, and other key top-of-mind issues for councils
- an update from the working groups that report to it. Members noted that the Chief Information Officers Group had not met in some time, and agreed to send a note to the working group chair requesting that it meet soon
- a request from the Canterbury Records and Information Management Support Group (CRIMS) to repurpose funding previously agreed for a three waters project (see below).

8. The Forum next meets on 11 March.

Canterbury Records and Information Management Support Group: Request to repurpose \$35,000 in funding

9. At its meeting on 1 August 2022, the Chief Executives Forum agreed to set aside \$35,000 from the regional forums budget to fund a resource to apply a matrix template, developed by the CRIMS Group and the Canterbury Public Records Executive Sponsors (CPRAES) Group, to all councils' three waters information to guide the transfer of this information from councils to the planned new water entities.

¹ Access to the Portal for Canterbury council staff commenced in early January 2024.

10. The project was scoped but no funds were expended during 2023. Following the General Election result and the announcement of a different policy approach for three waters, the project is no longer needed.
11. The CRIMS Group, however, has identified the need for an information management maturity assessment update and a new workplan for 2024-26, and requests that the funding be repurposed for these two projects.
12. This matter was discussed at the 11 December 2023 Corporate Forum, where members agreed to recommend to the Chief Executives Forum that the funding be repurposed to enable the CRIMS Group to complete these important pieces of work.

Repurposing the funding

13. An initial review of information management (IM) maturity since the 2019 assessment showed that there has been little progress in IM maturity across Canterbury councils, and in some cases there has been some decline in maturity:
 - IM skills training has decreased
 - IM staff resourcing has decreased
 - internal governance groups have decreased
 - IM policies have seen a slight improvement
 - security has improved; however, security and access risks are growing with volume
 - disposal increased for paper but digital remains static.
14. The results also indicated the need for a new workplan to be developed to keep ahead of security, risk and changing technologies.
15. Given these results, it has become more urgent to undertake a thorough update to the 2019 assessment so that there is a clear picture of progress, and to ensure IM maturity progresses. It will also greatly assist in developing a fit-for-purpose work plan for CRIMS through to 2026.
16. In addition, Archives NZ standards have changed since the 2019 assessment and an update would help to ensure councils are aligned with the new standards.
17. Assuming the Chief Executives Forum agrees to repurposing the funding, the following steps would be undertaken to update the assessment:
 - Review existing framework and update where necessary to reflect changes in Archives NZ Standards and broader information management tools and processes by using 2023 Archives New Zealand Maturity Assessment results from councils
 - review outcomes with Chairs of CRIMs and CPRAES
 - results to be sense-checked by consultant and a report prepared for CRIMs and CPRAES. The report will present results as both aggregate and individual councils.
18. A new workplan for CRIMS would then be developed.

19. It is proposed that the \$35,000 to be used to fund a consultant, who would support CRIMS to undertake and report on the IM maturity assessment, create a CRIMS workplan for 2024 – 2026 and consult councils on its implementation, and lead a review of the CPRAES and CRIMS terms of reference.

Timeframe and estimated costs

20. The table below sets out the indicative timeframe and costs to deliver each step of the projects:

Project/task	Timeframe	To be completed by	Cost
Review and collate 2023 Archives NZ Maturity Assessment responses submitted by Canterbury councils and get results from councils that did not respond, and produce IM Maturity assessment report	March 2024	X4 Consulting 3 x Councils Chairs	\$15,000
Develop workplan for CRIMS for 2024-26 (including consulting councils on its implementation)	March - May 2024	X4 Consulting Reviewed by Councils	\$10,000
Review terms of reference for CPRAES and CRIMS	May - June 2024	X4 Consulting Chairs	\$10,000
			TOTAL: 35,000

Reporting

21. The projects would be managed by the CRIMS Group. Quarterly reports on progress, including the identification of any issues, will be provided by CRIMS to the Corporate Forum. The Corporate Forum will in turn report to the Chief Executives Forum.

Next steps

22. Subject to the Chief Executives Forum's agreement to repurpose the funding for the projects, CRIMS will commence the projects and engage a suitable consultant (X4 Consulting).

Operations Forum (chair Stuart Duncan)

23. The Forum met online on 11 December. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a roundtable to discuss current top-of-mind issues for councils and areas for the Operations Forum's consideration in 2024. Matters discussed included:

- timeframe for renewal of wastewater discharge consents
- Taumata Arowai and concerns about the timeframes for upgrades to water treatment plants to address protozoa cryptosporidium
- NZTA-related matters, including timing of release of the 2024-2027 National Land Transport Programme, speed restriction changes, and development of a new transport Government Policy Statement

- development of LTPs
- conversations between councils on opportunities for collaborative work across a range of services, e.g. water, traffic management, building consents etc
- the possibility of centres of excellence in the region on operations-focused functions, and the role of the Operations Forum in supporting these.

24. The Forum next meets on 11 March.

Policy Forum (chair Hamish Dobbie)

25. The Policy Forum met online on 15 December. Key agenda items were:

- a discussion of top-of-mind issues for councils, including LTPs and preparing for the new government's policy agenda
- a discussion reflecting on the Forum and its achievements in 2023, and where it might like to focus its energies in 2024. The Forum agreed it was keen to provide more thought leadership for the CEs and Mayoral Forums on topics of interest for the region next year, including regional/city deals
- an update on the activities of the Planning Managers Group and Climate Change Working Group.

26. The Forum next meets on 22 March.

Economic Development Forum

27. The Forum did not meet as scheduled on 15 December. The Forum's former chair left her role and the Forum's deputy chair was not available. Given that the Forum was in the process for determining a potential work programme, the meeting was cancelled to allow a new chair to pick up these conversations in the new year.

28. The Chief Executives Forum will need to select a new chair for this Forum (see recommendation 2). Following this appointment, a Chair for the Regional Housing Strategy steering group will also need to be confirmed (previously it was the same chair).

Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategy

29. The scope for this strategy is being prepared. The scope notes that the Greater Christchurch Partnership Plan has completed their Housing Action Plan and the Mayoral Forum's draft scope is proposed to complement this work, as opposed to duplicate it.

30. The draft scope will be taken to the Housing Steering Group meeting to be held on 29 February for endorsement.

31. It is expected that councils will likely have a significant amount of the data and evidence required to progress the strategy and action plan, therefore the scope focuses on the analysis of the data and identification of options.

Regional forums budget

32. The Canterbury Chief Executives Forum approved the regional forums 2023/2024 budget at its meeting in July 2023.
33. The regional forums budget funds collaborative projects and regional training workshops. Environment Canterbury acts as fund holder for regional forums, as part of providing secretariat support.
34. The income and expenditure report as of 30 November 2023 is provided at Attachment 1.

Workstream tracker

35. The latest version of the workstream tracker is provided at Attachment 2.
36. This will be reviewed and updated following the Mayoral Forum's approval of the refreshed Plan for Canterbury.

Next meetings

37. Scheduled forum meetings for the upcoming quarter are:

22 February	Mayoral Forum dinner
23 February	Mayoral Forum
11 March	Corporate and Operations Forums
15 March	Communications and Engagement Forum
22 March	Policy and Economic Development Forums

Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Regional Forums Budget 2023-2024
- Attachment 2 – workstream tracker

Attachment 1

Regional Forums Budget 2023/2024 Budget

INCOME	Contribution	Budget 2023/24	Actual 2023/24
Regional Forums Levy 2023/24	Ratios		
Environment Canterbury	21%	\$12,907.32	\$12,907.32
Christchurch City	21%	\$12,907.32	\$12,907.32
Selwyn District	11%	\$6,760.98	\$6,760.98
Waimakariri District	11%	\$6,760.98	\$6,760.98
Ashburton District	10%	\$6,146.34	\$6,146.34
Timaru District	10%	\$6,146.34	\$6,146.34
Hurunui District	5%	\$3,257.54	\$3,257.54
Waimate District	4%	\$2,458.54	\$2,458.54
Waitaki District	4%	\$2,458.54	\$2,458.54
Kaikōura District	3%	\$1,598.05	\$1,598.05
Mackenzie District	3%	\$1,598.05	\$1,598.05
TOTAL INCOME	100%	\$63,000.00	\$63,000.00
SURPLUS carried forward from 2022/23		\$74,749.32	\$74,749.32
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE for 2023/24		\$137,749.32	\$137,749.32

EXPENDITURE	Budget 2023/24	Forecast to end of FY (including actuals)	Actual 2023/24
Research			
Canterbury Wellbeing 2022 review	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$-
Mayoral Forum Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025			
Housing strategy ILM	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Housing Strategy ILM Logistics, room hire etc	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$870.00
Housing strategy - development (TBC)	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$-
Skills & immigration	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$-
Future projects (TBC)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$-
	\$71,000.00	\$71,000.00	\$10,870.00
Workshops			
Strategic planning & support	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$-
CE Forum Heart & Brain workshop	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,500.00
Training Events			
TBC	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$-
	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$-
Collaborative projects			
MahiTahi LG Collaboration Portal subscription	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$-
Collaborative projects (TBC)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$-
	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00	\$-
Three waters			
Three waters council contributions carried forward	\$9,268.00	\$9,268.00	\$-
	\$9,268.00	\$9,268.00	\$-
Secretariat / Administration			
Travel (secretariat support)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$-
Mayoral Forum leaving gifts	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$202.00
	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$202.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$130,768.00	\$130,768.00	\$16,572.00

SURPLUS / DEFICIT	Budget 2022/23	Forecast to end of FY (including actuals)	Actual 2022/23
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$137,749.32	\$137,749.32	\$137,749.32
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$130,768.00	\$130,768.00	\$16,572.00
TOTAL SURPLUS / DEFICIT	\$6,981.32	\$6,981.32	\$121,177.32

Canterbury Regional Forums workstream tracker 2023-2025

Updated 29 November 2023

#	Workstream	Reports to	Delivery lead	Update	Status	Due	Budget	Budget status	Outcomes
Strongly advocate with Government on the regional councils' business case for permanent co-investment from the Government on flood protection.									Government provides permanent co-investment for flood protection
1a	Discuss with Ministers as part of Wellington visit	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	Included in briefing packs for meeting with Ministers in Wellington on 11 May 2023	Completed	11 May 2023	\$ -	N/a	
1b	Include in briefings to new Ministers following 2023 general election	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	draft briefing packs being prepared, see item 4.3	On track		\$ -	N/a	
Advocate with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury									Government adopts a more regional approach to immigration policies
2a	Discuss with Ministers as part of Wellington visit	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	Included in briefing packs for meeting with Ministers in Wellington on 11 May 2023	Completed	11 May 2023	\$ -	N/a	
2b	Develop the evidence base on the current state of the labour market in the region, including skills and labour shortages now, and explore growth challenges	Mayoral Forum	Economic Development Forum	Initial budget approved by CEs Forum 1 May. Draft scope to be developed by the Economic Development Forum.	Not started	TBC	\$ 1,000.00	Approved by CEs Forum	
2c	Include in briefings to new Ministers following 2023 general election	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	draft briefing packs being prepared see item 4.3	On track				
Seek to partner and collaborate with central government to develop an integrated approach to transport funding in Canterbury in order to increase in the level of funding available for Canterbury transport network									Future funding/investment distribution reflects the contribution of Waitaha/Canterbury to NZ's GDP
3a	Discuss with Ministers as part of Wellington visit	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	Included in briefing packs for meeting with Ministers in Wellington on 11 May 2023	Completed	11 May 2023	\$ -	N/a	
3b	include in briefings to new Ministers following 2023 general election	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	draft briefing packs being prepared see item 4.3	On track				
Continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy									CWMS remains fit for purpose and the region retains a shared understanding of water management issues
4a	Continue providing regular reporting to the Mayoral Forum and Chief Executives Forum	Mayoral Forum	Environment Canterbury		On track	Ongoing	\$ -	N/a	
Continue to support the Biodiversity Champions this term as the key conduit to facilitate work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework and implementation of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity									A new (refreshed/updated) Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, including the regional biodiversity monitoring framework
5a	Biodiversity Champions Group established	Mayoral Forum	Environment Canterbury	Biodiversity Champions Terms of Reference confirmed and group established.	Completed	20 July 2023	\$ -	N/a	
5b	Continue providing regular reporting to the Mayoral Forum	Mayoral Forum	Environment Canterbury	Biodiversity Champions provided an update to the Mayoral Forum in August, noting that they are discussing the NPS-IB	On track	Ongoing	\$ -	N/a	

Canterbury Regional Forums workstream tracker 2023-2025

Updated 29 November 2023

#	Workstream	Reports to	Delivery lead	Update	Status	Due	Budget	Budget status	Outcomes
Continue to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production									Investment in research and technology for the pastoral sector reflects the sector's importance to Canterbury and New Zealand's economy
6a	Discuss with Ministers as part of Wellington visit	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	Included in briefing packs for meeting with Ministers in Wellington on 11 May 2023	Completed	11 May 2023	\$ -	N/a	
6b	Include in briefings to new Ministers following 2023 general election	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	draft briefing packs being prepared see item 4.3	On track				
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									The Forum has clarity on housing issues affecting communities in Waitaha/Canterbury and understands pathways for improvement
7a	Investment logic mapping process to clearly identify and articulate the issue that a regional housing strategy will address	Mayoral Forum	Economic Development Forum	ILM workshop held 1 September; outputs from this are being finalised	Completed	30 September 2023	\$ 10,000.00	Approved by CEs Forum	
7b	Undertake a stocktake of current housing strategies across the motu	Mayoral Forum	Economic Development Forum	To be progressed alongside ILM process	On track	29 February 2024	TBC	N/a	
7b	Develop full scope for Regional Housing Strategy, including budget for CE approval	Mayoral Forum	Economic Development Forum	Following ILM and stocktake	On track	29 February 2024	TBC	N/a	
Support the work of the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee on preparing for major natural hazard incidents, including an Alpine Fault rupture									The Forum has supported enhancement of Canterbury's capacity to deliver effective and sustainable emergency management response and recovery activities.
8a	Discuss with Ministers as part of Wellington visit	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	Included in briefing packs for meeting with Ministers in Wellington on 11 May 2023	Completed	11 May 2023	\$ -	N/a	
8b	Include in briefings to new Ministers following 2023 general election	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	draft briefing packs being prepared see item 4.3	On track				
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									Completion of the Climate Change partnership plan and agreement on action planning
9a	Establish Climate Change reference group	Mayoral Forum	Climate Change Working Group	Climate change reference group established, chair Dan Gordon, Mayor Waimakariri District Council.	Completed	1 February 2023	\$ -	N/a	
9b	Deliver Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan	Mayoral Forum	Climate Change Working Group	Indicative actions and funding discussed at Nov Mayoral Forum. Members endorsed approach to collectively fund regional actions in the plan	On track	20 November 2024	TBC	Councils inserting bids into LTPs	
Encourage all Canterbury local authorities to complete carbon footprint assessments, to inform action plans for reductions									All Canterbury councils able to understand and report on their emissions
10a	All Canterbury local authorities undertake carbon footprint assessments	Policy Forum	Corporate Forum	All councils have agreed to adopt ISO:14064. A working party, reporting to the Corporate Forum, was reconvened in mid-2021 to collaborate on reporting of data. The Corporate Forum continues to keep a watching brief on this item.	Delayed	31 December 2020	\$ -	N/a	

Canterbury Regional Forums workstream tracker 2023-2025

Updated 29 November 2023

#	Workstream	Reports to	Delivery lead	Update	Status	Due	Budget	Budget status	Outcomes
Lead development of a 10-year plan for Canterbury councils to move to a common platform for IT systems and digital services (including valuation and rating functions) and secure cost savings through group licensing procurement, with specific concrete actions to be implemented in each year of the 10-year plan									
11a	Conduct a stocktake of Canterbury councils' IT platforms, applications and procurement / licensing cycles and investment intentions to inform planning to move towards a common platform by 2030. Information collated for DIA is to be sent to the CIOs to analyse; they will then report back to the Corporate Forum.	Corporate Forum	Chief Information Officers Group (CIOs)	This action was paused to allow the Forum to complete its project on collaborative procurement. Now that the project is complete, the CIOs will consider the value in continuing with this work and report through to the Forum.	On hold		N/A	N/A	
11b	Develop a business case (with value proposition and a request for funding) to go to member councils to test and build consensus on a collective vision, commitment and understanding of what it might mean over time for procurement and renewal cycles for IT systems and digital services	Corporate Forum	Chief Information Officers Group (CIOs)	As above.	Not started		N/A	N/A	
Develop a proposal for a joined-up procurement system/service for Canterbury councils, including legal services provisioning									Achieve efficiencies in procurement across Canterbury councils in terms of both effort and savings
12	Collaborative procurement project	Corporate Forum	Canterbury Finance Managers Group	Next steps were agreed by the CEs Forum on 31 July, including to join the MahiTahi collaboration portal. A sub-group of CEs are exploring potential opportunities for shared services. Arrangements to join the MahiTahi collaboration portal are underway.	On track	30 November 2023	\$ 11,000.00	Approved by CEs Forum	
Align renewal of waste minimisation plans to provide a consistent approach to waste management across the region and improve efficiencies									
13a	Align renewal of waste minimisation plans	Operations Forum	Andrew Dixon	Andrew Dixon to work with Canterbury Joint Waste Committee on this.	Not started	30 June 2024	\$ -	N/a	
Engage with central government on the resource management reforms through participation in the Local Government Forum of Chief Executives for resource management reform, reviewing and preparing submissions on new legislation, participating in Select Committee processes									Waitaha/Canterbury views are clearly articulated through the reform process
14a	Engage with Minister Parker and Ministry for the Environment on resource management reforms as appropriate	Chief Executives Forum	Canterbury Planning Managers Group	Submissions made to Natural and Built Environments and Spatial Planning Bills Canterbury has agreed not to engage with Tranche 1 of the RM reforms and has written to the Minister to communicate this.	Completed	Ongoing	\$ -	N/a	
14b	Include in briefings to new Ministers following 2023 general election	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	draft briefing packs being prepared see item 4.3	On track				

Canterbury Regional Forums workstream tracker 2023-2025

Updated 29 November 2023

#	Workstream	Reports to	Delivery lead	Update	Status	Due	Budget	Budget status	Outcomes
Engage with central government on the future for local government by supporting development of a regional approach and participating in the Future for Local Government Review									Waitaha/Canterbury views are clearly articulated through the reform process
15a	Progress actions from the Future for Local Government Workshop (April 2021) and actively participate in engagement with central government's Future for Local Government Review	Mayoral Forum	Chief Executives Forum	Workshops were held with papatipu rūnanga chairs and central government regional directors in March and May 2021. The May session also included the chair and executive director of the Local Government Review Panel. A health workshop was held in July 2021.	Completed	1 April 2023			
15b	Following completion of survey of CMF members, formulate a CMF response to recommendations and include in briefings to new Ministers following 2023 general election	Mayoral Forum	Secretariat	Members surveyed on report's recommendations. Agreement at Nov Mayoral Forum to determine next steps once the LGNZ process is finalised. Topic will be included in draft briefings for new ministers	On track				
Support regional collaboration as opportunities arise									Waitaha/Canterbury continues to have strong collaboration across councils
16a	Review forums ToRs three-yearly	Chief Executives Forum	Secretariat	Terms of reference reviewed and approved at 6 Nov Chief Executives Forum. Annual review in Nov 2024.	On track	1 November 2024	\$ -	N/a	
16b	Collaborate on LTPs	Policy Forum			Not started		\$ -	N/a	
16c	Hold regional training workshops	Policy Forum			Not started		\$ 1,000.00	Approved by CEs Forum	
16d	Supporting councils with affordable water transitions	Chief Executives Forum	Operations Forum	Action required will be dependent on actions from new government	Delayed		\$ -	N/a	

DRAFT AGENDA

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 23 February 2024
Time:	8:30 am to 1:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Anne Munro, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Gary Kircher, Marie Black, Neil Brown, Peter Scott, Phil Mauger, Sam Broughton
Attendees:	Alex Parmley, Amanda Wall, Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Dobbie, Hamish Riach, Jeff Millward, Maree McNeilly, Monique Croon, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Stuart Duncan, Will Doughty, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor

1. Opening meeting

1.1 Karakia, welcome, introductions and apologies

8:30 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Canterbury Mayoral Forum karakia

Ko Ngā Tiritiri o te Moana ngā maunga

Ko ngā wai huka ngā awa i rere tonu mai

Ko Ngā Pākihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha te whenua

Ko Marokura, ko Mahaanui, ko Araiteuru ngā tai

Thei mauri ora!

The Southern Alps stand above

The snow-fed rivers continually flow forth

The plains of Waitaha extend out

To the tides of Marokura, Mahaanui and Araiteuru

Behold, there is life!

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

8:35 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

8:40 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.3.a Minutes : Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 24 Nov 2023

1.4 Action List

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.4.a Action List

2. Guest speaker

2.1 Key Influencer

8:45 am (60 min)

Nigel Bowen

3. Morning tea

3.1 Morning tea

9:45 am (15 min)

4. For Discussion

4.1 Refreshed Plan for Canterbury

10:00 am (45 min)

Nigel Bowen

4.2 Engaging with Central Government

10:45 am (30 min)

Nigel Bowen

5. For discussion

5.1 Canterbury Water Management Strategy

11:15 am (15 min)

Peter Scott

5.2 Water Reform

11:30 am (20 min)

Hamish Riach

5.3 Climate Change Action Planning update

11:50 am (10 min)

Dan Gordon

5.4 Future for Local Government review - shared services

12:00 pm (10 min)

Will Doughty

5.5 Resource Mangement Reform

12:10 pm (10 min)

Hamish Riach

6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner update

12:20 pm (10 min)

Ben Clark

6.2 Chief Executives Forum report

12:30 pm (5 min)

Hamish Riach

6.3 Mayoral Forum activities and engagements

7. General business

7.1 General business

12:35 pm (10 min)

7.2 Meeting review

12:45 pm (5 min)

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Closing karakia

12:50 pm (1 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 - 31 May 2024, 8:30 am
to be held at Te Whare Whakatere, Ashburton