

## ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH COLLABORATION 2013–16

### *Mayors standing together for Canterbury*

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#### **Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy**

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum launched the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS) in August 2015 – an action plan of seven interdependent work programmes, each with a lead Mayor. This year, companion strategies/action plans have been prepared for two of the work programmes – the Canterbury Digital Strategy 2016 and the Canterbury Visitor Strategy 2016.

#### ***Digital connectivity***

- partnership with Spark NZ – Spark announced December 2015 that it would bring forward its investment of \$14 million in a 4G wireless broadband upgrade and roll this out across the entire region by December 2016. Spark previously planned to deliver the upgrade over two-to-three years.
- the investment of \$14 million is additional to Spark's investment of \$158 million in purchasing blocks of the 700 MHz spectrum
- by December 2016, 4G mobile broadband will be available in 96% of the places Canterbury people live and work
- Connected Canterbury (a digital leadership forum) agreed to align with the Mayoral Forum's initiative and support this as a working group chaired by Mayor Damon Odey
- Canterbury Digital Strategy published February 2016
- discussions July-August 2016 with Crown Fibre Holdings Ltd and Canterbury lines companies about joining up planning and activities to create a fully connected Canterbury, to improve backhaul, 'network networks' and ensure resilient infrastructure
- the Mayoral Forum provided a submission to the Commerce Select Committee on the Telecommunications (Property Access and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, in support of Northpower's submission to further amend the Electricity Act 1992 to permit use of electricity easements for installation of fibre optic telecommunications infrastructure.

#### ***Regional transport planning***

- the Mayoral Forum instigated a review of the Regional Land Transport Plan to promote a multi-modal transport approach to transport planning that goes beyond roads – a comprehensive plan was adopted in May 2016 and sets out issues and challenges to be addressed in the Canterbury region

- the Mayoral Forum engaged with transport organisations (New Zealand Transport Agency, KiwiRail, Lyttelton Port, PrimePort Timaru, Christchurch Airport, Timaru Airport, Road Transport Association, SB Global Logistics, Coda Group) to look at how we can improve the evidence base for transport planning and investment, and work commissioned to identify gaps and opportunities and a way forward
- Mayors encouraged a more collaborative approach to transport issues across the South Island. In response, a South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group has been established, focused on advocacy on the Government Policy Statement on Transport 2018 and working together to improve freight and visitor transport. Environment Canterbury is providing secretariat support in the first year.

### ***Freshwater management, irrigation and value-added production***

- the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) was an initiative of the Mayoral Forum – work programmes and initiatives proceed via the 10 zone committees and the regional committee and report quarterly to the Mayoral Forum
- CWMS work includes establishing environmental limits, identifying cost-effective storm water systems and ensuring consistent storm water management planning
- having listened to concerns of industry leaders in value-added production, the Mayoral Forum advocated for changes to how central government supports complex regional irrigation schemes – to prevent ‘under-build’ (that will merely meet current shareholders’ irrigation needs), and ensure that schemes are built to a scale that enables long-term, sustainable water management and environmental restoration
- from 1 July 2016, responsibility for grant funding has shifted from the Ministry for Primary Industries to Crown Irrigation Investments Ltd, so there is end-to-end funding and support from a single entity to get irrigation schemes built as quickly and efficiently as possible.

### ***Education and training for a skilled workforce***

- a steering group of tertiary education institutions has worked to recover and increase the number of domestic and international students in Canterbury. International student enrolments in Canterbury increased by 13% to 10,547 enrolments in 2015 – an increase equal to the increase across the country as a whole (Canterbury has 8.4% of enrolments nationally).
- the steering group is developing an ‘educational blueprint’ and exploring options to develop new and modified courses in agricultural engineering and water management, to support precision agriculture and value-added production.

### ***Newcomer and migrant settlement***

- councils share information and resources they provide to newcomers.
- Mayors have engaged with central government on how best to support migrant workers, particularly those in rural Canterbury, retain skills in the region as the earthquake rebuild levels off, and provide a pathway to residence for long-term, temporary migrants currently residing in the South Island
- a group of Mayors has met with the Ambassador to The Philippines to discuss issues for migrant dairy workers, particularly in relation to primary healthcare and education

- CREDS partner the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce initiated the 'Start with a Smile' campaign focused on workplaces. Ashburton District Council has picked this programme up, will run it locally in September, and co-ordinate it with other districts in the region.

### ***Visitor Strategy***

- it became a matter of urgency to keep abreast of rapid growth in visitor numbers during 2015–16
- the Mayoral Forum has worked with tourism organisations and the Consul-General of the People's Republic of China to share information and ideas and encourage councils and local businesses to 'get ready for China' and capitalise on direct flights (from December 2015) between Guangzhou and Christchurch on China Southern Airlines
- a Canterbury Visitor Strategy was published in April 2016
- in order to develop a consistent region-wide approach to freedom camping and identify common issues, the Forum established a working group and has developed an action plan
- councils have investigated potential hotel development sites to attract capital investment and support growth in tourism in Canterbury and are maintaining links to MBIE's 'Project Palace'
- a new agri-tourism venture (a 'paddock to plate' farm tour of the historic Longbeach Estate) has been established in mid-Canterbury as an action of the Canterbury Visitor Strategy 2016.

## **Other regional and sub-regional collaborations 2013–2016**

### **Regional collaborations**

#### ***Co-ordinated submissions***

Wherever possible, Canterbury councils work together to develop joint submissions and speak with 'one strong Canterbury voice' on issues affecting Canterbury. Submissions have been made on:

- 2014 Local Government Amendment Act 2002 Amendment Bill
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga draft statutory policies
- proposed changes to the NPS on Freshwater Management
- Resource Legislation Amendment Bill
- NPS on Urban Development
- 2016 Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill (No 2)
- Telecommunications (Property Access and Other Matters) Amendment Bill
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill
- regulations to support the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill.

Councils are also working jointly on Next Steps for Freshwater, the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry, National Environmental Standards for Contaminants in Soil and Air Quality, and the National Policy Statement for Aquaculture.

### ***Collaboration with Heritage New Zealand***

The region collaborated with a view to promoting the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act and the availability of advice. It made a joint submission to the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga on its draft statutory policies, and organised a symposium with Heritage New Zealand in October 2015.

### ***Population project***

A region-wide demographic analysis was completed, in association with Statistics NZ, and a web presence created, on population and migration dynamics and used to inform infrastructure strategies and Long-Term Plans (LTPs).

### ***Regional economic indicators***

Agreement was reached to create a set of regional economic indicators, with the support of the Canterbury Development Corporation, to help monitor the extent to which the Mayoral Forum's objectives in the CREDS are being achieved over time.

### ***Significance and Engagement Policies***

All participating councils agreed in April 2014 on the value of a common approach to Significance and Engagement Policies. The draft policies were created following a number of workshops that saw the Office of the Auditor-General attend and provide advice following the 2014 Local Government Act amendments.

### ***Infrastructure / asset management***

A sub-group to develop consistency around asset management, infrastructure strategies and 2015–2025 LTPs was established in 2014. There is strong support for consistent systems among the region's councils and potential for a centralised database and opportunities to share information and knowledge.

### ***Review of public transport in greater Christchurch***

The Mayoral Forum initiated a review of public transport governance – the outcome was establishment of a Joint Committee for Greater Christchurch.

### ***Rating and valuation services review***

Ernst & Young (EY) was engaged by Canterbury councils to evaluate opportunities to work together on rating and valuation processes. A project working party has been formed to work with EY through a three-phase project process.

### ***Strategic assessment of the case for change: 3 Waters and Transport***

The Forum has initiated investigation of opportunities for shared services in the management of 3 waters (drinking water, waste water, storm water) and transport, using the Treasury's Better Business Case framework.

### ***Storm water management***

In April 2014, a mandate was agreed to organise storm water management region-wide and to oversee technical working groups. Work continues towards achieving region-wide consistency on storm water management, planning and consenting.

### ***Joint waste initiatives and shared landfill***

The region collaborates through the Canterbury Waste Joint Committee, set up to identify and promote solid and hazardous waste minimisation. Recent projects funded by the committee include the 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign and rural waste minimisation. The Kate Valley Landfill in Hurunui is a joint venture by a number of Canterbury councils and Canterbury Waste Services. The landfill is built to international best practice standards and will provide landfilling space for years to come.

### ***Managing natural hazard risk***

The partners agreed to develop a regional approach to managing natural hazard risk in Canterbury, working with the TLA planners and Emergency Management Officers Forum. The final report was presented in May 2016 and also looked at the monitoring of natural hazards and management reform (including climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation) and possible emergence of a National Policy Statement.

### ***Contaminated land technical support***

From January 2015–January 2016, a trial was held on contaminated land technical support to councils, to ensure information is consistent across the region. This has been extended for a further year.

### ***Civil Defence and 'lifelines'***

A regional emergency fuel supply plan has been developed. Work has begun alongside the University of Canterbury to enhance connectivity of lifeline utility organisations to improve critical infrastructure resilience. Work has also commenced on an initiative to provide a pool of trained Emergency Management Officers to provide additional support for any district Emergency Operations Centre facing a crisis event. Emergency management training along with exercises to enhance and refine skills has been undertaken. Regional priorities for commissioning natural hazard research projects have been agreed.

### **Sub-regional collaboration**

Sub-regional initiatives in the 2013–16 triennium have included:

- Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy
- Memoranda of Understanding on roading collaboration in north and south Canterbury
- shared IT infrastructure support for Kaikōura and Mackenzie
- shared code of engineering practice
- collaboration on contaminated land in greater Christchurch
- a 'virtual health and safety team' (Waimakariri and Selwyn District Councils and Environment Canterbury) was established in 2015, and expanded in 2016 to include the Hurunui and Kaikōura councils.