

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

BOARD PACK

for

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Friday, 22 August 2025

8:30 am (NZST)

Held at:

Commodore Hotel

449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch

INDEX

Cover Page

Index

Agenda

Attached Documents:

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 1.3 a | Minutes : Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 30 May 2025..... | 8 |
| 1.4 a | Action List..... | 21 |
| 2.1 a | CMF Canterbury Ambition Aug 2025.docx..... | 23 |
| 2.1 b | CMF Canterbury Ambition Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf..... | 24 |
| 2.1 c | CMF Canterbury Ambition Attachment 2 Aug 2025.pdf..... | 26 |
| 2.2 a | CMF Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach Aug 2025.docx..... | 36 |
| 2.2 b | CMF Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf..... | 40 |
| 2.2 c | CMF Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach Attachment 2 Aug 2025.pdf..... | 43 |
| 2.2 d | CMF Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach Attachment 3 Aug 2025.docx... | 75 |
| 2.3 a | CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Aug 2025.docx..... | 80 |
| 2.3 b | CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Attachment 3 Aug 2025.docx..... | 85 |
| 2.4 a | CMF Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan Aug 2025.docx..... | 98 |
| 2.4 b | CMF Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf.. | 101 |
| 2.5 a | CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy update August 2025.docx..... | 134 |
| 4.1 a | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Aug 2025.docx..... | 151 |
| 4.1 b | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 1 Aug 2025.docx..... | 156 |
| 4.1 c | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 2a Aug 2025.docx..... | 163 |
| 4.1 d | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 2b Aug 2025.docx..... | 165 |
| 4.1 e | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 2b(1) Aug 2025.pptx..... | 178 |
| 4.1 f | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 3 Aug 2025.docx..... | 179 |
| 6.2 a | CMF Greater Christchurch Partnership - update Aug 2025.docx..... | 192 |

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 6.2 b | CMF Greater Christchurch Partnership - update Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf..... | 196 |
| 6.3 a | CMF Chief Executives Forum report Aug 2025.docx..... | 201 |
| 6.3 b | CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf..... | 203 |
| 6.4 a | CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and engagements August 2025.docx..... | 204 |
| 6.4 b | CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf..... | 206 |
| 6.4 c | CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements Attachment 2 Aug 2025.pdf..... | 207 |
| 6.4 d | CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements Attachment 3 Aug 2025.pdf..... | 210 |

AGENDA

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name: | Canterbury Mayoral Forum |
| Date: | Friday, 22 August 2025 |
| Time: | 8:30 am to 1:00 pm (NZST) |
| Location: | Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch |
| Board Members: | Nigel Bowen (Chair), Craig Pauling, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Gary Kircher, Marie Black, Neil Brown, Phil Mauger, Sam Broughton, Karen Morgan |
| Attendees: | Mayor Monique Croon, Alex Parmley, Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Riach, Jeff Millward, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor, Paul Eagle, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Maree McNeilly, Amelia Wilkins, Ann Fitzgerald |
| Apologies: | Anne Munro, Hamish Dobbie, Stuart Duncan |
| Guests/Notes: | Leeann Watson and Tait Dench, Business Canterbury (Items 2.1: 2.2) Jesse Burgess, Environment Canterbury (Items 2.1:2.2:2.3:2.4); Diane McDermott, Regional Public Service Commissioner (Item 6.1) |

1. Open Meeting

1.1 Welcome, karakia and apologies 8:30 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

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 - 30 May 2025 | 8 |
|--|---|

1.4 Action List 8:45 am (15 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1.4.a Action List | 21 |
|-------------------|----|

2. For discussion and decision

2.1 Canterbury Ambition 9:00 am (15 min)

Leeann Watson and Tait Dench, Business Canterbury

Supporting Documents:

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 2.1.a | CMF Canterbury Ambition Aug 2025.docx | 23 |
| 2.1.b | CMF Canterbury Ambition Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf | 24 |
| 2.1.c | CMF Canterbury Ambition Attachment 2 Aug 2025.pdf | 26 |

2.2 Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach

9:15 am (20 min)

Nigel Bowen

Jesse Burgess (ECan), Regional Deal working group member

Supporting Documents:

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 2.2.a | CMF Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach Aug 2025.docx | 36 |
| 2.2.b | CMF Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf | 40 |
| 2.2.c | CMF Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach Attachment 2 Aug 2025.pdf | 43 |
| 2.2.d | CMF Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach Attachment 3 Aug 2025.docx | 75 |

2.3 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

9:35 am (10 min)

Dan Gordon

Jesse Burgess, Chair Climate Change Working Group

Link for attachment 1: <https://canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CCPP-Action-2-Emissions-Reduction-Strategic-Overview-Aug-2025.pdf>

Link for attachment 2: <https://canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/CCPP-Action-9-Monitoring-Evaluation-and-Reporting-Plan-Aug-2025.pdf>

Supporting Documents:

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 2.3.a | CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Aug 2025.docx | 80 |
| 2.3.b | CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Attachment 3 Aug 2025.docx | 85 |

2.4 Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan

9:45 am (10 min)

Sharon Mason

Jesse Burgess (Ecan) Housing Steering Group

Supporting Documents:

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 2.4.a | CMF Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan Aug 2025.docx | 98 |
| 2.4.b | CMF Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf | 101 |

2.5 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

9:55 am (15 min)

Craig Pauling

Supporting Documents:

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 2.5.a | CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy update August 2025.docx | 134 |
|-------|--|-----|

3. KAI - Morning tea

3.1 Kai - morning tea 10:10 am (20 min)

4. For discussion and decision

4.1 2025-2028 Triennium preparation 10:30 am (30 min)

Hamish Riach

Link for Attachment 4 - <https://canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Waitaha-Canterbury-2025-An-Overview-FINAL.pdf>

Supporting Documents:

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 4.1.a | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Aug 2025.docx | 151 |
| 4.1.b | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 1 Aug 2025.docx | 156 |
| 4.1.c | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 2a Aug 2025.docx | 163 |
| 4.1.d | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 2b Aug 2025.docx | 165 |
| 4.1.e | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 2b(1) Aug 2025.pptx | 178 |
| 4.1.f | CMF 2025-2028 Triennium preparation Attachment 3 Aug 2025.docx | 179 |

5. For Discussion

5.1 Reflections on 2022-2025 triennium 11:00 am (20 min)

Nigel Bowen

5.2 Acknowledgement of members not standing for re-election 11:20 am (20 min)

Nigel Bowen

6. For information

6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner 11:40 am (15 min)

Diane McDermott

6.2 Greater Christchurch Partnership - update 11:55 am (15 min)

Craig Pauling

John Bartels, Director Greater Christchurch Partnership

Supporting Documents:

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| 6.2.a | CMF Greater Christchurch Partnership - update Aug 2025.docx | 192 |
| 6.2.b | CMF Greater Christchurch Partnership - update Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf | 196 |

6.3 Chief Executives Forum report 12:10 pm (5 min)

Hamish Riach

Supporting Documents:

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| 6.3.a | CMF Chief Executives Forum report Aug 2025.docx | 201 |
| 6.3.b | CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf | 203 |

6.4 Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements

Supporting Documents:

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 6.4.a | CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and engagements August 2025.docx | 204 |
| 6.4.b | CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements Attachment 1 Aug 2025.pdf | 206 |
| 6.4.c | CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements Attachment 2 Aug 2025.pdf | 207 |
| 6.4.d | CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements Attachment 3 Aug 2025.pdf | 210 |

7. General business

7.1 General business

12:15 pm (10 min)

Nigel Bowen

7.2 Meeting review

12:25 pm (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

7.3 Closing karakia

12:30 pm (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Kia tau te rangimarie ki runga I nga iwi o te ao
Haumi e
Hui e
Taiki e

Let peace reign on all the people of the world
Fixed
Bound as one

8. Kai - lunch

8.1 Lunch

12:35 pm (30 min)

9. Close Meeting

9.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 28 Nov 2025, 8:30 am

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name: | Canterbury Mayoral Forum |
| Date: | Friday, 30 May 2025 |
| Time: | 8:30 am to 12:37 pm (NZST) |
| Location: | Sudima Hotel, 114 Esplanade, Kaikōura |
| Board Members: | Craig Pauling, Nigel Bowen (Chair), Gary Kircher, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Neil Brown, Sam Broughton, Karen Morgan |
| Attendees: | Mayor Monique Croon, Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Jeff Millward, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Paul Eagle, Maree McNeilly, Ann Fitzgerald, Amelia Wilkins |
| Apologies: | Marie Black, Craig Rowley, Phil Mauger, Stuart Duncan, Nigel Trainor, Mary Richardson, Alex Parmley |
| Guests/Notes: | Jesse Burgess (ECan) (Items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4); Vania Llewellyn (Regional Public Service Commission) (Item 2.3); Cameron Smith (ECan) (Items 4.1, 4.3); John Sutcliffe (ECan councilor). Sharon Mason online; Alex Parmley online from 9.25am - 10.00am |

1. Open Meeting

1.1 Welcome, karakia and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and led members in the opening karakia.

Apologies from Mayors Marie Black, Craig Rowley and Phil Mauger and Chief Executives Stuart Duncan, Nigel Trainor and Mary Richardson were noted, along with an apology from Gary Kircher for lateness (joined meeting at 9.25am).

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed as presented.

The following items were tabled for general business discussion:

- i. Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (Mayor Brown)
- ii. Update on local government metrics to be released from DIA (Mayor Broughton)
- iii. CMF meetings open to the public/livestreaming
- iv. Genetic Engineering national conversation

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

Canterbury Mayoral Forum 14 Feb 2025, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Decision

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2025 were confirmed as presented.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Decision Date: | 30 May 2025 |
| Mover: | Sam Broughton |
| Seconder: | Dan Gordon |
| Outcome: | Approved |

1.4 Action List

Options for a Canterbury Building Consent Authority

The Chair updated members on his discussion with Minister Penk, the key message being the Ministers desire to see councils working together. The recent announcement of a private Building Consent Authority based initially in Selwyn was noted.

Wilde and Winder report – review of functions – discussed at item 4.6

Regional Deal – discussed at item 2.1.

2. For discussion and decision

2.1 Canterbury Regional Deal

The Chair introduced this item and invited Jesse Burgess, Regional Deal working group member, to provide an update on the approach taken to date on the development of a future regional deal for Canterbury, noting the work and associated funding that would be required.

The Chair conveyed Waimate District Council's concern regarding any extra funding requirements this would place on member councils.

While the Government has advised (informally) that they are not expecting additional regional deal proposals at this time, there is still a need to consider what information will be provided to the Minister later this year, as set out in the CMF letter to the Minister in February – this could be a high-level overview of the components of a regional deal as set out in paragraph 31 of this paper, and should also include potential funding tools, regulation and legislative changes being sought (if appropriate).

Regarding discussions with Papatipu Rūnanga, the Chair advised that at this stage four Papatipu Rūnanga have expressed an interest in working with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on a regional deal, and also for wider conversations on whole of Canterbury priorities such as housing and transport.

To date the Chair has met with Tania Wati (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri) and spoken with Dardanelle McLean-Smith (Waihao Rūnanga) and intends to meet individually with the remaining Rūnanga in the next few weeks.

Discussion on the merits of progressing a pathway to a regional deal to meet the August/September 2025 timeline that the CMF has signaled to central government, and the budget implications of this versus a full regional deal included:

- while the Government has advised (informally) that they are not expecting additional regional deal proposals at this time, the Minister has indicated an expectation for a regional deal proposal from Canterbury at some point
- the CMF letter to the Minister in February signaled an intention to submit further development of a regional deal proposal in late 2025
- option to submit a pathway to a regional deal - with a focus on transport (including funding tools and prioritised initiatives that will unlock regional growth initially), and signal other key areas of energy, spatial planning and housing, infrastructure, tourism
- budget to support development of a regional deal will need to be considered by each council. With 2025/26 Annual Plans already adopted, any additional funding and in-kind support will need to be considered in the following financial year

- a primary focus on what is good for Canterbury, and taking a long term approach
- transport needs across the district and the case for additional government funding to meet these are well advanced. This could form the basis of an initial pathway to a regional deal, whilst signaling other areas including energy, tourism, spatial planning and housing. The work required in the additional areas would then be subject to individual planning and budget processes in the next financial year
- acknowledgement of the changes to come in the Resource Management Act reform, and the likely requirement to develop regional spatial plans
- consensus that is important to signal Canterbury's presence at this early stage
- aspects of the approach used by Chatham Islands "Island deal" were shared, including utilising the DIA template, alignment with infrastructure needs, with a focus on keeping the proposal simple
- noting that in-kind resource has served us thus far, but this next stage will require support from the Economic Development Forum members and in particular the region's Economic Development Agencies. There was acknowledgement that the volume of work required in the discovery stage may need some outsourcing. This will need to be well scoped, and budget identified.
- discussion regarding budget for this work was deferred until item 4.5.



ACTION

Mayor Monique Croon to forward the Chathams Island Deal information to Secretariat.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Mayor Monique Croon



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the work to date on developing a regional deal proposal and provide feedback on the approach taken
2. endorsed the development of a pathway to a regional deal to come back to the August 2025 Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting for approval
3. notes that this will require in-kind resource support from individual councils.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Dan Gordon
Seconded: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

2.2 Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan

Introducing the paper Sharon Mason, Chair of the Economic Development Forum acknowledged in particular the contribution from Simon Hart in the Housing workstream and Jesse Burgess across multiple workstreams.

The key regional housing priorities were noted. Feedback included:

- land affordability is a significant barrier, options for mitigating this to be highlighted, such as leasing, zoning, covenants, National Policy Statement - Urban Development, funding for new infrastructure
- highlight priority tools for central government to address land affordability and availability such as GST on new builds

- part of a regional deal could include seeking government contribution such as through restructuring council debt to enable councils to support housing growth
- consider inclusionary zoning, noting that individual councils may or may not wish to utilize this tool
- include managed retreat and tools to assist affected communities
- prioritizing the top 3-5 in the list of tools and levers so there is a clear ask from the report
- acknowledging some of the levers are already within council remit – policy settings around density and land availability.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. provided feedback on the draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan, with particular focus on the proposed actions for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
2. endorsed the draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan for its completion and approval at the Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting in August 2025.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Neil Brown
Seconder: Gary Kircher
Outcome: Approved

2.3 Canterbury Energy Workstream

In introducing the paper Sharon Mason, Chair of the Economic Development Forum acknowledged the in-kind contribution for member councils, in particular from Environment Canterbury (Jesse Burgess and Tammy Philips) and the Regional Public Service Commission (Vania Llewellyn).

Development of the inventory included a stakeholder workshop and there was significant buy-in from the sector in this work. There is a strong desire from the sector that this work continue with the development of a future energy strategy for the region. The sector has indicated their willingness to contribute resources to continue to support this work.

Due to the strong in-kind work from the Regional Public Service Commission and Environment Canterbury there is still budget remaining from the original \$50,000 committed for this work to support the first part of phase two - developing a regional approach to energy with key sector stakeholders.

It was confirmed that ongoing central government in-kind support through the Regional Public Service Commission is available over the next six months and this, along with the remaining budget, will provide the ability to progress the work to the next stage.

Budget requirements outside of what is currently committed will be developed to be considered through future Council Annual Plan processes.

Discussion included:

- no reference to nuclear energy, noting that in the next phase all energy sources will be explored, and noting New Zealand's current policy on nuclear energy
- energy workstream to be a key component of the draft regional deal proposal (see item 2.1) and needs to take into consideration spatial planning and housing strategy work
- raising the opportunity for central government to provide incentives for alternative energy generation such as household solar energy on new builds
- amend reference to hydro dams to reflect that these are shared across territorial authority boundaries, and maps to show whole of Waitaki district

- acknowledging the importance of an energy strategy in giving long-term confidence to the sector with its large-scale capital investments.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. approved the draft Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory, subject to any minor modifications
2. delegated approval of minor modifications to the Chairs of the Regional Energy Inventory Steering Group and Canterbury Economic Development Forum
3. noted that the Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory will be circulated to stakeholders and published on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website in June 2025
4. noted that an accompanying summary infographic has been drafted for publication alongside the Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory
5. endorsed the recommended approach to the next phase of the regional energy work for the Canterbury region, including the multi-stage process and approved the use of the remaining \$40,000 budget for this work, noting the in-kind resourcing requirements
6. noted that a Scope of Work for the next phase of the regional energy work would be developed by the Canterbury Economic Development Forum in mid-2025.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Dan Gordon
Second: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved

2.4 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Dan Gordon, Chair of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group introduced the paper, acknowledging the progress made to date on implementation of key actions and summarised the background to the recommendations, including the repurposed role of the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group as the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group.

Discussion included:

- action 6 – include the discussions the Chair is currently having with individual Rūnanga, and reference to all Mayoral Forum members engaging with their local rūnanga
- the infeasibility of the CMF developing or administering a Canterbury Climate Commitment Scheme to spur local business into climate action, noting the multitude of existing similar initiatives
- noting Environment Canterbury is currently reviewing the Tuia agreement, to be finalised at the end of this term. Recent strategic position statements were agreed by council on a range of matters, including relations with mana whenua and these can be shared with the Forum.



Action

Secretariat to prepare key speaking points from the CCPP for councils to utilise when having discussions with local rūnanga

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Amelia Wilkins

**Action**

Environment Canterbury to share the Tuia agreement review with member councils and strategic position statements with CMF.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025

Owner: Craig Pauling

**Decision**

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the quarterly Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan progress report
2. approved the implementation overviews for key actions 2 (emission reduction) and 3 (adaptation planning) and action 6 (supporting councils to work with papatipu rūnanga)
3. approved the recommendation with respect to action 8.2, it is not feasible for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to develop or administer a Canterbury Climate Commitment scheme
4. approved the proposal to repurpose the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group as the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group and the updated terms of reference.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025

Mover: Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Karen Morgan

Outcome: Approved

3. KAI - Morning tea

3.1 Kai - morning tea

4. For discussion and decision

4.1 Canterbury Water Management Strategy - Zone Review

Cameron Smith, Senior Strategy Manager Environment Canterbury, joined the meeting for the Water Management Strategy items.

Craig Pauling introduced the paper noting that the review has been a large piece of work, and there has been a wide range of feedback from individual councils and rūnanga. The aim has been to put forward a model for CMF consideration that provides the flexibility that has been requested and is able to be tailored as required across the region as required.

It was noted that the use of Freshwater Management Units is a new approach, currently set out in the draft Regional Policy Statement – the FMUs are developed based on catchments or sub-catchments and can be logically combined.

Discussion included:

- Neil Brown reiterated the Ashburton district view that rather than a three leg stool, Ashburton consider a fourth leg of community representation be added from the outset, and that the water zone is based on the local authority boundary
- noting that while the three statutory partners are listed initially – territorial authority, rūnanga, regional council, if the local water zone committee wishes to have community representation, or any other representation, they are able to include these as an equal partner

- consideration of how to effectively include major rivers, such as the Rangitata, if Zone Committees are based on local authority boundaries, and support for the alpine rivers to be addressed more effectively in the refreshed model
- a view that a catchment basis makes sense, noting that there may be cross over with councils and rūnanga, who may be involved in more than one Water Zone Committee
- timing of the new structure, noting that as it is late in the Annual Plan process, it could be likely that the current structure is retained, with local community consultation undertaken in the next Annual Plan
- noting that going forward eight rather than ten Water Management Zone Committees are proposed
- the aim is to have discussions with councils concluded by the end of the year, and an undertaking was given that liaison with Ashburton District Council would be scheduled early in this process.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the progress update for the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Review and identified next steps to be undertaken to early 2026
2. endorsed the Working Group's recommendations for the design of the proposed local leadership groups.

Neil Brown requested that his dissenting vote be recorded, along with acknowledging the undertaking from the Environment Canterbury Chair that individual Water Zone Committees have the power to have community representation on their committee.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Craig Pauling
Seconder: Nigel Bowen
Outcome: Approved

4.2 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Craig Pauling introduced the paper, noting the progress towards implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy over the last quarter.



Action

Cameron Smith to provide an update to Mackenzie District Council on the resourcing for the Te Mōkihi programme.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Regional Forums Secretariat



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the update for January to March 2025 on the region-wide work underway to implement the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconder: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

4.3 Canterbury Water Management Strategy - targets progress report

In the absence of Gerard Cleary (Canterbury Operations Forum - Waimakariri) Cameron Smith presented the paper outlining the final draft Targets progress report 2025.

Discussion included:

- context around how the initial targets were established
- while noting number of targets are showing as “not met”, there will be opportunities going forward for Water Zone Committees to be more closely involved in progressing targets
- caution is needed regarding changing targets to ensure comparison with 2021 targets is not compromised
- there is an opportunity to focus on this work, particularly in light of the central government changes to freshwater management.



Action

Confirm if 2021 CWMS targets results will remain visible and will be archived once the 2025 updates are made, noting this information is available on the Environment Canterbury website.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025

Owner: Maree McNeilly



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum

1. provided feedback on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy's final draft online Targets Progress report 2025
2. endorsed the Canterbury Water Management Strategy's final Targets Progress report 2025 for release mid-June, subject to feedback, supported by a communications plan developed by Environment Canterbury
3. noted the future work needed to be undertaken to improve reporting for 2030.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025

Mover: Sam Broughton

Second: Craig Mackle

Outcome: Approved

4.4 2026-2028 Triennium preparation

Discussion on the 2026 – 2028 triennial agreement included:

- the work being undertaken on a Canterbury regional deal and the associated workstreams will be the main focus of the next triennium and may effectively form the Plan for Canterbury going forward
- discussion will be needed on future structure of local and regional governance going forward
- opportunities for greater integration with the Greater Christchurch Partnership could be explored, including a standing agenda item for GCP members to update on GCP activity. It was also noted all agendas and minutes can be found on the GCP website and all meetings are now livestreamed
- opportunities for greater engagement with rūnanga, noting that an annual meeting with all 10 rūnanga representatives would be welcomed as a starting point, and that moving to some form of formal agreement may be possible in the future

- an opportunity for members to take the draft 2026-2028 triennial agreement to their councils in July 2025 to provide any feedback prior to the final draft agreement going back to the Mayoral Forum in August.



Action

Add a standing item on Canterbury Mayoral Forum agenda – Greater Christchurch Partnership.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Regional Forums Secretariat



Action

Forward members links to the Greater Christchurch Partnership meeting agendas and minutes.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Draft a council paper to support seeking early feedback on the draft 2026-2028 triennial agreement from individual councils.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Provide information on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Triennial Agreement for Council induction processes post election (included in briefing packs for new members).

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Engagement with Rūnanga – members to send views to Secretariat on options to for more effective engagement with Rūnanga.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Regional Forums Secretariat



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. discussed and provided feedback on the draft Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2026-2028 and strategy options for the upcoming term.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconder: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved

4.5 Regional forums budget July 2025 - June 2027

Members were alerted to an error in the budget format where values in tables 1 and 2 should be summed. Table 1 only refers to councils' commitments to the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, Table 2 only refers to funds for the additional items as discussed in the paper.

Given discussions on the content and timing of a number of workstreams it was agreed that this item be deferred until the August 2025 CMF meeting.

4.6 Future regional and local government for Canterbury

Hamish Riach summarised progress on the opportunities the Canterbury Mayoral Forum identified at the February meeting with respect to opportunities for future local government arrangements for Canterbury:

Building Consent Authority

A sub-group of Chief Executives has progressed work on a regional building consent authority, initially undertaking a stock take of councils' current building consent activity.

A budget, or in-kind support is required to undertake the analysis of the information provided by councils and the policy and regulatory framework related to a BCA.

Chief Executives have reviewed the functions outlined in the Wilde and Winder Report and consider that rather than reviewing individual functions at this time, efforts may be better concentrated on understanding the impact of the Government's reform programme on local government while continuing to work through opportunities to work collaboratively as they arise.

Discussion included:

- as the Canterbury Mayoral Forum continues to look for efficiencies for ratepayers, the Building Consent Authority work and a wider review of potential functions that could be considered for regional or sub regional delivery should continue
- a "coalition of the willing" approach is more likely to produce results
- with regard to the future of local government in Canterbury the opportunity for a facilitated workshop to progress this discussion was raised
- Chair Pauling noted that Environment Canterbury is already doing work in this space. There are conversations happening at Te Uru Kahika – Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa and with other South Island regional and unitary authorities. He noted that he is very happy to share these with members
- noting that central government ministers have commented on the number of local government elected members and there is talk about reducing the number going forward
- being proactive may mean the region has more of a say about the form of local government going forward
- central government is proposing amendments to the Local Government Act
- Forum members can continue to discuss options going forward.



Action

The Chief Executive sub-group to report back to the Chief Executive Forum in July 2025 and the August 2025 Mayoral Forum meeting on options with regard to a regional building consent authority.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the update on the Building Consent Authority Project
2. endorsed the initial budget of \$20,000 to progress the Building Consent Authority project

3. agreed to continue to look at opportunities to work collaboratively as they arise.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconders: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved



Action

Future regional and local government for Canterbury
 Secretariat to arrange for a facilitated workshop to be held for Forum members to further explore options for local government futures for Canterbury.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly

5. For information

5.1 Chief Executives Forum report

This paper was taken as read.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconders: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

5.2 Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements

This paper was taken as read.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the update on Canterbury Mayoral Forum activities, engagement s and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 14 February 2025.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconders: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

6. General business

6.1 General business

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (Mayor Brown)

The flow on effect of central government's changes to the eligibility for access to the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) was discussed. Central Government policy dictates that recipients are

80 percent from jobseeker beneficiaries and only 20 percent 16-17 year olds (NEETS) (who are unable to receive jobseeker benefit) and members are concerned that this is setting up the scheme for failure.

The MTFJ has been very successful in supporting 16-17 year olds (NEETS) into jobs.

There is a concern that referrals from MSD will be those already difficult to place into employment. It was agreed that this is likely to reduce the effectiveness of the scheme and reduce funding for councils.

There is a real the concern from members around the table that these teens, who have a real chance to succeed with early interventions and support, are likely to slip through the cracks. It's not just about the funding.

It was noted that Selwyn have already pulled out of the scheme and others are considering their continued support as a result of this policy change.

Local Government Metrics - DIA data (Mayor Broughton)

Mayor Sam Broughton provided an update on conversations between LGNZ and DIA on the release of Local Government metrics.

LGNZ has received some concessions from DIA -in particular providing links to respective councils' websites. There are concerns around the timing of the release of data and that there does not appear to be any appetite to add context for the data.

Conversations are continuing between LGNZ, DIA and the Minister for Local Government.

CMF meetings open to the public/livestreaming

Prompted by a recent enquiry members discussed the matter of CMF meetings being open to the public and/or live streaming. No conclusion was reached at this time, noting it may be something to be considered in the new triennium.

Genetic Engineering national conversation

The Chair asked if there any support from the CMF to support the current national discussion on genetic engineering, noting this could be an opportunity for a Canterbury view to be articulated. The Chair will circulate further information to CMF members.



Action

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Draft a CMF letter to Minister of Social Development outlining the concerns with the new policy direction of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs scheme - for signature by all members.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025

Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Genetic Engineering national conversation

Chair to circulate summary information from William Rolleston to CMF members.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025

Owner: Nigel Bowen

6.2 Meeting review

6.3 Closing karakia

7. Kai - lunch

7.1 Lunch

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 22 Aug 2025, 8:30 am

Signature:_____

Date:_____

Action List

Canterbury Mayoral Forum



As of: 18 Aug 2025

Action In Progress

Engagement with Rūnanga – members to send views to Secretariat on options to for more effective engagement with Rūnanga.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Regional Forums Secretariat
Meeting: 30 May 2025 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 4.4 2026-2028 Triennium preparation

Latest Update:

Included in email to CMF 30 July - to be discussed 22 Aug
 Maree McNeilly | 30 Jul 2025

Action In Progress

The Chief Executive sub-group to report back to the Chief Executive Forum in July 2025 and the August 2025 Mayoral Forum meeting on options with regard to a regional building consent authority.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly
Meeting: 30 May 2025 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 4.6 Future regional and local government for Canterbury

Action On Hold

Future regional and local government for Canterbury

Secretariat to arrange for a facilitated workshop to be held for Forum members to further explore options for local government futures for Canterbury.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly
Meeting: 30 May 2025 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 4.6 Future regional and local government for Canterbury

Latest Update:

14 July Decision made to reschedule this for the new triennium
 Maree McNeilly | 16 Jul 2025

Action On Hold

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Draft a CMF letter to Minister of Social Development outlining the concerns with the new policy direction of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs scheme - for signature by all members.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly
Meeting: 30 May 2025 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 6.1 General business

Latest Update:

Discussed with Nigel Bowen (30 July) issues raised directly with Minister, letter on hold

Maree McNeilly | 30 Jul 2025

Action**Not Started****Genetic Engineering national conversation**

Chair to circulate summary information from William Rolleston to CMF members.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025

Owner: Nigel Bowen

Meeting: 30 May 2025 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 6.1 General business

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 22 August 2025

Presented by: Leeann Watson, Tait Dench, Business Canterbury

Canterbury Ambition

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the work led by Business Canterbury on the Canterbury Ambition.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receives the update from Business Canterbury on the work to date on the Canterbury Ambition.**

Background

2. Following the CMF meeting in August 2024, and mid-cycle meeting in September, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) agreed to work with Business Canterbury on identifying what the private sector vision is for Canterbury, with the aim of providing clarity around the drivers of economic growth, which is led by the private sector and enabled and supported by central and local government.

Canterbury Ambition

3. The draft Canterbury Ambition (attachment 1) stands on its own for private sector and/or local government to use as an advocacy document for the region, but has also been incorporated into the draft working Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document (see item 2.2).
4. Leeann will speak to the presentation 'A private sector led ambition for Canterbury' provided at attachment 2.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Draft Canterbury Ambition
- Attachment 2: Presentation 'A private sector led ambition for Canterbury'

A private sector led ambition for Canterbury.

Over the past nine months, Business Canterbury, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and the private sector have come together to form a shared ambition for our region.

The progress we have made toward the goal of a shared ambition – in bringing the private and public sectors together from right across Canterbury – has created the conversations and conditions for alignment and clarity.

This ambition sets out what sets Canterbury apart, and the key ingredients for Canterbury's long-term success. These have stemmed from the recognition that strong businesses and strong communities are innately linked to our environment, our lifestyle, and our capacity for innovation.

It provides a clear and credible foundation for future growth, whether through a Regional Deal or other opportunities. More importantly, it gives us a common starting point and a platform for continued partnership between the private sector and local government who will ultimately enable the ambition.

This is a living document, and its primary purpose is to communicate at a high level a collective ambition to the business community, government (local and central) and global markets.

This document will also act as an advocacy tool for the private sector, and local government, to communicate the opportunities and priorities for Canterbury.

As Canterbury evolves, so too will this ambition. But what won't change is our commitment to making Canterbury one of the best places in the world to test ideas, grow businesses, and build a great life.



Canterbury is the home of opportunity – where the environment, innovation, and quality of life thrive together.

What sets Canterbury apart is that success here doesn't come with the familiar trade-offs. You can succeed in business and raise a family, all while enjoying one of the most affordable, high-amenity lifestyles in the Southern Hemisphere.

Few growing regions in the world can claim that – and even fewer can sustain it. But that's Canterbury's challenge, and opportunity.

Canterbury boasts one of New Zealand's most diverse and connected business communities in the country. With a global city at our doorstep, an international airport, two deep-water ports, and two leading universities driving research and innovation, we're connected and aligned in a way that few regions can match.

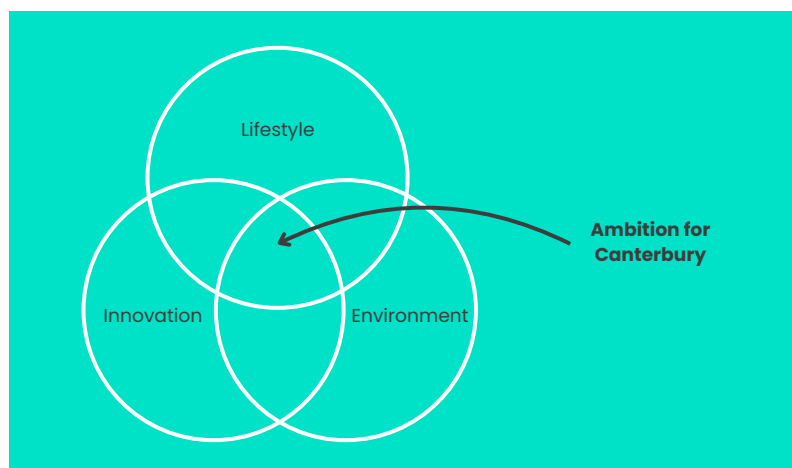
Because we are so well connected and aligned across business, mana whenua, the education sector and civic leadership, we can move independently, confidently and at pace.

Our deep roots in agriculture and engineering have laid the foundation for a thriving innovation ecosystem. Today, Canterbury is home to some of New Zealand's most exciting growth sectors – including advanced manufacturing, aerospace, smart tourism and other hi-tech industries.

These industries are drawing in global investment, attracting top talent, and contributing to prosperity across both the region and country.

To accelerate this momentum, we must act now. We must invest ahead of demand in infrastructure, particularly around energy and connectivity. We must protect and evolve our competitive advantage in housing affordability and lifestyle. And we must modernise and align the regulatory settings that enable us to innovate, attract investment, and grow so we can continue to enhance our reputation for solving world's big problems here.

Canterbury is growing and ready now. Ready to lead and to shape the next chapter of New Zealand's story – a chapter where innovation and growth is grounded in liveability and the environment.



PRIORITY 1

Investing ahead of demand in energy and connectivity infrastructure.

PRIORITY 2

Protecting and advancing our competitive advantage in affordable housing and lifestyle.

PRIORITY 3

Ensuring regulation is fit for the future, ahead of innovation, and aligned across our region.

PROGRESS EVIDENCED BY

- ✓ Alignment in regulations and standards across the region.
- ✓ Foreign Direct Investment attraction aligned across the region.
- ✓ Regional Spatial Plan completed with a focus on housing affordability and efficient business zoning.
- ✓ Long term infrastructure and roading plans aligned and consenting frameworks in place.
- ✓ Energy strategy aligned across the region with a common consenting framework.

MEASURED AGAINST

Housing affordability median multiple is X (median house price versus median income).

Time to consent X% below national average or cost of consenting (to councils and business X% lower).

X% increase in Foreign Direct Investment penetration across the region.

X% uplift in infrastructure activity across the region.

X% of infrastructure pipeline funded and consented.

SUPPORTED BY:





A private sector
led ambition for
Canterbury.

SUPPORTED BY:



CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum



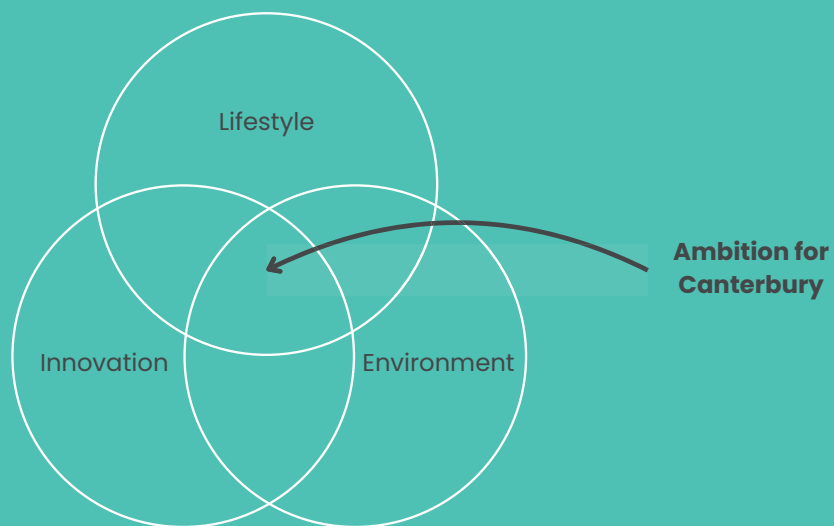
PURPOSE

- A common starting point and a platform for continued partnership between the private sector and local government, who will ultimately enable the ambition.
- Reframing the positioning of Canterbury as a region of opportunity – and a natural partner for the Government in meeting its economic development agenda.
- To create a living document to communicate at a high level a collective ambition to the business and wider community, government (local and central) and global markets.
- Everyone can see how they fit into the three pillars and priorities and how they will positively impact them
- An advocacy tool for the private sector, and local government, to communicate the opportunities and priorities for Canterbury.
- A piece of work that anyone can incorporate into their own work that resonates with their people, their place that inspires them.

WHAT THIS AMBITION IS NOT

- An economic development strategy – but this ambition should inform economic development strategies across the region at a high level
- Too prescriptive – we want to have a starting point rather than providing more opportunities to disagree than agree on the direction of Canterbury
- A detailed economic analysis – this piece of work is based on a series of collaborative discussions and workshops across the private sector and local government – it includes input from most sectors and geographies in Canterbury
- A detailed work programme – we have not defined the action items or workstreams which may well be the next step which would require roles to be defined.

WHERE WE HAVE LANDED



Canterbury is the home of opportunity - where the environment, innovation, and quality of life thrive together.

TO LEVERAGE THIS COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE, WE SHOULD PRIORITISE:

Investing ahead of
demand in energy
and connectivity
infrastructure.

Protecting and
advancing our
competitive advantage
in affordable housing
and lifestyle.

Ensuring regulation is
fit for the future,
ahead of innovation,
and aligned across
our region.

PROGRESS EVIDENCED BY

- ✓ Alignment in regulations and standards across the region.
- ✓ Foreign Direct Investment attraction aligned across the region.
- ✓ Regional Spatial Plan completed with a focus on housing affordability and efficient business zoning.
- ✓ Long term infrastructure and roading plans aligned and consenting frameworks in place.
- ✓ Energy strategy aligned across the region with a common consenting framework.

MEASURED AGAINST:



- ✓ X% uplift in infrastructure activity across the region.
- ✓ X% increase in Foreign Direct Investment penetration across the region.
- ✓ X% of infrastructure pipeline funded and consented.
- ✓ Time to consent X% below national average or cost of consenting (to councils and business X% lower).
- ✓ Housing affordability median multiple is X (median house price versus median income).

OUTCOMES, IMPACT AND KEY WINS SO FAR

33 businesses engaged in 3 formal sessions

5 engagements with Ngai Tahu

10 Runanga invited to participate (3 engaged)

20+ businesses engaged 1:1

Positive relationships and increased trust built across public-private sectors

Created the conditions and clarity to move forward as a region

(nearly) have clarity and agreement on a regional deal

NEXT STEPS: KEEPING THE WHEELS TURNING

Private Sector Endorsement:

Communications to
go out August.

Local Government Elections:

We will use the ambition
as a basis for Business
Canterbury's Local
Government election
engagement.

Media:

media placements to
explain the ambition
objectives

Thank you

SUPPORTED BY:



CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 22 August 2025

Presented by: Nigel Bowen, Chair
Jesse Burgess, Working group member, Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Regional Deal – development approach

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the development of initial documents for a future Canterbury Regional Deal proposal, which incorporates the work undertaken by Business Canterbury (see agenda item 2.1), local government and the private sector on the Canterbury Ambition, and seeks the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's input and agreement of next steps.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **provides feedback on the Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready (working title) document for finalisation**
2. **agrees to the timeline for briefing member councils and submitting the Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document to the Minister of Local Government**
3. **agrees to recommend to the incoming Canterbury Mayoral Forum the intention to develop a proposal to progress work on a future regional deal proposal, noting that this will require development of project scope, plans, and engagement, including budget approval, and endorsement from member councils**
4. **agrees to recommend to the incoming Canterbury Mayoral Forum to pursue the involvement of mana whenua, and leveraging the Greater Christchurch Partnership, in the development of a future regional deal proposal, noting that the initial Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready (working title) document is principally local government led.**

Background

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a Regional Deal in December 2024.
3. The CMF wrote to the Minister for Local Government on 28 February 2025 advising that Canterbury has an interest in agreeing a Regional Deal with Government and to register

this continued interest pending a more thorough proposal being submitted at a later date. A copy of the letter is provided at Attachment 1.

4. The CMF is working towards providing a progress update to the Minister following the August 2025 CMF meeting. The Government has indicated that they are not seeking additional Regional Deal proposals at this stage.
5. Following discussions at the CMF meeting on 30 May 2025, it was agreed that the CMF will provide a high-level overview of the components for a Regional Deal, focused on the key areas of transport, housing, energy, and infrastructure. The update will outline the approach that the CMF is adopting to develop a deal that aligns with the Government's economic growth agenda, addresses the region's infrastructure needs, and unlocks the region's economic potential.
6. The overview has the working document name of Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready and incorporates aspects of the Canterbury Ambition prepared by Business Canterbury (see agenda item 2.1).
7. The Chair of the CMF established a governance group to oversee the development of the proposal and the group has been meeting monthly.
8. A working group from the Economic Development Forum has been preparing the draft Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready (working title) document and has been meeting weekly.

Canterbury Ambition

9. Following the CMF meeting in August 2024, and mid-cycle meeting in September, the CMF agreed to work with Business Canterbury on identifying what the private sector vision is for Canterbury, with the aim of providing clarity around the drivers of economic growth, which is led by the private sector and enabled and supported by central and local government.
10. Leeann Watson (Chief Executive Business Canterbury) has provided an update on this work in the previous agenda item.
11. The draft Canterbury Ambition has been incorporated into the draft working Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document, but as noted in the previous item, can also stand on its own for private sector and/or local government to use as an advocacy document for the region.

Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready (working title)

12. The working group has prepared the draft Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document (Attachment 2) for CMF approval to be provided to the Minister.
13. The document has built on regional plans, strategies and other work that have already been developed and agreed, such as the Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan

2024-2034, Canterbury Energy Inventory, Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan, Greater Christchurch Joint Housing Action Plan, and work on the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan.

14. Initial feedback was received from the Governance Group and Chief Executives Forum and for the most part has been incorporated into the document attached. There are some aspects still to be incorporated into the final document, e.g. short case studies on advanced manufacturing, aerospace, smart tourism and hi-tech industries, and individual statements from CMF members.
15. The draft document has been written to make it clear that Canterbury is a region that is growing, going places and standing up on the world stage, and to reinforce Canterbury's role in New Zealand and make readers want to be part of it.

Engagement

16. To progress the development of a future Regional Deal proposal engagement will be required with a range of partners, sectors and stakeholders, not least including each Canterbury council, Papatipu Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, health and tertiary education sectors, private sectors, key infrastructure providers and the community.
17. An element of this engagement may be picked up through councils' usual engagement processes, however other elements will need to be bespoke and will be included in detailed scoping for the project.
18. Both the CMF and Business Canterbury have sent letters to ngā Papatipu Rūnanga advising them of this current work and inviting them to be involved. Responses have been received from some Rūnanga and an update on meetings that have been held with respect to this work will be provided at the CMF meeting.
19. A draft council briefing paper (Attachment 3) has been prepared by the secretariat to support CMF members in updating their respective councils on the approach being taken. At the Chief Executives Forum there was a view that the draft Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document should go to councils before being sent to the Minister and that this should occur after the local government elections.
20. As this work is building on already agreed work programmes and plans it was not proposed to seek individual council endorsement at this stage.
21. As the work progresses into development of a full Regional Deal proposal it is expected that there will need to be engagement and endorsement from each Canterbury council. This will be picked up in the next triennium and incorporated into the scope of works and project plan for next steps.

Financial implications

22. The current work has been completed within existing resources, therefore there are no current financial implications. Environment Canterbury has committed significant in-kind

resource to the draft initial document, with input from the Regional Public Service Commission and ChristchurchNZ, through to the August CMF meeting. As this work develops, future scope and funding requirements will be further developed for the CMF's budget consideration at their November 2025 meeting.

Next steps

23. The Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document will be updated and finalised to incorporate feedback from the CMF.

24. Depending on the decisions made today there may be a variety of next steps.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Option 1 | Pre-local government election |
| Option 1a | i. forward the Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document Minister for Local Government as indicated in the CMF letter to the Minister in February 2025 |
| | ii. brief all member councils on the Waitaha Canterbury world stage ready document, noting that it has been sent to the Minister for Local Government |
| Option 1b | iii. brief all member councils on the Waitaha Canterbury world stage ready document |
| | iv. forward the Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document Minister for Local Government as indicated in the CMF letter to the Minister in February 2025 |
| Option 2 | Post-local government election |
| Option 2 | 1. delay the release of the Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document until after the 2025 Local Government Elections |
| | November CMF meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> agree to send the Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document to the Minister for Local Government agree to an approach for developing a full regional deal proposal, including budget, that will then need to be taken to member councils for endorsement agree to brief the Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee |

Attachments

- Attachment 1: copy of 28 February 2025 CMF letter to Minister Watts
- Attachment 2: draft working document Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready
- Attachment 3: draft council briefing paper

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

28 February 2025

Hon Simon Watts
Minister for Local Government
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

By email: S.Watts@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Watts

Canterbury Regional Deal

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) in a Regional Deal on 18 December 2024. The CMF continues to have an interest in agreeing a Regional Deal with Government and this letter is to register that continued interest, pending a more thorough proposal being submitted at a later date.

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

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

The CMF has a proud history of collaboration between the member councils, government, mana whenua, business and other stakeholders in driving forward the interests of Cantabrians and the region, including in promoting and enabling growth.

Our aspiration for a Regional Deal is to capitalise on Canterbury's strengths and realise its potential as a leader of innovation nationally and internationally, to generate high-value growth for the region and New Zealand.

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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

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

For much of 2024, each of our member councils have been strongly focused on core business such as implementing Local Water Done Well and lifting the efficiency of resource management and consenting. Given the tight time frames for the Regional Deals process, we have taken the decision to prioritise those things that are of immediate importance to our ratepayers, while working together to set the foundations for the long-term strategic work to set us up for success for a Regional Deal.

To that end these are the steps the CMF is taking to ensure our case for a Canterbury Regional Deal is robust:

- development of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, which you joined us for the launch of in December 2024
- foundational work for a Regional Spatial Plan
- development of a Regional Housing Strategy
- finalising the Regional Public Transport Plan
- working on the next Regional Land Transport Plan
- preparation of an Energy Inventory, with a view to developing a strategic approach to the region's energy needs and infrastructure, to support sustainable growth and energy security
- working alongside Business Canterbury, economic development agencies and the private sector to identify economic vision and priorities for the region, that will contribute to this work

We are engaging with key sectors such as agriculture and aerospace so that their voices are heard and contribute to this work and seek to develop further the collaboration and partnership between Government, local government, the business sector, mana whenua, our education, innovation & research institutions, and other stakeholders.

Investing in this work now will ensure any Regional Deal proposal put forward will be robust, future focussed and supported by the whole region.

The work we are undertaking to prepare the region for a Regional Deal, will also set us up to have conversations with Government on the opportunities for future funding tools for local government such as:

- bridge and road tolling
- congestions charging
- returning GST on new builds to local councils to support development of the infrastructure requirements
- value capture from local/central government investments
- propotion international visitor levy to support local government tourism infrastructure and services
- accommodation levy.

As we continue to progress the work, we envisage that there will also be a need to review legislation and possibly suggest changes that will support and enable growth in Canterbury

The CMF expect to be in a position to make a call on the detail for a regional deal in August 2025 and we will come back to you at that point. In the meantime, we welcome continued discussion with government to develop a Regional Deal for Canterbury and unlock the potential growth of our region.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council



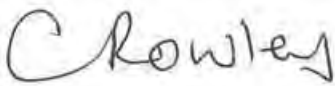
Marie Black
Deputy Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Hurunui District Council



Craig Pauling
Chair Canterbury Regional Council



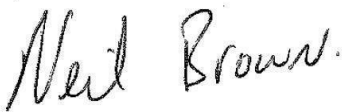
Gary Kircher
Mayor Waitaki District Council



Craig Rowley
Mayor Waimate District Council



Karen Morgan
Acting Mayor Mackenzie District Council



Neil Brown
Mayor Ashburton District Council



Sam Broughton
Mayor Selwyn District Council



Phil Mauger
Mayor Christchurch City Council



Dan Gordon
Mayor Waimakariri District Council



Craig Mackle
Mayor Kaikōura District Council

CC. Hon James Meager, Minister for the South Island
regionaldeals@dia.govt.nz

james.meagermp@parliament.govt.nz

Waitaha Canterbury **World-stage ready**

Key pillars for Canterbury's Regional Deal proposal

AUGUST 2025



CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

DRAFT

PLACEHOLDER IMAGE



DRAFT

Foreword

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum is excited about what's to come for our region.

Waitaha Canterbury is on the move – we're becoming globally innovative, increasing trade and investment as well as attracting top talent. All of this comes from the recognition that our strong businesses and cohesive communities are innately linked to our environment, our lifestyle, and our capacity for innovation.

To ensure we continue our upward trajectory, we must optimise the four key pillars that will supercharge our economy: Transport, Housing, Energy and Infrastructure. Doing so sets the foundation for future growth and positions the region to capitalise on a central government Regional Deal or other funding opportunities. Focusing on these four pillars, and getting them right, requires continued partnership between local government and the private sector, who will ultimately enable the ambition, and further, meaningful engagement with central government and mana whenua.

This document, World-stage ready, is both a stake in the ground and a view to our prosperous future. We can unlock our region's vision through true regional cooperation along with government regulation and funding.

We all have a role, both regionally and nationally, in accelerating the economic growth of Waitaha Canterbury while safeguarding our social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing.

Waitaha Canterbury is ready. Our region has forecast population increase from 650,000 people to about 780,000 by 2048, we're increasingly competitive, investment-attractive, and future-focused. Our region has the ingredients to offer a high quality of life and attract even more top talent to support sustained growth and investment.

This doesn't just benefit Waitaha Canterbury but the rest of New Zealand, too.

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Growth meets opportunity | 4 |
| Our shared ambition | 7 |
| Our context | 9 |
| Pillar 1: Transport | 17 |
| Pillar 2: Housing | 21 |
| Pillar 3: Energy | 25 |
| Pillar 4: Infrastructure | 28 |
| Funding and investment tools | 31 |
| Next steps | 32 |

Growth meets opportunity

Waitaha, the Canterbury region, is not just a strong regional player, it's a launchpad for global innovation, trade, and talent. With strengths in agritech, aerospace, education, and clean energy, the region is competing and collaborating internationally.

The region offers stable governance, a skilled workforce, and a collaborative ecosystem. Canterbury is not preparing to be relevant – it already is. We're exporting ideas, talent, and technology to the world.

This document sets out the opportunity to invest in a region that's already delivering results and scaling fast, which means Canterbury is not only a beneficiary of national policy, but a driver of it.

Over the past year, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Business Canterbury, and the private sector have come together to form a shared ambition for Waitaha Canterbury. The progress we have made toward the goal of a shared ambition – bringing the public and private sectors together from across the region – has created the conversations and conditions for alignment and clarity.

This ambition outlines what sets Canterbury apart and the key ingredients for Canterbury's long-term success. It has stemmed from the recognition that strong businesses and strong communities are innately linked to our environment, our lifestyle, and our capacity for innovation.

It provides a clear and credible foundation for future growth, whether through a Regional Deal or other opportunities. More importantly, it gives us a common starting point and a platform for continued partnership between local government and the private sector, who will ultimately enable the ambition, and for further engagement with government and mana whenua.

Canterbury is a place where public-private partnerships thrive and where infrastructure is being built for the next generation. Our region's connections to mana whenua, natural landscapes, and strong community values make it a unique and authentic place to live, work, and grow.

As Canterbury evolves, so too will the ambition for our region. But what won't change is our commitment to making Canterbury one of the best places in the world to test ideas, grow businesses, and build a great life.



Purpose of this document

This document intends to ensure Canterbury is ready for a Regional Deal proposal, or other opportunities to strengthen the partnership between central and local government, mana whenua, and the private sector, for the continued economic advancement of Waitaha Canterbury, Te Waipounamu South Island, and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum is strongly aligned on this ambition.

We are committed to doing our part and working with government, mana whenua, and the private sector on the priorities for Canterbury's long-term success. Together we can super-charge our region's growth and productivity, deliver much needed infrastructure, and increase the supply of quality and affordable housing; while safeguarding our social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing.

To achieve this, there are some fundamental pillars we must get right:

1. Transport
2. Housing
3. Energy
4. Infrastructure.

This *Waitaha Canterbury: World-stage ready* document focuses in on these pillars. It builds on work we have already done as a region and recognises the role government can play in backing our ambitions. They are areas we have advanced our shared understanding of the opportunities and challenges we face, and our priorities for action. We are well placed now to accelerate in these areas.

The intention of this document is not to cover every element for our region's success – we know there are other areas we need to collectively address as a region. Water availability and use, food and fibre, tourism, a skilled workforce and employment, technology, and innovation, are just some examples. This work will continue to happen alongside our work on the four key pillars.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

– collaborating to get things done

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum includes the Mayors of the 10 territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury).

The forum provides a mechanism for Canterbury’s local authorities to:

- Stand together and speak with ‘one strong voice’ for Canterbury and its communities
- Identify and prioritise issues of mutual concern and foster co-operation, co-ordination, and collaboration to address them
- Advance regional economic and social development through leadership, facilitation, and advocacy
- Work together, and with central government and other key sector leaders in Canterbury, to meet the needs and expectations of our communities at the lowest possible cost to ratepayers.

Plan for Canterbury

The Plan for Canterbury 2023-25 sets out the Mayoral Forum’s interests and priorities across three priority areas:

1. Sustainable environmental management of our habitats
2. Shared prosperity for all our communities
3. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

The forum’s work to progress the ‘Shared prosperity for all our communities’ priority area has focused on building on the region’s economic strengths and developing its emerging sectors; growing, attracting, and retaining a skilled workforce; improving the transport network; and coordinating strategies for housing our communities.

This ***Waitaha Canterbury: World-stage ready*** document builds on the momentum generated by this work.

Our objectives

The Mayoral Forum’s strategic objectives for Canterbury include the following:

- Accelerate sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Build climate-resilient, future-ready infrastructure
- Enable diverse, affordable, quality housing and choices for a growing population
- Transition to a low-emissions, renewable energy future
- Strengthen the tourism sector through supporting infrastructure and regulatory and funding tools
- Partner with mana whenua on growth opportunities
- Safeguard social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing

Our shared ambition

Powerful partnerships and decisive leadership are super-charging Canterbury's growth, innovation, and productivity, while also defending the high-quality lifestyles we value across the region. We are a big region of diverse sub-regions – targeted collaboration and action can further unlock the unique strengths of each of our communities.

Canterbury is the home of opportunity – where the environment, innovation, and quality of life thrive together.

Canterbury's unique advantage

What sets Canterbury apart is that success here doesn't come with the familiar trade-offs. You can succeed in business and raise a family, all while enjoying one of the most affordable, high-amenity lifestyles in the Southern Hemisphere.

Few growing regions in the world can claim that and even fewer can sustain it. But that's Canterbury's challenge, and opportunity.

Well-connected and doing business

Canterbury boasts one of New Zealand's most diverse and connected business communities in the country. With a global city at our doorstep, an international airport, two deep-water ports, and two leading universities driving research and innovation, we're connected and aligned in a way that few regions can match.

Because we are so well connected and aligned across business, mana whenua, the education sector, and civic leadership, we can move independently, confidently, and at pace.

A diversified regional economy

Our deep roots in agriculture and engineering have laid the foundation for a thriving innovation ecosystem. Today, Canterbury is home to some of New Zealand's most exciting growth sectors, including advanced manufacturing, aerospace, smart tourism, and other hi-tech industries.

These industries are drawing in global investment, attracting top talent, and contributing to prosperity across the region and up and down New Zealand.

We're ready to launch

To accelerate this momentum, we must act now. This means investing ahead of demand in infrastructure, particularly around energy and connectivity. We must protect and evolve our competitive advantage in housing affordability and lifestyle. We must also modernise and align the regulatory settings that enable us to innovate, attract investment and grow, as we continue to enhance our reputation for solving the world's big problems here.

Canterbury is growing and ready now. We're already leading and shaping the next chapter of New Zealand's story – a chapter where innovation and growth is underpinned by liveability and the environment.

Priority 1



Investing ahead of demand in energy and connectivity infrastructure.

Priority 2



Protecting and advancing our competitive advantage in affordable housing and lifestyle.

Priority 3



Ensuring regulation is fit for the future, ahead of innovation, and aligned across our region.

Our context

Our region

Canterbury extends from Kēkerengū, north of the Waiau Toa Clarence River, to the Waitaki River catchment in the south; and from the snowcapped peaks of Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana, the Southern Alps, to Kā Pakihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha, the Canterbury Plains. It is the largest region in New Zealand by land area, making up almost a third of the South Island.

Canterbury boasts incredible natural history and cultural heritage. It is renowned for its stunning landscapes; diverse ecosystems; large swathes of flat, arable land; and abundant water. Its unique geography and environments provide numerous opportunities, such as for primary industries, renewable energy and tourism, but also pose risks. The impacts of major earthquakes and flooding events in our region are well documented.

Water is at the heart of Canterbury's story. It is a taonga central to all life in the region, having an important relationship with our food production, energy security, resilience, and economic development; and playing a unique role in the traditional economy and culture of Ngāi Tahu.

Canterbury is home to a diversity of people and places – from high growth urban areas to provincial and rural districts, all with their own special value.

Close to 700,000 people call the region home – 13 per cent of the national population. It is the most populous region in the South Island and second most populous in New Zealand, and one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Canterbury's strong growth is projected to continue, with high growth projections suggesting around 900,000 people could be living in the region by 2048 – 280,000 more than was recorded in 2018.

Most of Canterbury's residents live near the coast. 82 per cent of the population live in Greater Christchurch – the second largest urban centre in New Zealand – which encompasses the major urban areas of Christchurch City and the Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts (e.g. Christchurch, Rolleston, Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Lincoln). Greater Christchurch represents one of six Urban Growth Partnerships across New Zealand, in recognition of its share of the national population (more than 10 per cent) and its focus for urban growth and economic productivity.

Timaru and Ashburton are also key urban areas in Canterbury; while a number of other smaller townships, such as Amberley, Waimate, Kaikōura, and Fairlie, play an important role as service centres for their surrounding rural communities.

Our vast region is linked by expansive transport networks, including the largest road network in New Zealand. These networks provide important connectivity within the region and beyond.

Canterbury is the main gateway to the South Island, possessing a major international airport (Christchurch), a regional airport (Timaru), two seaports (Lyttelton and Timaru), an inland port at Rolleston, and a rail hub at Fairton. Being well connected to the rest of New Zealand and the world makes the region a significant hub for freight and tourism. Christchurch is also one of just five Antarctic gateway cities in the world, serving as a key access point for Antarctic expeditions.

Significant visitor numbers come to Canterbury to experience all that the region and the wider South Island have to offer. Canterbury has some of New Zealand's key epicentres for tourism, from Aoraki Mount Cook in the Mackenzie, to Hanmer Springs in Hurunui, to the world-renowned tourism offerings of Kaikōura – and all the charming bits in-between.

Canterbury also has a history of being at the forefront of education, research and innovation, which it continues to foster today. The region is home to three leading universities, a regional polytechnic, and the largest public library in the South Island. It also has the largest tertiary, research and teaching hospital in the South Island, and is a key contributor to the work of our national public research organisations.

Together, these institutions play a central role in supporting Canterbury's thriving innovation ecosystems and the unique opportunities we have in exciting growth sectors.

Ngāi Tahu

Ngāi Tahu holds rangatiratanga over more than 80% of Te Wai Pounamu, including Canterbury. Ngāi Tahu is made up of whānau and hapū that hold traditional authority over specific areas and comprises descendants from five primary hapū: Kāti Kurī, Ngāti Irakehu, Kāti Huirapa, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, and Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki, as well as those of Ngāti Māmoe and Waitaha.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, established under the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996, is statutorily recognised as the representative tribal body of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. Its membership comprises 18 Papatipu Rūnanga, each holding mana whenua and mana moana within their takiwā. Te Rūnanga manages, advocates for, and protects the collective rights and interests of Ngāi Tahu as mana whenua.

The modern relationship between Ngāi Tahu and the Crown is underpinned by three core documents: Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement 1997, and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (NTCSA). These documents establish a legal framework for the relationship between Ngāi Tahu and the Crown.

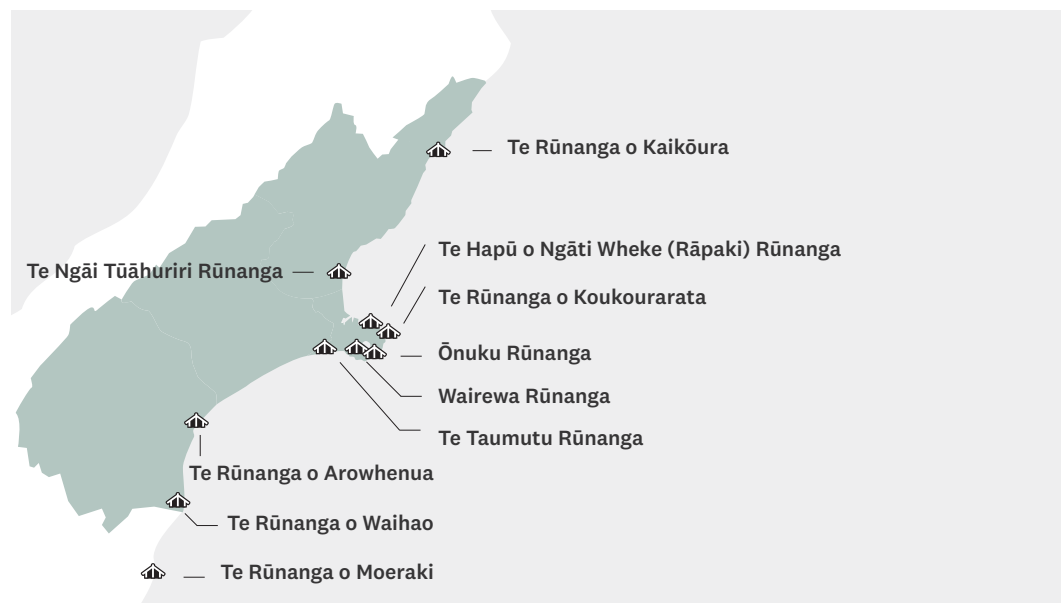
As outlined in the Deed of Settlement and NTCSA (section 6 (7)), the Crown formally apologised for its failure to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over South Island lands. This apology recognises Ngāi Tahu as tāngata whenua and affirms their rangatiratanga within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā.

Rangatiratanga reflects Ngāi Tahu's ability to autonomously manage its affairs for the benefit of its whānau and communities. While often exercised alongside the Crown's kāwanatanga, Ngāi Tahu's rangatiratanga stands as a cornerstone of their governance and decision-making within their takiwā.

The Ngāi Tahu Settlement marked a turning point, initiating a "new age of cooperation" between the Crown and Ngāi Tahu. This commits the Crown to developing policies and plans affecting the Ngāi Tahu takiwā, interests, or rangatiratanga in collaboration with Ngāi Tahu.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Declaration of Membership) Order 2001 lists the Papatipu Rūnanga that make up Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and their takiwā. It is acknowledged practice that consultation on local matters occurs through Papatipu Rūnanga.

The 10 Papatipu Rūnanga in Waitaha Canterbury are:



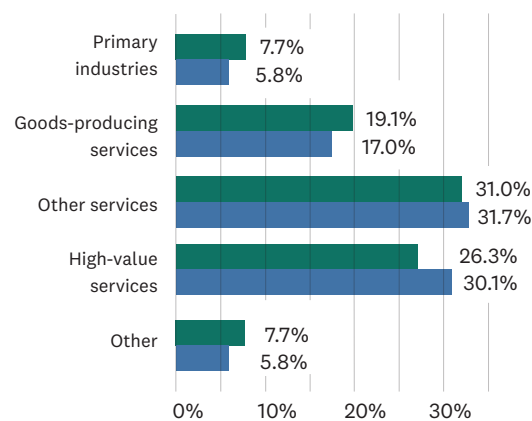
Our economy

Canterbury's economy is marked by its diverse and resilient structure, making it one of New Zealand's most dynamic regions. Agriculture remains a foundational pillar, especially in rural sub-regions, but it's complemented by strong performance in manufacturing, construction, health care, retail, and a growing tech sector. This mix of primary industries and advanced services has helped Canterbury maintain steady growth – even as the national economy faced headwinds.

The region contributes over 12 per cent of New Zealand's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounts for 13 per cent of national employment, with nearly 349,000 filled jobs across sectors. Notably, Canterbury's exports are dominated by food manufacturing – dairy, meat, and cereals – while its top employers include health care, education, and technical services. This economic diversity not only buffers the region against downturns but also positions it to lead in innovation and sustainable development.

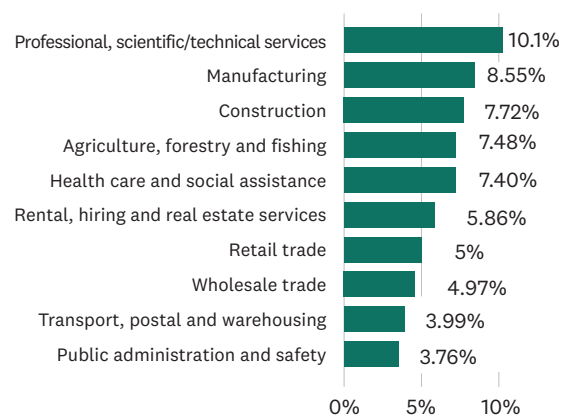
Economic structure by broad sector, 2024

% of total, year to March 2024



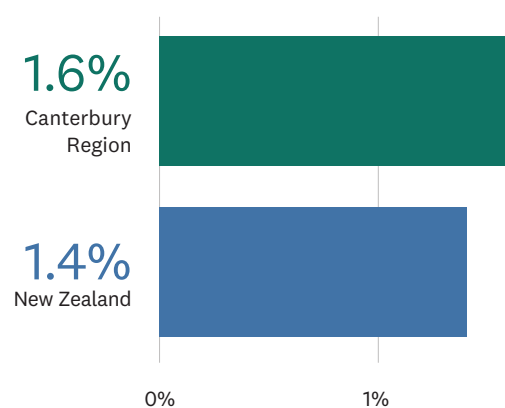
Ten largest ANZIC Level 1 industries, 2024

% of total, year to March 2024



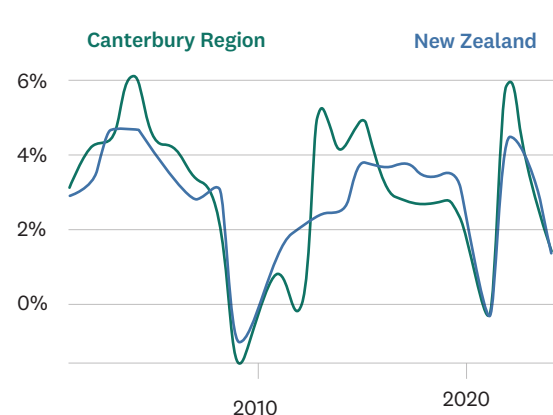
Gross domestic product

Annual average % change, year to March 2024



Gross domestic product

Annual % change, March years



GDP is a key economic indicator that measures the value of goods and services produced in a region. Canterbury is currently growing faster than the national economy; this is a trend that is consistent in the post Covid economy.

Canterbury as a region has substantial opportunities to grow future industries that solve global problems. These industries are future-focused and will drive an increase in productivity, should the region be able to build credible strategies and develop the core enabling infrastructure.

Gross domestic product

March years, 2024 prices

| Year | Canterbury Region | | | New Zealand | | |
|------|-------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------|---------------------------|--|
| | Level (\$m) | % Change (annual average) | Absolute change (annual average) (\$m) | Level (\$m) | % Change (annual average) | Absolute change (annual average) (\$m) |
| 2000 | \$26,069.40 | | | \$218,896.90 | | |
| 2005 | \$32,483.90 | 4.5 | \$1,389.70 | \$265,804.00 | 4.1 | \$10,439.30 |
| 2010 | \$35,385.50 | -0.1 | -\$17.90 | \$287,915.20 | 0 | -\$108.00 |
| 2015 | \$41,022.00 | 4.9 | \$1,901.90 | \$325,176.90 | 3.8 | \$11,984.00 |
| 2020 | \$46,888.00 | 1.8 | \$837.90 | \$382,971.00 | 2.3 | \$8,674.20 |
| 2021 | \$46,780.70 | -0.2 | -\$107.30 | \$381,794.30 | -0.3 | -\$1,176.70 |
| 2022 | \$49,582.30 | 6 | \$2,801.60 | \$399,110.20 | 4.5 | \$17,315.90 |
| 2023 | \$51,231.10 | 3.3 | \$1,648.80 | \$413,064.70 | 3.5 | \$13,954.50 |
| 2024 | \$52,043.10 | 1.6 | \$812.00 | \$418,823.80 | 1.4 | \$5,759.10 |

Future-proofing global agriculture with bold innovation in food, fibre, and agritech

Canterbury is emerging as a globally relevant nexus for solving agricultural challenges through innovation. The region's strategic blend of primary production, advanced manufacturing, and cutting-edge agritech is redefining how food and fibre systems can be both productive and sustainable. At the heart of this transformation is a powerful support ecosystem – anchored by government investment in the new Public Research Organisation in Lincoln (Selwyn District) – which fosters collaboration between researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry. This confluence of science, technology, and policy positions Canterbury not just as a regional leader, but as a catalyst for global change in how we grow, process, and sustain the planet's agricultural future.

Elevating our offering to become a premium tourism destination

Canterbury has a compelling opportunity to elevate its tourism sector by developing a premium visitor offering that aligns with the region's broader economic development strategy. With its dramatic landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and world-class food and wine experiences, Canterbury is well-positioned to attract high-value travellers seeking immersive and sustainable experiences. The region is shifting from being a gateway to elsewhere, toward becoming a destination in its own right. By investing in infrastructure, storytelling, and regional connectivity, alongside more user pays regulatory tools,

Canterbury can unlock greater seasonal spread, longer stays, and increased visitor spend – driving economic growth while preserving the region's unique identity.

Becoming a globally significant aerospace region, for research test and evaluation

Canterbury is set to become a global hub for aerospace research and testing by 2035, as outlined in the Waitaha Canterbury Aerospace Strategy. With ideal skies, low air traffic, and strong industry-academic partnerships, the region aims to generate over \$1 billion annually, support 1,500+ jobs, and achieve net-zero operations for half of its aerospace companies. Anchored by Tāwhaki and the University of Canterbury, it's positioning itself as a future-focused centre for aerospace innovation and sustainable flight.

Building an innovation ecosystem, for sustainable transport that solves global problems

Canterbury aspires to be an innovation engine for sustainable fuels and logistics, with the University of Canterbury leading research in hydrogen, smart supply chains, and low-emission transport. Fabrum's advanced liquid and gaseous hydrogen technologies are unlocking zero-emission solutions for aviation and freight – once seen as hard to decarbonise. With nearly 100 per cent renewable energy, test sites at Christchurch Airport, and hydrogen stations in Invercargill and Christchurch, the region is building future-ready infrastructure that could redefine flight, freight, and fuel across the South Island, New Zealand and beyond.

Waitaha Canterbury: By the numbers

Water and land

- **44,500km²** – largest region in New Zealand by land area (17% of NZ total)
- **78,000km** of rivers and streams and 4,700 lakes and tarns
- **70%** of New Zealand's groundwater
- **800km** of coastline and 11,600km² of coastal marine area
- **21%** of New Zealand's highest quality soils
- **63%** of New Zealand's irrigated land area
- **19%** of the total area farmed in New Zealand

People

- **694,400** – 55% of South Island's population and 13% of New Zealand's population
- **82%** of the region's population lives in Greater Christchurch
- **1.9%** – annual average growth between 2018 and 2023 (1.4% for NZ overall)
- **901,500** people – projected population by 2048 (high growth scenario)
- **12%** of people are affiliated to an iwi (24,500 affiliated with Ngāi Tahu)
- **25%** of people were born overseas (e.g. Asia, UK and Ireland, and Australia)

Housing

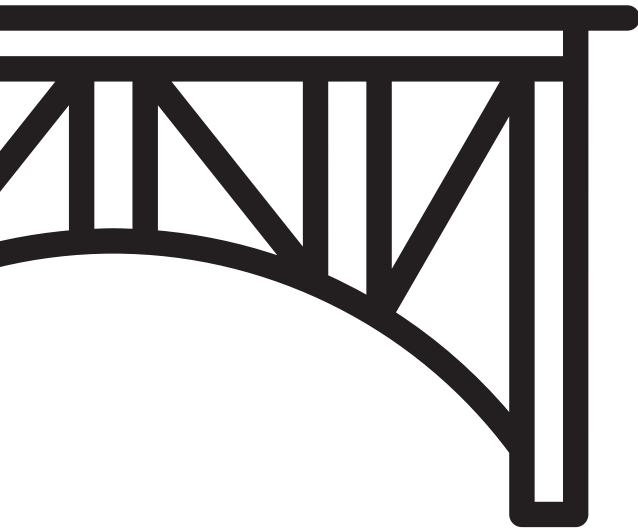
- **\$717,800** – average house value (81% of NZ's average house value)
- **6.1** – house value to income (6.5 for NZ overall)
- **37%** – mortgage payment proportion of income (39% for NZ overall)
- **70%** of households own or partly own their home
- **\$513** – average weekly residential rent (\$575 for NZ overall)

Economy

- **\$52 billion** of GDP – second largest economy in New Zealand (12% of NZ total)
 - **10.1%** – Professional, scientific and technical services
 - **8.6%** – Manufacturing
 - **7.7%** – Construction
 - **7.5%** – Agriculture, forestry and fishing
 - **7.4%** – Health care and social assistance
- **81,000** businesses and **368,500** filled jobs
- **\$141,200** – GDP per filled job (\$149,200 for NZ overall)
- **\$14.5 billion** of exports (15% of NZ total)
- **\$5.5 billion** of dairy product exports – highest exporter for the region
- **441,000** overseas visitor arrivals into Christchurch Airport
- **147,200** cruise ship passengers visit Canterbury ports
- **\$4.2 billion** of tourism expenditure
- **7.2%** of filled jobs are in the tourism sector (6.5% for NZ overall)



DRAFT



Canterbury's connectivity and resilience are critical to its economic success and wellbeing, and its role as the gateway to the South Island. Investing ahead of demand in transport infrastructure and services is essential to supporting growth, building resilience, strengthening supply chains, and ensuring efficient links across the region and beyond to national and global markets.

Pillar 1:

Transport

Canterbury's transport context

- Expansive road and rail networks, including the largest road network in the country (1,330km of state highways, 14,630km of local roads, and 650km of rail network).
- Deteriorating network conditions due to historic underinvestment and increased traffic volumes associated with population and economic growth.
- Significant investment in maintenance and renewals is needed, especially given the impacts from more frequent and intense weather events.
- Significant resilience issues from a range of natural hazards – highest number of 'extreme' or 'major' risks of any region in New Zealand.
- Heavy reliance on bridges for river crossings on critical freight and visitor routes (1,900 bridges on the transport network).
- Congestion is becoming an increasing issue, particularly in Greater Christchurch.
- Extensive public transport network in Greater Christchurch (buses and ferries), an on-demand service in Timaru, and Community Vehicle Trusts across the region.
- Gateway to the South Island for people and freight, benefiting from an international airport, regional airport, two seaports, an inland port, and a rail hub.
- Accounts for almost half of all the total freight movements in the South Island, reflecting its role as a strategic freight and logistics hub, and major market.

Increased maintenance and resilience of the network

Significant increases in the level of investment in road maintenance, operations and renewals are proposed in Canterbury, representing at least 40 per cent of the planned transport investment by central and local government in the next decade. This investment aims to both maintain existing levels of service and address deferred maintenance on parts of the network.

Greater resilience of Canterbury's transport infrastructure is extremely important to securing regional and national supply chains. The impacts of Canterbury's transport network being disrupted were well illustrated by the flooding of the Rangitata River in 2019, which effectively cut the South Island in two; and the Kaikōura earthquake in 2016, which closed SH1 and the Main North Line for an extended period and forced significant detours to be taken.

Canterbury's bridges are a significant transport network resilience risk and one that is reaching a critical point. There are over 1,900 bridges in the region, many of which are ageing and at increasing risk from intensifying natural hazard events. The pipeline of bridge infrastructure projects will be fundamental to securing the resilience, connectivity, growth and productivity of Canterbury and the wider South Island. This infrastructure pipeline is of national significance.

Examples of key bridge projects either underway or planned in Canterbury include the Second Ashburton Bridge in Ashburton (a Road of Regional Significance), Pages Road Bridge in Christchurch, Conway Bridge in Hurunui, Skew Bridge in Waimakariri, and the Elephant Hill Stream Bridge SH82 and North Waihao SH82 in Waimate.

Enhanced public transport that unlocks growth and development

Greater Christchurch is rapidly growing and congestion is becoming an issue. Without significant investment to support transport choices, there will be more congestion, longer journey times, increases in vehicle emissions, and impacts on the region's growth and productivity. Public transport must play a role in moving more people, more efficiently, and unlocking the full development potential of our urban areas.

Greater Christchurch's public transport investment programme, referred to as PT Futures, will achieve higher frequency services, and realigned and improved routes. It will improve journey times and reliability, increase access to key growth areas and destinations, and remove barriers for people using public transport. Some of the programme is already being delivered, while some parts will take more time and be subject to funding.

These public transport improvements will pave the way for Mass Rapid Transit (MRT). MRT is a city shaping project that will transform Greater Christchurch's public transport network and urban form. MRT will run on dedicated corridors where public transport will be prioritised, enabling a higher speed service. The routes will connect Christchurch's central city with key centres in the north and south-west, and will support significant growth and development.

The MRT project has been included in the draft National Infrastructure Plan, recognising its national importance, good value for money, and capable of being successfully delivered.

Efficient freight networks supported by strategic freight infrastructure

Protecting and enhancing strategic freight routes and infrastructure so that freight can move freely and reliably is essential to the region's productivity and competitiveness. The future of Canterbury's freight network will need to have an optimal mix of modes (i.e. freight moved by road, rail, air, and sea) to ensure goods are transported in an efficient, timely, and climate conscious manner. This will help achieve maximum value from our network.

An extensive study is underway to better understand the movement of freight in the South Island and support informed infrastructure planning and investment. The outputs of the study will support central and local government to make decisions that maximise the value of supply chains and ensure the transport system serves our communities as best as possible. The study is being overseen by the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group.

Key opportunities

| What we are doing | What we need from government |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing the Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan 2024-34, which prioritises around \$10 billion of transport activities proposed for the region over the next 10 years. Commencing work on the Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan 2027-37. Delivering Roads of National Significance and Regional Significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass Second Ashburton Bridge Canterbury Package – Rolleston Upgrade, Halswell Upgrade, Brougham Street Upgrade, and rural intersections Reviewing the Canterbury Regional Public Transport Plan to ensure it reflects recent changes and sets a compelling vision for public transport. Implementing the key moves and directions set out in the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan and Greater Christchurch Transport Plan. Delivering key improvements to Greater Christchurch's bus routes and services through the PT Futures programme. Progressing the planning and design of a MRT system for Greater Christchurch, with a current focus on route protection and moving toward a detailed business case. Undertaking an extensive study to better understand the movement of freight in the South Island, in order to inform infrastructure planning and investment. Exploring options for an integrated bridge renewal programme for the region. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recognise the transport priorities for Canterbury in the Government Policy Statement on land transport, including public transport in Greater Christchurch. To enable greater certainty, flexibility and support for local transport decision making, particularly regarding baseline levels of investment that can be delivered without bespoke arrangements. To establish regional transport funding allocations that reflect the use of the network, using vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT) as the proxy for revenue collected from road users in the region. To empower local authorities to develop and implement a wider range of funding tools and solutions. To ensure a more integrated approach to funding allocation, making better use of the collaboratively developed priorities in Regional Land Transport Plans. To better align the timing of transport planning and funding processes. |

| Key funding and investment tools |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional allocations for transport funding Road tolling and congestion charging Land and development value capture mechanisms Public-private partnerships and other co-investment models Proportion of international visitor levy for regional infrastructure User-pays models (e.g. accommodation levies) to fund infrastructure Other legislative tools |

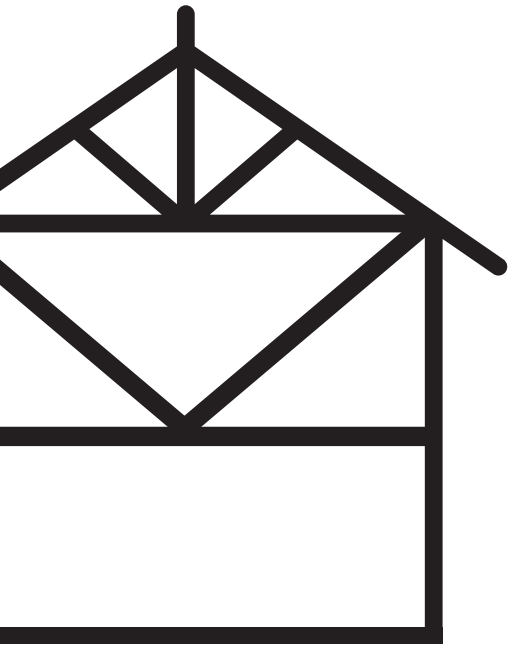
Regional allocations for transport funding

There is an opportunity to enable greater certainty, flexibility and support for local transport decision making in New Zealand, particularly for baseline levels of investment that can be delivered without bespoke arrangements. High trust, long-term funding agreements, rather than contestable funding, would reduce the cost of funding allocation services and achieve greater value for money in the sector.

Regional funding allocations that reflect the use of the transport network, using VKT as a proxy, would provide a more transparent basis for high-level funding allocations. It would ensure road users receive the benefit for what they pay.

The table below shows that most regions are already receiving a level of investment that broadly aligns with their share of national VKT – Canterbury being the clear exception.

| Region | 2013 Population | 2018 Population | 2023 Population | 2023 GDP | 2023 VKT | 2024-27 NLTP |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Northland | 4% | 4% | 4% | 3% | 4% | 4% |
| Auckland | 33% | 33% | 33% | 39% | 31% | 31% |
| Waikato | 10% | 10% | 10% | 9% | Unknown | 7% |
| Bay of Plenty | 6% | 7% | 7% | 6% | Unknown | 8% |
| Gisborne | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% |
| Hawke's Bay | 4% | 4% | 4% | 3% | 4% | 4% |
| Taranaki | 3% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 2% |
| Manawatū / Whanganui | 5% | 5% | 5% | 4% | 5% | 6% |
| Wellington | 11% | 11% | 10% | 12% | 9% | 13% |
| Marlborough / Nelson / Tasman | 3% | 3% | 3% | 1% | 3% | 2% |
| West Coast | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | Unknown | 1% |
| Canterbury | 13% | 13% | 13% | 13% | 14% | 5% |
| Otago | 5% | 5% | 5% | 4% | Unknown | 3% |
| Southland | 2% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 1% |



Protecting and enhancing Canterbury's housing affordability and high amenity lifestyle is vital to it maintaining its competitive edge, particularly in the face of rising growth pressures. These strengths offer a high quality of life, attract top talent, and support economic growth, helping to retain and boost the region's population, workforce, and investment appeal.

Pillar 2: Housing

Canterbury's housing context

- One of the fastest growing regions in the country and projected to grow to a population of around 900,000 by 2048 (based on a high growth scenario).
- Accounts for approximately 20% of new dwellings consented in New Zealand, with the region's share consistently increasing over the last five years.
- Decreasing household sizes due to an ageing population, family formation happening later, and a diverse workforce often looking for smaller accommodation.
- Housing stock does not match the population diversity – multi-unit consents have increased but standalone houses still make up about 85% of housing stock.
- Housing is more affordable than others part of the country – average house value to household income ratio in Canterbury is 6.1, compared with 6.5 nationally.
- Home ownership rates are increasing and sit at close to 70% of households.
- Housing stress is also increasing, with those spending more than 30% of their income on housing increasing.
- Short-term rental accommodation is affecting housing supply – 5,000+ homes estimated to be available on accommodation sites.
- Public housing supply has increased but is not keeping pace with the need, and the housing register of people who need this public housing is increasing.

Increased housing diversity and more choice

Canterbury needs a wide range of housing types and tenures that suit the unique needs of the region's population. This includes having more affordable and accessible homes to meet the needs of smaller households, youth, and students, and a broader range of housing choices for older people to age in their existing communities. This requires having different sizes, densities, and tenures of homes.



The region would also benefit from more resilient urban form in our urban settings, and suitable development patterns that are responsive to a range of natural hazard risks and supported by a functional infrastructure network.

Increased long-term rental availability and affordability

Canterbury needs a wider range of suitable long-term rental options, and the cost of renting needs to be more affordable for more people.

This requires minimising the impacts of short-term rentals for tourism on the rental market and meeting the growing and changing needs of our communities with long-term rental availability. Suitable temporary housing for seasonal workers also needs to be available, in collaboration with businesses that provide seasonal work, so that the housing provided

across the region supports our economic growth and diverse industries. Public housing supply in the region will also need to increase to better align to the need, with suitable provision of emergency and transitional housing.

Fit-for-purpose policy and regulation

Policy and regulation need to support the right type of houses to be delivered in the right places and is enabling of wider infrastructure benefits across the region.

This requires data gaps to be addressed to ensure a suitable evidence base for making housing policy and regulation decisions is available. These decisions will support suitable housing in both urban and rural environments and will ensure consistency around how policy is applied and interpreted by all those involved in the delivery of housing across the region.

Key opportunities

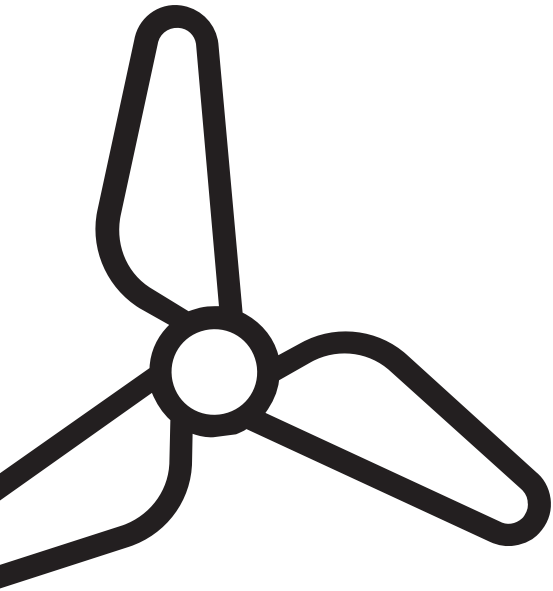
| What we are doing | What we need from government |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan, which will identify the priorities for Canterbury's local authorities to focus its efforts. Sharing information between Canterbury's local authorities about ways to incentivise affordable and diverse housing options through partnerships with developers and funders. Implementing the Joint Housing Action Plan for Greater Christchurch in collaboration with partners to address four key gaps in the private market – emergency, social and affordable housing, and lack of 1-2 bedroom homes. Exploring ways to better coordinate between housing and related service providers and community groups, to better understand the range of housing needs and issues facing different communities. Investigating ways to support older person's housing diversity, especially in areas outside of urban centres. Exploring a coordinated approach to engaging with the build-to-rent sector. Undertaking further work to identify what support is needed to assist employers to take an active role in housing their workers locally. Investigating ways to support mixed income multi-generational housing solutions. Undertaking early work to support regional spatial planning. Implementing the key moves and directions set out in the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan. Collaborating with partners to unlock the potential of Greater Christchurch's Priority Areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable the delivery of mixed-tenure housing over the next five years, 100 Income Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS)/Operating Supplement (OS) places are provided through a flexible fund, which will be supported by funding tools such as subsidies and infrastructure cost assistance to unlock social and affordable housing. The specific settings suggested for change include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and amend settings related to leasing, zoning, and covenants. Review and amend the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD), specifically identifying and revising policies that hinder local housing objectives. To return the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to councils, and also return the GST on public and affordable housing projects when delivered by Mana Whenua or Community Housing Providers, in order to accelerate growth and alleviate debt ratio pressures. To enable controls and current and additional visitor levies (both central and local) that help address the strain on housing and infrastructure, recognising the impact of short-term accommodation on housing, and regulatory and funding assistance. To enable land and development value capture mechanisms that generate a funding stream for partners to assist in responding to housing affordability challenges associated with growth. For government to fund its role in providing social and affordable housing in response to the challenges of growth. This includes directly providing housing or supporting the Community Housing Provider sector through subsidies and supplements to deliver a mix of social and affordable housing products. |

Key funding and investment tools

- Return of GST on new builds to local councils
- Land and development value capture mechanisms
- Public-private partnerships and other co-investment models
- Proportion of international visitor levy for regional infrastructure
- User-pays models (e.g. accommodation levies) to fund infrastructure
- Housing policies, community housing trusts
- Other legislative tools



DRAFT



Canterbury's abundant renewable energy resources position it to lead New Zealand's energy transition. By investing in innovation and infrastructure, the region can support national decarbonisation goals, drive economic growth, and unlock new energy markets, while ensuring confidence in energy supply, security, and long-term affordability for households and businesses.

Pillar 3: Energy

Canterbury's housing context

- Large region with an abundance of water, sun and wind, meaning it is well placed to play a leading role in New Zealand's successful renewable energy transition.
- Significant contributor to New Zealand's renewable electricity generation – all large-scale electricity generation in the region is renewables based.
- Key role in meeting the country's increasing energy demand – New Zealand's electricity demand is projected to increase by up to 82% by 2050.
- 11 major hydro power stations with generation capacity of 1,795MW – Benmore hydro-station is the second largest in New Zealand.
- Three large-scale solar arrays, the most installed rooftop solar of any region in the country, and numerous solar proposals in the pipeline.
- 19 active Transpower projects (as at May 2025), proposing to add over 4,500MW of new generation capacity in Canterbury and South Canterbury.
- Reducing fossil fuel use is a key challenge in the energy transition, as the region is still heavily reliant on fossil fuels for transport and industry.
- Other key challenges include managing investment, accessing capital, managing peak capacity issues in a changing climate, and supporting community and consumer understanding.

Economic development and energy are intrinsically linked

The demand for renewable energy will increase in the context of decarbonisation and industry growth. To support industry, there must be confidence in energy supply, security, and affordability. Canterbury has the potential to be at the forefront of the energy transition away from fossil fuels to more renewable sources, as evidenced by the queue of renewable projects in the pipeline. This would generate significant economic opportunities for the region.

The opportunity to invest in renewable infrastructure, innovation in clean technologies, and the development of new energy markets would positively impact Canterbury through job creation, technological advancement, and supporting industry growth and diversification. Transitioning the region's energy system to prioritise renewable sources would also foster economic development through localised energy production, which is currently focused on grid-scale solar but with opportunities in wind, hydrogen, biomass and biofuels.

A regional approach to energy

There is significant support from stakeholders for a more joined-up regional approach to energy in Canterbury that aligns and coordinates with the goals and priorities of central and local government, industry, and communities. Shaping the energy future in Canterbury will help unlock the benefits of economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social development.

Energy cannot be looked at in isolation, as it intersects with transport, housing and urban development, infrastructure, regional skills and immigration, water, climate change,

industry, food production, community wellbeing, and more. A regional approach to the energy system would enable the many co-benefits of the energy transition to be realised. Aligning around a compelling vision will help attract partners and provide certainty for the necessary investment.

A multitude of pathways are being explored as part of the energy transition. Clear progress has been made in some areas, for example the electrification of vehicles; heat pump technology; proposed large waste-to-energy projects; grid-scale solar farms; and local solutions, such as using wastewater to heat public buildings. Other possibilities are emerging but still have an infrastructure cost barrier or a degree of uncertainty as to whether they will succeed.

A shared approach will help the region navigate the energy transition collectively. Given that Canterbury plays a significant role in New Zealand's energy system, future planning will also consider the impacts on the South Island and the rest of the country.

Key opportunities

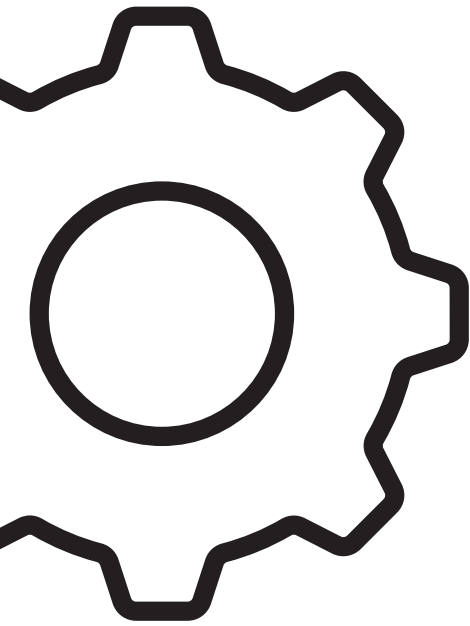
| What we are doing | What we need from government |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the Canterbury Energy Inventory – the first comprehensive overview of the region's energy landscape. Developing a regional approach to energy that will support industry, drive decarbonisation, enhance energy resilience, and unlock new growth opportunities. Undertaking early work to support regional spatial planning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To partner with local government, mana whenua and the energy sector on the development of a regional approach to energy for Canterbury. |

| Key funding and investment tools |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public-private partnerships and other co-investment models Proportion of international visitor levy for regional infrastructure User-pays models (e.g. accommodation levies) to fund infrastructure Other legislative tools |





DRAFT



Canterbury is ready to lead the next chapter of New Zealand's story. The region has proven delivery capability and wants to partner on strategic investments – across transport, energy, social, digital, and flood resilience infrastructure – to boost productivity, strengthen communities, and deliver long-term value for the country. Our collective ambitions rely upon resilient and connected infrastructure.

Pillar 4: Infrastructure

Canterbury's future will be built on the strength of its infrastructure

Infrastructure is the cornerstone of Canterbury's prosperity, liveability, and resilience. As a fast-growing region and the South Island's economic engine, Canterbury plays a vital national role. Its long-term success relies on resilient, reliable and connected infrastructure that links people, goods and ideas across the region, the South Island, New Zealand, and the world.

We must invest ahead of demand peaks – maintaining and upgrading what we already have, while planning for new infrastructure that will underpin further economic growth and productivity, and support regional equity. Long-term, strategic planning backed by sustainable funding and smart regulation is essential to delivering a future-focused infrastructure pipeline.

Social infrastructure

Infrastructure must support the systems that sustain daily life – housing, education, and health – as well as enable the industries that power our economy.

Canterbury's infrastructure is critical to building liveable and prosperous communities across the region, in both urban and rural settings. Investment in hospitals, schools, three waters, public facilities, and shared spaces strengthens health and wellbeing outcomes, improves education access, and fosters social cohesion. They are basic building blocks for a growing and thriving region that we simply must get right.

Tertiary education institutions serve as regional anchors. They attract students, research, and investment; fuel innovation; and provide the skilled workforce needed to deliver large-scale infrastructure. Canterbury has high performing universities and polytechnic, including the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, the University of Otago Medical School, and Ara Institute of Canterbury. We must continue to leverage and build on their success.

Digital infrastructure

Digital connectivity is also essential. Reliable broadband and mobile networks are critical for education, employment, health services, and commerce – particularly in our rural areas. Digital infrastructure must be prioritised alongside other infrastructure to ensure no community is left behind. New Zealand's geographic isolation in the world only serves to emphasise the strategic importance of staying at the forefront of digital technologies and innovations.

Flood resilience infrastructure

Flood resilience infrastructure is also critical to Canterbury's safety, resilience, and long-term economic productivity. With multiple significant braided rivers, including the Waimakariri, Rakaia, and Rangitāta, the region faces major flood risk across urban and rural areas. Well-maintained stopbanks, floodways, and drainage systems protect lives, homes, farmland, and nationally important infrastructure from increasingly frequent and severe weather events.

Climate change is raising the stakes. Extreme rainfall, sea-level rise, and catchment volatility demand modern, adaptive flood protection systems. Co-investment between local and central government now will prevent disruption and loss in the future.

A long-term, strategic approach to infrastructure

Long-term, strategic infrastructure planning is essential to Canterbury's ambition. It will support the region to deliver the right infrastructure and services in the right places at the right times. Our aim is to build an integrated, future-ready infrastructure pipeline that enhances our economy, protects and strengthens our communities, and contributes to national prosperity.

To achieve this, there are three key enablers that we can focus on:

- **Regional spatial planning**

Spatial planning coordinates land use planning and infrastructure investment. It helps to coordinate infrastructure development between sectors and ensures that infrastructure is well used, and its negative effects are managed. Spatial planning involves central and local government, mana whenua, infrastructure providers, and the private sector.

Canterbury is progressing early work to support regional spatial planning, ahead of any requirements for spatial planning under the new resource management system.

- **Streamlined regulation and consenting**

Consenting for infrastructure can be a major hurdle to effective infrastructure provision, both in time and in cost (as much as 16 per cent of project costs can be for consenting). We must modernise and align our regulatory settings to remove unnecessary blocks on infrastructure delivery and unlock investment, while continuing to manage interactions with surrounding land uses and any negative impacts on our natural environment.

- **Sustainable funding and financing**

Total infrastructure investment will continue to increase with population and economic growth. Canterbury's local authorities are ready to partner with central government, mana whenua, and the private sector to co-fund infrastructure. We must ensure that the right tools and mechanisms are in place so that our critical infrastructure can be funded in a sustainable way.

With a strong vision, proven delivery record, and collaborative leadership, Canterbury stands ready to deliver a bold infrastructure pipeline that aligns with regional and national priorities.

Canterbury's major infrastructure projects

The following provides examples of major infrastructure projects either proposed, in progress or recently completed in Canterbury.

Transport

- Roads of National and Regional Significance, including:
 - Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass (Waimakariri)
 - Second Ashburton Bridge (Ashburton)
 - Canterbury Package – Rolleston Upgrade (Selwyn), Halswell Upgrade (Christchurch), Brougham Street Upgrade (Christchurch), and rural intersections
- Major bridge renewal projects, such as Pages Road Bridge (Christchurch), Conway Bridge (Hurunui), Skew Bridge (Waimakariri), and the Elephant Hill Stream Bridge SH82 (Waimate) and North Waihao SH82 (Waimate)
- Greater Christchurch Public Transport (PT) Futures programme
- Greater Christchurch Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system
- Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre.

Energy

- Kōwhai Park (Christchurch) – 230ha, 150MW solar farm
- Lauriston Solar Farm (Ashburton) – 93ha, 47MW solar farm
- Mt Cass Wind Farm (Hurunui) – 95MW wind farm.

Health

- Christchurch hospital upgrades

Education

- New primary schools in Prebbleton (Selwyn), Lincoln (Selwyn) and Halswell (Christchurch), and additional classrooms across various Christchurch schools.

Flood protection

- Flood resilience and recovery work, covering the Waiau, Ashley/Rakahuri, Waimakariri and Rangitata rivers, as well as a region-wide planting and berm management project.

Other

- Te Pae (Christchurch Convention Centre)
- Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre (metro sports facility)
- Christchurch multi-use arena, One NZ Stadium Te Kaha
- Court Theatre in Christchurch
- Upgrades and new builds at the three Christchurch prisons.

Funding and investment tools

There are a wide range of funding and investment tools that central and local government can pull from the toolbox to achieve the priorities outlined in this document. While far from being an exhaustive list, some of the key tools that Canterbury wishes to further explore are summarised in the table below.

| | Transport | Housing | Energy | Infrastructure |
|--|-----------|---------|--------|----------------|
| Return of GST on new builds to local councils | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Road tolling and congestion charging | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Land and development value capture mechanisms | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Public-private partnerships and other co-investment models | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Proportion of international visitor levy for regional infrastructure | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Regional allocations for transport funding | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| User-pays models (e.g. accommodation levies) to fund infrastructure | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Housing policies, community housing trusts | | ✓ | | |
| Co-investment in flood and river resilience infrastructure | | | | ✓ |
| Other legislative tools | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Next steps

A Regional Deal proposal that's uniquely Canterbury

This *Waitaha Canterbury: World-stage ready* document has outlined the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Business Canterbury's shared ambition for Waitaha Canterbury, and some of the fundamental elements for its long-term success.

Its intention has been to show why Canterbury is primed for creating a Regional Deal proposal, or to leverage other opportunities to strengthen the partnership between central and local government, mana whenua, and the private sector. It intends to be a catalyst for productive discussion and collaboration between partners.

To get the Regional Deal proposal done for Canterbury, we welcome input from a range of partners, sectors, and stakeholders.

Not least this includes each Canterbury local authority, Papatipu Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, health and tertiary education sectors, the private sector, infrastructure providers, and communities.

This region-wide input and cooperation will be essential to developing our collective story and unique value proposition for Canterbury. This exciting work will be undertaken during the next local government triennium, starting after the local elections in October 2025.

Continuing to progress a joined-up approach for Canterbury

Alongside our work to develop a Regional Deal proposal, there is a wide range of work already underway or planned that will continue to progress our regional priorities. This includes:

- We are advancing discussions about **regional spatial planning** and how we might best approach this work in Canterbury.
- We are undertaking a full review of the **Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan**, identifying our transport priorities for the 2027-37 period (being progressed by the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee).
- We are progressing work on a **regional approach to energy**, building on the recently completed regional energy inventory for Canterbury.
- We have finalised the **Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan**, which will identify the priorities for Canterbury's local authorities to focus its efforts.
- We are implementing the **Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan**, including identifying pathways to transition to a low-emissions region.
- We are implementing the key moves and directions from the **Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan**, including progressing the planning and design of the **Greater Christchurch MRT system**, and delivery of the **Greater Christchurch Joint Housing Action** (being progressed by the Greater Christchurch Partnership).
- We are extending our **understanding of the South Island freight system** to support more informed infrastructure planning and investment (being progressed by the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group).
- We are supporting the vision set out in the **Waitaha Canterbury Aerospace Strategy**, which outlines a clear pathway to transform our aerospace sector into a global leader and a \$1 billion contributor to the economy by 2035.



DRAFT

Council briefing paper

Date:

Presented by:

Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready – Setting the foundations for a Regional Deal proposal for Waitaha Canterbury

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a briefing to council on the work that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum has initiated to develop the Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready as setting the foundations for a Regional Deal proposal for Waitaha Canterbury.

Background

2. A Regional Deal is the Coalition Government's initiative for establishing long-term agreements between central and local government to unlock funding and resource opportunities to support councils to make improvements in their region, for example to roads, infrastructure and the supply of quality housing.
3. A Regional Deal for Canterbury could significantly boost the region's economic growth by aligning local initiatives with Central Government's growth agenda. Such a deal could facilitate streamlining of regulatory processes, foster collaboration between local and central government targeting investments in infrastructure, innovation, and sustainable development, and address specific regional needs while contributing to national economic goals.
4. Investment into the development of a strong Regional Deal could potentially bring billions of dollars into the region over a number of years. Other Regional Deal proposals that have already been submitted estimate between 7-9 percent growth in regional GDP as a result of the deals being proposed, along with increased jobs and exports¹.
5. "Regions" in the context of Regional Deals could be regional, sub-regional or another appropriate scale, as long as they are defined economic and geographic areas with functional local authorities. Regions must include one regional council, and regional councils may choose to participate in more than one Regional Deal.
6. Each Regional Deal will cater to local priorities while sharing the following foundational components:
 - 30-year vision for the region
 - 10-year strategic plan with clear outcomes and actions

¹ Auckland Deal: light touch proposal

- rely on existing resources to achieve shared goals over new funding
 - establish a framework to allocation of new funding when it becomes available.
7. Partnerships will involve central and local government with opportunities for the private sector and iwi/Māori to participate.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum's approach

8. At the November 2024 Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) meeting, the CMF agreed to submit an expression of interest (EOI) for a Waitaha Canterbury Regional Deal and that the EOI would not identify projects or focus areas at that stage. This was to allow time for the CMF to consider, and align with, the Government's initial request for detail on governance structure ahead of further deal specifics.
9. The CMF submitted an EOI for a Regional Deal in December 2024.
10. The CMF subsequently considered the submission of a 'light-touch proposal' at its February 2025 meeting. Due to the level of work required and the very short time-frame for submission, it was agreed to write to the Minister of Local Government signalling the region's intent to submit a future proposal for a Regional Deal, with the intention of updating the Minister in August 2025 on progress. The letter is provided at Attachment 1.
11. The Government has indicated that they are not accepting any new Regional Deal proposals at this stage. They have signed memorandums of understanding with Auckland, Otago-Central Lakes and Western Bay of Plenty, with the intention of signing a Deal with each in 2025/2026. The CMF will maintain a watching brief on the progress of these deals to help inform our own Canterbury work.

Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready

12. At the May CMF meeting, a paper was presented on the development of a Regional Deal. That paper noted the significant investment that will be required to complete a comprehensive Regional Deal proposal, including engagement with councils, mana whenua and stakeholders.
13. Discussion around approach to a regional deal resulted in CMF agreement that the update to the Minister in August set the foundations for a Regional Deal proposal for Waitaha Canterbury, currently referred to as the 'Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready'.
14. The draft Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document is based on existing work by councils, through the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee, the CMF and the Greater Christchurch Partnership.
15. Given the current timing of budget requests, it was agreed to develop a pathway to a Regional Deal with a focus on transport (including funding tools and priorities initiatives

that will unlock regional growth initially) and signal other key areas of energy, spatial planning and housing, infrastructure, tourism etc.

16. The Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document was considered by the CMF in August 2025 for review and approval. At this stage it does not include new information, and it has had minimal input from outside of local government, with the exception of the Business Canterbury workshops – see following section.

Business Canterbury

17. Following the CMF meeting in August 2024, and a mid-cycle meeting in September the CMF agreed to work with Business Canterbury on identifying what the private sector vision is for Canterbury, with the aim of providing clarity around the drivers of economic growth, which is led by the private sector and enabled and supported by central and local government.
18. The work has included input from local government and businesses from across all of Canterbury to be representative as possible across sectors, size of businesses and location.
19. The Canterbury Ambition (attachment 2) has been incorporated into 'Waitaha Canterbury Pathway to Success' and will also inform and support a future Regional Deal. The Canterbury Ambition also stands on its own for private sector and/or local government to use as an advocacy document for the region.

Engagement on a Regional Deal

Canterbury Councils

20. To date any engagement with councils will have been via your respective CMF member.
21. As work progresses on the development of a Canterbury Regional Deal, targeted and specific engagement with Canterbury councils will be required. At this stage it is expected that submission of a complete Regional Deal proposal will require endorsement from all Canterbury councils. This will be factored into the project scope and approach for full development of a future Regional Deal, including appropriate resourcing and funding.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga

22. The CMF wrote to the ten chairs of ngā Papatipu Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Ngāi Tahu Holdings Ltd in January 2025 advising of the CMF's work programme, including economic priority work to support a future Regional Deal. In April, the CMF wrote again, to advise rūnanga chairs of the current work to progress the development of a Regional Deal. Responses have been received from a number of Papatipu Rūnanga Chairs and Mayor Nigel Bowen, as Chair CMF, is engaging directly to involve rūnanga in the progress of this work.

23. Meaningfully engaging with ngā Papatipu Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to foster partnering in the development of a future Regional Deal will also be factored into the next steps and project scope.

Stakeholders

24. The full development of a future Regional Deal proposal will also include engagement with the health and tertiary sectors, private sector, key infrastructure providers and other key stakeholders.
25. An element of this engagement may be picked up through councils' usual engagement processes, however other aspects may need to be bespoke for this project and will also be factored into the project scope for full development of a future Regional Deal.

Financial implications

26. The current work has been completed within existing resources, therefore there is no current financial implications. As this work develops, future scope and funding requirements will be further developed for the CMF's budget consideration at their November 2025 meeting. The decision on the budget will come back to individual councils for endorsement and inclusion in Annual Plan Long Term Planning processes.
27. Current indications for future budget to support the development of a Canterbury Regional Deal are in the vicinity of \$500,000 over two years. Based on the current regional forums levy the breakdown of this cost for the 11 Canterbury councils is provided in table 1.

| | | 2026-2027 | 2027-2028 |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Regional Deal | | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| Contribution based on Regional Forums Levy | | | |
| Environment Canterbury | 21% | \$51,250 | \$51,250 |
| Christchurch City | 21% | \$51,250 | \$51,250 |
| Selwyn District | 11% | \$26,750 | \$26,750 |
| Waimakariri District | 11% | \$26,750 | \$26,750 |
| Ashburton District | 10% | \$24,500 | \$24,500 |
| Timaru District | 10% | \$24,500 | \$24,500 |
| Hurunui District | 5% | \$13,000 | \$13,000 |
| Waimate District | 4% | \$9,750 | \$9,750 |
| Waitaki District | 4% | \$9,750 | \$9,750 |
| Kaikōura District | 3% | \$6,250 | \$6,250 |
| Mackenzie District | 3% | \$6,250 | \$6,250 |
| TOTAL | 100% | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |

Table 1: Regional Deal allocation

Next steps

28. The draft Waitaha Canterbury Pathway to Success document was considered at the August 2025 CMF meeting, prior to being finalised and provided to the Minister for Local Government.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Draft Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document
- Attachment 2: CMF letter (February 2025) to Hon Simon Watts, Minister for Local Government

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 22 August 2025

Presented by: Dan Gordon, Chair Climate Champions Reference Group
Jesse Burgess, Convenor Climate Change Working Group

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to:
 - a. seek approval of the Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview (deliverable Action 2) and provide an update on the selected greenhouse gas emissions pathway modelling tool (Action 2.1)
 - b. provide the final Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Plan (deliverable for Action 9)
 - c. present the quarterly Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation progress report and accompanying budget summary.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **approves the Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview (deliverable 1 of key Action 2) and notes the Policy Forum approved the list of transition opportunities for further investigation on 27 June 2025**
2. **notes the Convenor of the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group approved procurement of the Local Emissions Data Platform tool by Kinesis to model greenhouse gas emissions reduction pathways for the region (Action 2.1), as delegated by the Canterbury Policy Forum**
3. **receives the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Plan (final deliverable of Action 9)**
4. **notes the Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview and Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan will be published on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website**
5. **notes that the first meeting of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group was on 18 July 2025**
6. **receives the quarterly Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan implementation progress report.**

Background

1. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP) was approved by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) in August 2024, and the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) has completed the first year of the plan's implementation.
2. The scope and approach of all years 1-3 actions have been approved by the relevant forums, and actions are being led and supported by staff from most Canterbury councils.
3. At the meeting on 28 July 2025, the Chief Executives Forum:
 - noted the Convenor of the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group approved procurement of the Local Emissions Data Platform tool (Kinesis), the preferred tool to model greenhouse gas emissions reduction pathways for the region, as delegated by the Canterbury Policy Forum
 - approved the Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview (deliverable 1 of key Action 2) for CMF final approval
 - noted the Policy Forum had approved the list of low-emissions transition opportunities for further investigation (Action 2)
 - received the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Plan (final deliverable of Action 9).

Action 2 Deliverable 1: Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview of transition opportunities (led by Environment Canterbury)

4. The Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview (Attachment 1¹) provides the foundation for developing a regional low-emissions transition plan by summarising Canterbury's emissions profile, current initiatives, key stakeholders, international influences, sector-specific challenges and opportunities, and potential council actions and funding options.
5. The Overview identifies the range of opportunities that could be considered for the transition plan for further investigation in the next stage of the project.
6. The Overview states this is not an exhaustive list of opportunities, as other opportunities may arise or be identified over the next year.
7. On 27 June 2025 the Canterbury Policy Forum approved the opportunities identified in the Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview for further investigation.

¹ [Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview](#)

Action 2 Deliverable 2: Emissions reduction pathway modelling tool (led by Environment Canterbury)

8. On 27 June 2025, the Canterbury Policy Forum delegated authority to the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) Convenor to approve a suitable tool for modelling greenhouse gas emissions reduction pathways (Action 2.1).
9. The Local Emissions Data Platform (LEDP), delivered through Regional Software Holdings Limited (RSHL) and developed by Australian consultancy Kinesis, was selected as the preferred option. This decision was based on its immediate usability, alignment with a nationwide council collaboration, and advanced features such as automated reporting and dynamic scenario modelling.
10. The LEDP tool has already been co-developed and piloted with Waimakariri District Council, Selwyn District Council, Environment Canterbury, and 15 other councils across New Zealand. It provides two key outputs: a yearly emissions inventory for participating councils, which closes current data gaps, and an emissions pathway model.
11. The tool will directly support the development of the regional emissions reduction transition plan (Action 2.3). This will be funded through the CCPP budget at a cost of \$70,600 (excluding GST) for the 2025/26 financial year.

Action 9 Final deliverable: Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan (led by Environment Canterbury)

12. The Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (MER) Plan (Attachment 2²) is Canterbury's first region-wide climate action monitoring framework, designed to strengthen transparency, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making. It is designed to evolve over time as implementation progresses and data quality improves.
13. The Plan tracks progress on short-term actions to 2030, long-term outcomes to 2050, and the effectiveness of council collaboration through the Partnership during the 2024–2027 period.
14. It includes 22 high-level indicators and 34 metrics, aligned to specific CCPP actions and outcomes.
15. Reporting is structured in three tiers: quarterly implementation updates to the regional forums, annual reporting (from FY 2026/27) assessing 25 action and partnership metrics, and full three-yearly evaluations covering all metrics, including long-term outcomes.
16. Environment Canterbury will coordinate the collection of baseline and ongoing data via a central reporting platform. Action leads from other councils will contribute data for 1–4 metrics each and support partnership evaluation.

² [Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan](#)

Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group

17. The CMF approved the establishment of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group at the May 2025 meeting. The first meeting of the group took place on 18 July 2025. The CCWG Convenor provided an update on implementation of the CCPP and an opportunity for members to share climate action in their areas.
18. Members of the group expressed interest in attending the emissions reduction transition planning stakeholder engagement workshops (Action 2) in October 2025.

Cost, compliance and communication

19. As outlined in the quarterly implementation progress report (Attachment 3), a total of \$55,052 of the year 1 CCPP budget (\$190,140) has been spent with ~\$135,000 (including GST) to be carried over to the next financial year (FY 2025/26).
20. The underspend is due to approved delays in delivering the ecosystem risk and vulnerability assessment (\$65,000 now due for payment in October 2025); and other actions which did not require the anticipated budget for year 1, but will in year 2, such as Action 2.1 the greenhouse gas emissions pathway modelling tool (\$70,600), and Action 6 supporting councils to work in partnership with rūnanga (\$20,000 originally estimated).
21. Waimate and Waitaki District Councils have recently adopted their Long-Term Plans and confirmed their continued commitment to funding CCPP in Years 2 & 3 (see Table 3.1 Attachment 3).
22. The Canterbury Policy Forum previously requested visibility around the in-kind staff resourcing each council contributes to implementing the CCPP. This data can be included in quarterly implementation progress reports from year 2 onwards.
23. The CMF Secretariat invoiced councils for their year 2 contributions in August 2025.

Risk assessment and legal compliance

24. Risks for actions are noted in the quarterly implementation progress report (Attachment 3). There are no current risks to highlight/that need further discussion at this stage.

Communication

25. A CCPP Communications and Engagement Plan is being prepared by Environment Canterbury staff to support the delivery of the CCPP, following feedback from the Communications and Engagement Forum on 13 June 2025.
26. Action leads are expected to develop specific communication and engagement plans for their actions, ensuring alignment with the overarching Communications & Engagement Plan.
27. The intention is that significant deliverables will be published on the CMF website.

Next steps

28. Action 2.1 (emissions reduction pathway modelling tool): onboarding and set-up of regional and district tool configurations with the LEDP provider, Kinesis. This will support council staff in building familiarity with the tool and refining custom scenario modelling and assumptions to support stakeholder engagement on transition action planning.
29. Action 2.2 (Transition Risk and Opportunities Assessment): this is being developed by Tonkin + Taylor to assess economic, environmental, social and cultural impacts of the risks and opportunities. This will inform stakeholder engagement on transition action planning which is scheduled for October 2025.
30. Action 9 (Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting): Action leads will continue to collect relevant metric data to establish a baseline for ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the CCPP, coordinated by Environment Canterbury.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 – [Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview](#)
- Attachment 2 – [Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Plan](#)

Attachment 3 – Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation quarterly report summary (April 2025-July 2025)

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Implementation Plan Quarterly Progress Report

April 2025 - July 2025

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

Table 1: Summary of implementation progress

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|----------|--|
| 1 | Understanding Climate Risks and Improving Resilience | Understand climate hazards and risks in Canterbury to support evidence-based decision making and improve regional resilience. | <u>Sub-action 1.1</u> Risk visualisation tool | Waimakariri District Council/ ECAN | Y1 (24/25) Scoping \$14,375 paid for by Environment Canterbury budget Y2 (25/26) Develop tool \$450,000 (ear-marked) Y3 (26/27) Maintenance & licensing | On track | This action is led by Waimakariri District Council; however WDC previously indicated it has limited technical expertise and time to lead this action on its own and requested additional project team members at the 18 February 2025 CCWG meeting. With no additional staff resource identified from other councils, Environment Canterbury (ECan) offered to provide staff and financial support to progress the scoping of the risk tool. In April 2025, ECan engaged True North Consulting to scope a regional risk visualisation tool for use by councils to support climate adaptation and resilience planning. The consultant engaged with councils in Canterbury and some selected |

¹ NB does not include in-kind staff time contributions.

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|----------------------------|---|--|------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| | | | | | tool \$70,000 (ear-marked) | | councils elsewhere in New Zealand, via interviews and online surveys to investigate councils' needs, experiences, and expectations. An online review of available hazard mapping and risk visualisation tools was also conducted. Waimakariri DC and ECan staff are currently working through feedback from the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) on the findings of the draft report and will provide recommendations on next steps at the Policy Forum meeting in September 2025. |
| | | | <u>Sub-action 1.2</u> Climate change risk and urgency assessment | Environment Canterbury | Further funding will be sought from councils in the next LTP round | Not started | Work on this action will commence from year 4. The scope and approach depends on several factors including evolving national direction/legislation, and on the progress made toward a regional risk visualisation tool. |
| 2 | Emissions reduction | Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New | <u>Sub-action 2.1</u> Develop carbon inventories and identify transition pathways | Environment Canterbury | Y2 (25/26) Budget \$81,190 annually (subscription for one year) | On track | Four options for emissions reduction pathways modelling tools were investigated and discussed with the CCWG on 26 May 2025. Following a trial by Waimakariri and Selwyn District Councils and Environment Canterbury, the CCWG agreed that the Local Emissions Data Platform Initiative (provided by consultant Kinesis), is the preferred option, and in June 2025 the |

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|--|--|--|------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| | | Zealand's commitments towards global greenhouse gas emissions reduction. | | | | | CCWG Convenor approved its continued use for a further year. Further detail is provided in the 22 August CMF briefing paper. |
| | | | <u>Sub-action 2.2</u> Regional transition risk and opportunities assessment | Environment Canterbury | Y2 (25/26) Transition risks, opportunities assessment and engagement \$150,000 (ear-marked) | On track | An Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview has been completed which identifies a range of low-emissions transition opportunities across emitting sectors in Canterbury for further investigation in the next stage of the project. Consulting firm, Tonkin + Taylor has been engaged by Environment Canterbury to assess the economic, environmental, social and cultural impacts of these transition opportunities and risks is currently underway. There is a risk that the delivery may be delayed or lack the quality needed to support effective stakeholder engagement in October 2025. This is being mitigated through clear scoping and ensuring the selected supplier understands the critical timeframes. |
| | | | <u>Sub-action 2.3</u> Regional low emissions transition strategy plan | Environment Canterbury | Y3 (26/27) \$100,000 | Not started | Following Policy Forum feedback, sub-action 2.3 is now a regional transition plan, |

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|---|----------|---|
| | | | | | | | rather than strategy, to reflect the focus of this action. |
| 3 | Adaptation planning | Support best practice approaches for local adaptation planning with communities | <u>Sub-action 3.1</u> Best practice approach for adaptation planning and implementation by councils in Canterbury | Hurunui District Council | To be confirmed – delivery reliant on in-kind staff contributions | On track | <p>The scope and approach of this action was approved by the CEF and CMF in May 2025. Hurunui DC is now initiating the delivery of this action.</p> <p>Staff working on this action were invited to attend a stakeholder engagement workshop at Lincoln University in July 2025 as part of a research project funded by the Ministry of Primary Industries through the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change (SLMACC fund) on farmer-led climate adaptation, and were able to promote the collaborative work councils were doing on adaptation planning.</p> |
| 4 | Nature Based Solutions | Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature- | <u>Sub-action 4.1</u> Ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment | Environment Canterbury | Y1 (24/25) Ecosystem vulnerability assessment \$30,434.49 (spent) Y2 (25/26) by 31 October 2025 | On track | Following an open procurement process through GETS in February/March 2025, Environment Canterbury has engaged Wildlands, an ecological consultancy, to complete the Ecosystem risk and vulnerability assessment. Wildlands have completed the first stage of deliverables for this project: facilitating a data/methodology workshop with council subject matter experts and producing a comprehensive |

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|--|---|---|--|---|-------------|---|
| | | based solutions to climate change effects | | | \$65,000 NB delivery of this action has been extended to October 2025 and therefore Y1 funds will be carried over to Y2. | | data stocktake, literature review, and methods report. Project is on track for completion in October 2025. |
| | | | <u>Sub-action 4.2</u> Blue-green network plan for Canterbury | Waimakariri & Selwyn District Council co-leading | Y2 (25/26) \$150,000 (earmarked) Y3 (26/27) \$190,000 (earmarked) | Not started | The project leads propose to engage a consultant to scope this action in quarter 1 year 2. |
| | | | <u>Sub-action 4.2a</u> Collaborate with key stakeholders to provide guidance on blue-green infrastructure placement and hazard resilience investment | Waimakariri & Selwyn District Council co-leading | Y2 (25/26) \$20,000 (earmarked) Y3 (26/27) \$50,000 (earmarked) | On track | No progress made since delivery of literature review due to action lead time constraints. A key stakeholder for this action is the Greater Christchurch Partnership which has included the development of an integrated blue-green network strategy in the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan 2024. This work is |

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|---|-------------|--|
| | | | | | | | not currently a priority on their work programme. |
| | | | <u>Sub-action 4.2b</u> Collaborate and align with Greater Christchurch Partnership and key stakeholders to deliver a blue-green network | Waimakariri & Selwyn District Council co-leading | No budget – delivery reliant on in-kind staff resourcing | On track | No progress made since delivery of literature review due to action lead time constraints. |
| | | | <u>Sub-action 4.2c</u> Investigate the feasibility of establishing blue-green infrastructure on council-owned land | All councils | Y3 (26/27) \$80,000 (earmarked) | Not started | |
| 5 | Climate Change Education and Advocacy | Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action | <u>Sub-action 5.1</u> Continue to develop the “It’s Time, Canterbury” initiative | Environment Canterbury | No CCPP budget allocated, paid for separately by Environment Canterbury budgets | On track | A workshop was held with the CCWG in early April to inform the development of an ITC Strategy to support community understanding of climate change and inspire action. A paper was presented to the Canterbury Communications and Engagement Forum for discussion. Work on the ITC 24/25 Annual Report is underway. Measurement of website and social media engagement is ongoing. |

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|---|
| | | | <u>Sub-action 5.2</u> Produce communications materials with CDEM that integrate climate action and resilience to natural hazards | Environment Canterbury | No CCPP budget allocated, paid for separately by Environment Canterbury budgets | Not started | This action is due to be scoped in Year 2 of the CCPP. |
| 6 | Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga | Support papatipu rūnanga with climate action at place and provide continuing opportunity for their involvement with the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan. | <u>Sub-action 6.1</u> Understand the climate action requirements of papatipu rūnanga across Canterbury | All councils | Y2 (25/26) \$20,000 Y3 (26/27) \$50,000 TBC what budget will be used for | On track | No budget spent towards this action in year 1. The CMF Secretariat has circulated a survey to the CCWG to get a better initial understanding of what councils know of papatipu rūnanga climate action requirements. |
| | | | <u>Sub-action 6.2</u> Support councils to work in partnership with papatipu rūnanga on climate action planning | Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat | | On track | |

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|---|---|--|----------------------------|--|----------|--|
| 7 | Integrating climate change considerations in council processes | Work collaboratively to build local government capability and enhance its capacity to adapt to the climate change challenges it faces | <u>Sub-action 7.1</u> Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations across all council business | Ashburton District Council | No budget – reliant on in-kind staff resourcing | On track | The sub-group has met several times in July and is working with councils and the CMF Secretariat to understand planned approaches to the upcoming induction of elected members, and opportunities for the CCWG to contribute to materials. |

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|----------|--|
| 8 | Climate Funding and Financing | Identify co-funding and financing opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience. | <u>Sub-action 8.1</u> Advocate to central government for funding to be made available for the climate-related actions | Christchurch City Council | No budget – reliant on in-kind staff resourcing | On track | Scope approved. Created database of existing funding options for councils and community. Explored with councils funding needs, examples of external funding secured and advocacy to central government. |
| | | | <u>Sub-action 8.2</u> Explore the feasibility of a Canterbury Climate Commitment | Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat | No budget – reliant on in-kind staff resourcing | On track | A feasibility study was undertaken, and the findings show it would not be feasible to undertake a Canterbury Climate Commitment. Approval to discontinue work on this action pending new information was confirmed by CMF at their meeting on 30 May 2025. |
| 9 | Monitoring and Evaluation | Monitor and report on progress towards achieving the actions and outcomes of the Partnership Plan. | <u>Sub-action 9.1</u> Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan | Environment Canterbury | Y1 (24/25) Tonkin + Taylor engaged to develop Monitoring and Evaluation Report \$20,000 (spent) (NB this work was co-funded by Environment Canterbury) | On track | Environment Canterbury engaged Tonkin + Taylor to deliver a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan which was completed in June 2025 and endorsed in principle by the Policy Forum, subject to proposed amendments by Christchurch City Council. Since then, staff at Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury have agreed to wording changes to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan. These changes are supported by the CCWG, and received by the CEF on 28 July 2025. The final report is attached to this briefing. |

| Action Theme | | Primary Action | Sub-actions | Lead | Indicative G+S budget expenditure including GST ¹ | Status | Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks) |
|--------------|----------------|--|-------------|--|--|----------|---|
| 10 | Implementation | Assemble an implementation team to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan. | | Environment Canterbury (with action leads) | No budget – reliant on in-kind staff resourcing | Complete | The virtual implementation team from across councils continues to evolve. Chelsea Clyde, a key CCWG member from Waitaki District Council, left council in early June and has been replaced by Ilana Andrews pending further decisions at council about their climate change work programme. The contract for the climate change advisor at Waimate District Council ends in September 2025 and dedicated climate change staffing is uncertain after this time. KEY RISK: Staff capacity across all councils is stretched and this is impacting the implementation of the partnership plan which was raised at the June CPF meeting. Environment Canterbury, as the implementation lead, is investigating options for improved resourcing across actions, including project management assistance. |

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Budget Summary 2024-2027

1. The total available CCPP budget (including GST) is as follows: \$190,140 Year 1, \$741,049 Year 2, and \$540,143 Year 3. Council contributions to the CCPP budget were received by Environment Canterbury (as the centralised budget holder) in October 2024 and are managed by the Convenor of the CCWG (Jesse Burgess).
2. The spread of the budget across all the actions is evolving and dependent on several factors including testing the market and procurement processes, so it is necessary to maintain some flexibility to spending within the total budget over the three years at this early stage of implementation.
3. The Y1 underspend is due to approved delays in delivering the ecosystem risk and vulnerability assessment (\$65,000 now due for payment in October 2025); and other actions taking longer than anticipated to progress e.g. action 2.1, the greenhouse gas emissions pathway modelling tool (\$50,000), and action 6 supporting rūnanga (\$20,000). Any unspent funds will be carried over to the following financial year.
4. Note, the summary below does not include the additional financial contributions received from some partner councils to support actions, e.g. Environment Canterbury funding the preliminary scoping of a risk visualisation tool in Action 1.
5. Waimate and Waitaki District Councils have now confirmed funding contributions for Years 2 & 3 through their Long-Term Plans 2025-2034 (see Table 3 below).
6. Invoices for Y2 have now been sent to partner councils.

Table 2: Summary of Year 1 (2024-2025) Goods and Services (G+S) Expenditure

| Action | Amount incl. GST | Supplier | Deliverable |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Action 4.1 | \$35,000 | Wildlands | Ecosystem Risk & Vulnerability Assessment: delivery of literature review and methodology |
| Action 9 | \$20,000 | Tonkin and Taylor | CCPP Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan |
| CCWG Workshop | \$52.20 | - | Catering: snacks for workshop |
| | | | |
| Total Year To Date G+S expenditure | \$55,052.20 | | |
| Carry forward to year 2 (FY 2025-2026) | \$135,137.76 | | |

Table 3: Canterbury Council Financial Contributions (2024-2027)

| Council | CMF ratios (%) | Y1 LTP | Y2 LTP | Y3 LTP | Total Y1-Y3 LTP |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Environment Canterbury | 20.5 | 38,950 | 151,700 | 110,700 | 301,350 |
| Christchurch | 20.5 | 39,000 | 152,000 | 110,000 | 301,000 |
| Selwyn | 10.7 | 20,330 | 79,180 | 57,780 | 157,290 |
| Waimakariri | 10.7 | 20,330 | 79,180 | 57,780 | 157,290 |
| Ashburton | 9.8 | 18,620 | 72,520 | 52,920 | 144,060 |
| Timaru | 9.8 | 18,620 | 72,520 | 52,920 | 144,060 |
| Hurunui | 5.2 | 9,880 | 38,480 | 28,080 | 76,440 |
| Waimate | 3.9 | 7,410 | 28,860 | 21,060 | 57,330 |
| Waitaki | 3.9 | 7,500 | 29,609 | 21,903 | 59,012 |
| Kaikōura | 2.5 | 4,750 | 18,500 | 13,500 | 36,750 |
| Mackenzie | 2.5 | 4,750 | 18,500 | 13,500 | 36,750 |
| TOTAL budget | 100 % | 190,140 | 741,049 | 540,143 | 1,471,332* |
| | | RECEIVED | TO BE INVOICED | TO BE INVOICED | |
| | | | August 2025 | August 2026 | |

*101,432 NZD confirmed through Waimate and Waitaki District Councils LTPs 2025-2034 on 30 June 2025

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 22 August 2025

Presented by: Sharon Mason, Chair Economic Development Forum
Jesse Burgess, Regional Housing Strategy Steering Group

Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval on the final draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan 2025.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **provides feedback on and, with any feedback incorporated, approve the final draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan**
2. **delegates final approval, subject to minor amendments, of the draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan to the Chairs of the Housing Strategy Steering Group and Canterbury Economic Development Forum.**

Background

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 includes an action to 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. This project has been led by the Canterbury Economic Development Forum.
3. A full update on the process to develop the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan (the Plan) was provided at the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) meeting in May 2025. Feedback from that meeting has been incorporated into the current draft of the Plan and/or is addressed below.

Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan

4. The draft Plan consists of an outline of the current state of housing in the region, some insight into area-specific issues, and a summary of the drivers and core housing issues across Canterbury.
5. The Plan identifies three priority areas:
 - increased housing diversity and choice

- increased long-term rental availability and affordability
 - fit-for-purpose policy and regulation
6. The draft Plan also covers work already underway across the region that supports housing and population growth, and a range of possible actions for consideration that could be undertaken collectively across Canterbury or individually by selected Councils as they see appropriate.
 7. Feedback on the draft Plan from the CMF meeting in May 2025 included:
 - prioritizing the top 3-5 tools and levers from the long list so there is a clear ask from the Plan
 - land affordability is seen as a significant barrier and requesting some options for mitigating this to be highlighted
 - part of a regional deal could include seeking government contribution such as through restructuring council debt to enable councils to support housing growth
 - mixed support for consideration of inclusionary zoning and managed retreat
 - acknowledgment that some of the levers are already within council remit
 8. The Regional Housing Strategy Steering Group (Steering Group) met on 12 June 2025 to discuss CMF feedback and how to apply this to the Plan. The Steering Group:
 - acknowledged the comments from the CMF particularly on land affordability, and that some of the levers are already within council remit
 - agreed inclusionary zoning is a valuable tool, and is on the long list of tools and levers that can be considered by each council in their respective efforts to support housing growth
 - agreed managed retreat is worthy of a broader adaptation discussion and couldn't adequately be covered in this Plan. Considerable regional work is required to address how we would approach this issue which is significantly complex, requires extensive investigation and research, and genuine community engagement.
 9. The Steering Group discussion primarily centred around the 3–5 actions that could be applied across the region, and that would have the greatest impact on the three priority areas.
 10. The actions were considered in the broader context of regional planning through the Canterbury Energy workstream, Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, progressing work for a Regional Deal, and resourcing and budgeting for the work associated with these activities.
 11. The final draft Plan is provided at Attachment 1.

12. A notable change from the previous version of the Plan is highlighting what the CMF will ask of the government to support the region's efforts to achieve the three priorities. This is outlined on pages 15 and 16 in the Plan as follows:

- Canterbury's priorities
- what the CMF will do – as a group and/or individually
- the support we require from government.

Submission on the Going for Housing Growth Pillar 1 discussion document

13. Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry for the Environment released the [Going for Housing Growth Pillar 1](#) discussion document on 18 June 2025.
14. Feedback was sought by the Ministries on the Pillar 1 of the Going for Housing Growth policy proposals, which focus on freeing up land for urban development, and how those proposals can be implemented in the new resource management system.
15. It was agreed the secretariat would draft a CMF a response, with support from the Canterbury Economic Development and Policy Forums.
16. CMF feedback on the draft submission was incorporated before being submitted to the Ministries on 15 August 2025. The final submission is available on the [CMF website](#).

Communication

17. On final approval of the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan, a news story will be prepared. The Plan and the story will be made available on the CMF website, which can then also be shared on council websites.

Next steps

18. Information from the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan will be incorporated, where appropriate, into the planning for a Regional Deal.
19. A news story will be prepared. The story, along with the final Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan, will be uploaded to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Final Draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan

Waitaha/Canterbury Regional Housing

Strategic Plan – DRAFT

2025



Foreword

We have an enviable lifestyle here in Canterbury, but it's no secret that housing access and affordability is a growing challenge facing our communities.

What's also clear is that there are unique strengths in Canterbury's housing sector that could make it a key driver for the regional and national economy.

Canterbury has the ingredients to offer a high quality of life and attract top talent to support growth and investment.

Housing, at this time, is more affordable in Canterbury than other parts of the country, with the average house value to household income ratio at 6.1, compared with 6.5 nationally. However, this picture is changing rapidly and now is the time to plan for forecast population growth and its associated pressures.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum wants all of Waitaha/Canterbury to have access to suitable housing in the area they want to live and work in. Protecting and enhancing Canterbury's housing affordability and high amenity lifestyle is vital to it maintaining its competitive edge.

Our housing plan

As our region continues to grow and evolve, demand for housing will continue to increase – putting added pressure on the local housing market, and impacting housing affordability for those who already live here.

We have developed the Waitaha/Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan 2025 to respond to the growing need for housing solutions that better meet demand and provide greater choice. This response is crucial, with Waitaha/Canterbury forecast to grow from 650,000 to about 780,000 people by 2048.



The housing plan comes from the commitment made in the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023 – 2025, while aligning with the Greater Christchurch Partnership programmes and the mahi of our member councils.

This housing plan outlines our shared approach to addressing housing challenges in Canterbury. It provides an overview of the current state of housing and outlines key issues we are facing – some of which impact the whole region, while others are more targeted.



Mayor Nigel Bowen
Chair, Canterbury
Mayoral Forum

This housing plan also sets the direction for providing a wide range of housing types and tenures that suit the unique needs of Canterbury's population. This includes having more affordable and accessible homes for those in smaller households, young people and students, as well as providing a broader range of housing choices for older people.

Engaging confidently and meaningfully with central government to advocate for fit-for-purpose policy and regulation is a crucial part of the delivery of the housing plan.

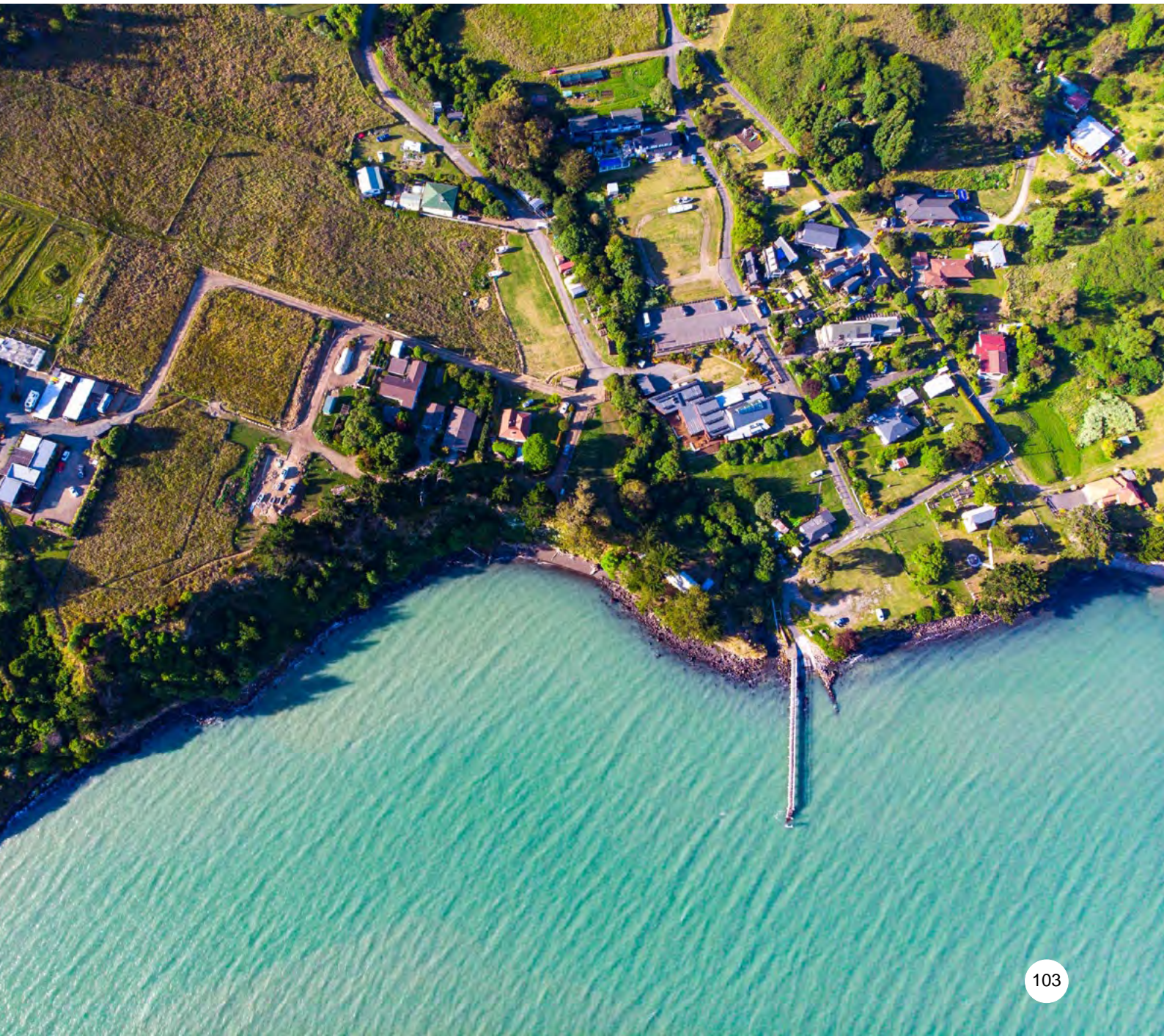
Region-wide collaboration

From the work undertaken in the development of the housing plan, we know there are tools and levers that councils can use for responding to their communities' needs, along with the overarching advocacy opportunities and support from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

A key pillar of our strategic plan is to continue to collaborate with our partners and evolve other strategic relationships. To achieve our housing goals, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum will leverage its strong links with councils, mana whenua, central government, the private sector, community housing providers and the community.

Housing is a complex issue and we know we don't hold all the solutions. However, we want to play our part in creating a better housing environment for the region.

Together, we can turn this challenge into an exciting opportunity. The housing sector could be a key driver of economic growth both regionally and nationally – we must seize the moment.



Introduction

Waitaha/Canterbury is the largest region by size in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Across the region the population is projected to increase by 100,000 people by 2048¹; enabled by a diverse economy from agriculture and forestry to manufacturing, tourism, construction, and seasonal employment.

The region's demographics are also shifting — the population is ageing, becoming more diverse², and moving with increasing frequency within the region. This growth must also be supported by the right type of diverse housing, in the right places, and at the right price points to ensure current and future residents are able to thrive in Waitaha/Canterbury.



The purpose of this document

All 11 Local Authorities in the region have worked together to develop the Waitaha/Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan. This Plan identifies three key priorities that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum wants to tackle together and where the Forum will focus its effort.

The priorities have been identified as

- › Increased housing diversity and choice,
- › Increased long term rental availability and affordability, and
- › Fit-for-purpose policy and regulation.

A toolbox of levers is also provided that can be used, either collectively or by individual Territorial Authorities or other stakeholders, to address housing issues.

How the document was developed

The Mayoral Forum went through a structured process to develop the plan, including iterative workshops organised into three distinct phases: 'Investigation', resulting in a consolidated overview of housing issues; 'Optioneering', where the research informed the identification of three key priorities and a multi-criteria analysis to refine a toolbox of actions; and 'Strategising', which culminated in the creation of a shared plan.

'Affordable housing'

Affordability might be different in different regions, but generally not spending more than 30% of income on housing is considered suitable.

The current state of housing in Waitaha/Canterbury

Waitaha/Canterbury's housing landscape is diverse, ranging from high-growth urban areas to provincial and rural districts with unique needs, such as seasonal worker housing and ageing populations. All these factors are brought together in this Strategic Housing Plan.

Household sizes have been decreasing

over 75% of households have 1–3 residents, 32% have 2 usual residents. This is because the population is ageing, family formation is happening later, and there is a diverse workforce (including seasonal workers) which often look for 1–2-bedroom accommodation.

Housing stock doesn't match the population diversity

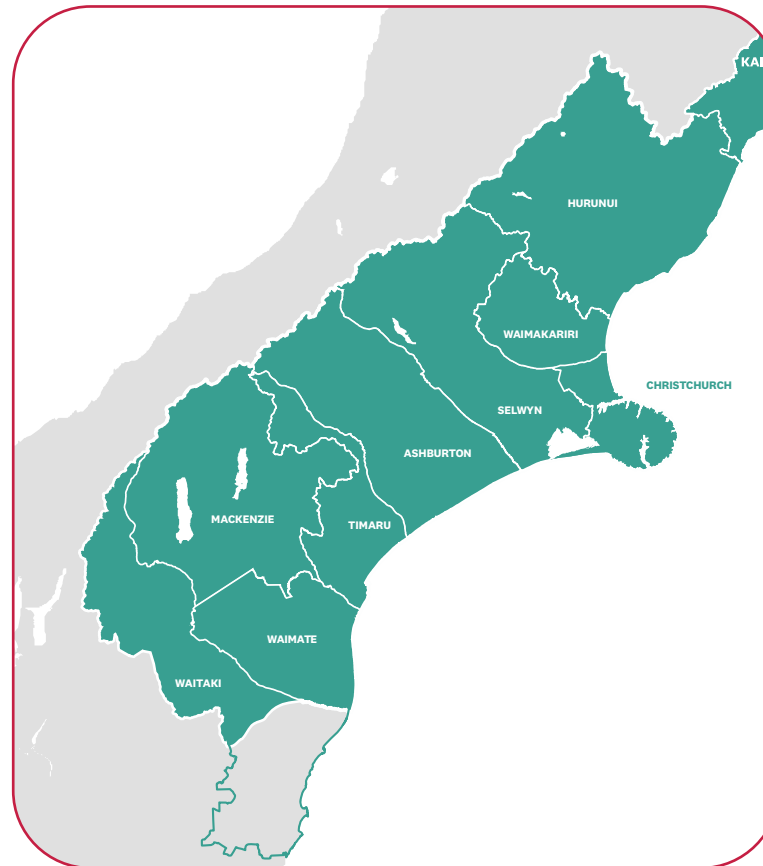
While multi-unit consents have increased, standalone houses still make up ~85% of housing stock.

Public housing supply has increased

with over 10,000 homes provided by Kāinga Ora and community housing providers. But supply is not keeping pace with need and the housing register of people who need this public housing is increasing. There is further anecdotal need; data gaps around the extent of the issue remain.

Short-term rental accommodation is affecting housing supply

There are an estimated 5000+ homes available on accommodation sites.



Rental affordability varies but is a concern in many parts of the region

At least a third of Waitaha/Canterbury residents spend 30% or more of their income on rent and the amount people are spending on total rent payments has increased by ~9%.

Home ownership rates are increasing,

despite high housing costs, including interest rates, and sit at close to 70% of households.

However, housing stress is also increasing

(those spending more than 30% of their income on housing), and a lack of data may be concealing if this upward home ownership trend is covering up how much households are stretching themselves and making other tradeoffs in order to purchase a home.

It is important to not lose sight of the individual housing contexts of each territorial authority.

Greater Christchurch

Christchurch City:

In Christchurch City housing supply continues to increase, with a shift towards multi-unit dwellings (in 2024 there was a 3:2 ratio of multi-unit versus standalone dwellings consented)³. The city's housing dynamics are in line with other Tier 1 councils where rental stress and a latent mismatch between the available stock and the type and tenure of houses needed has not kept pace with the diversifying population; 28% of households pay rent equal to or over 40% of income and 20% pay rent equal to or over 50% of income⁴. Demand exceeds supply for Public Housing, and the Community Housing sector faces uncertainty. As part of the Greater Christchurch Partnership (alongside Selwyn and Waimakariri), much work on housing is underway.

Selwyn District:

Selwyn District is experiencing housing pressures due to rapid population growth exceeding projections (42.93% growth in the last 10 years)⁵. This has resulted in a mismatch between projected housing demand and the real demand for housing in the district. An additional 23,350 dwellings are anticipated to be needed between 2032-2052⁶. The issue of rapid growth in the Selwyn District is further exacerbated by insufficient investment into supporting infrastructure, such as providing access to public transport. These known issues feature strongly in the Waikirikiri Ki Tua Future Selwyn strategy.

Waimakariri District:

Similar to Selwyn District, Waimakariri is continuing to experience high population growth, in part influenced by internal migration from Christchurch City. This growth puts pressure on housing supply and affordability. While all age groups are growing in numbers, the district's ageing population is growing significantly compared with other districts, requiring consideration of continued support of elderly persons housing. Rental stress is an issue across cohorts, where 1 in 3 households have rent equal to or over 40% of their income, and 23% of rental households have rent equal to or over 50% of their income⁷. This is also in the context of the cost of living rapidly increasing. Public housing supply is limited, and there are concerns about demand being redirected to Christchurch.



Provincial and Rural Districts

Ashburton District

In Ashburton District 18% of households have rent equal to or over 40% of income and 13% with rent equal to or over 50% of income⁸. The supply of rental housing is insufficient, and the increasing use of housing for short-term rentals may also be impacting long-term rental availability. For example, in Ashburton District, there are 1,521 unoccupied homes (10%) out of 15,456 total dwellings, indicating the share of housing stock used as holiday homes or short-term rentals⁹. There is also a strong need for seasonal worker housing, more diverse housing for other key workers, and affordable housing for older people to age in place. Public housing supply is low.

In some areas, Highly Productive Land controls are noted as making it difficult and costly for developers to provide infrastructure and deliver new homes in already populated areas. A further key challenge is the lack of a Spatial Plan or Housing and Business Capacity Assessment, to provide certainty and clarity to the market.

Timaru District:

Timaru District faces several housing challenges, including rising house prices and rents, and a lack of diversity in housing supply with a preference for traditional homes over smaller, inner-city options. In Timaru District, 26% of households have rent equal to or over 40% of income and 19% with rent equal to or over 50% of income, representing a high proportion of stressed renters¹⁰. Past growth projections have underestimated the actual rate of growth in some areas, leading to potential capacity issues. Despite potential capacity for infill development, various issues such as land availability, topography, and development costs hinder its realisation; additionally, permissive rural lifestyle provisions and Highly Productive Land controls are making it unfeasible for developers to provide infrastructure and develop certain sites. Housing quality is also a concern, with higher percentages of dampness and mould compared to other districts. Public housing supply is also limited.





Waitaki District

Waitaki faces significant housing challenges, including affordability pressures caused by rising living costs, house prices, and rents. The district has one of the lowest median household incomes in New Zealand at \$68,900 (53rd out of 67 Territorial Authorities) ¹¹. This has contributed to a high level of housing stress, with a significant number of households struggling to afford suitable housing. Housing quality is a concern, with many houses being older and not meeting the necessary standards for warmth, dryness, and efficiency. The district is experiencing demographic shifts—including an ageing population, increasing ethnic diversity, and a growing overall population—that are exacerbating housing demand and the need for different housing types. The ageing population has created greater demand for accessible, low-maintenance, and smaller homes, while increasing ethnic diversity, including a growing Pacific Peoples community in Ōamaru (which has more than doubled from 3.8% in 2013 to 8.3% in 2023) ¹², has shaped need for homes that can accommodate larger families and intergenerational living arrangements. In addition to permanent population growth, the seasonal workforce (particularly in meat processing, agriculture, viticulture, and manufacturing), along with tourism and the growing visitor economy (driven by the district's unique environmental and heritage attractions), may also be placing further strain on the housing market. There is a relatively high number of unoccupied dwellings across the district, likely due to short-term rentals and holiday homes, which may be impacting the availability of long-term rental options.

Kaikōura District

Kaikōura's key housing issues include house price increases and rents outpacing low median incomes, leading to decreased affordability. 20% of households have rent equal to or over 40% of income and 15% with rent equal to or over 50% of income, representing a moderate proportion of stressed renters¹³. The district has experienced a 61% increase to the median sale price of homes in the past 5 years to \$620,00, the highest percentage increase in house sale prices across the region from 2019-2024¹⁴. At the same time as house prices have increased, median household income remains one of the lowest in the region at \$66,800¹⁵. This affordability crisis is exacerbated by a limited housing supply, with low numbers of new dwellings being consented each year and the 2016 earthquake further reducing stock. A high proportion of dwellings are also likely used for holiday homes or short-term rentals, contributing to low long-term availability; over a fifth of the housing stock are unoccupied dwellings¹⁶. Kaikōura's ageing population also creates specific housing needs; the median age is 50 years (one of the highest in the region) and 26.8% of residents are over the age of 65 years¹⁷.

Hurunui District

Hurunui District is experiencing population growth and an ageing population, impacting housing demand. There is a very low supply of rental housing. This is partly due to many properties being rented informally (e.g., to farm workers) and not through traditional channels. While dwelling consents and completions are relatively aligned, the housing stock is predominantly standalone homes and there is a lack of multi-unit or smaller dwelling options. 23% percent of dwellings are unoccupied¹⁸, particularly in tourist areas like Hanmer Springs, where many are holiday homes. This reduces the availability of long-term housing. The 2016 earthquake also impacted the housing stock. There is limited public housing.

Mackenzie District:

Mackenzie District is a small but rapidly growing district, driven by tourism and lifestyle opportunities. During the summer holiday period, the population of Twizel is said to often triple¹⁹, as a popular tourist destination. This growth puts pressure on housing affordability, particularly in Tekapo | Takapō, where prices have increased significantly²⁰. Based on formal bond statistics for residential tenancies, 13% of households have rent equal to or over 40% of income and 7% with rent equal to or over 50% of income, representing a moderate proportion of stressed renters²¹. However, due to the known prevalence of informal and commercial (employer) rental situations, formal statistics are likely to be underestimating the level of rental stress in MacKenzie²². Housing diversity (not having the right housing to meet resident needs) is an issue, this includes not having a sufficient supply and variety of 1–2-bedroom units to attract and retain workers, especially those that are singles, couples, or have small families and the elderly. Short-term rental accommodation is one of the most significant housing issues in the District²³. A recent report from AirDNA²⁴ suggests that there are 1,074 available listings across Airbnb and Vrbo in the District (the most of any district in the region), of which 32% are 1-bedroom, 17% 2-bedroom, 29% 3-bedroom and 17% 4-bedroom. The occupancy rate of these listings is 65%, with 90% being entire home listings. It is notable that over 50% of listings are available for 271–365 nights per year. This exacerbates the lack of long-term rental options and contributes to rental stress.

Waimate District

In Waimate, population growth is projected to be slow²⁵, but the district faces challenges in providing suitable housing for its ageing population and addressing the increasing disparity between income and housing costs. Despite having one of the lowest average rents in the region, rents have increased 20% over the last five years²⁶; 21% of households have rent equal to or over 40% of income and 16% with rent equal to or over 50% of income, representing a moderate proportion of stressed renters²⁷. Housing affordability varies; while having one of the lowest median household incomes across the region (\$67,800), the mean household income in 2024 was \$100,498, reflecting a skewed income distribution²⁸. Meanwhile the median house sale price was \$385,000 (2024), although the district had one of the higher relative percentage sale price increases from 2019–2024²⁹. Dwelling quality remains a concern, with high percentages of dampness and mould reported. There is limited public housing (23 homes managed by Kāinga Ora³⁰).

These local issues are interconnected and contribute to the wider housing complexities of the Waitaha/Canterbury region. The system-wide drivers of the key housing issues, and the breadth of the issues themselves across the region, are visually summarised in Figure 2.



Waitaha/Canterbury Housing Issues

System-wide drivers of the key housing issues:

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Home ownership ideals | Property as an asset class | High interest rates |
| Limited job and education opportunities for young people in rural and provincial centres | Job growth in local and seasonal industries | Significant tourism industry |
| Climate and natural hazard risks | Housing stock conditions and lifespan | Infrastructure funding shortfalls |
| A growing older population | A more diverse population | Unexpected population growth |
| Internal migration increasing demand | Increasing deprivation | Changing Central Government policy direction |
| Cost of living and housing rising faster than wages | High construction and development costs | |

Figure 2. A summary of the drivers and core housing issues across Waitaha/Canterbury.





Waitaha/Canterbury Housing Issues

Significant issue for all territorial authorities

Increased rates of housing stress across all cohorts

Lack of suitable and affordable housing across all cohorts

Limited ability for older residents to age in place

Demand for more varied housing options (type, size, and tenure) is mismatched with the current stock available

Low supply of social housing in most districts with demand not reflected in formal statistics

Unmet demand for smaller homes (couples, singles, and older people) located close to a range of transport and amenities

Significant issue for some territorial authorities

The rental market is highly constrained

Short-term rental demand impacting long-term availability

Hidden homelessness and rental stress i.e. people's informal arrangements to stay in garages/woolsheds

Issue for all territorial authorities

No coordinated housing strategy across the region

Preparedness to respond to the impact of natural hazard risks e.g. managed retreat

Not enough affordable housing for those who do not qualify for social housing but are priced out of the market

Limited or no community housing sector in some areas

Low quality housing stock

Market conditions are sustaining higher prices and delivery of larger homes

Uncertain impact of pending changes to the planning system (including the requirement to zone for 30 years of supply) on market behaviour, infrastructure costs and affordability for Councils

Issue for some territorial authorities

Unmet demand for single-level or universally accessible homes

Capacity enabled by zoning hasn't been realised by the market

Tourism benefits are not flowing through to councils i.e. to pay for infrastructure

Limited appetite for housing density

Highly Productive Land (HPL) zoning is limiting housing supply in some already populated areas

Challenge to attract and retain young people and families

Difficulties in developing papakāinga housing on Māori owned land

Absence of Spatial Plans or Housing and Business Capacity Assessments hindering effective planning

Limited suitable and affordable options for temporary housing (via short-term rental) for new workers while they find a permanent rental

Lack of data on seasonal and worker housing requirements. Worker displacement and role of employers in providing affordable worker housing is unclear, and so the case to warrant a council response

The roles local government can have in housing



Canterbury Mayoral Forum

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum includes the Mayors from the 10 territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council. The Mayoral Forum provides a mechanism for local authorities in Canterbury to:

- › Stand together and speak with ‘one strong voice’ for Canterbury and its communities.
- › Identify and prioritise issues of mutual concern and foster co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration to address them.
- › Advance regional economic and social development through leadership, facilitation and advocacy.
- › Work together, and with central government and other key sector leaders in Canterbury, to meet the needs and expectations of our communities at the lowest possible cost to ratepayers.



Local authorities

Local councils have a pivotal role in supporting the provision of housing. While you may see things applied differently in different areas, councils set the direction for how and where growth and development will occur through their long-term planning.

In considering this, each council must consider its regulatory functions under legislation, such as the Building Act and the Resource Management Act, and give effect to national and regional policy statements.

In addition to council's planning functions, they also issue consents to enable housing and urban development, and provide the physical infrastructure to connect their communities. Think transport, electricity and water, and also things that make a community feel 'homely', such as libraries and parks. Some councils also provide social and community housing.

Relationships can be formed, such as the Greater Christchurch Partnership, to support collaborative approaches to strategic issues.

Regional councils have different levers to pull when it comes to housing. Legislatively tasked with developing the Regional Policy Statement, this guides integrated planning and development across the region, highlights regionally significant issues, and supports long-term thinking for urban planning.

Every three years, the regional council is responsible for preparing the Regional Land Transport Plan. This is the region's funding bid for transport related projects. The development of new housing areas, particularly the size and location, are key inputs into transport planning – how and where are people likely to travel, and is the current roading and public transport system designed to accommodate this influx of people and/or change in travel patterns? The Regional Public Transport Plan is prepared separately, but aligned, to manage growth in both new and old neighbourhoods.

Smart urban planning and long-term thinking can support efficiencies and connectivity in key infrastructure associated with housing, such as transport, energy, and getting clean water in and dirty water out.



Key housing priorities for the Waitaha/Canterbury region

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum has identified three key priorities to respond to the core housing issues facing the region. These priorities provide a framework to identify appropriate housing advocacy and action; we know a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to housing doesn't work and a range of housing types, sizes, and tenures are required to meet the needs of our diverse population and support our communities.

Priority 1

Increased housing diversity and choice

Success in this priority area looks like:

There are a wide range of housing types and tenures that suit the unique needs of the Waitaha/Canterbury population.

This also means that there will be more affordable and accessible homes to meet the needs of smaller households, youth and students, and that there will be a wider range of housing choices for older persons to age in their existing communities. This will include different sizes, densities, and tenures of homes. We will have a more resilient urban form in our urban settings, and suitable development patterns that are responsive to a range of natural hazard risks and supported by functional infrastructure.

Priority 2

Increased long-term rental availability and affordability

Success in this priority area looks like:

There are a wider range of suitable long-term rental options available, and the cost of renting is more affordable for more people.

This includes that the impacts of short-term rentals for tourism on the rental market will be minimised and there will be long-term rental availability to meet the growing and changing needs of our communities. Suitable temporary housing for seasonal workers will also be available, in collaboration with businesses that provide seasonal work, so that the housing provided across the region supports our economic growth and diverse industries. Public housing supply in the region will increase to better align to the need, and there will be suitable provision of emergency and transitional housing.

Priority 3

Fit-for-purpose policy and regulation

Success in this priority area looks like:

Policy and regulation supports the right type of houses to be delivered in the right places and is enabling wider infrastructure benefits across the region.

This also means that data gaps that exist will be addressed to ensure a suitable evidence base for making housing policy and regulation decisions. These decisions will support suitable housing in both urban and rural environments and there will be consistency around how policy is applied and interpreted by all those involved in the delivery of housing across the region.



The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's commitment to housing

It is crucial that we work in partnership with each other, industry and stakeholders to achieve these priorities and address the core housing issues facing the region. Our commitment to housing includes joint action, both as a whole Canterbury Mayoral Forum and within sub-groups based on aligned local issues, and advocacy to central government on a range of topics.

Priority 1

There are a wide range of housing types and tenures that suit the unique needs of the Waitaha/Canterbury population.

Priority 2

There are a wider range of suitable long-term rental options available, and the cost of renting is more affordable for more people.

Priority 3

Policy and regulation supports the right type of houses to be delivered in the right places and is enabling wider infrastructure benefits across the region.

As a group, we will:

- › Develop consistent messaging for Councils to use when engaging with Central Government about ways to increase affordable housing and a wider range of rental options.
- › Share information between Mayoral Forum members about ways to incentivise affordable and diverse housing options through partnerships with developers and funders.
- › Explore ways to better coordinate between housing and related services providers and community groups to better understand the range of housing needs and issues facing different communities.
- › We will explore opportunities on how to monitor progress against each of the priority areas.



Other important activities that will be progressed collectively or individually:

- › Investigating ways to support older persons housing diversity, especially in areas outside of urban centres.
- › Exploring a coordinated approach to engaging with the build to rent sector.
- › Undertaking further work to identify what support is needed to assist employers to take an active role in housing their workers locally.
- › Investigating ways to support mixed income multigenerational housing solutions.



Our ask of government:

- 1** To enable the delivery of mixed-tenure housing over the next five years, 100 IRRS/OS* places are provided through a flexible fund, which will be supported by funding tools such as subsidies and infrastructure cost assistance to unlock social housing.
- 2** The specific settings suggested for change include:
 - › Review and amendment of settings related to leasing, zoning, and covenants.
 - › Review and amendment of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD), specifically identifying and revising policies that hinder local housing objectives.
- 3** To accelerate growth and alleviate debt ratio pressures, the Waitaha/Canterbury region requests the central government to return the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to councils and also return the GST on public and affordable housing projects when delivered by Mana Whenua or Community Housing Providers.
- 4** Recognition of the impact of short-term accommodation on housing, and regulatory and funding assistance, to enable controls and current and additional visitor levies (both central and local) to help address the strain on housing and infrastructure.

Indicators of success will guide the next steps process.

* IRRS/OS - Income Related Rent Subsidy / Operating Supplements (see page 22/23)



It's important to also remember that across the region, much work is already underway that impacts housing, including:

- › **We are advancing discussions about Waitaha/Canterbury wide spatial planning.** This will facilitate a coordinated view of where housing should and shouldn't go across the region.
- › **We are progressing work on energy for the region.** This will both enhance employment opportunities and support the additional population growth.
- › **We are identifying how a Regional Deal could bring together sectors and align projects and partnerships to support economic growth in the region.** These investigations will include ways to work towards our housing priorities.
- › **We are implementing the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan,** including identifying pathways to transition to a low-emissions region.
- › **Councils continue to deliver existing work programmes,** such as for open space network planning and neighbourhood/precinct planning.
- › **Starting Review of Regional Land Transport Plan 2027-37** (overseen by the Regional Transport Committee).
- › **The Greater Christchurch Partnership** also has an extensive housing workstream underway.

What's next?

This strategic plan is a record of the commitment made by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to collectively work towards housing priorities for the Waitaha/Canterbury region.

Further detailed planning will be required to translate the 'what' of our strategy into the 'how'. This will happen in multiple different workstreams and include current and planned housing projects and initiatives to be delivered by the Mayoral Forum and its member organisations, as well as others.

Appendix 1:

A 'toolbox' of strategic housing levers

In addition to our joint commitments to action and advocacy outlined in this strategic plan, the process of developing this work identified a whole toolbox of levers (See Appendix 1) which individual territorial authorities can choose to endorse or action.

These tools and levers span across multiple categories, such as commercial strategy, investment for the public good/ community-focused spending, placemaking, policy, regulations and bylaws, land use zoning, funding and financing, and facilities and operations.

There are options in the toolbox that councils could do individually, or in partnership with the market and stakeholders, to address the housing priorities for the region.



Appendix 1

Toolbox of Housing Tools and Levers

As part of the background work that has informed the development of this Strategic Plan by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, The Urban Advisory provided the following table of Tools and Levers.

It is a long list of possible activities/actions that each individual council (or collective of councils) can consider. It is not intended as the 'implementation plan' for this strategy. Further work is required to assess who, when, and how some of these tools and levers could be considered in the course of each council's continued efforts to enable housing that support achieving the three key priorities outlined in this strategic plan.



| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| A | Accelerated Approvals | <p>This tool involves expediting the process of initial resource consent approvals, as well as conducting timely building consents and construction inspections before delivery. This approach, known as accelerated approvals, aims to move projects through essential regulatory phases faster than the standard procedure. This includes Council consenting made easy and government fast-track pathway for large projects.</p> <p>Accelerated approvals can also be supported with a complex consent service and a case management approach. This is a tailored project management service for complex developments that need a higher level of council support and management through the resource and building consent, engineering approval, and compliance process to expedite timely approvals.</p> |
| | Advocate for Affordable Housing Subsidy or Funding | <p>Lobby, advocate for and submit proposition to central government for social and affordable housing subsidies or infrastructure funding for a project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify Council sites suitable for affordable housing products. › Clearly define developer, manager, and investor roles. › Identify pathways to delivery, including viable partnership models. › Complete high-level design and due diligence to form a robust investment business case. <p>The pathway for seeking affordable housing subsidies and funding changes with each government (e.g. Infrastructure Acceleration Funding, HUD Affordable Rental Pathway, Māori Infrastructure Fund), but the intent is similar.</p> <p>Councils can take a role in advocating for fit-for-purpose affordable housing funds and subsidised pathways to ensure that any new approach from current and future governments is suitable and effective. For example, the lack of certainty around funding is a salient issue at present and risks future affordable housing delivery.</p> |
| | Advocate for national incentives to encourage developers to exceed minimum building code standards - e.g. Step Codes | <p>Internationally, Councils have adopted building standards that exceed or 'step' above the minimum standards set out in their Building Code regulations, to support a local area to work towards healthier, low energy housing stock more quickly, or target improved benchmark for design for universal access. Step codes are common in the US and Canada where local governments use them to incentivize or require cleaner, more sustainable new construction (e.g. Zero Carbon Step Code).</p> <p>While step codes are not common or tested in New Zealand, Councils can play a role in providing incentives to the development sector to increase the standard of new supply (rather than impose and require higher standards for all developments). The higher building standards can be set through accreditation tools that reward developments that meet a higher bar (e.g. LifeMark, Green Building accreditations). In New Zealand, the New Zealand Green Building Council provides a benchmark standard of sustainable building through the HomeStar system. Councils could offer incentives, like bonus floor provisions or fast-track consent pathways to reward developments that deliver units which meet minimum Homestar ratings, or LifeMark ratings for example.</p> |
| | Affordable housing consents service | <p>Councils can offer a tailored consenting service for developments which provide affordable or social housing, including discounted consent fees, fast-tracked approvals (see also Accelerated Approvals) or reduced development contributions.</p> |
| | Alternative financing approaches | <p>Facilitate the development of alternative financing approaches, particularly collective models that can work with multiply-owned land structures, as traditional banking models pose challenges.</p> |
| C | Call for Sites' Programme | <p>Build and maintain a database of potential sites for development, which can inform and work with other levers including: spatial planning, partnerships with development sector, demonstration housing projects. This could be a user-friendly, web-based GIS tool for users to propose new housing development sites in the region and provide information about the sites in a few clicks. An example is the QLDC call for urban growth sites, as part of their 2024 Spatial Plan updates.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| Capital Gains Tax or Stamp Duty | Advocate to central government for property tax reform to create new streams of revenue that can be earmarked for local spending on infrastructure, amenities and subsidising affordable housing projects. Property taxes also serve to reduce the financialisation of housing, and the incentives to accumulate wealth through property. |
| City and Regional Deals | <p>A City and Regional Deal is a mechanism for the delivery of collective plans for growth, bringing together key projects, programmes, policy, and governance reform to realise the potential of an economic region through alignment of local and central government, together with industry partners, based on shared objectives. This tool was proposed in the Future for Local Government Review and is modelled on the Australian experience.</p> <p>Australia has been pursuing the City and Regional Deal approach since 2016, most recently for South East Queensland. The “SEQ City Deal”, confirmed in 2022, provides a welcome boost to the building of key infrastructure in advance of the 2032 Summer Olympics in Brisbane.</p> |
| Climate Adaptation Plan | Develop a Climate Adaptation Plan that identifies high-risk areas, vulnerable communities, and spatial responses required to reduce community exposure to natural hazard risks and climate change risks. A Climate Adaptation Plan recommends infrastructure required to improve social and physical resilience to shocks, and informs a managed retreat strategy, which is enacted through District Plan changes to reduce the risk of housing and residential areas from climate and natural hazards. |
| Community Land Trust | Establish a community land trust, where land is held in trust by Council (or Crown) and perpetually affordable housing provided for rent or ownership, requiring a peppercorn rent for occupying land held in trust. |
| Community-led Housing Innovation Partnerships | Develop partnerships with community-led collective housing organisations (e.g. CHA, HIS), to enable Council to act as a broker to support and resource community-led groups to pursue Community Land Trusts, Cooperatives and Cohousing. |
| Construction innovation | Encourage the adoption of innovative residential construction technologies, increase local capability and reduce construction time/cost. |
| Construction Workforce Programme | <p>Create or partner with organizations promoting careers in residential construction or attract construction workforce to the area, to support ongoing development of housing. This could include sponsored apprenticeships, work placements, residential subsidies, temporary housing for workers and bonuses.</p> <p>Support local education providers (trades and tertiary institutions) to ensure that local people have access to education and training, and have the best opportunity to find local jobs and contribute to local projects.</p> |
| Conversion of non-residential buildings to residential | <p>The main impediment to frequent conversions lies with the current Building Act. The act requires a building undergo a S.115 test before the owner can apply for a restricted discretionary activity application. This test requires that the resident is not exposed to any risk to their living in the building, particularly around fire safety. Auckland Council has also identified other common challenges with conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural adequacy - some buildings may require major structural upgrade • Significant fire safety/warning/protection system upgrade to meet compliance requirements • Difficulty to meet G7 natural light and visual awareness requirements if building is to be used as permanent accommodation • Substantial alteration to existing plumbing/drainage also mechanical ventilation system • Significant floor/wall upgrade to achieve minimum G6 STC/IIC rating • Fire safety requirements particularly around building egress |

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| | Council Grant Funding | Establishing a grant fund (where only eligible housing projects can apply) with ring-fenced capital allows the city greater flexibility in choosing what and when to fund certain development activities and development types (e.g. funding pre-consenting which is the riskiest phase of a property development). A Council Grant Fund will have more flexibility than just providing a waiver of development contributions (DCs), and can target where the benefits of the grant are realised. |
| | Council social and affordable housing portfolio | Sustain and grow the Council owned and operated social housing portfolio, through a Council-controlled organisation or CHP that can receive IRRS. Council can establish specific criteria for tenants who are eligible for Council housing, in line with identified cohorts of need. |
| D | Defining Affordable Housing | Clear definitions of affordable housing in local government plans, strategies, and policies make decision-making for Council and developers easier and ensures that diverse community housing needs are met. These needs include those of essential workers, low-medium income households, and those not eligible for other forms of social housing assistance. Definitions also make targeted initiatives more manageable and achievable and allows for better monitoring and measures against housing affordability objectives. Better collaboration on affordable housing is possible between local government, community housing providers, and other stakeholders to deliver more affordable housing. |
| | Demand data partnerships | Develop and sustain partnerships with key government agencies and community housing providers working in the social housing, emergency housing, transitional housing and homelessness space to ensure that data on waitlists, emerging needs is accurate and can be responded to in a timely and appropriate manner. |
| | Developers Forum | Establish a forum of active developers or make use of existing networks (e.g. Property Council or UDINZ) to provide a regular forum for discussion about development opportunities, systems and processes and any roadblocks to quality development. Forum also provides a platform for education and upskilling developers on changing legislation, and regulatory requirements or incentives as they arise and to proactively showcase what 'good' looks like in their district and improve the relationships the Council has with the development sector at large. |
| | Development Partnerships | Facilitate the supply of new housing through development partnerships with private developers, iwi commercial developers, Kāinga Ora and Community Housing Providers (CHPs). Council plays a lead role in providing or coordinating funding, overseeing land parcels and delivering enabling infrastructure. |
| E | Employer-led housing Programme | Developing a programme to support and incentivised employers to take an active role in housing their workers locally. In some communities this is already occurring, but by developing a programme Councils could provide financial rebates or other benefits in recognition of their role in housing provision. For example, Councils can partner with or encourage employers to build or otherwise pay for their employees' housing. In the US there have been high-profile examples of employers building housing in vacation areas in Maine and Tennessee and legislative efforts in Massachusetts to promote such efforts. In one community, a trust purchased an old former bed and breakfast with plans to convert it into workforce housing for seasonal workers. |
| | Establish Council owned CHP Operating Supplement for social housing, including draw down Refer to footnote on page 16 | <p>Establish Council owned CHP to access Operating Supplement, a funding subsidy paid in addition to the Income-Related Rent Subsidy for eligible net new public houses to help enable new build supply. The Operating Supplement is calculated as a percentage of market rent up to a percentage cap. In Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch the Operating Supplement cap is 90 percent of market rent. In all other locations the cap is 100 percent of market rent.</p> <p>Changes to the Operating Supplement now include ability to capitalise part of the Operating Supplement currently paid to CHPs for new housing developments, to be paid upfront when contracts for new social housing are agreed. This capital funding will be made available in targeted circumstances to provide equity to CHPs allowing them to raise finance at better rates. This Operating Supplement would otherwise be paid to CHPs over time during the life of the contract.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Establish Council owned CHP Income Related Rent Subsidy</p> <p>Establishing a council-owned CHP to access the Income-Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS) paid by Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to public housing landlords, to cover the balance between what a public housing tenant pays in rent and the market rent for the property. The market rent is set according to comparable rent charged for other properties of a similar type, size and location.</p> <p>Now includes early approval in principle to enable CHPs to invest with greater funding certainty.</p> |
| F | <p>First-home Loans</p> <p>First Home Loans are issued by selected banks and other lenders, and underwritten by Kāinga Ora. This allows the lender to provide loans that would otherwise sit outside their lending standards. A First Home Loan only needs a 5% deposit. A rural context example is US Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service offers a variety of programs to build or improve housing and essential community facilities in rural areas. We offer loans, grants and loan guarantees for single- and multifamily housing, childcare centers, fire and police stations, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes, schools, first responder vehicles and equipment, housing for farm labourers and much more.</p> |
| | <p>Flexible Design Incentives</p> <p>Design flexibility incentives work best in high-demand urban infill areas, and serve to to reduce regulatory constraints and allow developers to achieve feasible development propositions on marginal sites. These incentives often entail reducing required setbacks, increasing buildable area, allowing for flexible lot consideration, or reducing minimum lot size requirements. Together, these design allowances increase the potential for development on infill sites, making use of a greater portion of urban land to provide housing. Developers are able to build on land that would otherwise be unsuitable for housing if baseline design standards were maintained.</p> <p>Sites can be eligible for flexible design incentives based on an extent threshold basis (e.g <1,000m²), targeted areas (e.g. fringe suburbs) or based on other site constraints like topography (steep sites).</p> |
| | <p>Forum with housing advocacy groups</p> <p>Facilitate a forum with housing and related advocacy groups to leverage the energy, insights and leadership of grassroots advocacy groups to understand critical housing needs (or housing-related issues), key pinch points in existing policy and housing enablement programme. Include advocates in periodic forums of a 'coalition of the willing' within the community, including developers, CHPs, public sector agencies.</p> |
| | <p>Funding for infrastructure and development that supports Papakāinga</p> <p>Advocate across government to address gaps in infrastructure and development funding for papakāinga development, including the continuation of Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga or equivalent funding.</p> |
| G | <p>Government Hubs</p> <p>Government hubs (co-location of government agencies) can help stimulate economic activity and job creation in a city or town. Planning and development of these precincts contribute to sustainability, community unity, and economic growth. They also improve urban spaces, transportation, and access to employment and education opportunities.</p> |
| | <p>Green loans</p> <p>'Green loans' help Kiwis make the move to more energy-efficient options in their home. Most New Zealand banks offer discounted financing options and home-loan top ups for energy efficient options. These loans are all slightly different, with varying interest rates and terms. Many offers feature interest rates at 1% or even 0% to help overcome the initial cost of more energy efficient options, and save households money in the long run.</p> |
| <p>Greening the city</p> <p><i>(Source: C40 and Arup released their 'Green and Thriving Neighborhoods')</i></p> | <p>Providing residents living in apartments with access to green and quality open spaces improves social, mental and environmental wellbeing. Green and blue spaces are critical features of a net zero, resilient and thriving urban neighbourhood. Urban green spaces have proven to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, inspire social interaction, increase footfall for local businesses, support biodiversity, and provide ecosystem services such as stormwater attenuation, localized cooling, carbon sequestration, and improved air quality. Green and thriving neighbourhoods have high-quality open green spaces and adopt a 'green throughout' strategy in streets and public realm, as well as on walls and roofs of buildings. A range of green assets is included, such as parks, tree planting, green roofs, and walls, roof gardens, community gardens, allotments, or urban farms. Green assets are not short-term interventions but should be continuously monitored, maintained, and improved.</p> |

H

Healthy Homes Standard

The healthy homes standards introduce specific and minimum standards for heating, insulation, ventilation, moisture ingress and drainage, and draught stopping in rental properties.

An incentive for landlords to meet and report on the healthy home standard accreditation could be administered by Council

Homelessness Programmes

Homelessness Outreach Services, funded by HUD, aim to bridge the gap between people who are at immediate risk of, or experiencing, homelessness and other existing services.

Sustaining Tenancies by HUD works to prevent homelessness by funding community-based services to help individuals, families and whānau who are at risk of losing their tenancy. Sustaining Tenancies is a service for tenants in private rentals or public housing.

Housing First Programme

Advocate for and support Housing First which recognises that it is easier for people to address issues such as mental health and substance use, once they are housed. The priority is to move people into appropriate housing and then immediately provide wrap-around services to support their success. For example, the goal of Housing First Ōtautahi is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Successful in Canada, the USA, Europe, the United Kingdom and now in multiple parts of New Zealand.

Housing innovation demonstration projects

Establish a demonstration programme to fund, test and showcase innovative housing projects (e.g. affordable housing, alternative tenures, community-led housing, sustainable design and low-carbon construction methods). Projects are selected from applicants with proposals seeking to meet acute housing needs (criteria can be targeted to key needs identified through housing plans). Successful projects may have a site of their own or are offered a publicly owned site at market value. Developments are subject to usual resource consent projects on a non-notified basis. It is recommended that the development of the programme and project selection is done with input from with industry groups such as the Property Council, UDINZ and Community Housing Aotearoa (e.g. representation on project selection board) to ensure that a demonstration programme is efficient and effective. An example of housing demonstration projects is [ACT Demonstration Housing Programme](#).

Housing retrofit programme

Council or government-led scheme to support homeowners to repair and retrofit their home. This could include incentives to add renewable energy, on-site water reuse or double glazing and decommission fireplaces, to reduce energy and water demands of existing homes. For example, Auckland Council has a Retrofit Your Home scheme offered ratepayers financial assistance of up to \$5000 for the installation of: clean heat, insulation, water conservation, mechanical extraction and fireplace decommissioning. The loan was repaid by a targeted rate on the property over a nine-year term.

Retrofit programmes could also assist landlords to raise their homes to meet the Healthy Homes Standard.

I

Incentivise Build to rent

Incentivising and encourage BTR developers/operators into the local area. Build to rent are long term rental homes (lease 3-7 years), properties that are typically owned by institutional investors and managed by specialist operators. BTR are often well-managed and affordable rental options, often provided as apartments within a BTR complex with shared on-site amenities. While this is an emerging housing option in New Zealand, with new-build units, BTR are high quality homes, with secure tenure though sometimes at an upper quartile price.

e.g. New Ground Capital and Kiwi Property are development build-to-rent apartments in Auckland and around NZ.

Inclusionary Zoning

Inclusionary zoning is a land use planning intervention that either mandates or creates incentives so that a proportion of a residential development includes a number of social or affordable housing dwellings (or developers contribute to a fund for affordable housing, based on the number of units developed). The benefits of inclusionary zoning include supporting the development of affordable and social housing in good locations, and ensures presence of essential and key workers on lower incomes in places where property prices and rents might be otherwise prohibitive. Inclusionary zoning can be mandatory or voluntary/incentive based (e.g. offering bonus floor provisions, performance-based planning rules, fast track consenting pathway). Inclusionary zoning aims to provide for affordable housing, though it may not always require long-term retention of affordable units at re-sale.

| | |
|--|--|
| Inclusive Covenants | <p>Establish requirement for perpetual covenants in new housing developments (e.g. greenfield) or in particular areas of need, to earmark a percentage of dwellings for particular housing cohorts (e.g. over 55s, single-parent rental, key worker housing, other income-based cohort). Re-sale or renewal of a rental tenancy for any covenanted unit, can be required to meet the conditions of the inclusive covenant.</p> <p>Compared to inclusionary zoning, covenants are aimed to ensure a mix of residents in communities (not necessarily about affordability, but could be about income, age or tenure status). Homes are usually rented or sold at market rates. Council could buy and sell properties, and through the process apply covenants, to develop a more inclusive housing stock over time.</p> |
| Incremental development for Gentle Density (Missing Middle Housing) | <p>Incrementally increasing the number and variety of homes (i.e. adding gentle density) in low density single home neighbourhoods where land is underutilised. Unlocking small-scale infill development, such as granny flats or additions to enable larger families or multi-generational living, can help achieve 'gentle density' incrementally over time. Incremental development recognises that urban families already build and extend their own dwellings incrementally in response to their needs and the availability of resources. The current regulatory system imposes time and costs regulatory burdens that are out of proportion to the size of these projects, making it difficult for them to succeed or be realised.</p> <p>In 2024, the NZ Government sought public feedback on options to make it easier to build granny flats, without resource consent. They proposed a National Environmental Standard (NES) that requires that "minor residential units" (MRU) are permitted (ie, they don't need a resource consent), provided they comply with permitted standards.</p> <p>Gentle density focuses on slightly increasing the number and variety of homes in existing single detached-home neighbourhoods over time. Gentle density can include small scale subdivisions (e.g. adding a house on the back of a section), a granny flat / minor dwelling unit or can extend to the redevelopment of an existing site to include duplexes or infill row houses.</p> |
| Infrastructure Priorities Programme | <p>Councils can submit major infrastructure proposals to the Infrastructure Commission for review and inclusion in the National Infrastructure Plan. Investment in major public infrastructure upgrades (e.g. three waters) can support the feasibility of market-led development.</p> |
| Integrated Residential Development provision | <p>Planning rules that provide for integrated residential development on sites >2000sqm in existing low density residential areas. Complying developments must provide small scale on-site amenities that are shared by residents. This can support the establishment of communities like retirement villages, papakāinga or kāinga nohoanga, cohousing or student accommodation in areas that otherwise wouldn't provide for diverse housing.</p> <p>IRD can be an alternative to blanket or upzoning or precinct upzoning, especially in smaller urban areas, that still enables more intensive development within particular parameters.</p> |
| Integrated transport with housing | <p>Integrated transport network for the region supports future residential growth by unlocking additional opportunities. Shift towards prioritising people and opportunities to improve people's experience walking and cycling, and access to public transport in close proximity to home.</p> |
| K Kāinga Whenua Loans | <p>The Kāinga Whenua Loan is designed to support whānau Māori with their housing aspirations and remove some of the barriers to accessing finance. The Loans can be individual or collective.</p> <p>For regular home loans, banks take security over the house and the land. For a Kāinga Whenua Loan, Kāinga Ora take security over the house but not the land. This means in the unlikely event that there is a default on the Loan, the house could be removed but the land would still be protected.</p> |
| Kiwisaver First Home withdrawal | <p>Eligible members can withdraw their KiwiSaver savings (including tax credits). However at least \$1,000 must remain in their KiwiSaver account. They must intend to live in the property and it cannot be used to buy an investment property.</p> |

L

Land Amalgamation

Exploring opportunities for multiple landowners of contiguous lots to combine their properties and develop them together. This may allow for larger and more impactful projects, in strategic locations to achieve wider outcomes (e.g. Build to Rent, or key worker housing). It can also be used to achieve wider neighbourhood outcomes, such as mid-block pedestrian links or rear lanes which improve built form or accessibility of development delivered by the market.

Land Value Capture

Land value capture schemes secure and recover a portion of the benefits delivered by public investments, in order to offset the costs of the investment itself. Major infrastructure investment and upzoning of land can lead to an increase in land value. Similar to Australia's Permanent Rental Affordability Development Solution (PRADS), the value uplift can instead be used to fund the construction and delivery of affordable rental units within the development or an affordable housing fund.

Shift from 'user pays' to 'beneficiary pays'.

Locally owned infrastructure assets

Inspired by a Community Wealth Building approach, local owned assets, locally-held contracts for maintenance and operation, and using locally made parts and components where possible can increase community resilience and control over critical assets. This creates local jobs too.

Low impact subdivision guidance

Promote sustainable, low impact subdivision practices to reduce the impact of greenfield development on natural biodiversity, water systems and highly productive soils. Low impact development can also serve to restore and regenerate natural environments through clustered development, with a smaller footprint enabling the preservation of wetlands, natural watercourses and bush, for example.

Managed retreat

Long-term strategy to reduce or eliminate housing and urban development in areas subject to extreme natural hazards and climate change hazards. Requires evaluation of hazard prone areas, and categorisation of risk, vulnerability etc. This may include buy-out of at-risk properties by Crown or Council agencies to support homeowners to relocate. An example of this is the Westport masterplan, considering a 40yr relocation strategy for the town centre due to river flood and climate risks (and the cost of making existing township resilient or recovering from extreme events).

M

Market-led Proposals Framework

Implement a clear process for the market to engage with councils that encourages the type of development that council require (based on a deeper understanding of the need).

Minimum Apartment Standards

The NZ government announced in 2024 a policy to remove minimum floor area and balcony requirements on apartments. Many dimensions of a functional home (bedroom, bathroom etc) are set out in the Building Code, but in the planning system minimum apartment sizes have limited the development of affordable smaller units for single-person or couple households.

Minimum densities for greenfield and brownfield

Establish or revise minimum density provisions for greenfield development and brownfield development, to ensure the type and intensity of development is consistent with demand. For example, Hamilton city has a minimum density of 16d/ha for new development). Some Councils are challenged by underdevelopment of central sites (e.g Christchurch central area) where the market is still not incentivised to intensify development despite upzoning. Minimum densities, including specified typologies for particular areas can support better land utilisation for housing.

N

| | |
|--|---|
| Mixed-use Zoning or more enabling Residential provisions in centres | <p>Adopting enabling land-use zoning, that fosters mixed-use, intensive and dense typologies of residential is a critical local government initiative and creating functional urban neighbourhoods. The NZ government announced in 2024, policies to require councils to enable mixed-use zoning in cities. This would ensure the provision of small-scale local amenities in areas with higher density housing (e.g. shops) and increase the convenience and proximity of everyday amenities for residents, reducing car trips.</p> <p>For smaller urban areas, changes to commercial and city centre zoning to be more permissive of residential activities (i.e. non-notified, or broader permitted activity controls for residential)</p> |
| Multigenerational homes pilot projects | Develop (and adequately fund) larger multigenerational homes with Community Housing Providers in communities with appropriate demographics and demonstrated need, utilising CHPs on the ground knowledge to identify larger families with many children who may otherwise be deterred from applying. |
| Multigenerational housing | Make changes to policy to support mixed income multigenerational households into housing across multiple adjacent units. |
| National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land (or amendments) | <p>The NPS-HPL is a national policy statement under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). It sets an objective to protect highly productive land (HPL) for use in land-based primary production, along with a range of policies and implementation clauses. Land-based primary production means production that is reliant on the land's soil resource and includes production from forestry, agricultural, pastoral or horticultural activities.</p> <p>NPS-HPL directs regional and district councils to map highly productive land and put in place controls on its use, subdivision and rezoning within their plans. It also requires that local authorities consider the NPS-HPL when implementing policy more generally, as well as its interactions with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and the National Policy Statement for Urban development (NPS-UD).</p> |
| National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity | Advocating to government for changes to the NPS, which identifies criteria for identifying Significant Natural Areas, sets out a process for assessing and managing land subject to SNAs. |
| Network of Housing Excellence | Build a 'Network of Housing Excellence' with the development and construction sector as a way to share information/ resources/capabilities/ learning and act as an ongoing catalyst of housing innovation in the region. |
| NZ Local Government Funding Tools | <p>NZ Local Government Funding Agency: LGFA specialises in financing the New Zealand local government sector, the primary purpose being to provide more efficient financing costs and diversified financing sources for New Zealand local authorities and council-controlled organisations. LGFA was established to raise debt on behalf of local authorities on terms that are more favourable to them than if they raised the debt directly.</p> <p>Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act 2020: This Act is administered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and contains detailed provisions for the funding, financing, and administration of infrastructure projects in New Zealand. The Act authorises the imposition of a levy by a Special Purpose Vehicle to fund infrastructure projects. It details the process of proposing, assessing, and ordering levies, as well as the basis of liability for the levy. It defines "eligible infrastructure" as the infrastructure and related facilities specified in the levy proposal. The Act elucidates that eligible infrastructure can encompass a broad range of projects, which may include but are not limited to the following: water, wastewater, storm water, transport and associated infrastructure (including local roads, state highways, cycle ways and footpaths), public transport infrastructure including rail, busways, park and ride interchanges, stations and shelters, community amenities to the extent they form a part of a wider project, environmental resilience infrastructure, such as flood protection, pump stations and environmental restoration.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| O | Open Space Network | Continue to maintain and enhance the network of open and green spaces within the region. Plan and develop parks and open spaces along with housing development (coordinated via Spatial Planning), including shared paths and recreational routes through natural spaces. |
| P | Pattern Book for Housing | <p>Develop a pattern book of approved architectural designs for homes of a range of sizes and typologies for the local area. This will reduce the time burden of the consent process and reduce the cost of development through efficiencies of scale in the construction sector as they deliver a standardised suite of housing designs. External materials, finishes and fittings can be varied to ensure that pattern book homes are not identical, while retaining a replicable, quality suite of housing options. Pre-approved home designs are particularly effective for small-scale development.</p> <p>A Pattern Book could offer ~30 designs including single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes and multiplexes which meet certain building standards (e.g. Homestar 7, Lifemark)</p> |
| | Place Promotion | Promote towns and cities in Canterbury as an attractive place to live (or do development activity) through positive communications, marketing and branding. |
| | Precinct/Suburb Upzoning | Up-zoning enables a certain level of development as of right (without requiring resource consent), such as the recently repealed Medium Density Residential Standards, and incentivises developers to be active. It works by decreasing soft costs and land costs and mitigating zoning risks and uncertainty with discretionary consenting processes. An efficient and predictable consenting process reduces carrying costs, consulting fees, and other costs associated with approval processes when compared to a lengthy discretionary review process. |
| | Private Grant Funds and Bonds | <p>A Grant Fund (source of funds could be private, public or mix) could help facilitate the supply of housing by providing ring-fenced capital to support through funding certain development activities and types. Such a fund could be used to support affordable housing units through the reduction of development costs and consequently lower sale price/rents necessary for a viable project.</p> <p>Bonds are another tool that can help to finance infrastructure to support growth</p> |
| | Property Rates Incentives | Property rates incentives could reduce the rates burden on property owners in an area, that support the repopulation of a target area. The specific mechanisms vary but fall under three broad categories: rates abatements, rates rebates, or rates exemptions. Rates rebates improve the affordability of living, by offering a rebate to a cohort of households who cannot afford rates (e.g. asset rich, cash poor households). For example: Kansas Opportunity Zones are designated low-income census tracts where new investments may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. These zones were created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in economically distressed areas. Kansas has 74 designated Opportunity Zones, including 70 low-income communities and 4 non-low-income contiguous tracts |
| | Public Land Policy | A public land policy establishes criteria by which local governments select and sell (or lease) parcels of publicly controlled land at below-market prices (often free) to improve delivery of affordable or social housing. Effective policies draw from a broad portfolio of land parcels and work to maximize the value of that land – such as by allowing for dense and mixed income developments. The policy should employ a well-defined selection process, clear definition of social and affordable housing, and expedient regulatory approvals. Public Land Policies support economic development, providing critical worker housing and jobs, and have the potential to reduce the cost of providing public services. Leasehold public land policies can also enable Councils to develop a source of revenue whilst also securing the provision of affordable housing. |
| | Public realm upgrades | <p>To improve the day-to-day experience of living in and moving around the city and townships, street and public realm upgrades are essential in order to support a growing residential population. People will be encouraged to choose walking, cycling, or other non-motorised modes for transportation in a green and thriving neighbourhood. Well-designed spaces and supporting infrastructure and services will promote active transport. For example, the widening of footways, creation of segregated cycle lanes, and greening of streetscapes can be achieved by reclaiming street space from private vehicles. The street scene will also include bike parking, repair services, pedestrianised zones, and pedestrian/cyclist-friendly wayfinding.</p> <p>Source: C4o and Arup released their 'Green and Thriving Neighborhoods'</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| R | Publicly owned housing (not Kāinga Ora) | Engage with Crown ministries and agencies like Police, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Defence and others to understand if they own any underutilised houses for workers or other purposes in the Council area. Investigating the condition, use and future of these dwellings can identify housing options for local communities. |
| | Publicly Owned Land for Housing | Identify publicly-owned sites (Crown and Council) appropriate for affordable or mixed use housing development across all council districts; and determine what is required to acquire/consolidate these for development. Check for Right of First Refusal obligations too, and engage with relevant mana whenua entity. |
| | Reduced developer contributions/ financial contributions and Fees for specified developments | Waiving, reimbursing, or deferring a variety of fees typically incurred throughout a development project's lifespan. These fees include those associated with consents, planning, and development, such as resource consent or building consent application fees, development contributions and financial contributions. (e.g. Reduced DC/FCs could be offered to developments in the city centre or medium density zones providing new residential units). |
| | Regional Kāinga Nohoanga and papakāinga strategy | Developing a strategy to guide approaches to enable the design and delivery of kāinga nohoanga. |
| | Rental Housing Warrant of Fitness | The Rental Housing Warrant of Fitness (RWoF) is an evidence-based housing quality checklist. There are 29 criteria, covering aspects such as ventilation, heating, safety and hygiene. These are considered to be minimum requirements for the health and safety of occupants. Councils can offer a programme of assessment and accreditation for landlords and developers to work through for each home, to obtain a rental WOF for tenants. This could set a higher standard than the healthy homes standard, and create market signals to improve rental housing quality. |
| | Residential Aged Care | Advocate for and support the establishment of aged care facilities in neighbourhoods with ageing populations. |
| | Residential Development Underwrite | Council residential Underwrites. Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development invites applications from experienced developers who need an underwrite to maintain construction pipelines for residential developments. The underwrite must be low risk and cost to the Crown. |
| | Residential Tenancies Act Reform | Councils could advocate to the Minister for further improvements to the Act. Improvements to the Residential Tenancies Act to make it easier to be a landlord and easier to be a tenant. This could include making it easier for tenants to have pets as of right, make small modifications to a home (e.g. painting a wall, hanging pictures), raising the bar for Healthy Homes Standards |
| S | Retirement Villages Act changes | Councils could advocate to the Minister for further improvements to the Act. In 2024, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is undertaking a review of the Retirement Villages Act to increase protections for residents, use of plain language and overall strengthening transparency in the sector. |
| | Sell to Lease | "Sell to Lease" is a model commonly used by corporates and governments to optimize capital and mitigate property risks. While less common for private residences, it is generally offered overseas and structured in a variety of ways. A common method for this model is homeowners selling their property at a slight discount, receiving cash and a lifelong residential lease income, ending only at death or voluntary relocation. Rent typically increases with inflation. Positive aspects of this housing model are; ability to extract close to full value of equity; lack of exposure to interest rate and property price volatility, and avoidance of generally high reverse mortgage rates; security of tenure and rental inflation; professional property management tailored to the needs of an older cohort and associated benefits. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Short-term rental cap and spatial restrictions | Establish a policy capping short-term rental use for entire homes, as a percentage of the local housing market (to ensure adequate housing for local workers). Caps can be applied district wide, within a township or in specified local areas to avoid or reduce the dominance of short-term rentals in particular areas. Another approach is for Councils to place restrictions on the number of nights a property can be rented as a short-term rental, which can be administered through revised District Plan provisions and a requirement to gain resource consent. |
| Short-term Visitor Accommodation Levy or Licensing Fee | A levy and/or licensing fee for short-term rental accommodation providers, such as Airbnb (especially those renting a whole home). Reducing the number of homes available exclusively for short-term rentals can help to ease stretched housing markets. Taxing hosts at a rate commensurate with hotels and other visitor accommodation providers is equitable. Ensuring renters abide by existing noise, commercial and zoning regulations is sensible, too - which can be managed through resource consents. A levy and/or licensing fee aims to balance the social costs of transferring housing stock to visitor accommodation and can be used to collect revenue to pay for tourism development marketing, or alternative housing solutions such as affordable housing. |
| Social Housing Waitlist | Partner with social housing providers and other social service providers to understand housing needs and experiences of those on the waitlist. HUD housing waitlist data is imperfect, so augmenting these statistics with qualitative insights from those working on the ground is invaluable. |
| Spatial Plans and Neighbourhood Plans | Developing integrated plans for growth and development, across scales, so that infrastructure, amenities and housing provision can be aligned and informed by future demand. Spatial plans include Future Development Strategies (required under the NPS-UD) but can also be developed by local Councils to support integrated growth planning. Neighbourhood plans are non-statutory but can be worthwhile to support place-based coordination of housing policy levers and partnerships, targeted investment in local assets to meet local needs and build community participation & sense of ownership over the future plan for the area. It is anticipated that future resource management reform will include some form of statutory spatial planning. |
| Supported Living Scheme | Funding or coordination of in-home support services, to support ageing in place, especially in communities where residential aged care is not available. |
| Targeted Rate Scheme | An important funding tool set under a Long-term Plan/Annual Plan available to support targeted revenue gathering for investment in a chosen area. (e.g. a targeted rate could be applied to short-term rental units, and invested in a targeted response to provide local worker housing, or could be targeted in a particular neighbourhood to support investment in infrastructure upgrades required to support growth.) |
| Transitional/ Emergency Housing | Provision of short term accommodation to support those in insecure housing, homeless or who have nowhere else to go. Transitional housing provides temporary accommodation for individuals and whānau who don't have anywhere to live and urgently need a place to stay. It also offers tailored support to help these individuals and whānau into longer-term housing. |
| Upzoning directed by Spatial Plans (as per NPS-UD) | <p>Deliver broad-upzoning through District Plans (informed by Spatial Plans, and giving effect to the NPS-UD where required) to ensure that housing is enabled in the most accessible locations, within walkable catchments of town, local and metropolitan centres, and rapid transit stops. Upzoning will allow the property market to respond to underlying market dynamics and also catalyse certain sub-sectors. For example, by making it easier for the build-to-rent sector to provide high density accommodation in the city centre would boost city centre residential numbers.</p> <p>Council could seek permission from the minister to have the urban area up-classified as a Tier 2 or Tier 1 city, to make the policy implications of the NPS-UD more enabling in their area in response to critical housing needs.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Urban regeneration</p> <p>Identify underutilised areas, or neighbourhoods in strategic locations that can be the focus of targeted regeneration. Urban regeneration is the redevelopment of integrated infrastructure, housing and amenities to support new urban communities. Past light industrial areas are common focal points for urban regeneration in New Zealand, or existing neighbourhoods where coherent targeted redevelopment would have wider public benefit (e.g. Kāinga Ora Large-Scale Projects, Eke Panuku Place-based neighbourhood regeneration). Urban regeneration requires Councils (often through a special purpose CCOs) to make use of compulsory purchasing powers to acquire properties that can enable targeted urban renewal or regeneration, including housing, infrastructure and community amenities.</p> |
| <p>V</p> <p>Vacant Land Differential Rates</p> | <p>Identify and utilize vacant, abandoned or derelict properties for housing development, contributing to both community revitalisation and increased housing supply. A Council can apply differential rates to vacant properties to dis-incentivise land banking, especially in high-demand areas. Differential rates can be varied, depending on the area targeted for vacant sites.</p> <p>Christchurch City Council introduced from 1 July 2022 a new differential rating category for vacant land in the Central City – it is called the City Vacant Differential rate. The differential is set at a multiplier of 4.523 times the standard general rate. This differential is a fairer approach that recognises that vacant land in the Central City benefits significantly from the Council's general activities. It applies to vacant land in the Central City Business Zone and the Central City Mixed Use (South Frame) Zones.</p> |
| | <p>Visitor levies or Tourism impact levies</p> <p>Tourism levies received by central government (or additional local levies) are fairly distributed to regions facing the highest strain on housing and infrastructure due to visitors. Revenue from tourism impact levies can be applied to meet critical local needs (e.g. local worker housing, affordable housing, new infrastructure).</p> |
| <p>W</p> <p>Water supply, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure network</p> | <p>Leveraging existing infrastructure but consideration of three-waters infrastructure requirements to meet demand in key growth areas.</p> <p>Collaborative planning among stakeholders and utility providers is paramount for coordinated development and minimizing disruptions.</p> <p>Existing network capacities in some parts of the city are unlikely to be sufficient for this increased demand resulting in the need for upgrades and subsequent disruptions due to the dense urban environment. Balancing these demands without upgrades could be done utilising innovative demand management solutions, like water-efficient practices, reducing strain on existing networks but there is a practical and physical limitation to these types of solutions and network upgrades to both the local and bulk infrastructure is likely to be needed in the future.</p> <p>Green infrastructure solutions can effectively manage stormwater while enhancing urban aesthetics. Implementing additional green areas within developments as well as the greening of the public spaces will help improve the water quality and quantity as well as helping mitigate the impacts of Urban Heat islands effects and providing ecological outcomes.</p> |
| | <p>Work with major landowners and Crown agencies</p> <p>Developing working relationships, particularly with Kāinga Ora Homes & Communities, Ministries of Education and Housing & Urban Development, NZ Transport Agency will be a major strategic tool. Other Crown departments and agencies can provide critical infrastructure and services needed to grow and sustain a thriving population.</p> |

Endnotes

¹ Stats NZ, 2023 Census: Population.

² Stats NZ, 2023. <https://tools.summaries.stats.govt.nz/places/RC/canterbury-region>.

³ Christchurch City Council, 2025. Building Consent data (provided by staff).

⁴ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Stats NZ Census 2018). [Source](#)

⁵ Stats NZ, 2013 Census: Population.

⁶ Greater Christchurch Partnership, 2023. Greater Christchurch Housing Development Capacity Assessment.

⁷ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Stats NZ Census 2018). [Source](#)

⁸ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Stats NZ Census 2018). [Source](#)

⁹ Stats NZ, 2023. Totals by topic for dwellings, (RC, TALB, UR, SA3, SA2, Ward, Health), 2023 Census.

¹⁰ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Stats NZ Census 2018). [Source](#)

¹¹ Stats NZ, 2023. Place and ethnic group Summaries: Christchurch city. [Source](#)

¹² Stats NZ, 2024. Place and Ethnic group summaries, Ōamaru: Percentage of population that identify with each ethnic group (level 1), Oamaru and New Zealand, 2013–2023 Censuses. [Source](#)

¹³ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Stats NZ Census 2018). [Source](#)

¹⁴ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Core Logic). [Source](#)

¹⁵ Stats NZ, 2023. Place and ethnic group Summaries: Christchurch city. [Source](#)

¹⁶ Stats NZ, 2023. Totals by topic for dwellings, (RC, TALB, UR, SA3, SA2, Ward, Health), 2023 Census.

¹⁷ Stats NZ, 2023. Place and ethnic group summaries: Kaikōura District. [Source](#)

¹⁸ Stats NZ, 2023. Totals by topic for dwellings, (RC, TALB, UR, SA3, SA2, Ward, Health), 2023 Census.

¹⁹ Mackenzie District Council, 2021. Your Town, Your Future - The Mackenzie Spatial Plans. [Source](#)

²⁰ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Core Logic). [Source](#)

²¹ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Stats NZ Census 2018). [Source](#)

²² Mackenzie District Council staff member (personal communication, January 2025).

²³ Mackenzie District Council, 2021. Your Town, Your Future - The Mackenzie Spatial Plans. [Source](#)

²⁴ AirDNA, 2024. AirDNA data for Mackenzie District Canterbury. [Source](#)

²⁵ Stats NZ, 2024. Table 6: Components of population change, Subnational population estimates: At 30 June 2024 (2018-base). [Source](#)

²⁶ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Tenancy Services). [Source](#)

²⁷ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Stats NZ Census 2018). [Source](#)

²⁸ Data provided by Waimate District Council, via Infometrics (2024).

²⁹ HUD, 2024. Local housing statistics: key data (via Core Logic). [Source](#)

³⁰ HUD, 2025. The Government Housing Dashboard, Key Stats by TLA. [Source](#)





**Produced for the Canterbury
Mayoral Forum**

<http://canterburymayors.org.nz/>

Report number: R25/33 | © Environment Canterbury 2024

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 22 August 2025

Presented by: Chair Craig Pauling, Canterbury Regional Council

Canterbury Water Management Strategy – progress report

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Canterbury Mayoral Forum with the quarterly update on regional-wide progress towards implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS).

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. receives the update for April to June 2025 on the region-wide work underway to implement the Canterbury Water Management Strategy
2. supports the proposed approach for the Canterbury Regional Council to assess the future CWMS update reporting requirements, following the local government elections and establishment of local leadership groups.

Update on Canterbury Water Management Strategy

Future CWMS update reporting

2. The Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury), on behalf of the CWMS partners, has regularly provided a quarterly update on regional-wide CWMS progress to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF). Following completion of the zone committee review and the planned establishment of eight local leadership groups, it is timely to re-assess the format and content of the CWMS quarterly update report.
3. With the CMF approval, it is proposed that Environment Canterbury will provide a high-level overview paper on the CWMS programme to the first CMF meeting following the October 2025 local government elections.
4. Following this meeting and the establishment of local leadership groups, Environment Canterbury will work with CWMS partners and local leadership groups to consider the future CWMS update reporting requirements.

Zone committee review and local leadership groups update

5. At its 30 May 2025 meeting, the CMF endorsed the final recommendations of the CWMS Zone Committee Review Working Group. This marked the culmination of an 18-month review process, involving extensive engagement with Mayors, Rūnanga Chairs, zone committees and Environment Canterbury.
6. Since then, Environment Canterbury staff have initiated engagement on the structure and membership of the local leadership groups, and to progress decisions on the formal disestablishment of zone committees.
7. The new local leadership groups are expected to hold their first meetings in early 2026, following the local government elections. Environment Canterbury staff will support this transition by:
 - working with territorial authorities and Papatipu Rūnanga to confirm the structure and membership of each group
 - clarifying the formal discharge of the zone committees at the conclusion of the 2022-2025 triennial term
 - developing collaborative agreements
 - beginning preparatory work to support new groups to commence their programmes in early 2026.

CWMS zone committee update

8. CWMS zone committees have focused on the proposed transition outlined in the CMF review of zone committees. Consequently, in this quarter all committees ensured the CWMS Action Plan Budgets available in 2024/25 were fully allocated and reviewed their 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plans towards providing a useful 'handover' reference for the establishment of local leadership groups in 2025/26.
9. Committees also focused on holding a final gathering to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of the committees since their formation in 2010/11.
10. The allocation of the CWMS Action Plan Budget available in the Hurunui Waiau Uwha Water Zone was also completed in this quarter. Without a zone committee to receive the applications and confirm the allocation of the available budget for 2024/25, Environment Canterbury and Hurunui District Council prepared a set of recommendations for this allocation which was presented to the District Council (27 May), Kaikōura Rūnanga Executive (mid-June), and Environment Canterbury Council (25 June). The recommendations to fund six projects were endorsed by the Rūnanga Executive and councils.
11. Attachment 1 provides an update on key regional projects and campaigns, and Attachment 2 provides a final update on zone committee activities.

CWMS Targets Progress report 2025

12. At its 30 May meeting, the CMF endorsed the release of the 2025 CWMS Targets Progress Report. This online report was made publicly available on the [Environment Canterbury website](#) on 10 July.
13. The reporting highlighted that further effort will be needed if there is to be improved progress towards the 2030 goals and targets. This report links strongly to the CMF decision to establish local leadership groups in which a key driver will be to re-energise efforts among CWMS partners towards progressing CWMS goals and targets.
14. The 2021 CWMS Targets Progress report remains visible and can be accessed on the same website, along with the 2019 Progress report.
15. As Environment Canterbury and territorial authorities complete their respective Annual Reports for 2024/2025, these may provide additional information to assess the progress of some 2025 goals. Where significant change is assessed, this will be reported to the Chief Executive and Mayoral Forums.

Update on central government action that may impact freshwater outcomes

16. Attachment 3 provides a detailed overview of resource management reform and other policy changes related to freshwater management.

Resource Management Act national direction

17. While the government intends to replace the RMA next year, it has consulted on the following proposals to update national direction for:
 - infrastructure and development to make it easier for councils to plan and deliver infrastructure
 - primary sector to enable growth
 - freshwater to better reflect the interests of all water users.
18. Consultation on these proposals closed 27 July 2025.
19. The above proposals are focused on changes that can make an immediate difference to achieving the government's goals in relation to easing regulatory burden, improving clarity and enabling more flexibility in land and water use – particularly in the areas of infrastructure, housing, agriculture and freshwater. They are targeted at consenting decisions, rather than requiring councils to make changes to their planning documents, given the upcoming legislative reform.

Local Water Done Well

20. In June, Taumata Arowai published its fourth national Drinking Water Regulation Report 2024 which provides an overview of the country's drinking water supplier performance. It also published its second Network Environmental Performance Report 2023/24 which

covers performance of public drinking water, wastewater and stormwater networks, and their environmental impact. Key points included:

- almost 4 million out of the 4.4 million people served by registered drinking water supplies now have access to drinking water with critical safety barriers
- however, persistent issues remain unresolved, e.g. the number of *E.coli* exceedances remain high, particularly in rural areas and for schools that supply their own drinking water
- there continues to be a very high number of consumer advisories, such as boil water notices, in place for long periods
- network operators need to reduce water loss, increase network knowledge and the quality of information submitted, and monitor increasing pressures on water sources
- only 76% of network operators provided reliable data on the amount of water they supply and less than 60% reported on their residential water use, water pressure and water loss.

Update on Environment Canterbury's planning work programme

21. Environment Canterbury received informal guidance from the Ministry for the Environment on the likelihood of an application for Ministerial exemption for progressing Plan Change 8 to be approved (Plan Change 8 aims to create a pathway for key infrastructure works that intercept groundwater to be able to apply for consent, even in fully allocated zones, enable wetland construction, and manage dairy intensification). Clause 4A engagement with iwi authorities has been completed and staff are working with Rūnanga to finalise this step. The next step is to request Council approval to seek a Ministerial exemption and proceed to notification.
22. Since then, the Government has halted all further changes to District and Regional plans until the replacement to the Resource Management Act takes effect. This is expected in 2027.
23. Environment Canterbury will continue to undertake foundational work, including efficiency and effectiveness reporting, science and economic work and identifying options (including non-regulatory) for removing complexity, so that it is in the best position when the replacement legislation does land.
24. Environment Canterbury planning staff are also keen to work with District and City Council planning staff to identify an approach for development of a region wide spatial plan, including identifying foundational work needed.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Key regional projects/campaigns April to June 2025
- Attachment 2: Zone Committee Action Plan overview April to June 2025
- Attachment 3: Policy changed related to Freshwater Management

Attachment 1: Key regional projects/campaigns April to June 2025

1. The CWMS is implemented in the Canterbury region by the CWMS partners through a range of statutory and non-statutory obligations and by working with agencies and community groups.
2. This section of the update provides information on the delivery of actions by CWMS partners to meet the 2025 goals under the ten CWMS Targets areas¹, although not all ten Target areas are intended to be covered each quarter. Progress against the CWMS Targets is reported on Environment Canterbury's [website](#).²

Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes

3. Restoring the mana and mauri of the Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes continues to be a high priority for Environment Canterbury, mana whenua, key agencies, environmental organisations and landowners. This work supports progress towards the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Targets.
4. The Ōtūwharekai Working Group including farmers, mana whenua and agencies completed work on the Draft Integrated Catchment Plan (ICMP) in April. Final input from Ngāi Tahu and Rūnanga on cultural targets has been gathered and has been incorporated. The final draft was discussed with the remaining key stakeholders such as Forest and Bird, the Lake Clearwater Hut Holders Association and 4WD representatives in June/July. Following stakeholder feedback, the draft ICMP may be further amended by the Working Group before being finalised in September.
5. The most recent water quality monitoring results, as well as progress updates on other relevant actions, are available at www.ecan.govt.nz/otuwharekai.
6. Farming land use consent processing for farming activities is currently a key focus. Environment Canterbury's technical experts and consultants are working closely with applicants to ensure robust, outcomes-focused consent conditions. Resource consent hearings are scheduled for August and September.

Whakaora Te Waihora Programme

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

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/>

8. Currently the largest project in the programme is the Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project (see below).
9. The Weed Strikeforce is controlling willows and woody weeds around the lakeshore of Te Waihora, which results in landscape level change with the natural regeneration of lakeshore wetlands ([Rejuvenating the mauri and ecosystem health of Te Waihora](#)). It is delivered by the Department of Conservation (DOC), and co-funded by Regional Biodiversity, Whakaora Te Waihora, and DOC. Between April to June the team continued their work and are on target to complete all initial control around the shore of Te Waihora by June 2027.
10. The Whakaora Te Ahuriri project is restoring wetland habitat in Ahuriri Lagoon. Between April to June, annual mātauranga Māori monitoring was conducted, existing plants were maintained, and preparation is underway for the restoration of adjacent habitats through weed control and planting.
11. The Whakaora Te Huritini project is restoring riparian habitat along the Huritini/Halswell River (upstream and downstream from Ahuriri Lagoon). Between April to June willow control was delivered in specific wetland areas between Ahuriri Lagoon and Te Waihora.
12. The Te Waihora, Matuku-hūrepo project is delivering predator control for, and monitoring of, the Nationally Critical kautuku/Australasian bittern. It is delivered by the Department of Conservation and funded by Whakaora Te Waihora. Between April to June the team completed the predator control for the 2024/2025 year.
13. The Coes Ford project was supported with funding to prepare the consents for the future development of a constructed wetland.
14. The Whakakōhanga Kōrero is an inter-organisational forum (of mana whenua, councils, farmer-led catchment groups, community organisations, NGOs etc) who are delivering environmental management actions around Te Waihora. Between April to June the forum was supported through convening a quarterly hui, and completing the development of the [Te Waihora GIS Platform](#). This Platform is a publicly visible, central space where different organisations can share and display the locations of their projects. The Platform will aid: (1) operational decisions (project development etc.), (2) strategic decisions (where to focus resources etc.), and (3) communicating with the public (on what is being done).

Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai Project

15. The Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project is restoring the mid to lower reaches of Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream. It continues to be a model for 'Treaty Partnership' and delivery, as it is led by Te Taumutu Rūnanga, and co-managed between Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Environment Canterbury. Between April to June:
 - the construction phase of the [Te Repo o Papatahora wetland](#), adjacent to Ngāti Moki Marae, was completed

- for on-farm actions, re-battering and instream works were completed, and 976m of fencing was installed along Papatahora Stream with a minimum 6m setback from the waterway
- maintenance continued on almost 40,000 riparian plants installed by the project. The installed plants connect with existing habitat to create 1.4 kilometres of continuous riparian habitat.
- the delivery of the project's mātauranga Māori and water quality monitoring programme was maintained
- the project continued predator control for the Nationally Critical kaitiaki/ Australasian bittern.

Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme

16. The Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Programme is designed to improve the environmental and cultural values of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour. It is a partnership between Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council, and Lyttelton Port Company to action the Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour Catchment Management Plan.
17. In order to inform future funding decisions, and ensure they are targeted on priorities that will result in the greatest outcomes, the programme is auditing all previous works, spend and effort, delivered in the landscape by partner organisations, and summarising the efforts of 10 key agencies, groups or trusts in the landscape. This is being digitised into a GIS layer, which will then be used to inform future spending and annual planning /funding decisions.
18. The programme continues to connect with agencies and community groups, to explore and form collaborations for delivery in erosion reduction, pollution removal/exclusion, pest plant and animal control, and biodiversity enhancement both on the land and in marine habitats.
19. The five programme partners co-facilitated an interagency workshop to share information about current estuary sediment mapping tools. Representatives of rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, as well as consultants, and representatives from Canterbury University and the University of Otago shared research expertise, projects, intricate generational knowledge and ideas, with a focus on sedimentation, and options around mapping work. The programme partners asked them for proposals to deliver a specific Whakaraupō mapping tool that would complement and enhance the tools and data gathering that their respective organisations already have in place.
20. The resulting tools are envisaged to help the programme identify Whakaraupō sites where sediment mitigation should be prioritised due to significant impact on the survival of indigenous biodiversity on land and in marine environments. It will also provide information about where sediment is understood to be entering the streams and bays. This information can be a motivation for landowners to make changes to their land use practices, with appropriate support.

21. A high rainfall event between 30 April to 3 May caused slips around Banks Peninsula. Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour programme staff checked what support was needed for the key environmental restoration organisations in the harbour, and the programme was able to deliver quick turnaround funding to Living Springs Trust for slip remediation work. Living Springs has an eco-sanctuary vision for their land, which includes improving water quality in their stream, one of the five permanently flowing streams in Whakaraupō. Stabilising the slip areas will help to reduce high runoff from muddy areas, create more suitable levels for replanting, and reduce the likelihood of further slippage.

Te Mōkihi Programme

22. The Te Mōkihi Programme focuses on improving environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes in Te Manahuna/Mackenzie Basin. It is a partnership between Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Te Rūnanga o Waihao, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, Land Information NZ, Mackenzie District Council and Waitaki District Council.
23. Until the vacancies for the programme management positions are resolved, the work of the programme has been focussed on the manawhenua-led work.

Attachment 2: Zone Committee Action Plan overview April to June 2025

| Kaikōura Zone Committee | | |
|---|---|---|
| Target Area | Focus of the Action Plan | Highlights of practical work underway |
| Natural Character of Braided Rivers Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga wahi taonga & biodiversity | Enhance biodiversity, and improve amenity and recreation values Support our community to respond to changing requirements, and share resources for good management practice Facilitate understanding of catchment systems within the zone, build community knowledge and connection to these systems and increase public participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 29 April the Committee attended a field trip to Lake Rotorua. They were joined by two ECan surface water science team members who provided expertise and information around the health of the lake. In May, the Committee held its final meeting which included a science/surface water update, approval of the Committee's local priorities (to pass to the local leadership group) and workshop session with Wai Connection who presented the Kowhai Focus Catchment Maps series. On 26 June the 'KWZC Celebration 2011 – 2025' was held celebrating the work of the Zone Committee and its past and present members. It was also attended by Kaikōura District Council Mayor, Craig Mackle, Kaikōura District Council Chief Executive, Will Doughty, and Mrs Bedford and her son Sam Bedford, the late Commissioner, David Bedford's, family. |

| Waimakariri Zone Committee | | |
|---|--|--|
| Target Area | Focus of the Action Plan | Highlights of practical work underway |
| Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity | Improve monitoring of water resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee held a workshop on 7 April which focused on the transition proposed, from zone committees to local leadership groups, in the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's review of Zone Committees. Consequently, the Committee had a handover session with representatives of the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, and the District Council, as the Trust will take over the coordination of the Waimakariri Environmental Awards for 2025. The Committee also completed a final review of its 2021-2024 Action Plan concluding it remained a sound reference for CWMS priorities in the Water Zone. The Committee held its final meeting on 5 May which focused on the formal handover of the oversight and coordination of the Waimakariri Environmental Awards for 2025 onwards to the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust. The meeting concluded with Chair Carolyne Latham leading a final session to reflect on the committee's achievements and contributions since its formation in 2010. Several past committee members were also in attendance and were able to contribute to this session before Mayor Dan Gordon concluded the meeting with a final acknowledgement and thank you to the Committee members, past and present, for their contributions to the Waimakariri community and environment. |
| Drinking Water | Biodiversity improvements | |
| Natural Character of Braided Rivers | Braided Rivers | |
| Recreation and Amenity Opportunities | Recreation resources | |
| Kaitiakitanga | Mahinga kai improvements | |

| 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"> The Committee held a workshop on 22 May which addressed the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> received the project completion report for the 'Te Tuna Tāone / Urban Eel - action learning programme' supported through the CWMS 2023/24 Action Plan Budget received an update and confirmed its support for a project variation to the 'Erosion and Sediment Control and Soil Conservation on the Port Hills' project jointly supported by the committee and the Banks Peninsula Zone Committee in 2023/24 through the CWMS Action Plan Budget confirmed it was satisfied the current updated version of its 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan was a sound reference to support the development of a 2026-2028 CWMS Action Plan for the Water Zone and the proposed local leadership group to be established in 2026, as proposed in the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's review of Zone Committees in concluding this workshop, the committee agreed its preferred approach for a final gathering and celebration of the Committee's contributions since formation, which will be held on 31 July. |
| Banks Peninsula Zone Committee | | |
| Target Area | Focus of the Action Plan | Highlights of practical work underway |
| Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga | Engage with community Supporting new and existing catchment groups Advocate for and be engaged in improved erosion and sediment control. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April, the Committee developed the <i>Banks Peninsula Zone Committee – Priorities for the Future</i> document to inform and support the incoming local leadership group(s). The document outlines key freshwater priorities for the zone and suggests potential actions to help progress or deliver on those priorities. Both the May meeting and the June event were subsequently cancelled. |

| Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee | | |
|--|---|--|
| Target Area | Focus of the Action Plan | Highlights of practical work underway |
| Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Natural Character of Braided Rivers Kaitiakitanga | Raising awareness about the risks to private drinking water Catchment nutrient targets and water quality outcomes Enhance mahinga kai, recreation and amenity values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April, a Selwyn Waihora projects workshop was held to celebrate and showcase the achievements of groups that received Zone Committee Action Plan Budget funding over the past four years. The session provided an opportunity for funding recipients to share outcomes, highlight progress toward Canterbury Water Management Strategy goals, and reflect on the collective impact of 22 community-led, rūnanga-supported, and committee-endorsed initiatives delivered across the zone. In June, the Committee developed the <i>Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – Priorities for the Future</i> document to inform and support the incoming local leadership group(s). The document outlines key freshwater priorities for the zone and suggests potential actions to help progress or deliver on those priorities. |
| Ashburton Zone Committee | | |
| Target Area | Focus of the Action Plan | Highlights of practical work underway |
| Environmental Limits Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity | Improving ecosystem health and meeting biodiversity targets Supporting Hakatere / Ashburton River and its tributaries (including Carters Creek) and Hekeao Hinds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the April workshop, the Committee developed the <i>Ashburton Water Zone Committee's Priorities for the Future</i> document to inform and support the incoming local leadership group(s). The document identifies tasks and focus areas any new group should take up to enable freshwater outcomes. In May, the Committee held its final meeting comprising of several updates from catchment groups and the Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust. The Committee also confirmed the <i>Ashburton Water Zone Committee's Priorities for the Future</i>. Following the May meeting, the Committee hosted a farewell afternoon tea to reflect on its journey, connect, and celebrate the collective efforts made to advance freshwater outcomes in the zone. |

| Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee | | |
|---|--|---|
| Target Area | Focus of the Action Plan | Highlights of practical work underway |
| Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Kaitiakitanga | Protection, enhancement and restoration of mahinga kai sites Focus on tuhituhi o neherā sites and mahinga kai and how best to manage these Host a field trip to Taniwha Gully | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April, Environment Canterbury presented a summary of the Canterbury Region Water Abstraction Report and a summary of actual water abstraction from the Opihi catchment with data from 2014–2024. At the Committee's final meeting on 9 June, they received project completion reports for Action Plan grants awarded to Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa Arowhenua Nursery, Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi - Burks Pass Heritage Trust and Kathryn Fortescue - Te Ana a Wai River Planting. After the meeting, former Zone Committee members and dignitaries joined the committee for afternoon tea to commemorate the mahi of the Committee over the years. |
| Upper Waitaki Zone Committee | | |
| Target Area | Focus of the Action Plan | Highlights of practical work underway |
| Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity opportunities Kaitiakitanga | Support catchment groups taking collective action to reduce losses of contaminants, prioritised where they are addressing identified at-risk areas Explore opportunities to partner with key community groups who are focused on waterways, such as the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having been unable to hold the 11 April meeting due to a lack of a quorum, the Committee conducted an online meeting on 2 May to address two priorities before the end of the financial year. The first was to review three projects which had been tabled with the Committee for support from the 2024/25 CWMS Action Plan Budget, with the Committee confirming it would put the remaining budget available towards completing the Wairepo Creek restoration project. The Committee also conducted a review of its 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan, with Chair Mat Bayliss providing the committee with a refined presentation of the priorities as a handover reference for the local leadership group to be established in 2025/2026, as proposed through the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's review of Zone Committees. With one addition, this handover Action Plan was finalised and endorsed by the Committee. On 9 May the Committee had a final celebration and gathering of current and former Committee members at its annual Hāngī, hosted at Omarama Station. Alongside local school children and several local catchment group members also attending, this Hāngī provided an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on its achievements, contributions and contributors since its formation in 2011. ECan Director, Tim Davie, was present to acknowledge and thank past and present members of the Committee for their contributions over the last 15 years. |

| Lower Waitaki Zone Committee | | |
|--|---|--|
| Target Area | Focus of the Action Plan | Highlights of practical work underway |
| Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity Recreation and Amenity opportunities Kaitiakitanga Drinking Water | <p>Increase engagement to support opportunities to improve water quality and quantity across the wider community, including with schools</p> <p>Educating, motivating and inspiring rural and urban communities, through the use of community events</p> <p>Engaging with communities to establish and support new and existing catchment and urban groups</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April the Committee held a workshop to agree and document their priority goals to pass on to the new local leadership group. These priorities were confirmed at the Committee's final meeting on 14 May. • After the May meeting, former Committee members and dignitaries joined the committee for afternoon tea to commemorate the mahi of the committee over the years. |

Attachment 3: Policy changed related to Freshwater Management

Resource management reform updates

In late March, the Government released several updates and materials relating to the next steps in its resource management reform programme.

Phase 3 – RMA replacement legislation

On 24 March, Minister Bishop announced that Cabinet agreed to the shape of replacement legislation for the Resource Management Act.

In 2024, the Government set ten principles for the new resource management system and tasked an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) to work at pace to test and refine these principles. The resulting EAG Blueprint was delivered at the end of 2024 and has now been published.

Cabinet agreed that the EAG Blueprint will deliver a basis for a new planning system and has made in-principle decisions on a range of key features for the system, including:

- Two Acts - a Planning Act focused on regulating the use, development and enjoyment of land, along with a Natural Environment Act focused on the use, protection and enhancement of the natural environment.
- A narrowed approach to effects management - the new system will be based on the economic concept of 'externalities'. Effects that are borne solely by the party undertaking the activity will not be controlled by the new system.
- Property rights - both Acts will include starting presumptions that a land use is enabled, unless there is a significant enough impact on either the ability of others to use their own land or on the natural environment. Compensation may happen for regulatory takings in some circumstances. There will be an expansion in the range of permitted activities.
- Simplified national direction - one set of national policy direction will be prepared under each Act.
 - Direction under the Natural Environment Act will cover freshwater, indigenous biodiversity and coastal policy
 - Direction under the new Planning Act will cover urban development, infrastructure (including renewable energy) and natural hazards.
- Environmental limits - a clearer legislative basis for setting environmental limits for the natural environment.
- Greater use of standardisation - the new legislation will provide for greater standardisation, including nationally set standards and standardised land use zones, while still maintaining local decision making over the things that matter.
- Spatial plans - each region will be required to have a spatial plan, focused on identifying sufficient future urban development areas, development areas that are being prioritised for public investment and existing and planned infrastructure corridors and strategic sites.
- Streamlining of council plans - a combined plan will include a spatial planning chapter, an environment chapter and planning chapters (one per territorial authority area).

- Strengthening environmental compliance monitoring and enforcement - the establishment of a national compliance regulator with a regional presence will be progressed in parallel to the two Acts but on a longer timeline.

The Government intends to introduce the two new Acts to the House before the end of 2025.

Phase 2 – National direction package

As part of the March announcements, the Government also confirmed that the package of proposed national direction changes being progressed under Phase 2 of the resource management reform programme has been rescoped.

The changes being progressed as part of Phase 2 have now been limited to those that will have immediate impact on the resource management system. Changes that are new, complex, or would require a council plan change to implement will now instead be incorporated into Phase 3.

The Cabinet paper states the package will include:

- A freshwater package (including the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater Management, National Environmental Standards (NES) for Freshwater, stock exclusion regulations, drinking water proposals, and enabling vegetable growing and water storage).
- Proposed new and changes to existing NES, as these have immediate effect on consenting. This includes a new NES on granny flats, which the Government has provided a separate update on.
- Progressing targeted changes to NPSs that can influence consenting processes immediately. This includes more enabling objectives/policies in the NPS Infrastructure, NPS-Renewable Electricity Generation, NPS-Electricity Transmission and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, quarrying and mining consistency changes across NPS-Freshwater Management, NPS-Indigenous Biodiversity and NPS-Highly Productive Land, removing Land Use Capability Class 3 from the definition of highly productive land and scaled back national direction on managing natural hazard risk.
- Changes to the National Policy Statement on Urban Development will no longer be progressed as part of Phase 2, however, a discussion document outlining proposals for urban development will be included in the Phase 2 consultation package, to be implemented as part of the new system.

Select Committee - Approach to Freshwater Farm Plans (FWFPs)

No new national direction has been issued for FWFPs as part of the current national direction package. Canterbury is continuing to operate under its own Farm Environment Plan system for now.

The Environment Select Committee has, however, recommended several changes to the Freshwater Farm Plan system under Resource Management Amendment Bill No. 2. including:

Governance and system oversight

- Responsibility for approving certifier and auditor organisations shifted from regional councils to the Minister for the Environment.

- Minister must consult regional councils before approving industry organisations.
- Approved industry assurance providers (IAPs) must provide information to councils for system monitoring.
- Audit information is no longer automatically provided to councils but may be requested (Environment Canterbury supported this amendment).

Plan certification requirements

- Certification of FWFPs will only be required if:
 - the farm is undertaking activities specified in regulations
 - the farm is using its FWFP to meet another regulatory requirement (e.g. resource consent)
 - the farm is located in a catchment where certified FWFPs are mandated by regulation.

Exemptions and threshold changes

- FWFPs not required for “low-risk” farms (to be defined in future regulations).
- Thresholds for when FWFPs are required have been increased:
 - **Arable and mixed-use farms:** 20 ha → 50 ha
 - **Viticulture and orchards:** 50 ha (new threshold introduced)
 - **Other horticulture:** remains at 5 ha
 - **Dairy farms:** all farms with a Dairy Supply Number must have a FWFP
- No new national direction has been issued for FWFPs as part of the current national direction package.
- Canterbury is continuing to operate under its own Farm Environment Plan system for now.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 22 July 2025

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chair Canterbury Chief Executives Forum

2025-2028 Triennium discussion

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the approval of the outgoing Mayoral Forum on three draft documents prepared to brief the incoming members following local body elections on 11 October 2025:
 - draft Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028
 - briefing to incoming Mayoral Forum members
 - record of Mayoral Forum achievements 2022-2025.
2. Also attached is the updated Waitaha Canterbury 2025: An Overview.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **approves the documents prepared to brief incoming members of the Mayoral Forum following local body elections on 11 October 2025**
 - 1.1. **draft Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028**
 - 1.2. **briefing to incoming Mayoral Forum members**
 - 1.3. **record of Mayoral Forum achievements**
2. **notes the updated Waitaha Canterbury 2025: An Overview**
3. **notes the first meeting of the incoming Mayoral Forum meeting will be held on Friday 28 November 2025.**

Background

3. Following local body elections in October, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) will be asked, at its first meeting in November 2025, to approve a Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement (the Agreement) and ask all member councils to ratify it by 1 March 2026.
4. This paper provides the draft agreement, which was updated following the meetings in May 2025 of the Chief Executive Forum (CEF) & CMF, and the August 2025 CEF

meeting. It also provides the draft briefing to incoming members and draft record of CMF achievements 2022-2025.

5. The paper includes the updated Waitaha Canterbury 2025: An Overview for noting.

Triennial Agreement

6. The CEF and CMF previously considered a draft agreement for 2025-2028 at their May and August 2025 meetings.
7. Following the CMF meeting, the secretariat drafted and circulated a paper to support individual council discussion on the draft agreement prior to finalisation of the document.
8. The draft agreement includes the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the CMF.
9. The current TOR are considered fit for purpose, with the exception of the section on engagement with Ngāi Tahu and ngā Papatipu Rūnanga. It is recommended that this section be updated to take into consideration that Forum members are seeking opportunities for greater engagement with ngā Waitaha Papatipu Rūnanga.
10. The draft ToR notes that an annual meeting with all 10 Waitaha Papatipu Rūnanga representatives would be welcome as a starting point. The engagement section of the ToR has been updated to reflect this approach, noting that moving through to some form of formal agreement may be possible in the future.
11. The current draft agreement is attached (Attachment 1). Pending further feedback from the CMF, the final draft will be presented to the incoming Mayoral Forum at its November 2025 meeting.

Briefing to incoming members of the Mayoral Forum

12. A draft briefing pack for incoming members has been prepared, comprising a letter from myself as Chair of the CEF, the briefing to incoming members (BIM), (attachments 2a and 2b), a record of Mayoral Forum achievements (attachment 3), and the Waitaha Canterbury 2025: An Overview (attachment 4).
13. At the May 2025 CMF, it was suggested to note in the briefing documentation that the work being undertaken as preparation for a potential future Canterbury Regional Deal, and the associated workstreams, could be a key focus of the next triennium, and could effectively set out the strategic focus for the CMF.
14. However, the CEF recommend that the CMF should consider updating the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury as the overarching strategy for the CMF. There are broader elements that are covered in the Plan for Canterbury that may not otherwise be captured if the Regional Deal preparation was the primary focus.
15. Please note:

- meeting dates for 2026 will be finalised before the November 2025 Mayoral Forum meeting
- selection of Forum chairs for 2026 (Chief Executives, Policy, Corporate, Operations, Communications and Engagement and Economic Development Forums) is scheduled for the Chief Executives Forum meeting in November 2025
- An updated directory of CMF and CEF members will be completed, and circulated following local body elections.

16. Question for Mayoral Forum - *Does the draft briefing cover off the information that it is important for new members of the Mayoral Forum to know at the outset?*

Record of Canterbury Mayoral Forum achievements

17. As undertaken previously, we have documented the achievements of the outgoing CMF (Attachment 3). The purpose of this is to reflect on what the CMG has achieved together during this term, and to indicate to incoming members of the CMF some of what can be achieved by 'standing together for Canterbury'.
18. The record of CMF achievements for 2022-2025 will be published on the CMF website following approval at the CMF's August 2025 meeting.
19. Question for Mayoral Forum - *Have we missed anything that you would expect to see in this record of achievement?*

Waitaha Canterbury 2025: An Overview

20. The secretariat has updated *Waitaha Canterbury 2022: An Overview* to help inform prioritisation, engagement with central government and the development of an approach to a regional development strategy for the upcoming term.
21. Updating *Waitaha Canterbury 2025: An Overview* (the Overview) included reviewing and updating the data in the original document and adding additional information where appropriate. Due to changes in data collection across a number of agencies some data remains the same as that provided in 2022.
22. The Overview is provided as a link at Attachment 4¹.
23. The Chief Executives Forum has suggested that the Overview be updated to include data related to recreational facilities. The secretariat is currently investigating options for sourcing/incorporating this data and will update the Overview accordingly.
24. Following the August 2025 CMF meeting this document will be published on the CMF website.

¹ <https://canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Waitaha-Canterbury-2025-An-Overview-FINAL.pdf>

25. Questions for Mayoral Forum – 1. *Are there any surprises for you in the data and information presented in the regional overview?* 2. *Are there any statistics or data missing from the overview?*

Cost, compliance and communication

Risk assessment and legal compliance

26. By presenting a draft triennial agreement to the first CMF meeting post-election (28 November 2025) we are on track to meet the legislative requirement that councils within a region ratify a local authorities' triennial agreement by 1 March following local body elections.

Communication

27. The briefing to the incoming members of the CMF will be published on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website following the November 2025 Mayoral Forum meeting.
28. The Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement will be published after it has been approved by the new CMF and ratified by all member councils.

Next steps

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 11 October | Local body elections |
| 20 October | Online CE Forum meeting – finalise briefing to incoming members |
| 25 October | CMF briefing to incoming members is finalised and circulated with the record of outgoing Mayoral Forum achievements, and a covering letter from the Chair of the Chief Executives Forum to incoming members of the CMF |
| 10 November | Chief Executives Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appoints forum chairs for 2025-2028 triennium • considers draft process to develop a regional development strategy or refresh of Plan for Canterbury |
| 27-28 November | Incoming CMF meets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working dinner on 27 November • first formal meeting on 28 November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ approve the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement (the agreement) and ask all member councils to ratify it by 1 March 2026 |

Attachments

- Attachment 1: draft Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement
- Attachment 2a: draft cover letter Chair CE Forum to incoming members of Mayoral Forum

- Attachment 2b: draft CMF briefing to incoming members of the Mayoral Forum
- Attachment 3: draft record of Mayoral Forum achievements 2022-2025
- Attachment 4: [Waitaha Canterbury 2025: An Overview](#)

Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028

Background

1. Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires local authorities within a regional council area to enter into a Triennial Agreement (the Agreement) by 1 March following triennial local body elections.
2. The purpose of the Agreement is to ensure appropriate levels of communication, co-ordination and collaboration between local authorities within the region. The agreement must include:
 - protocols for communication and co-ordination between the councils
 - the process by which councils will comply with section 16 of the Act, which applies to significant new activities proposed by regional councils
 - processes and protocols through which all councils can participate in identifying, delivering and funding facilities and services of significance to more than one district.
3. Agreements may also include commitments to establish joint governance arrangements to give better effect to the matters set out in paragraph 2 above.

Parties to the Agreement

4. The Parties to the Agreement are the Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council, and the Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury).

Standing together for Canterbury

5. The Parties agree to work collaboratively and in good faith for the good governance and sustainable development of their districts, cities and region.

Communication

6. The Parties value and will maintain open communication, collaboration and trust. In the interest of “no surprises”, the Parties will give early notice of potential disagreements between, or actions likely to impact significantly on, other Parties.

Significant new activities

7. When a Party is considering a major policy initiative or proposal that may have implications for other Parties, they will give early notification to the affected Parties and share the information with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum.
8. The Canterbury Regional Council will provide early advice to the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum and the Canterbury Mayoral Forum of any significant new activity, in addition to other requirements specified in s.16 of the Act.

Local government structure in Canterbury

9. Notwithstanding the spirit of co-operation and collaboration embodied in the Agreement, the Parties, individually or collectively, reserve the right to promote, consult and/or research change to the structure of local government within the Canterbury region.
10. This right is consistent with the intent to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local government (Local Government Act 2002 s.24AA), having regard to communities of interest and community representation.

Regional Policy Statement review

11. The Agreement applies to any change, variation or review of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement.

Collaboration

12. The Parties commit to working collaboratively to:
 - enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities
 - [promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future (Local Government Act 2002, s.10)].
 - [or]**
 - *[to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses; and to support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out above (Local Government (Systems Improvement) Amendment Bill (clause 6))]*
13. Collaboration may be undertaken on a whole-of-region, or sub-regional, basis.
14. The primary mechanism to implement this Agreement is the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. The Forum will meet quarterly and operate in accordance with its agreed terms of reference, which are attached as **Appendix 1**.
15. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum will:
 - continue to provide governance of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy
 - develop and lead implementation of a sustainable development strategy for Canterbury region for the local government triennium 2026-2028
 - advocate for the interests of the region, its councils and communities.
16. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum will be supported by the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum and other regional forums and working groups as agreed from time to time.
17. The Chief Executives Forum will:
 - report quarterly to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on delivery of its work programme to implement and manage collaborative projects and agreed actions of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
 - identify and escalate to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic issues and opportunities for collaboration from the Policy, Corporate and Operational Forums and other regional and sub-regional working groups.
18. As requested by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Environment Canterbury will host a permanent regional forums secretariat and resource this from the regional general rate.

Other agreements

19. This Agreement does not prevent the Parties from entering into other agreements among themselves or outside the Canterbury region. Any other such agreement should not, however, be contrary to the purpose and spirit of this Agreement.

Agreement to review

20. A triennial agreement may be varied by agreement between all the local authorities within the region and remains in force until local authorities ratify a new agreement.
21. Any one or more of the Parties can request an amendment to this Agreement by writing to the Chair of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum at least two weeks before a regular quarterly meeting of the Forum.
22. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum will review the Agreement no later than the final meeting before triennial local body elections and recommend any changes to the incoming councils.

Authority

23. This Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2026-2028 is signed by the following on behalf of their respective authorities:

| COUNCIL | SIGNATURE | DATE |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Ashburton District Council Mayor | | |
| Canterbury Regional Council Chair | | |
| Christchurch City Council Mayor | | |
| Hurunui District Council Mayor | | |
| Kaikōura District Council Mayor | | |

| |
|---|
| Mackenzie District Council Mayor |
| Selwyn District Council Mayor |
| Timaru District Council Mayor |
| Waimakariri District Council Mayor |
| Waimate District Council Mayor |
| Waitaki District Council Mayor |

Appendix 1: Canterbury Mayoral Forum terms of reference

1. Name

The name of the group shall be the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

2. Objectives

- (a) To provide a forum to enable Canterbury councils to work more collaboratively with each other and with central government and other key sector leaders in Canterbury to identify opportunities and solve problems together.
- (b) To identify and prioritise issues of mutual concern and foster co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration to address these issues (including where appropriate joint work plans).
- (c) To formulate policies and strategies on matters where all member councils may act collaboratively in determining plans for the co-ordination of regional growth.
- (d) To ensure increased effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury communities.
- (e) To act as an advocate to central government or their agencies or other bodies on issues of concern to members.
- (f) To develop and implement programmes, which are responsive to the needs and expectations of the community.

3. Principles

In pursuit of these objectives the Canterbury Mayoral Forum will observe the following principles.

- (a) Establish and maintain close liaison with other local government networks to ensure as far as possible the pursuit of common objectives and the minimisation of duplication.
- (b) Establish and maintain close liaison with Ministers of the Crown and local Members of Parliament.
- (c) Establish and maintain close liaison with a wide number of diverse stakeholders and key sector organisations within the region.
- (d) Exercise its functions with due regard to the tangata whenua and cultural diversity of the Canterbury community.
- (e) Keep the local community informed about its activities by proactively releasing information about key projects in a timely manner, as agreed by the member councils.
- (f) Encourage member councils to promote and apply cross-boundary structures and systems.
- (g) Establish a provision for reporting back to its respective Councils.

4. Powers

- (a) The Canterbury Mayoral Forum shall have the power to:
 - (i) levy for any or all of its objects in such amount or amounts as may be mutually determined and acceptable to individual local authorities
 - (ii) determine and make payments from its funds for any or all of the purposes of its objects
 - (iii) receive any grant or subsidy and apply monies for the purposes of such grant or subsidy
 - (iv) fund appropriate aspects of the Forum's activities regionally.
- (b) The Canterbury Mayoral Forum does not have the power to legally bind any council to any act or decision unless that act or decision has been agreed to by decision of that council.

5. Membership

- (a) Membership of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum shall be open to the following councils:
 - Ashburton District Council
 - Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury)
 - Christchurch City Council
 - Hurunui District Council
 - Kaikōura District Council
 - Mackenzie District Council
 - Selwyn District Council
 - Timaru District Council
 - Waimakariri District Council
 - Waimate District Council
 - Waitaki District Council
- (b) Each member council shall be represented by its Mayor (or Chair in the case of Canterbury Regional Council) and supported by its Chief Executive. On occasions where the Mayor or Chair cannot attend, a council may be represented by its Deputy Mayor or Deputy Chair.
- (c) The Canterbury Mayoral Forum shall have the power to invite people to attend and participate in its meetings on a permanent and/or issues basis.
- (d) The Canterbury Mayoral Forum shall extend an invitation to the Chairs of the ten Waitaha Papatipu Rūnanga to meet at least annually with the Forum

6. Chairperson

- (a) The Canterbury Mayoral Forum shall select a Chair at the first meeting immediately following the Triennial Elections. This appointment may be reviewed after a period of 18 months.
- (b) The Chair selected will preside at all meetings of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.
- (c) The Canterbury Mayoral Forum shall select a Deputy Chair at the first meeting immediately following the Triennial Elections.
- (d) The Canterbury Mayoral Forum may appoint spokespersons from its membership for

issues being considered, in which case each member council agrees to refer all requests for information and documents to the duly appointed spokespersons.

7. Meetings

- (a) Meetings will be held as required with an annual schedule, covering a calendar year, to be determined by the members. Meetings will be held quarterly at venues to be determined.
- (b) Special meetings may be called at the request of four members.
- (c) The secretariat will prepare an agenda for Mayoral Forum meetings in consultation with the Chair and the Chief Executives Forum.
- (d) Agendas for meetings will be issued, and minutes will be taken and circulated.
- (e) A summary of each meeting will be drafted and shared on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website for members to distribute within their councils as a high-level record of the meeting.
- (f) Approved minutes and approved final reports and papers will be made available via the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website as agreed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

8. Decision making

- (a) The practice of the Forum will be to determine issues before it by consensus.
- (b) If the consensus is to determine issues by voting, the determination shall be determined by a majority of votes of the authorities represented at the meeting through the Mayor or Chair or their nominated representative.

9. Secretariat

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum will appoint Environment Canterbury to carry out the secretariat function on such terms and conditions as it shall decide for the discharge of duties. This includes taking minutes, keeping any books and accounts and attending to any other business of the forum.

xx October 2025

To: Mayors of territorial authorities in Canterbury
CC: Chief Executives

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| [name] | Mayor, Kaikōura District Council |
| | Mayor, Hurunui District Council |
| | Mayor, Waimakariri District Council |
| | Mayor, Christchurch City Council |
| | Mayor, Selwyn District Council |
| | Mayor, Ashburton District Council |
| | Mayor, Timaru District Council |
| | Mayor, Mackenzie District Council |
| | Mayor, Waimate District Council |
| | Mayor, Waitaki District Council |

Kia ora koutou

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Congratulations on being elected mayor of your council. On behalf of the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum, a very warm welcome to new members of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) and welcome back to re-elected members. The Canterbury chief executives and the regional forums secretariat team look forward to working with you during the 2025–28 local government term.

The Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury) is also a member of the Mayoral Forum. The Council is likely to meet for the first time and elect its Chair on 29 October. I will communicate similarly with the Chair once elected.

Attached please find:

1. a briefing to incoming members of the Mayoral Forum
2. a record of the Mayoral Forum's achievements during the 2022-2025 term
3. a draft triennial agreement that will come to the first meeting on 28 November 2025 – the Forum will be invited to approve this, prior to member councils being asked to ratify it by 1 March 2023, as required by the Local Government Act 2002 (s.15).
4. *Canterbury 2025 An Overview* – which presents high-level information on current state and trends of wellbeing in Canterbury to inform the Mayoral Forum

If you are new to the Mayoral Forum, these documents will give you an idea of what the Forum does (and why and how it does it), and what we can achieve when we stand together for our region and its communities.

As you will be aware, the 2025-2028 triennium will very likely be a significant time in local government given the range of government reform programmes proposed to be implemented this term. The Chief Executives Forum wishes to highlight to you that the strategic approach for this term needs to be focused on ensuring local voice through these changes.

At the request of the outgoing Mayoral Forum, a short online meeting will be arranged shortly so new members can introduce themselves and meet other members ahead of the first Forum meeting of the term, which will be held on 27-28 November.

The secretariat will send calendar invites to these meetings and circulate contact lists for Mayoral Forum members, Chief Executives and Executive Assistants.

By Friday 17 November, the secretariat will circulate an agenda and papers for our first meetings:

- **Thursday 27 November, 6:30 pm–9:30 pm**
Working dinner, Commodore Airport Hotel, Burnside, Christchurch. This will be informal, and an opportunity for mayors, the Chair of the regional council and the region's chief executives to get to know one another. Members of the Forum make their own arrangements for overnight accommodation – a number choose to stay at the Commodore
- **Friday 28 November, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm**
Mayoral Forum meeting, Commodore Airport Hotel. As is the convention, I will chair the inaugural meeting until you have selected a Chair. Key decisions for the first meeting are outlined in the briefing to incoming members (page 5 17, paragraph 17). A group photo will also be taken at this meeting.

Regional Transport Committee

At the request of the outgoing Mayoral Forum, can you please give consideration to representing your council personally on the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee (RTC) when you are discussing portfolios and appointments to committees with your councillors. Because of the critical importance of transport to Canterbury and the South Island, the Mayoral Forum has previously suggested that wherever possible Mayors should represent their councils on the RTC.

In the meantime, you are most welcome to contact me or the secretariat (details below) with any questions.

Ngā mihi

Hamish Riach
Chair, Chief Executives Forum

Attachments

- Briefing to incoming members of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
- Record of Mayoral Forum achievements 2022-2025
- Draft Canterbury local authorities' triennial agreement 2026-2028
- *Canterbury 2025 An overview*

Hamish Riach
Chair Canterbury Chief Executives Forum
Hamish.Riach@adc.govt.nz
PH: 027 226 2275

Maree McNeilly
Secretariat
secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz
PH: 027 381 8924

Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

Briefing to Incoming Members

October 2025



Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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

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

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Welcome | 3 |
| Value of the Forum | 3 |
| Forum membership and meetings | 4 |
| Decisions for the first meeting | 5 |
| Working together for Canterbury | 6 |
| How we work together | 6 |
| Regional forums and how they work together | 6 |
| Secretariat arrangements and member communication | 6 |
| Resourcing and costs | 7 |
| Leading regional development | 7 |
| The Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025 | 7 |
| Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2025-2028 | 9 |
| Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan | 9 |
| Canterbury Energy Workstream | 9 |
| Canterbury Water Management Strategy | 9 |
| Waitaha Canterbury – World-stage ready | 10 |
| Canterbury 2025 – An Overview | 10 |
| Other regional and sub-regional committees | 11 |
| Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee | 11 |
| Regional Transport Committee | 11 |
| Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee | 11 |
| Regional Public Service – Canterbury/Chathams | 12 |
| Sub-regional groups | 13 |

Welcome

1. This briefing to incoming members of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum has been prepared by the Chief Executives Forum at the direction of the outgoing Mayoral Forum, with the assistance of the secretariat.
2. The briefing provides background information on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and highlights the decisions that the Forum will be asked to make at its first meeting on Friday 28 November 2025.

Value of the Forum

Our region

3. Canterbury is New Zealand's largest region by land area and number of councils. The Mayoral Forum enables leadership, communication, co-ordination and collaboration between the 11 councils, from Kaikōura in the north to Waitaki in the south. Our councils vary greatly in size; some are predominantly urban, others predominantly rural.
4. Through the Mayoral Forum, we stand together for Canterbury and support one another through good times and bad.

We are guided by legislation

5. The Local Government Act 2002 (s.15) requires all local authorities within a region to enter into a regional triennial agreement¹. The Mayoral Forum is the key mechanism to implement the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement and is mandated by paragraph 14 of the Agreement. This includes developing and leading implementation of a sustainable development strategy (see [Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025](#)), providing governance oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), and advocating for the interests of the region, its councils and communities.

The Forum's achievements

6. In recent years, the Mayoral Forum has achieved its greatest impact by exercising leadership, facilitation and advocacy for Canterbury, as demonstrated in the accompanying summary of Mayoral Forum achievements during the 2022–25 local government term [*add hyperlink*].

¹ A draft Triennial Agreement accompanies this briefing and will come to the first meeting of the Forum for consideration on 28 November 2025

Forum membership and meetings

Local authorities

7. The Mayoral Forum comprises the Mayors of the 10 territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of Canterbury Regional Council. Chief Executives attend Mayoral Forum meetings to support their Mayor/Chair and align the work programmes of the Chief Executives Forum and other regional forums² and working groups with Mayoral Forum priorities.
8. As the elected Mayors or Chair of the regional council, members of the Forum speak in their own right as leaders for Canterbury, rather than as representatives of their councils.
9. Meetings of the Mayoral Forum are not public meetings as defined by the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and decisions of the Mayoral Forum are not binding on member councils.

Papatipu Rūnanga

10. The Mayoral Forum continues to work towards ongoing and enduring engagement with Waitaha Canterbury's 10 Papatipu Rūnanga, and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, which will be continued through the next triennium.

The 10 Papatipu Rūnanga in Waitaha Canterbury are:



² Currently we have Corporate, Operations, Policy, Economic Development, and Communications and Engagement Forums, supported by a number of working groups.

Standing Invitations

11. The Forum may choose to extend standing invitations to guests to attend regular quarterly meetings of the Forum. The Forum currently has a standing invitation to the Chatham Island Mayor and Chief Executive to attend Mayoral Forum meetings.

Scheduled meetings

12. The Forum will have its first meeting for the 2025-2028 local government term on **27-28 November 2025**.
13. **In 2026, the Forum is scheduled to meet in February, May, August and November.** The calendar of meeting dates will be provided at the November 2025 meeting. The Mayoral Forum calendar is built around members' council meetings and the Local Government New Zealand calendar. Forum members have agreed that, where feasible, Canterbury councils should try to schedule their council meetings on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, to allow for regional meetings and events on Thursdays and Fridays.

Meeting venue

14. The Mayoral Forum currently meets at the Commodore Airport Hotel, Memorial Avenue near Christchurch Airport. It provides plenty of parking and reasonably priced accommodation if required. See further [Resourcing](#).
15. The Thursday evening before the quarterly Friday meetings, the Forum has a working dinner to workshop strategic issues and allow time for informal discussion and relationship building. The Thursday evening working dinner often includes a guest speaker(s).
16. While the Forum meets formally each quarter, much of its work is undertaken outside of these meetings, including meetings or visits with Ministers and a range of other stakeholders.

Decisions for the first meeting

17. At its first meeting on 28 November 2025, the Mayoral Forum will be invited to:
 - select a Chair and Deputy Chair
 - consider and approve the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement and Mayoral Forum terms of reference
 - arrange for the Triennial Agreement to be ratified by all member councils no later than 1 March 2026
 - consider and discuss a proposal to refresh/develop a Canterbury Mayoral Forum sustainable development strategy for 2025 – 2028 ([see section below](#))

- decide how to lead the Forum's work going forward. For example, whether to reinstate the Forum's 2022-2025 steering groups and decide on membership, or defer a decision until a refreshed/new strategy is complete
- note proposed meeting dates and arrangements for 2026.

Working together for Canterbury

How we work together

18. As in paragraph 6 of the draft Triennial Agreement, the Mayoral Forum sets a high value on open **communication, collaboration and trust**. Our work together is only as strong as the relationships we maintain between one another and our councils.

Regional forums and how they work together

19. The Mayoral Forum is supported by a Chief Executives Forum, which oversees other regional forums and working groups. The Chief Executives Forum is also mandated by the Triennial Agreement.
20. The Policy, Corporate, Operations, Economic Development and Communications and Engagement Forums and their working groups report to the Chief Executives Forum. The Chair of the Chief Executives Forum presents a summary report on the work of regional forums to quarterly meetings of the Mayoral Forum.
21. The Chair of the Chief Executives Forum in 2025 is Hamish Riach (Ashburton District Council). Chairs of the regional forums for 2025-2028 will be selected by the Chief Executives Forum when it meets on 10 November 2025.
22. The structure of the regional forums is provided at Attachment 1.

Secretariat arrangements and member communication

23. The Mayoral Forum terms of reference include the provision of a permanent secretariat hosted by Canterbury Regional Council and funded from the regional general rate. This is a long-standing arrangement. In addition, Canterbury Regional Council provides:
- communications, media and legal advice as required
 - document management and other business support services
 - web hosting of the Mayoral Forum website: <https://canterburymayors.org.nz/>
24. The secretariat is:
- Maree McNeilly, Principal Advisor (027 381 8924)
 - Amelia Wilkins, Advisor (027 243 4304)
 - Ann Fitzgerald, Project Coordinator (027 291 7468).

25. The secretariat email address is secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz.
26. The Forum uses BoardPro as its online agenda portal. The secretariat will set members up with access to be able to log in at any time to view and annotate agendas and minutes. You will be notified whenever meeting packs are published.

Resourcing and costs

27. Member councils meet their own costs for meeting attendance (travel, accommodation and Mayoral Forum working dinners). When the Forum invites guest(s) to the working dinner, the cost of their meal(s) come from the regional forums levy councils pay annually. Any alcoholic beverages consumed are paid for personally.
28. The Chief Executives Forum has a regional forums budget for approved collaborative projects. This is funded by a levy on member councils based on an agreed formula. The current total levy for 2025-2026 is \$63,000.
29. The Mayoral Forum may choose to levy councils for specific project work if required, over and above the Chief Executives regional forums budget. This is decided on a case-by-case basis.
30. Selwyn District Council provides meeting rooms and covers catering costs for regional forums that meet in its premises.
31. Canterbury Regional Council covers secretariat salaries and overheads and some Mayoral Forum meeting costs (room hire and lunch). Environment Canterbury also acts as fund-holder for any grants obtained from central government.

Leading regional development

The Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

32. The [*Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury*](#) (the Plan) was first launched in September 2020.
33. The Plan set out the Mayoral Forum's vision for sustainable development across all four aspects of wellbeing (environmental, economic, social and cultural) and replaced the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy (CREDS), which was led by the Forum from 2015-2019.
34. In April 2023, the Mayoral Forum approved its 2023-25 Plan for Canterbury. The 2023-2025 Plan is a revised and updated version of the plan from the previous triennium. Members agreed that the vision and values of the 2020-2022 Plan were still relevant, however the key priority areas and actions required were refreshed to account for changes in the economy, government policy, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vision for Canterbury

35. As set out in the Plan, the Mayoral Forum's vision for Canterbury is sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and a proud identity, expanding on this in Canterbury, all of us together:
- care for our natural resources to secure both present and future opportunities
 - create shared economic prosperity so no one is left behind
 - nurture caring, hope and kindness, standing strong together to withstand and adapt to challenges and change
 - celebrate our diverse identities – and take pride in our common identity as Cantabrians.
36. There are three key priority areas on which the Forum's work has been based on for the 2023-25 term. These are:
- 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.

Our action plan

37. The Forum has developed an [action plan](#) to address these priority areas, where nine key actions have been identified and make up the work programme for the triennium. Delivery of this work programme is overseen by the Chief Executives Forum, which reports quarterly to the Mayoral Forum.

Positioning Canterbury for a regional deal

38. The Forum completed a mid-term review of the Plan for Canterbury in early 2024 to ensure it reflected its approach to engage with the new Government and enabled the Forum to be well-prepared for discussions on regional/city deals.
39. As a result of the review, the Plan was refreshed in a number of areas. This included tweaks to the wording of some of the actions, a new action on energy under the shared prosperity priority area, and updates to reflect current government policies (where these had changed from the previous Government) and opportunities for the Mayoral Forum to lead discussions on the drivers for change in Canterbury.
40. The Forum's achievements against the goals in the Plan are outlined in a separate document accompanying this briefing.

Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2025-2028

41. At its meeting on 28 November 2025, the Mayoral Forum will be invited to consider a proposal to develop a regional strategy for this term. The Forum may wish to do this via a refresh of the Plan for Canterbury, and/or develop a new approach.
42. The Chief Executives Forum recommends refreshing the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury to continue the work of the previous triennium as appropriate, and also set the region up for a future regional deal with central government.

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

43. The [Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan](#) sets out the region's vision of a thriving, climate resilient, low emissions Canterbury. There are [six key outcomes and objectives](#) we are seeking through delivery of [ten primary actions](#) and supporting sub-actions. The plan has [eight principles](#) which underpin the development and implementation of the plan.

Regional funding

44. In June 2024, councils agreed to fund regional collective climate actions through their Long-Term Plans 2024-20234 and a total of \$1.47 million has been confirmed for this work for the first three years 2024 - 2027. Further funding beyond the initial three years will be sought through future annual and long-term plan reviews, and by identifying and taking advantage of co-funding opportunities with key stakeholders.
45. Implementation for year two of the plan is currently underway.

Canterbury Energy Workstream

46. The Forum published the [Canterbury Energy Inventory](#) in June 2025.
47. Next steps of this work, which are currently underway, focus on developing a clear, coordinated regional energy strategy to support industry, drive decarbonisation, enhance energy resilience and unlock new growth opportunities.

Canterbury Water Management Strategy

48. The Mayoral Forum initiated the [Canterbury Water Management Strategy](#) (CWMS) in 2008 with its vision: To enable present and future generations to gain the greatest social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from our water resources within an environmentally sustainable framework.
49. While significant changes are being made to the resource management framework at a national level, including to how water is managed, the CWMS continues to successfully support environmental outcomes and remains a crucial mechanism for working collaboratively with our communities.

50. The Forum recently undertook a review of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, and in particular zone committees. In May 2025, the Forum endorsed a shift to a new model bringing together leaders from territorial authorities, Rūnanga and Canterbury Regional Council.
51. The Chair of Canterbury Regional Council reports quarterly to the Mayoral Forum on implementation of the CWMS.

Waitaha Canterbury – World-stage ready (working title)

Key pillars for Waitaha Canterbury's Regional Deal proposal

52. In response to central government's regional deal initiative the Canterbury Mayoral Forum has initiated work to set the foundations for a future Canterbury Regional Deal proposal. The Forum has been working with Business Canterbury and the private sector to come together to form a shared ambition for the region.
53. The Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document lays the foundations to move towards a long-term regional deal proposition for Canterbury, and sits with and alongside the Canterbury Ambition.
54. The priorities covered in the *World-stage ready* document focus on transport, housing, energy, and infrastructure – all critical pillars needed to underpin and unlock Canterbury's future. The document also highlights other important areas and sectors that are critical to the future of the region and will likely form workstreams for the incoming Mayoral Forum.

Canterbury 2025 – An Overview

55. The secretariat has developed an overview of the Canterbury region, structured around the key wellbeing concepts of the Treasury's Living Standards Framework. It presents high-level information on current state and trends within the region across a range of relevant topics and indicators.
56. The purpose of the overview is to:
 - help inform Mayoral Forum priorities for this local government term
 - support engagement with central government
 - provide context for preparation of a regional development strategy for this term.
57. The document was first developed for the 2019-2022 term, was updated in June 2022 and has been updated to June 2025. The overview is attached and can be found at *Canterbury 2025 An Overview* [\[add hyperlink\]](#).

Other regional and sub-regional committees

Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee

58. The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 requires the regional council and every territorial authority within that region to establish a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) as a joint standing committee. Each local authority must be represented on the Group by the Mayor/Chair, or an elected person who has delegated authority to act for the Mayor/Chair.
59. The Canterbury Joint Committee usually meets quarterly. Its role is to sign off the Canterbury CDEM Group Plan and provide guidance on how civil defence will be implemented in Canterbury. It is supported by a Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) comprising chief executives of territorial authorities and emergency services (including NZ Police, Fire and Emergency NZ, St John, Hospital Boards). CEG provides advice to the Joint Committee and implements its decisions. (Note: Waitaki District is included in the Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee).

Regional Transport Committee

60. Canterbury Regional Council has statutory responsibility under the Land Transport Management Act 2003 for ensuring that a Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) is in place for the Canterbury region.
61. The legislation delegates responsibility for preparing the RLTP to the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee (RTC), convened by Canterbury Regional Council. Membership of the Committee comprises elected representatives from each of the territorial local authorities (except Waitaki District, which is included in the Otago RLTP) and a member of the New Zealand Transport Agency. The RTC Chair and Deputy Chair are appointed members from Canterbury Regional Council.
62. Because of the critical importance of transport to the economy of Canterbury and the South Island, and the decisions that will need to be made, the Mayoral Forum has previously agreed that, wherever possible, Mayors will represent their councils on the RTC.
63. The RLTP is a statement of transport priorities and reflects an affordable and feasible land transport work programme for the region's requests for central government funding for land transport activities. The current RLTP is for the period 2024–34, and work has already begun on the 2027-2037 Canterbury RLTP.

Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee

64. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum has a standing item on its quarterly agendas for the Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee.

65. The [Greater Christchurch Partnership](#) Committee is an evolution of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy Implementation Committee which was formally established in 2007, and comprises members from Environment Canterbury, Mana Whenua, Christchurch City Council, Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri District Council, Te Whatu Ora - Health NZ and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.
66. The secretariats of both the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and the Greater Christchurch Partnership regularly connect to share updates and explore opportunities for collaboration across their work programmes. Wherever possible, they aim to identify ways to share resources and expertise to support each forum's goals and avoid duplication of effort.

Regional Public Service – Canterbury/Chathams

67. The Regional Public Service Commissioner (RPSC) for the Canterbury and Chatham Islands region is currently Diane McDermott. Diane is one of eleven RPSC who cover 15 regions across New Zealand.
68. Established in 2019, RPSC's have an all-of-government mandate to join up the Public Service where a coordinated response is required on issues across the social, economic, skills and workforce and environmental sectors. RPSCs help address long-standing and complex issues communities face by joining up the Public Service.
69. RPSCs support regional public service agencies to work together to deliver coordinated services for communities, improve the quality of outcomes, and support stronger connectivity and alignment between central, regional, and local government. They have strong connections with their communities and work closely with regional partners, to ensure interventions and investment are targeted to where it is needed most.
70. Canterbury RPSC attends and contributes to the Canterbury Mayoral, Chief Executive, and Economic Development forums. The Canterbury RPSC has also committed 'in-kind' resourcing to support the Regional Energy work initiated through the Economic Development and Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

Regional Leadership Group priorities

71. The Canterbury RPSC convenes a Regional Leadership Group (RLG) – this group meets quarterly. The RLG is comprised of senior leaders across a range of Public Service agencies, crown entities, and includes representation from local government and iwi. The group is chaired by the Regional Public Service Commissioner – Diane McDermott.
72. The RLG has identified two priority areas:
 - economic development: agencies and local government work together to determine where to best focus efforts to increase economic growth opportunities and identify workforce development and skills needed in the region

- children and youth: agencies work together to improve and support the wellbeing of children and youth in the Canterbury region. The focus is on identifying opportunities for better alignment, reducing duplication of services, and identifying where services and supports are needed. Key areas include better engagement in school.

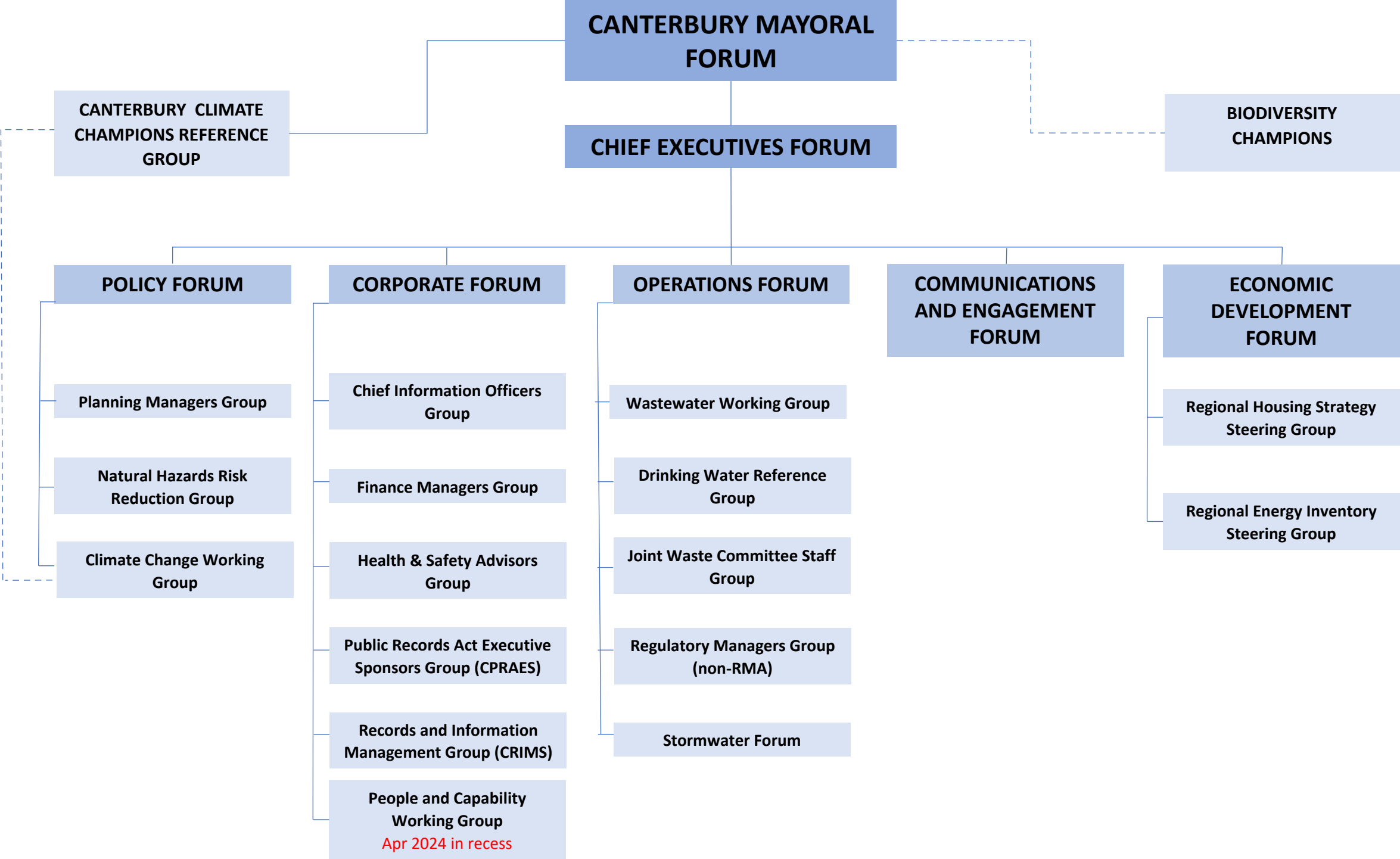
73. These two priority areas are interlinked with the broader work programme across the Public Service including the work to deliver against the Government nine targets.

Sub-regional groups

74. Mayors may choose to form sub-regional groupings to address local matters. These groups will be supported at the sub-regional level by the specific councils involved in the groupings.

Canterbury Regional Forums and Working Groups

Structure (updated Aug 2025)



| REGIONAL FORUMS SECRETARIAT (hosted by Environment Canterbury) | | |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Maree McNeilly | Principal Advisor | 027 381 8924 |
| Amelia Wilkins | Strategy Advisor | 027 243 4304 |
| Ann Fitzgerald | Project Coordinator | 027 291 7468 |
| secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz | | https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/ |

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

Canterbury Mayoral Forum achievements 2022-25

This report provides a summary of progress and the overarching achievements of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum at the end of the 2022-25 local government term.

Regional forums

The Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2022-25 mandates the work of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Chief Executives Forum, and other regional and sub-regional forums and working groups. The regional forums generally meet quarterly.

As agreed in the Triennial Agreement, Canterbury Regional Council hosts a permanent regional forums secretariat to support the work of the Mayoral Forum, resourced from the regional general rate.

Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025

In April 2023, the Mayoral Forum launched its [2023-25 Plan for Canterbury](#). The 2023-25 Plan is a revised and updated version of the plan for the previous triennium. Members agreed that the vision and values of the earlier Plan were still relevant; however, the key priority areas and actions required refreshing to account for changes in the economy, government policy, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Plan for Canterbury sets out the Forum's priorities for the triennium. It summarises the interests and priorities of local government leaders for Canterbury and provides a basis for conversation and partnership with Ngāi Tahu, Central Government, the business and community sectors.

The Plan sets out the Mayoral Forum's vision for Canterbury; sustainable development with shared prosperity, resilient communities and a proud identity. 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 economic prosperity so no one is left behind
- nurture caring, hope and kindness, standing strong together to withstand and adapt to challenges and change

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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

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

- celebrate our diverse identities – and take pride in our common identity as Cantabrians.

There are three key priority areas on which the Forum's work was based for the 2023-25 term. These are:

- **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.

The Forum has developed an action plan to address these priority areas, where nine key actions have been identified and make up the work programme for the triennium. Delivery of this work programme is overseen by the Chief Executives Forum, which reports quarterly to the Mayoral Forum.

The Forum completed a review of the Plan for Canterbury in early 2024 to ensure it reflected the approach required to engage with the new Government and enabled the Forum to be well-prepared for discussions on regional/city deals.

As a result of the review, the Plan was refreshed in a number of areas. This included minor changes to the wording of some of the actions, a new action on energy under the shared prosperity priority area, updates to reflect current government policies (where these had changed from the previous Government) and opportunities for the Mayoral Forum to lead discussions on the drivers for change in Canterbury.

Sustainable environmental management of our habitats

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.

The Mayoral Forum has maintained active oversight of the implementation of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), receiving regular and comprehensive reporting on progress.

In August 2023, the Forum launched a review into the CWMS, and particularly zone committees. In May 2025, the Forum endorsed a shift to a new model, bringing together leaders from territorial authorities, rūnanga and Canterbury Regional Council to strike a balance between regional consistency and local flexibility, with each group deciding how best to engage with their communities and stakeholders.

The review also led to a change to the geographic boundaries of zone committees to better reflect key waterway catchments, resulting in eight rather than 10 areas. The CWMS Local Leadership groups are planned to be up and running in 2026.

The Mayoral Forum continues 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, with an updated version presented to the Government in 2022.

The Forum advocated for the business case at meetings with a range of Ministers in May 2023, and in briefings to the new Government following the 2023 General Election.

Some funding to assist with flood resilience work was received by Canterbury Regional Council as part of Budget 2024. This funding supports upgrades to critical and aged flood management infrastructure across the region to make it more resilient to the changing climate, as well as further work on the Rangitata flood resilient programme and projects in South Canterbury.

Update pending on tranche 2 funding

The Forum met with the Minister of Climate Change in June 2024 and reiterated the importance of co-investment support for the full range of projects in the business case.

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.

The Mayoral Forum supported the continuation of a working group of Canterbury councillors to increase governance-level engagement on biodiversity issues and opportunities across all Canterbury councils this term. This group, the Biodiversity Champions Reference Group, responds to a need for local government to work closely together to implement new national direction for biodiversity and support the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy. The Biodiversity Champions continue to provide updates to the Forum on its work as required.

Shared prosperity for all our communities

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

The Mayoral Forum advocated for skills and immigration policies that work for Canterbury when it travelled to Wellington in May 2023 to meet with a range of ministers. This message was reinforced in briefings to new Government ministers following the 2023 General Election.

The Economic Development Forum initiated work to bring together a labour market insight into the skill needs of Canterbury businesses. The Forum is also working together to identify a set of regional economic development priorities. Both pieces of work will inform some key actions on economic development for the region, and allow the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to better target its advocacy on skills and immigration with the Government.

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

The Mayoral Forum advocated for investment to add value to our agricultural production when it travelled to Wellington in May 2023 to meet with a range of ministers. This was reiterated in briefings to new Government ministers following the 2023 General Election.

The Forum also advocated for investment in new agricultural technologies as part of its submission on the Government's second emissions reduction plan in August 2024.

The Mayoral Forum will support the region to foster partnerships, investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy and environment.



To ensure our region is prepared to take opportunities on energy, the Forum has completed the [Canterbury Energy Inventory](#) and [summary document](#). The inventory:

- provides a shared picture of Canterbury's energy futures to inform more consistent strategic planning, investment, and partnerships across industry, councils, central government, the Mayoral Forum and Greater Christchurch Partnership
- provides an evidence base to inform regional, sub-regional and local governments energy processes
- helps to identify regional priorities to support discussions about Regional or City Deals
- supports regional input into central government energy work programmes.

The next steps, currently underway, will focus on developing a clear, coordinated regional energy strategy to support industry, drive decarbonisation, enhance energy resilience, and unlock new growth opportunities.

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

The Mayoral Forum advocated for a refreshed approach to transport funding when it travelled to Wellington in May 2023 to meet with a range of ministers. This was reiterated in briefings to ministers following the 2023 General Election, and again at a meeting with the Minister of Transport in July 2024.

The Forum supported a project being undertaken by the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee to improve the transport planning and funding system for Canterbury, and the institutions and mechanisms that support the investments in the Regional Land Transport Plan (local roads, public transport, state highways, and transport planning activities).

The main outcome sought from the project was to improve the certainty of funding for proposed activities to enable longer term, more strategic transport planning in Canterbury. While the project did not aim to increase total funding or seek funding for specific activities, this may be a secondary outcome. Project recommendations have been incorporated into business as usual.

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 Mayoral Forum began work to develop a housing strategy in 2023. An officer-level steering group was set up to lead the work, with support from housing and urban development experts The Urban Advisory.

The Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan (the Plan) outlines the current state of housing in Canterbury and provides a summary of the drivers and core housing issues across the region. The Plan identifies three key housing priorities and the Mayoral Forum's commitment to address these. The Plan includes ways in which central government can support the actions taken in Canterbury.

The final Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan was presented to the August 2025 Mayoral Forum meeting for approval. Actions and next steps from the Plan will be incorporated into the work currently being undertaken in preparation for a future Canterbury Regional Deal.



Climate change mitigation and adaptation

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, and '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.

The regional Climate Change Working Group, established by the Chief Executives Forum in 2017, continues to address climate change adaptation for Canterbury. This local government term, the focus has been to develop the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP).

To provide governance support for the development of the CCPP, the Mayoral Forum established a cross-regional group of councillors, the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group.

This group provided governance advice, input and feedback on the CCPP as it developed.



The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is a comprehensive strategy developed by all 11 councils in Canterbury to address climate change and builds a sustainable, resilient, and low-emissions future

The [Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan](#) has been completed and is now being delivered. Implementation for year 2 of the CCPP is now underway.

The CCPP sets out a vision for a thriving, climate resilient, low-emissions Canterbury. There are six key outcomes and objectives sought through delivery of ten primary actions and supporting sub-actions. Eight principles have been developed which underpin its implementation. These are the values by which we will approach collective climate action in Canterbury. The actions in the Plan are fully funded through councils' Long-Term Plans.

Launch of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum launched the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan in December 2024 with an event at the Christchurch Town Hall. Guest speaker Dr Rodd Carr, former chair of the Climate Change Commission, noted that the plan shows the contribution local leaders can make



by working with communities to achieve an inclusive and affordable transition. Climate Change Minister, Hon Simon Watts, said “councils have a deep understanding of their communities making them an essential player in efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change, and it is welcoming to see Canterbury councils leading the way with a united, coherent, and enduring approach driving regional action to tackle the challenges of climate change”.

Pictured at the launch, from left, Mayor Marie Black,

Dr Rod Carr, Mayor Nigel Bowen, Mayor Neil Brown, Minister Simon Watts, Mayor Anne Munro, Mayor Phil Mauger, Chair Craig Pauling, and Mayor Dan Gordon

Other initiatives

The regional forums undertake a range of “business as usual” initiatives as well as supporting the Plan for Canterbury. These initiatives include:

- health and safety collaboration
- collaboration on stormwater, wastewater and drinking water
- co-ordination of natural hazard risk management
- continuing to build on the Canterbury Maps shared service
- collaboration in procurement, contract management and other corporate services
- collaboration and sharing information on communications and engagement best practice
- regional leadership and support for strategic information and records management
- regional economic development
- collaboration on regional submissions
- collaborative resource management planning and decision-making.

Waitaha Canterbury – World-stage ready

Key pillars for Waitaha Canterbury’s Regional Deal proposal

In response to central government’s Regional Deal initiative the Canterbury Mayoral Forum has initiated work to set the foundations for a future Canterbury Regional Deal proposal. The Forum has been working with Business Canterbury, and the private sector to come together to form a shared ambition for the region.

The *Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready* document lays the foundations to move towards a long-term Regional Deal proposition for Canterbury, and sits with and alongside the Canterbury Ambition.

The priorities covered in the *World-stage ready* document focus on transport, housing, energy, and infrastructure – all critical pillars needed to underpin and unlock Canterbury’s future. The document also highlights other important areas and sectors that are critical to the future of the region and will likely form workstreams for the incoming Mayoral Forum.

Engaging with Central Government

Visit to the Beehive March 2023

Early in the triennium the Canterbury Mayoral Forum travelled to Wellington and met with nine Government Ministers, and their staff. Key areas of advocacy included seeking permanent co-investment in flood protection schemes for the region, immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury, greater collaboration on an integrated approach to transport funding, and supporting Canterbury's continued economic development and emergency management.



CMF members with Hon Megan Woods at the Beehive

A number of Ministers noted that Canterbury is well placed to lead the way on many of the challenging issues facing our communities, largely because of the influence of the Forum's one strong voice for Canterbury and how well the councils work together for the good of the region.

Minister Megan Woods says Canterbury is a thriving region. "It is always valuable to get decision makers from Local and Central Government in the same room to talk about issues effecting local communities and come up with practical solutions together."

Central Government election 2023

Leading into the 2023 General Election, Forum members met with representatives from the National, Labour, Green, and ACT parties to reiterate the value of Canterbury to the national economy and the willingness of the Forum to work with Central Government to achieve our priorities for the region.

Canterbury Regional Growth Summit

In March 2025 the Canterbury Mayoral Forum hosted Ministers Shane Jones, Casey Costello and Mark Patterson, along with Canterbury businesses and the tertiary sector at the Canterbury Regional Growth Summit.



With Mayor Nigel Bowen, Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum as Master of Ceremonies, guests heard from Minister Jones, Leeann Watson from Business Canterbury introduced the work with the CMF on a joint vision for growth for the region, and other presentations covered aerospace, transport, food security/agriculture, tourism, river resilience, and energy. Speakers included representatives from Tāwhaki and Fabrum, along with Mayors Dan Gordon, Neil Brown, Karen Morgan, Craig Mackle, Sam Broughton, and ECan Deputy Chair Deon Swiggs.

CMF members with Minister Mark Patterson, Minister Shane Jones, Minister Casey Costello

Other Ministerial meetings

In June and July 2024, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum met with Ministers Simon Watts, Mark Mitchell, Chris Bishop and Simeon Brown. These meetings covered climate change, emergency management, housing, infrastructure funding, resource management reform, Regional Deal opportunities, funding and financing of local government, and transport. These conversations have continued with Ministers on a number of occasions throughout the triennium.



CMF members with Minister Mark Patterson



CMF Members with Minister Simon Watts



CMF members with Minister Simeon Brown, Hamish Campbell (MP Ilam), and Vanessa Weenink (MP, Banks Peninsula)

In February 2025, Hon James Meager, Minister for the South Island, attended the Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting. Discussions were wide ranging, covering Regional/City Deals, local water done well, the value of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, transport funding, water storage, tourism growth and some of the challenges for high tourist spots with low rating bases, local government funding constraints and river protection work.



Pictured, from left: Karen Morgan (Mackenzie District), Gary Kircher (Waitaki District), Craig Rowley (Waimate District), Neil Brown (Ashburton District), Nigel Bowen (Chair CMF, Timaru District), Dan Gordon (Waimakariri District), Minister James Meager, Sam Broughton (Selwyn District), Marie Black (Deputy Chair CMF, Hurunui District), Craig Pauling (Environment Canterbury), Craig Mackle (Kaikōura District), Phil Mauger (Christchurch City).

In July 2025 Forum members met with Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Tourism and Hospitality to discuss tourism pressures, particularly on those areas with high tourist number and low rate payer bases, and how we can work collectively to all achieve positive outcomes from tourism growth for the region and New Zealand..

Standing together for Canterbury

Joint advocacy ('one strong voice for Canterbury') has been a particular strength of the Mayoral Forum. Appendix 1 summarises Mayoral Forum engagement and advocacy since local body elections in October 2022.

The Mayoral Forum made a number of submissions on a wide range of topics this term. Where possible, the Mayoral Forum took the opportunity to speak in support of the submission. In addition to formal submissions, the Mayoral Forum corresponded with and met with a significant number of central government Ministers and officials, and key stakeholders.

Appendix 1

Submissions

| Date | Audience | Subject |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| 2 Dec 2022 | Ministry for Primary Industries | Submission on National direction for plantation and exotic carbon afforestation |
| 17 Feb 2023 | Environment Committee (Parliament) | Submissions on the Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Bills |
| 28 Feb 2023 | Future for Local Government Review Panel | Submission to the Review into the Future for Local Government |
| 10 Mar 2023 | Environment Committee (Parliament) | Hearing to present Mayoral Forum submissions on Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Bills |
| 20 Jun 2023 | Climate Change Commission | Submission on draft advice to inform the strategic direction of the second Emissions Reduction Plan |
| 14 Sept 2023 | Ministry of Transport | Joint submission with the Regional Transport Committee on the draft 2024 Government Policy Statement on Land Transport |
| 1 Nov 2023 | Environment Committee (Parliament) | Submission on the Inquiry into Climate Adaptation |
| 3 Nov 2023 | Governance and Administration Committee (Parliament) | Joint submission with the Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee on the Emergency Management Bill |
| 2 Apr 2024 | Ministry of Transport | Joint submission with the RTC on the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 |
| 19 Apr 2024 | Environment Committee (Parliament) | Submission on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill |
| 31 May 2024 | Climate Change Commission | Submission on Aotearoa New Zealand's 2050 emissions reduction target and the fourth emissions budget (2036– 2040) |
| 18 Jun 2024 | Waka Kotahi NZTA | Joint submission with the RTC on proposed changes to emergency works investment policies |
| 16 Jul 2024 | Finance and Expenditure Committee (Parliament) | Hearing to present Mayoral Forum submission on Climate Adaptation Inquiry with committee members |
| 22 Aug 2024 | Ministry for the Environment | Submission on second Emissions Reduction Plan discussion document |
| 25 Oct 2024 | Department of Internal Affairs | Submission on Local Government (Natural Hazard Information in Land Information Memoranda) Regulations [2025] |
| 6 Dec 2024 | Ministry for the Environment | Submission on shaping Aotearoa New Zealand's 2035 international climate change target |
| 20 May 2025 | National Emergency Management Agency | Joint submission with CDEM on strengthening New Zealand's emergency management legislation |
| 5 August 2025 | New Zealand Infrastructure Commission | Submission on Draft National Infrastructure Plan |
| 14 August 2025 | Ministry for the Environment & Ministry of Housing and Urban Development | Submission on Going for Housing Growth: providing for urban development in the new resource management system discussion document |

| Date | Audience | Subject |
|------------|---|---|
| TBC | Governance and Administration Committee | Submission on Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill |

Meetings

| Date | Audience | Subject |
|-------------|--|---|
| 11 May 2023 | Ministers of the Crown | Meetings with nine Government ministers on the Plan for Canterbury and issues of mutual interest |
| 1 Jun 2023 | National Party Canterbury-based MPs | Working dinner between Mayoral Forum and National Party Canterbury-based MPs |
| 2 Jun 2023 | Government Canterbury-based MPs | Working lunch between Mayoral Forum and Government Canterbury-based MPs |
| 24 Aug 2023 | MP Simon Court, ACT | Mayoral Forum working dinner with MP Simon Court, ACT |
| 25 Aug 2023 | Green Party Canterbury-based MPs | Working lunch between Mayoral Forum and Green Party Christchurch-based MPs |
| 11 Jun 2024 | Minister Simon Watts | Meeting to discuss climate change matters |
| 13 Jun 2024 | Minister Mark Mitchell | Meeting to discuss emergency management matters |
| 2 Jul 2024 | Minister Chris Bishop | Meeting to discuss infrastructure, housing, and resource management reform |
| 12 Jul 2024 | Minister Simeon Brown | Meeting to discuss local government and transport matters, including regional/city deals |
| 30 Aug 2024 | Canterbury-based Coalition MPs | Working lunch with Government Coalition MPs to discuss issues of mutual interest for Canterbury |
| 4 Oct 2024 | Hon Simon Bridges | Meeting with Simon Bridges in his capacity as Chair New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi to discuss transport funding |
| 14 Feb 2025 | Minister Meager | Meeting with Minister to discuss priorities for the South Island |
| 27 Feb 2025 | Minister Bishop | Meeting to discuss housing, infrastructure, RMA reform and transport |
| 10 Mar 2025 | Martin Keogh, Regional Deputy Chief Executive HealthNZ | Meeting to discuss health matters in the Canterbury region |
| 20 Mar 2025 | Minister Simon Watts | Meeting to discuss climate change, energy, and local government matters |
| 28 Mar 2025 | Ministers Shane Jones, Mark Patterson and Casey Costello | Canterbury Regional Growth Summit |
| 17 Jul 2025 | Minister Upston | Meeting to discuss tourism funding, policy levers, infrastructure and social license |

Letters

| Date | Audience | Subject |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 30 Nov 2022 | Environment Committee (Parliament) | Advocacy letter to request longer submission period for local government to consider the Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning bills |
| 27 Feb 2023 | Minister of Local Government | Letter to advocate for pause in three waters reform until Review into the Future for Local Government is completed |

| Date | Audience | Subject |
|--------------|--|--|
| 16 Mar 2023 | Minister for the Environment | Letter to advocate for exemptions for councils from paying levies on relocating waste from closed landfills |
| 1 Jun 2023 | National Party Canterbury-based MPs | Working dinner between Mayoral Forum and National Party Canterbury-based MPs |
| 2 Jun 2023 | Government Canterbury-based MPs | Working lunch between Mayoral Forum and Government Canterbury-based MPs |
| 7 Jul 2023 | Minister of Transport | Joint letter with Regional Transport Committee advocating for release of GPS Land Transport as soon as possible |
| 19 Oct 2023 | Prime Minister | Letter of congratulations and invitation to the Prime Minister to meet with the Mayoral Forum in November 2023 |
| 9 Nov 2023 | Canterbury-based MPs | Letters of congratulation to 18 Canterbury-based MPs following the General Election |
| 1 Dec 2023 | Kaiwhakahaere o Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu | Letter congratulating Justin Tipa on becoming Kaiwhakahaere and inviting him to attend Mayoral Forum meetings |
| 6 Dec 2023 | Minister Simeon Brown | Invitation to meet to discuss Regional/City Deals for the Canterbury region |
| 8 Mar 2023 | Papatipu Rūnanga chairs | Letter providing update on development of Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan |
| 5 Sep 2024 | Minister Reti | Invitation to meet to discuss health matters in the Canterbury region |
| 27 Sep 2024 | Papatipu Rūnanga chairs | Advising finalisation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan and an invitation to the launch of the document |
| 21 Nov 2024 | China Southern Airlines | Letter supporting the airline recommencement of flights to and from Christchurch airport |
| 18 Dec 2024 | Minister Watts | Letter submitting the Canterbury Mayoral Forum Expression of Interest in a Regional Deal |
| 6 Jan 2025 | Papatipu Rūnanga chairs | Update on development of a Regional Energy Inventory for Waitaha Canterbury and a Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan, and inviting input |
| 20 Jan 2025 | Minster Meager | Invitation to meet with Canterbury Mayoral Forum in his capacity as Minister for the South Island |
| 27 Jan 2025 | Minister Bishop | Invitation to meet with Canterbury Mayoral Forum in his capacity as Minister of Transport |
| 28 Jan 2025 | Minister Upston | Invitation to meet with Canterbury Mayoral Forum in her capacity as Minister of Tourism and Hospitality |
| 28 Jan 2025 | Minister Watts | Invitation to meet with Canterbury Mayoral Forum in his capacity as Minister of Energy and Minister of Local Government |
| 18 Feb 2025 | Ministers Penk, Potaka and Brown | Letter advocating for funding for wildling conifer control funding |
| 28 Feb 2025 | Minister Watts | Letter advising CMF progress on preparation of a Regional Deal for Canterbury |
| 28 Mar 2025 | Ministers Shane Jones, Mark Patterson and Casey Costello | Canterbury Regional Growth Summit |
| 8 April 2025 | Papatipu Rūnanga chairs | Invitation to partner with the Forum on the development of a Canterbury Regional Deal |

| Date | Audience | Subject |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 9 Apr 2025 | Ministers Upston, Willis and Potaka | Letter advocating for the \$65 increase in the International Visitor Levy to be distributed to local authorities, and an invitation to meet with Forum members |
| 19 May 2025 | Papatipu Rūnanga chairs | Letter inviting discussion on the Business Canterbury/ Mayoral Forum Economic Priorities work which complements the Canterbury Regional Deal preparation |

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 22 August 2025

Presented by: John Bartels, Director Greater Christchurch Partnership

Greater Christchurch Partnership – update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) on the Greater Christchurch Partnership (GCP) through to its August Committee meeting. This follows a request at the May CMF for this to become a standing item on the CMF quarterly agenda.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. receives this update on the work of the Greater Christchurch Partnership.

Background

2. A request was made at the May CMF for an update on the work of the Greater Christchurch Partnership to become a standing item on the CMF quarterly agenda.
3. As the sequencing of meetings allows, a summary of the most recent Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee (Committee) meeting forms the basis of this update to the CMF.
4. All Committee agendas and reports are publicly available on-line on the Greater Christchurch Partnership website - [Meetings : Greater Christchurch](#) – as well as recordings of the Committee meetings are hosted through Environment Canterbury's youtube channel: [Environment Canterbury - YouTube](#).
5. The [Greater Christchurch Partnership \(GCP\)](#) is a voluntary coalition of local government, mana whenua and government agencies working collaboratively to address strategic challenges and opportunities for Greater Christchurch sub-region.
6. The Partnership's area of focus spans the Greater Christchurch sub-region, covering significant parts of Christchurch City, Waimakariri District and Selwyn District. The sub-region encompasses the traditional territories of three Papatipu Rūnanga: Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Taumutu and Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke (Rapaki).
7. The Greater Christchurch sub-region represents over 10% of New Zealand's population and over 80% of the Waitaha Canterbury region and the second largest population centre in Aotearoa after Auckland.

8. The Partnership's current priorities, aligned to the [Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan](#) (GCSP), include:
- **Sub-regional Growth Planning:** Coordinated growth management to support housing supply and infrastructure development – *GCSP Implementation*;
 - **Kāinga Nohoanga:** Enable the prosperous development of kāinga nohoanga on Māori Reserve Land, supported by infrastructure and improved accessibility to transport networks and services; along with the development of kāinga nohoanga within urban areas – *Kāinga Nohoanga Strategy Implementation*;
 - **Housing:** Enable diverse, quality, and affordable housing in locations that support thriving neighbourhoods that provide for people's day-to-day needs and addressing the gaps in the private housing market – *Joint Housing Action Plan delivery*;
 - **Transport:** Prioritise sustainable and accessible transport choices to move people and goods in a way that significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions and enables economic growth and access to social, cultural and economic opportunities – *Greater Christchurch Mass Rapid Transit Project; Public Transport Futures programme; Greater Christchurch Transport Plan*;
 - **Priority Areas:** A collective focus on unlocking the potential of Priority Areas. Coordinated and focused action across multiple agencies to inform, prioritise and unlock public and private sector investment in catalysing development and intensification in these areas – *Priority Areas Programme*.
9. These priorities form the foundation for collaborative action and are integral to delivering sustainable urban growth.

Agenda Items – 8 August Committee Meeting

10. A verbal update on the Committee meeting will be provided to the CMF by John Bartels of the GCP Secretariat on behalf of the Partnership.
11. The staff reports considered by the Committee at its August meeting were:

| | STAFF REPORT TITLE | Page |
|----|---|------|
| 5. | Secretariat Update | 15 |
| 6. | He Rautaki mō Kāinga Nohoanga – Greater Christchurch | 21 |
| 7. | GCP submission on the Government's Going for Housing Growth Discussion Paper .. | 55 |
| 8. | Greater Christchurch Partnership Review - Independent Findings..... | 79 |
| 9. | Briefing to the Incoming Committee..... | 147 |

12. The full agenda and papers for this Committee meeting are available through this link: <https://www.greaterchristchurch.co.nz/assets/Documents/Meetings/2025/Greater-Christchurch-Partnership-Committee-Meeting-Agenda-Pack-8-August-2025-v2.pdf>

13. A secretariat update report is provided at each Committee meeting. A copy of this GCP secretariat update is included as Attachment 1.
14. The most significant item on the agenda that was explored and discussed was the Independent Partnership Review findings. There was also considerable discussion on the Kāinga Nohoanga Strategy, parts of the proposed Going for Housing Growth submission and aspects of the Secretariat update related to status update on the approach to preparing a regional deal for Canterbury Waitaha.

Key Themes from the August Committee Meeting

15. The key themes related to the discussion and consideration on the Committee's staff report are outlined below. These reflect the significance of the items considered by the Committee at this meeting and that this being the final GCP Committee meeting before the local body elections with moderate change in the Committee's membership anticipated into the next triennium.
 - Strengthening the Partnership's role and relationships
 - the Independent Review highlighted the importance of the GCP as a unique forum for collaboration and connection across councils, mana whenua, and agencies. It provided a number of options for consideration by the incoming Committee with all involving the continuation of the Partnership. Recommendations were broken across three main phases.
 - members emphasised keeping the Partnership intact, building trust, and the benefit of broader involvement and regular updates (including going broader than the mayors to councillors).
 - stronger governance-to-governance and person-to-person relationships are essential to deliver shared outcomes. A workshop will be run with the incoming Committee in December, with the intention that a decision on the preferred Partnership model is made in 2026.
 - Advancing implementation of the Kāinga Nohoanga Strategy
 - the Committee formally received the Kāinga Nohoanga Strategy (Strategy) and committed to preparing for a workshop with the incoming GCPC to shape its implementation.
 - recognition that kāinga nohoanga is a broader concept than papakāinga and requires bold, regionally coordinated action.
 - pursuing advocacy to Government for a Māori purpose zone in the new resource management system and a deeming mechanism for Māori land. A workshop will be run with the incoming Committee to assist in providing direction to the implementation of the Strategy.
 - Strategic positioning on housing growth and infrastructure

- Endorsed a Partnership submission on the Government's *Going for Housing Growth* discussion paper, emphasising Greater Christchurch's sub-regional priorities.
- The submission emphasised four key points:
 1. regional spatial planning is critical to the success of the new Resource Management system
 2. use the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan (GCSP) as the sub-regional basis for expanded regional spatial planning
 3. progressing the details of implementing the Going for Housing Growth direction
 4. considering the urban interface with the surrounding rural areas of Greater Christchurch and the broader Waitaha Canterbury region
- Included advocacy for consideration of a number of funding tools as part of Pillar 2 of the Going for Housing Growth programme, including GST-sharing arrangement and value capture mechanisms to help fund affordable housing.
- Reinforced the need to align housing, infrastructure, and blue-green networks in delivering the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan.

Next steps

16. The intended next steps are to provide the CMF with an update following the next GCP Committee meeting scheduled for 5 December 2025.

Attachments

- **Attachment 1:** Secretariat Update Report – 8 August GCP Committee meeting

5. Secretariat Update

Reference Te Tohutoro: 25/1421121

Responsible Officer(s) Te John Bartels, Director Greater Christchurch Partnership
Pou Matua:

Accountable ELT John Bartels, Director Greater Christchurch Partnership
Member Pouwhakarae:

1. Purpose of Report Te Pūtake Pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee (Committee) with a Secretariat update on activities that support the partnership work programme.

2. Relationship to Partnership Objectives Ngā Whāinga Matua ki te hononga

- 2.1 This report is to inform the committee on progress in the delivery of the joint work programme and to support effective dialogue and relationships between partners.

3. Officer Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu

That the Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee:

1. **Receives and notes** the Greater Christchurch Partnership Secretariat update.

4. Secretariat Update

Te Waihangā's Infrastructure Priorities Programme

- 4.1 A joint application from Christchurch City Council and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) on behalf of the Greater Christchurch Partnership, has seen the Greater Christchurch Mass Rapid Transit project (MRT) successfully make it into Te Waihangā Infrastructure Commission's draft National Infrastructure Plan and as part of this being recognised as of national significance. The MRT project was one of only seventeen projects included nationally from the first round of submissions.
- 4.2 Te Waihangā Infrastructure Commission are currently assessing projects from a second round of submissions which closed in April 2025. On behalf of the Greater Christchurch Partnership, Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury) also submitted a joint application for the Public Transport Futures programme for consideration in this second round. This programme includes lower cost improvements to the city's existing bus network and is an essential building block towards implementation of MRT. The results of this second round of assessment will be announced later in the year.

Public Transport Futures Programme - Network Planning and Foundations Update

Network Planning

- 4.3 This update covers progress on the Public Transport Futures programme (PT Futures) and outlines the next steps for planning the rest of the public transport network. The overall goals of PT Futures remain the same, but the approach is being adjusted to reflect current funding realities and a staged rollout of MRT.

- 4.4 Environment Canterbury has identified four key priorities for public transport over the next 10–20 years:
1. Rolling out the National Ticketing Solution (NTS)
 2. Planning the network (including ongoing work and PT Futures)
 3. Preparing for future procurement (with contracts up for renewal in 2029)
 4. Gaining public control of key assets like bus depots
- 4.5 A plan is being developed that combines business-as-usual (BAU) work with PT Futures initiatives to support these priorities.

PT Futures Foundations

- 4.6 Environment Canterbury has worked with NZTA to prepare a proposal for reviewing two key bus routes: Route 1 (Cashmere to Rangiora) and Route 5 (Rolleston to New Brighton). The intent is for this proposal will be considered by NZTA's Values, Outcomes and Scope (VOS) committee in mid August. Subject to funding being available, if approved, it could lead to co-funding for a formal investment case. The proposal aligns with NZTA's updated approach to investment planning. Further updates on PT Futures and the broader programme will be shared with the Committee as work progresses.

Greater Christchurch Transport Plan

- 4.1 The Greater Christchurch Transport Plan was endorsed by the Committee at its May meeting. Minor edits were made in response to feedback provided by members at the May Committee meeting. The plan is now available on the Greater Christchurch Partnership Website. The Planning and Transport Managers group have further developed an overview document. This could act as an effective communication and advocacy tool for ministers and central government and new council representatives. This will be shared also be made available Greater Christchurch Partnership Website once finalised.

GCP Residential Development and Housing Dashboard Update

- 4.1 The National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) requires quarterly monitoring and annual reporting of housing and business capacity. To support this, a GCP Residential Dashboard has been developed, offering key indicators for residential development across Greater Christchurch.
- 4.2 The dashboard is in its final review stage, developed collaboratively with input from partner staff and reviewed by the Planning Managers Group. Once finalised, it will be publicly available, updated quarterly, and included in the annual committee report.
- 4.3 Current reporting meets most NPS-UD obligations. The next phase involves scoping business land capacity requirements. This will look to assess partner councils' expectations, data needs, and capabilities, with initial findings to be presented to the Planning Managers Group.

Greater Christchurch Partnership Website Upgrade

- 4.4 The [Greater Christchurch Partnership](#) website has recently undergone a comprehensive update and refresh. The revised site features an enhanced layout, streamlined navigation, search functionality and updated content to better support users in accessing key information and resources.
- 4.5 The Secretariat will monitor and update content on a regular basis and liaise with partners to ensure content reflect the work delivered by the partnership.

2026 GCP Calendar Preparation

- 4.6 The Secretariat has commenced drafting the 2026 Greater Christchurch Partnership governance schedule. This will be undertaken alongside the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. GCP will engage with partner Councils to ensure there is no conflicts with their own calendars. Both the GCP and CMF are waiting for LGNZ to share its annual calendar to ensure there are no conflicted dates prior finalising the 2026 schedule. The quarterly meeting frequency for the partnership committee meetings are proposed to be March, May, August and November, subject to available dates.

Government City and Regional Deal guidance

- 4.7 At the national level, the Government announced on the 2 July the first Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) to negotiate City and Regional Deals (CRDs) with Auckland, Otago/Central Lakes and Western Bay of Plenty with a view to agreeing the first Deal by the end of 2025: [City and Regional Deals to unlock growth | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/city-and-regional-deals-to-unlock-growth)
- 4.8 As part of this announcement the Government established five objectives for the CRDs programme alongside outlining what central government will put on the table during negotiations for cities and regions participating in CRDs. These are:
- 4.8.1 **Improved central government coordination** (both internally and with the regions), ensuring the right agencies are around the table. This could include agreement to deploy more senior officials to existing Urban Growth Partnerships and other governance arrangements, and improved Government infrastructure investment and asset management.
 - 4.8.2 **Early collaboration with councils on system reforms** including undertaking joint-spatial planning ahead of RM reform implementation. We will consider improvements to existing regulatory frameworks including zoning, fees and charges innovation, streamlined planning and land acquisition processes, regional spatial planning.
 - 4.8.3 **Providing councils with new funding and financing tools** and incentivising them to better utilise existing ones. This could include considering the use of sharing of mining royalties, mobilising existing government funds to support deals, and providing access to government experts that could help councils use more complex tools such as Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act Levies.
 - 4.8.4 **Supporting regions to unlock growth sectors** (e.g., technology, biotech, advanced transportation, aquaculture, tourism, cleantech, renewable energy). Central government will consider locating “confirmed/funded” innovation facilities/institutes in regions as part of a CRD.
- 4.9 It was acknowledged by Government that all three regions with signed MOUs for CRDs have existing Urban Growth Partnerships which demonstrate existing collaboration, and all three have economies with significant economic growth potential. This demonstrates a clear, ongoing role for the Greater Christchurch Partnership as an Urban Growth Partnership and Aotearoa's second largest city.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Update from Regional Deal Working Group

- 4.10 Since being invited to join the Regional Deal Working Group (Working Group) in May, the Secretariat has participated in regular meetings alongside other members. Further discussions within the Canterbury Mayoral Forum regarding the approach to a regional deal have led to agreement that the Working Group will prepare a progress update for discussion at the August Mayoral Forum meeting. This update focuses on key areas

including transport, housing, energy, and infrastructure—particularly funding tools and priority initiatives that could catalyse regional growth. Its purpose is to lay the groundwork for a future Waitaha Canterbury Regional Deal proposal by drawing on existing work. The update document is currently in development, with a draft version of the update document informed by work undertaken by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in collaboration with Business Canterbury. However, the draft update is primarily a local government document.

- 4.11 Through the Working Group, the Secretariat has emphasised the importance of Strengthening partnerships and ensuring the meaningful involvement of all Partners—particularly mana whenua— in the development of the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Deal proposal, which has yet to begin. The Secretariat is collaborating with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum Secretariat to determine the most effective approach for sharing the Update document with Partners once received by the Mayoral Forum, and to support Partners ongoing involvement in the formulation of the Regional Deal proposal.

Housing and Urban Development – Housing Investment Strategy

- 4.12 The Government Budget 2025 introduced a new ‘active purchaser’ investment approach for housing and urban development to streamline programmes, improve value for money and flexibility to meet housing needs in place.
- 4.13 Government investment in housing will be guided by the Housing Investment Strategy, which prioritises enabling people in high housing need to access stable and secure housing. The Strategy is intended to be developed by late 2025. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) is currently working on developing a comprehensive understanding of housing need across the country to support the development of its Housing Investment Strategy. The Secretariat distilled local insights drawn from the work on the Joint Housing Action Plan and involvement with other forums and shared this with MHUD. Any further updates on the Strategy will be shared with the committee.

Te Waipounamu Community Housing Provider Housing Network

- 4.14 The network brings together community housing providers and their partners operating in the South Island. Its members’ primary activity is to provide community housing solutions for people in housing need. At the 12 June meeting the members agreed to support the completion of the Phase 2 actions of the Joint Housing Action Plan following a presentation by John Bartels. The Network also agreed to progress a refresh of its Closing the Housing Gap report from 2023 to provide a current picture of housing need based on Community Housing Providers (CHPs) data and perspectives and an indication of the committed pipeline of new social and affordable homes by member CHPs. This is being done to help influence investment decisions by the Government through its ‘active purchaser’ approach.

GCP Budget Update

- 4.15 The redistribution of the surplus operating budget for the end of 2025 financial year was completed on a pro-rata basis and credited on the usual final quarter invoicing through Christchurch City Council.
- 4.16 The Programme Delivery budget is held and managed by Environment Canterbury on behalf of the Partnership. The surplus has been carried forward into the 2025/26FY.
- 4.17 The Secretariat intends to build upon the GCP Committee’s endorsement of the Implementation Plan at its May 2025 meeting and develop a three-year Programme delivery budget with the Senior Officials Group. It will assist in guiding progress on

Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee
08 August 2025



Partnership priorities, better forecast future funding requirements and support Partnership decision making. This will also look to factor in any budgetary requirements for implementing any future Committee decisions on the findings of the Partnership Review in the 25/26FY.

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

There are no attachments to this report.

Item 5

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 22 August 2025

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chief Executives Forum

Chief Executives Forum report

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to report on the work of the regional forums since May 2025.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

Regional Forums activity

2. Since the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's May meeting:
 - the Communications and Engagement Forum met in person on 13 June
 - the Corporate and Operations Forums met online on 16 June
 - the Economic Development and Policy Forums met online on 27 June
 - the Chief Executives Forum met in person (hybrid option was available) on 28 July.

Chief Executives Forum

3. Key agenda items discussed at the 28 July meeting included:
 - an update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner, and a discussion with Cory Hagaraars, Lead Advisor to the Minister for South Island, Hon James Meager
 - progressing the development of the draft (working title) 'Waitaha Canterbury Pathway to Success') document to support future regional deal discussions that align with the current CMF workstreams of transport, energy, housing and infrastructure
 - the Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan, including
 - the Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview, noting transition opportunities for further investigation
 - the procurement of the Local Emissions Data Platform tool (Kinesis), the preferred tool to model greenhouse gas emissions reduction pathways for the region

- the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Plan
- the quarterly Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan implementation progress report
- noting the first meeting of the new Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group, made up of elected members held on 18 July 2025
- the outcome of the transport funding project and a discussion on next steps to progress transport opportunities across the region
- the final draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan
- an update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, including the work under way across the region to implement the strategy
- a discussion on the central government reform of resource management legislation
- an update on discussions regarding possible options for a Canterbury Building Consent Authority
- preparation for the 2025 – 2027 triennium including the draft Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement and member induction material
- an update on the June Regional Forum meetings, covering a range of issues and approval of the 2025/26 budget
- the draft CMF agenda for 22 August 2025.

4. Chief Executives will meet next on 20 October 2025.

Triennium strategic workplan

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

Attachment

- Attachment 1 - Strategic workplan

Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2023-2025

Updated 14 August 2025
Refreshed Plan 23 February 2024

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | |
| 1 | Continued support of the Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa business case for permanent co-investment from the Government in river management for flood protection | Sustainable environment Shared Prosperity Climate Change | Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May 2023 and included in briefings to Ministers sent 1 March 2024 Hosted Minister Paterson in Canterbury, which included visits to the sub-regions and river areas | Government provides permanent co-investment for flood protection | The Government has confirmed some co-investment to enhance the resilience of flood-prone communities. The funding will enable 42 projects to go ahead, including \$5.7 million for Waitaha/Canterbury. |
| 2 | Advocate with the Government for immigration and skills policies that work for Canterbury | Shared prosperity | Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May 2023 and included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024. Economic Development Forum members to report quarterly on Labour Market Intelligence to identity evidence to support Forum advocacy | Government adopts a more regional approach to immigration policies | |
| 3 | Advocate with Government to review transport funding legislation to better empower local authorities to develop local funding solutions | Shared prosperity | Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024 Included in joint RTC/CMF submission on GPS Land Transport 2024 Discussed at meeting with Minister of Transport in July 2024 RTC Transport Funding Project reporting to RTC Feb 2025 and continuing to progress | Ability for local councils to access additional transport funding | |
| 4 | Continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy | Sustainable environment | Updates provided to Mayoral Forums (item 2.5) Review of Zone Committees completed, Reported to May 2025 CMF (item 4.5) | CWMS remains fit for purpose and the region retains a shared understanding of water management issues | CWMS Zone Committees reviewed and CWMS Local Leadership Groups introduced - end 2025/beginning 2026 |
| 5 | Support the Biodiversity Champions as the key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity, facilitating work across the region on the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, and the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework | Sustainable environment | Included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024. The Biodiversity Champions continue to meet quarterly and have been actively involved in progressing the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy (CBS), participating in a series of collaborative workshops. | A revitalised CBS will be presented to Environment Canterbury in September. Following regional adoption, each of the Territorial Authorities will be able to consider adopting the CBS themselves and aligning their biodiversity actions. | It is expected that implementing the CBS and progressing shared approaches to biodiversity monitoring would be the focus of the Biodiversity champions into the next triennium |
| 6 | Continue to encourage, support and advocate for research and investment in diversifying and adding value to our agricultural production | Shared prosperity | Raised with Ministers at Wellington meeting 11 May 2023 and included in briefings to Ministers 1 March 2024 | Investment in research and technology for the pastoral sector reflects the sector's importance to Canterbury and New Zealand's economy | |
| 7 | Develop a regional housing strategy that will identify the range of housing issues affecting communities across the region and a pathway forward to improve them | Shared prosperity | Draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan for CMF approval Aug 12025 (see item 2.4) | The Forum has clarity on housing issues affecting communities in Waitaha/Canterbury and understands pathways for improvement | Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan completed Clear actions for advocacy and action from the CMF going forward |
| 8 | Oversee a Canterbury-wide climate change partnership plan, which will confirm a collaborative vision for regional adaptation planning, an 'urgency assessment' to support prioritising climate actions, and a funding plan laying out a regional/aligned approach for accessing finance for climate actions in Canterbury | Climate change | Partnership Plan approved August 2024, launched 13 December 2024. Implementation progress provided at Item 4.4 | Completion of the Climate Change Partnership Plan and agreement on action planning | Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan completed Funding agreed and approved Implementation of action planning underway |
| 9 | Support the region to foster partnerships to investigate barriers and harness opportunities to improve our energy security and systems in ways that maximise benefits for our community, economy, and environment | Shared prosperity Environmental Sustainability Climate Change | Regional Energy Inventory completed, next steps in development of a Regional Energy Strategy are underway | Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory to support the development of a Regional Energy Strategy | |

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 22 August 2025

Presented by: Secretariat

Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements – June - August 2025

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of activities, engagements, and correspondence since the last Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting on 30 May 2025.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receives the update on Canterbury Mayoral Forum activities, engagements and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 30 May 2025.**

Background

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

Meetings and engagements

3. The following meetings and engagements were held, in addition to the regular quarterly meeting schedule:
 - meeting with Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Tourism and Hospitality to discuss tourism funding, policy levers, infrastructure and social license on 17 July
 - Deputy Chair Marie Black, on behalf of the CMF, attended the Wielkopolska/Polish delegation visit to Canterbury Regional Council on 25 July.

Correspondence

4. Incoming correspondence:
 - LGOIMA request from Labour Research – Labour Leader's office related to the Government's Regional Deals programme from 1 January 2024 (Attachment 1).
5. Outgoing correspondence:

- response to LGOIMA request Labour Research – Labour Leader’s office (Attachment 2) – note attachments to letter have been previously circulated to CMF members
- response to Duncan Cotterill, thanking them for their offer to host a Mayoral Forum meeting and sponsor the working dinner. The offer was declined due to logistics. (Attachment 3)

Submissions

6. Submissions lodged since the May 2025 meeting include:
 - New Zealand Infrastructure Commission Te Waihanga’s Draft National Infrastructure Plan
 - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry for the Environment Going for Housing Growth discussion paper.
7. Submissions are available on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website: www.canterburymayors.org.nz.

Briefings

8. There have been no briefings since the May 2025 meeting.

Media Release

9. There have been no media releases since the May 2025 meeting.

Attachments

- Correspondence

From: [LabourResearch](#)
To: [LabourResearch](#)
Subject: LGOIMA0060 - Regional Deals
Date: Friday, 4 July 2025 10:32:05 am

Kia ora

I request the following under the LGOIMA:

All correspondence (including emails, letters, meeting minutes, or briefing notes) between your council (including councillors, the chairperson, chief executive, or senior leadership) and:

- Any central government ministers / their offices,
- Any relevant central government department or agency,

relating to the Government's Regional Deals programme from 1 January 2024 to present.

Copies of any proposals, applications, business cases, memoranda of understanding, or other documents that were:

- Submitted to the Government in relation to a Regional Deal,
- Received from central government in relation to a Regional Deal,
- Produced internally in preparation for or in response to discussions about a Regional Deal.

Any feedback or responses from central government about a Regional Deal proposal or initiative from your region, including:

- Advice that a proposal had been accepted, declined, delayed, or deferred,
- Acknowledgements of receipt,
- Invitations to revise, resubmit, or continue discussions.

Any documentation or briefing materials provided to councillors or mayors regarding the status or progress of a Regional Deal proposal.

This request covers both successful and unsuccessful Regional Deal engagements or applications.

Where a document that falls under scope of this request cannot be released, please supply a summary of that document's contents. Where any document falls under the scope of this request, please release it in full, including sections which might otherwise be considered out of scope.

Kind regards

Thomas Raethel | Senior Researcher

Labour Leader's Office

Authorised by Chris Hipkins MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

23 July 2025

Thomas Raethel
Senior Researcher
Labour Leader's Office

By email: LabourResearch@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Thomas

**Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):
Request for Information**

I refer to your email dated 4 July 2025 requesting information on the Government's Regional Deals programme. Your request has been referred to me to reply.

Please note that all scheduled meeting papers and minutes are available on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) website www.canterburymayors.org.nz.

All correspondence (including emails, letters, meeting minutes, or briefing notes) between your council (including councillors, the chairperson, chief executive, or senior leadership) and:

- *Any central government ministers / their offices,*
- *Any relevant central government department or agency,*
relating to the Government's Regional Deals programme from 1 January 2024 to present.

| Canterbury Mayoral Forum engagement with Central government | |
|---|---|
| Document | Location |
| CMF agenda, 23 February 2024 | Item 4.2, page 38 at this link |
| CMF agenda, 31 May 2024 | Item 6.3 d-g, page 122 at this link |
| CMF agenda, 30 August 2024 | Item 7.3, page 114 at this link |
| CMF agenda, 14 February 2025 | Item 3.1, page 29 at this link |
| CMF agenda for meeting with Hon Simeon Brown, 12 July 2024 | Attachment 1 |
| CMF meeting notes from meeting with Hon Simeon Brown, 12 July 2024 | Attachment 2 |
| CMF briefing notes for meeting with Hon Simon Watts, 20 March 2025 | Attachment 3 |
| CMF draft meetings notes from meeting with Hon Simon Watts, 20 March 2025 | Attachment 4 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Regional Deals Registration form, 17 December 2024 | Attachment 5 |
| Letter from CMF sent to Hon Simon Watts, 28 February 2025 | Attachment 6 |

Copies of any proposals, applications, business cases, memoranda of understanding, or other documents that were:

- *Submitted to the Government in relation to a Regional Deal,*
- *Received from central government in relation to a Regional Deal,*
- *Produced internally in preparation for or in response to discussions about a Regional Deal.*

| Documents produced internally regarding a Regional Deal | |
|---|--|
| Document | Location |
| CMF agenda, 23 February 2024 | Item 4.1, page 17 at this link |
| CMF agenda, 30 August 2024 | Item 6.2, page 93 at this link |
| CMF mid-cycle meeting agenda, 30 September 2024 | Attachment 7 |
| CMF mid-cycle meeting minutes, 30 September 2024 | Attachment 8 |
| CMF agenda, 29 November 2024 | Item 4.2, page 67 and pages 13 and 17 (minutes) at this link |
| CMF agenda, 14 February 2025 | Item 5.1, page 36 Item 5.5, page 112 and page 14 (minutes) at this link |
| CMF agenda, 30 May 2025 | Item 2.1, page 21 Item 5.2, page 240 at this link |
| CMF unconfirmed draft minutes, 30 May 2025 | Viewable at this link |

Any feedback or responses from central government about a Regional Deal proposal or initiative from your region, including:

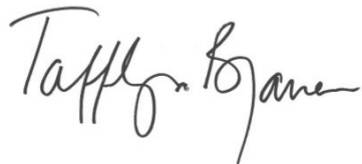
- *Advice that a proposal had been accepted, declined, delayed, or deferred,*
- *Acknowledgements of receipt,*
- *Invitations to revise, resubmit, or continue discussions.*

| Document | Location |
|--|---------------|
| CMF response to Regional Deals and initial registration form, 17 December 2024 | Attachment 9 |
| Response from Department of Internal Affairs, 2 July 2025 | Attachment 10 |

You will be aware that if you are not satisfied with this response you are able to refer this matter to the Office of the Ombudsman under s27 (3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact LGOIMA@ecan.govt.nz in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Tafflyn Bradford-James'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tafflyn Bradford-James
Acting Director Strategy & Planning

CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

15 July 2025

Paul Dorrance
Partner
Duncan Cotterill
148 Victoria Street
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

By email: paul.dorrance@duncancotterill.com

Kia ora Paul

Canterbury Mayoral Forum – August meeting

Thank you for your generous offer to host a Mayoral Forum meeting and sponsor the working dinner, following our members taking part in your Fast Forward Canterbury panel discussion.

Unfortunately the logistics of moving the meeting would not work for us. Most of our members travel and stay overnight for a range of quarterly meetings and the Commodore suits with dinner, accommodation and meeting rooms on-site.

Thank you for your offer and our members look forward to participating again in future events.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

Mayors standing together for Canterbury.

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

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