

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

## BOARD PACK

for

## Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Friday, 28 November 2025

8:30 am (NZDT)

Held at:

Commodore Hotel

449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch

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# AGENDA

## CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



<b>Name:</b>	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
<b>Date:</b>	Friday, 28 November 2025
<b>Time:</b>	8:30 am to 1:30 pm (NZDT)
<b>Location:</b>	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
<b>Board Members:</b>	Nigel Bowen, Marie Black, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Phil Mauger, Lydia Gliddon, Deon Swiggs, Melanie Tavendale, Liz McMillan, Scott Aronsen
<b>Attendees:</b>	Hamish Dobbie, Alex Parmley, Hamish Riach, Angela Oosthuizen, Jeff Millward, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor, Stefanie Rixecker, Stuart Duncan, Will Doughty, Maree McNeilly, Amelia Wilkins, Ann Fitzgerald
<b>Apologies:</b>	Sharon Mason
<b>Guests/Notes:</b>	Jesse Burgess, Canterbury Regional Council (Items 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6); Paul Barker and Warren Ulusele, Department of Internal Affairs (Item 5.1)

### 1. Open Meeting

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

Hamish Dobbie

#### 1.2 Introduction to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum 8:35 am (30 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

1.2.a	CMF Introduction to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum Nov 2025.docx	8
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#### 1.3 Confirmation of agenda 9:05 am (5 min)

Hamish Dobbie

#### 1.4 Minutes from the previous meeting 9:10 am (5 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

1.4.a	Minutes : Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 22 Aug 2025	10
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#### 1.5 Action List 9:15 am (5 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

1.5.a	Action List	20
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## 2. For discussion and decision

### 2.1 Selection of chair and deputy chair

9:20 am (5 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

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2.1.a	CMF Selection of chair and deputy chair Nov 2025.docx	22
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### 2.2 Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement

9:25 am (15 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

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2.2.a	CMF Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement Nov 2025.docx	24
2.2.b	CMF Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement Attachment 1 Nov 2025.docx	28
2.2.c	CMF Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement Attachment 2 Nov 2025.docx	35

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## 3. KAI - Morning tea & photos

### 3.1 Mayoral Forum and Chief Executives Forum photos

9:40 am (20 min)

### 3.2 Kai - morning tea

10:00 am (20 min)

## 4. For discussion and decision

### 4.1 Regional Strategy (Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury) 10:20 am (45 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

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4.1.a	CMF Regional Strategy (Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury) Nov 2025.docx	38
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### 4.2 Canterbury Water Management Strategy

11:05 am (10 min)

Deon Swiggs

Supporting Documents:

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4.2.a	CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy Nov 2025.docx	41
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### 4.3 Canterbury Biodiversity Champions

11:15 am (5 min)

Deon Swiggs

Supporting Documents:

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4.3.a	CMF Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Nov 2025.docx	52
4.3.b	CMF Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Attachment 1 Nov 2025.pdf	55
4.3.c	CMF Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Attachment 2 Nov 2025.docx	57

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### 4.4 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update

11:20 am (10 min)

Dan Gordon

Supporting Documents:

4.4.a	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update Nov 2025.docx	60
4.4.b	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update Attachment 1 Nov 2025.docx	65
4.4.c	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update Attachment 2 Nov 2025.pdf	79
4.4.d	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update Attachment 3 Nov 2025.docx	80
4.4.e	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update Attachment 4 Nov 2025.pdf	82

**4.5 Canterbury Regional Deal development approach** 11:30 am (15 min)

Supporting Documents:

4.5.a	CMF Canterbury Regional Deal development approach Nov 2025.docx	92
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**4.6 Canterbury Regional Energy workstream** 11:45 am (5 min)

Supporting Documents:

4.6.a	CMF Canterbury Regional Energy workstream Nov 2025.docx	97
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**4.7 Regional Forums budget** 11:50 am (5 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

4.7.a	CMF Regional Forums budget Nov 2025.docx	102
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**4.8 Chief Executives Forum report** 11:55 am (5 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

4.8.a	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Nov 2025.docx	105
4.8.b	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 1 Nov 2025.docx	108
4.8.c	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 2 Nov 2025.docx	110
4.8.d	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 3 Nov 2025.pdf	114

**5. For discussion**

**5.1 DIA Local Government update** 12:00 pm (15 min)

Paul Barker and Warren Ulusele, Department of Internal Affairs

Supporting Documents:

5.1.a	CMF DIA Local government update Nov 2025.docx	115
5.1.b	CMF DIA Local government update Attachment 1 Nov 2025.pptx	116

## 6. For information

### 6.1 Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements

Supporting Documents:

6.1.a	CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements Nov 2025.docx	132
6.1.b	CMF Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements Attachment 1 Nov 2025.pdf	134
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## 7. General business

**7.1 General business** 12:15 pm (10 min)

**7.2 Meeting review** 12:25 pm (5 min)

**7.3 Closing karakia** 12:30 pm (5 min)

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 - 20 Feb 2026, 8:30 am

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Hamish Dobbie

## Introduction to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

### Purpose

1. This paper provides some context and background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, and an opportunity for members to reflect on its value going into the new term.

### Recommendation

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **notes the role and mandate of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum**

### Background

2. Following the election, Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) members were provided with the following background material:
  - briefing for incoming members of the Mayoral Forum
  - a copy of the draft triennial agreement
  - a record of the Mayoral Forum's achievements during the 2022-2025 term
  - *Canterbury 2025 - An Overview*, presenting high-level information on current state and trends of wellbeing in Canterbury to inform the Mayoral Forum.

### Role and mandate

3. The role and mandate of the Mayoral Forum are set out in the briefing material. In short:
  - the Mayoral Forum is the key mechanism to implement the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement and is mandated by paragraph 14 of the Agreement (see item 2.3)
  - its role includes developing and leading implementation of a sustainable development strategy (see item 4.1), providing governance oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (see item 4.2), and advocating for the interests of the region, its councils and communities.
4. It is important to note that members speak in their own right at the Mayoral Forum as leaders for Canterbury, rather than as representatives for their councils.

5. Decisions of the Mayoral Forum are not binding on Canterbury's local authorities, unless ratification from each council is specifically sought.

## **Value of the Mayoral Forum**

6. The Forum provides the mechanism for Canterbury 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.
7. Over previous terms, the Mayoral Forum has achieved positive outcomes through exercising leadership, facilitation and advocacy for Canterbury.
8. 'One strong voice for Canterbury' has been a powerful tool for the Mayoral Forum. It has meant its views and ideas have been heard by local and central government as well as the region's stakeholders.
9. With the significance and volume of legislative reform and change proposed for the local government sector, including delivering on Local Water Done Well, emergency management and resource management reform, it is crucial that the Mayoral Forum works constructively and collaboratively to ensure a strong local voice throughout these processes.
10. Returning members are invited to reflect on their experience and value of the Forum. All members are invited to share their views on what they would like to see from the Mayoral Forum this term and where we can best add value.

# MINUTES (in Review)

## CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



<b>Name:</b>	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
<b>Date:</b>	Friday, 22 August 2025
<b>Time:</b>	8:30 am to 12:35 pm (NZST)
<b>Location:</b>	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
<b>Board Members:</b>	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Craig Pauling, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Marie Black, Neil Brown, Phil Muger, Sam Broughton, Karen Morgan
<b>Attendees:</b>	Monique Croon, Alex Parmley, Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Riach, Jeff Millward, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor, Mr Paul Eagle, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Maree McNeilly, Amelia Wilkins, Ann Fitzgerald
<b>Apologies:</b>	Anne Munro, Gary Kircher, Hamish Dobbie, Stuart Duncan
<b>Guests/Notes:</b>	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); Marie Ward, for Regional Public Service Commissioner (Item 6.1), John Bartels, GCP (Item 6.1)

## 1. Open Meeting

### 1.1 Welcome, karakia and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Craig Pauling to lead the opening karakia.

Apologies from Mayors Anne Munro and Gary Kircher, and Chief Executives Hamish Dobbie and Stuart Duncan were noted.

### 1.2 Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed as presented, with one item of general business – Canterbury Policing proposal.

An additional summary paper - CWMS Zone Committee review 2024-2025, relating to item 2.5 was circulated prior to the meeting.

### 1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

**Canterbury Mayoral Forum 30 May 2025**, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



#### Decision

The minutes of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting held on 30 May 2025 were confirmed as presented.

**Decision Date:** 22 Aug 2025

**Mover:** Dan Gordon

**Seconded:** Craig Pauling

**Outcome:** Approved

## 1.4 Action List

Due Date	Action Title	Owner(s)
30 Jun 2025	Action <b>Status:</b> On Hold	Maree McNeilly
30 Jun 2025	Action <b>Status:</b> On Hold	Maree McNeilly
30 Jun 2025	Action <b>Status:</b> On Hold	Nigel Bowen

## 2. For discussion and decision

### 2.1 Canterbury Ambition

Leeann Watson and Tait Dench, Business Canterbury presented the paper, with Jesse Burgess, from the Regional Deal working group joining the meeting for the discussion.

The private sector led Canterbury Ambition centers around innovation, environment and lifestyle and identifies three priorities – investing ahead of demand, protecting and advancing Canterbury’s competitive advantage and ensuring regulation is fit for the future. Business Canterbury has recently met with Treasury representatives and reinforced the need for central government to invest ahead of demand.

There was discussion on the draft priorities and it was suggested that the third priority be amended to "Enabling innovation by ensuring regulation is fit for the future and aligned across the region" to be proactive around innovation.

Discussion noted:

- strong private/public sector partnership in the region is a significant advantage in the eyes of central government
- Canterbury Ambition and a future Canterbury Regional deal are closely linked, and demonstrate how Canterbury can contribute to the national position
- Mayors noted that they could see their regions reflected in the Canterbury Ambition document
- Business Canterbury will be referencing the Canterbury Ambition in an upcoming meeting with the Prime Minister
- The importance of being proactive around innovation, noting central government’s role to provide appropriate regulation
- Runanga who engaged in the development of Canterbury Ambition were comfortable with the content, and were appreciative of the opportunity to be involved
- Consideration to be given to including “social businesses” in the discussions
- Launch options – after local body elections or in tandem with a future Canterbury Regional Deal. Business Canterbury will continue to use the Ambition’s key messages, pending any formal launch
- Both the Canterbury Ambition and a potential future Canterbury Regional deal need to move forward together, noting a regional deal may not come with central government funding, but rather central government creating the right environment.



### Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

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

<b>Decision Date:</b>	22 Aug 2025
<b>Mover:</b>	Karen Morgan
<b>Seconder:</b>	Sam Broughton
<b>Outcome:</b>	Approved

## 2.2 Canterbury Regional Deal - development approach

The Chair introduced the paper and invited Jesse Burgess (regional deal working group) to summarise the steps taken to produce the draft Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready Key pillars for Canterbury's Regional Deal proposal.

The Chair noted that this is NOT a Regional Deal, but a starting point for further development into a possible future regional deal.

Discussion included:

- May 2025 Mayoral Forum meeting agreed to develop a document setting out the pathway to a regional deal focusing on transport, housing, energy and infrastructure
- the document builds on existing information/documentation within member councils
- support for the clear alignment with "Canterbury Ambition"
- strengthen the innovation focus – add this as a fifth "pillar", what are we trying to grow, and the benefits of this for Canterbury
- check consistency around population data and other data to ensure accuracy
- note there is more work to do to engage with and include Ngāi Tahu; it was suggested that we contract with the Papatipu Rūnanga Environmental Entities to support this
- highlight the central transport funding versus population ratio in balance, while keeping a focus on national government investment, rather than just funding
- was noted that investment may come from a variety of sources, not only government
- options and timing for briefing member councils and forwarding the document to the Minister for Local Government, whether this is pre or post the 2025 local government elections. It was noted that the document could form part of council induction processes
- the need for a communications and engagement plan be developed to support this work, both pre- and post- election, including engagement with local councils and central government
- the Chair and Business Canterbury undertaking a webinar to update all Canterbury councillors on the work to date on the Canterbury Ambition and preparation work for a future regional deal prior to the local government election
- while there is a desire to get both the Canterbury Ambition and World-class stage ready document to central government as early as possible, given the current focus on North Island issues, members also want to allow time for briefings with Canterbury councillors. This work will also be important in preparation for the 2026 central government election.



### Action

Plan, prepare and book a webinar for Nigel Bowen, Chair CMF and Leeann Watson, CE Business Canterbury to update all Canterbury Councillors on the Canterbury Ambition and preparation work for a future regional deal – Waitaha Canterbury world-stage ready document, prior to the local government elections

**Due Date:** 15 Sept 2025  
**Owner:** Regional Forums Secretariat



### Action

Develop a communications and engagement plan for the future regional deal workstream.

**Due Date:** 15 Sept 2025  
**Owners:** Amelia Wilkins, Maree McNeilly



### Action

Update the world-stage ready document to include a section on innovation.

**Due Date:** 15 Sept 2025  
**Owner:** Maree McNeilly



### Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. provided feedback on the Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready (working title) document for finalisation
2. agreed to collectively brief member councils via a webinar on the Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready document and the Canterbury Ambition prior to the local government elections. Note: Christchurch City Council preferred Option 2 for this briefing to take place after the local government elections to allow a greater opportunity for the Council to have input
3. agreed 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. agreed to seek the involvement of mana whenua, 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.

**Decision Date:** 22 Aug 2025  
**Mover:** Craig Mackle  
**Seconder:** Craig Pauling  
**Outcome:** Approved

## 2.3 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Dan Gordon Chair Climate Champions Reference Group introduced the paper, noting the progress that has been made on the various actions in the Plan.

Jesse Burgess, Chair Climate Change Working Group, noted that the Working Group has recently reviewed the actions and resourcing, and was comfortable with the available resources and the progress being made.

It was suggested that Action 6 Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga be progressed by engaging with the Papatipu Rūnanga entities.



### Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. approved 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
2. noted 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. received the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Plan (final deliverable of Action 9)
4. noted the Emissions Reduction Strategic Overview and Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan will be published on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website
5. noted that the first meeting of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group was on 18 July 2025
6. received the quarterly Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan implementation progress report.

**Decision Date:** 22 Aug 2025  
**Mover:** Dan Gordon  
**Seconder:** Sam Broughton  
**Outcome:** Approved

## 2.4 Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan

Sharon Mason, Chair of Economic Development Forum introduced the paper seeking approval of the regional housing strategic plan, which has been amended to reflect feedback from the May 2025 CMF meeting.

The paper also notes that the CMF feedback has been incorporated into the submission on the Going for Housing Growth Pillar 1 discussion document, and this has now been submitted to central government.

The significant contribution Simon Hart and Jesse Burgess made to this work was acknowledged, along with Jesse's substantial involvement in other Mayoral Forum workstreams. The respective Chief Executives were acknowledged for making this resource available.

Discussion noted:

- the number of houses has a different impact, depending on where they are – 20 houses in a rural community has a far more significant impact than 20 houses in a metro setting
- the plan provides a toolbox to address the various housing challenges across the region
- the plan should make appropriate reference to He Rautaki mō Kāinga Nohoanga – Greater Christchurch
- there is an emphasis from the health sector on aging in your own home which requires many to move to smaller homes
- the document could be included in council induction processes
- the Canterbury Economic Development Forum work programme will include implementation of this strategy
- it was suggested that this Plan, along with other CMF plans and strategies, be collated into a 'plan on a page' to support the induction process for incoming CMF members.



### Action

Update the draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan to make appropriate reference to He Rautaki mō Kāinga Nohoanga, for final approval by Chairs Regional Economic Development Forum and Housing Strategy Steering Group.

**Due Date:** 5 Sept 2025  
**Owner:** Amelia Wilkins



### Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. provided feedback on and, with any feedback incorporated, approve the final draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan
2. delegated 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.

**Decision Date:** 22 Aug 2025  
**Mover:** Marie Black  
**Seconder:** Dan Gordon  
**Outcome:** Approved

## 2.5 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Craig Pauling presented the paper, recapping the outcome of the CWMS Zone Committee review and the plan to establish local leadership groups.

Waimakariri and Ashburton district concerns that local leadership groups based on the natural water catchments does not always align with regional boundaries are acknowledged, and an oversight in relation to area 3 Rakahuru – Waimakariri – Ihutai population numbers is being worked through.

Leadership group membership will include local council and rūnanga representatives along with other major players in the catchment area.

Following discussion with Environment Canterbury staff, Waimakariri and Ashburton Mayors are satisfied there is a way forward to align local leadership groups in their districts with the proposed catchment approach.



### Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the update for April to June 2025 on the region-wide work underway to implement the Canterbury Water Management Strategy
2. supported 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.

**Decision Date:** 22 Aug 2025  
**Mover:** Craig Pauling  
**Seconder:** Craig Mackle  
**Outcome:** Approved

## 3. KAI - Morning tea

### 3.1 Kai - morning tea

## 4. For discussion and decision

### 4.1 2025-2028 Triennium preparation

Hamish Riach outlined the three papers presented for CMF approval, noting the draft triennial agreement has already been circulated to member councils to support individual council discussion.

Craig Pauling raised the possibility of the Canterbury Regional Council Deputy Chair attending CMF meetings (non-voting), going forward noting that unlike the Mayors who are elected at large,

the regional council Chair is appointed by council members. This could be a discussion post-election.

The possibility of arranging a CMF quarterly webinar to brief all Canterbury councillors following each CMF meeting was suggested and will be explored for the new triennium.

As noted in item 2.4 a 'Plan on a Page' of CMF plans and strategies will be developed to support the induction process for incoming CMF members.



### Action

Develop a 'Plan on a Page' of CMF plans and strategies to support the induction process for incoming CMF members.

**Due Date:** 12 Oct 2025

**Owner:** Maree McNeilly



### Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. approved 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. noted the updated Waitaha Canterbury 2025: An Overview
3. noted the first meeting of the incoming Mayoral Forum meeting will be held on Friday 28 November 2025.

**Decision Date:** 22 Aug 2025

**Mover:** Neil Brown

**Seconder:** Dan Gordon

**Outcome:** Approved

## 5. For Discussion

### 5.1 Reflections on 2022-2025 triennium

Members shared reflections of the term, including

- a message from Mayor Anne Munro (conveyed by deputy Mayor Karen Morgan) acknowledging the support she has received during her time on the CMF, both personally and for the Mackenzie district
- collegial support, particularly appreciated by the smaller districts in the region
- the benefits to the Chatham Islands from being included in the CMF, including advice and support
- the significant workstreams underway demonstrate what can be achieved collectively
- collegial support to strengthen personal wellbeing
- the excellent support provided by the secretariat.

### 5.2 Acknowledgement of members not standing for re-election

The Chair thanked all members for their sustained and significant contributions during the triennium.

The contribution of retiring members in particular, was acknowledged.

**Mayor Gary Kircher** – one of the longest serving members, alongside Craig Rowley. First elected Mayor of Waitaki in 2013, after being on the council from 2001 with the exception of 2010-2013). Has also been the Chair of the Otago Mayoral Forum through this triennium and was Chair of the LGNZ Provincial councils and on the National Executive during the 2019-2022 triennium.

**Chair Craig Pauling** – first elected to Canterbury Regional Council in 2019, Deputy Chair of ECan in 2022 and then Chair from October 2024.

Craig has chaired the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions this triennium, had a key leadership role for the Canterbury Water Management Zone Committee review and a member of the Canterbury Regional Deal governance group.

**Mayor Neil Brown** – Mayor of Ashburton since 2019 and councillor since 2004. Neil has chaired CDEM for this triennium and also chaired the short-lived Essential Freshwater Steering Group that met in 2021.

**Mayor Anne Munro** – Mackenzie Mayor since the beginning of this triennium, after being a councillor at Mackenzie since 2016.

Anne was a member of the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions, both as a councillor and Mayor. Anne's decision to step aside, due to ill health, reflected her prioritization of stable leadership for the district, entrusting Deputy Mayor Karen Morgan to represent the Mackenzie at the CMF table.

Gift baskets were presented to Mayors Kircher, Brown, Munro and Chair Pauling.

## 6. For information

### 6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner

Marie Ward, for Diane McDermott, provided an update on the recent RPS Commissioner work, including:

- Sir Brian Roche RPS Commissioner attended a recent Regional Leadership Group meeting. He emphasised his focus on simplifying processes, and ensuring work “on the ground” is done
- the Social Investment Agency would like to speak at a future CMF meeting, noting that funding allocation decisions will eventually be devolved to regions
- Youth Partnership innovation fund announcement, and ongoing discussions with Minister Meager to ensure workforce development/industry skills board are the right fit for Canterbury
- ongoing support for the CMF energy workstream. Members noted that this support has meant CMF has been able to direct a portion of its funding to other work.



#### Action

Invitation to Sir Brian Roche to speak at future CMF meeting (arrange via RPSC).

**Due Date:** 3 Nov 2025

**Owner:** Regional Forums Secretariat

### 6.2 Greater Christchurch Partnership - update

Craig Pauling, Interim Chair GCP, and John Bartels, Director presented an update on the work of the Greater Christchurch Partnership (GCP). Key matters from the August 2025 meeting were noted:

- the GCP independent review findings, noting of the four recommendations for change none involved dissolution of the GCP, but rather a focus on strengthening the partnership's role and relationships

- advancing implementation of the Kāinga Nohoanga strategy
- strategic positioning on housing growth and infrastructure, including a submission on central government's Going for Housing Growth discussion paper

Members acknowledged the GCP success in Mass Rapid Transport project's inclusion in New Zealand Infrastructure Commission's National Infrastructure Plan.

It was noted that an update from the Greater Christchurch Partnership will be a standing item on CMF agenda's going forward.



### Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the update on the work of the Greater Christchurch Partnership.

**Decision Date:** 22 Aug 2025  
**Mover:** Nigel Bowen  
**Seconder:** Dan Gordon  
**Outcome:** Approved

## 6.3 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 under way or completed on the key actions in the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

**Decision Date:** 22 Aug 2025  
**Mover:** Craig Rowley  
**Seconder:** Craig Mackle  
**Outcome:** Approved

## 6.4 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, engagements and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 30 May 2025.

**Decision Date:** 22 Aug 2025  
**Mover:** Nigel Bowen  
**Seconder:** Sam Broughton  
**Outcome:** Approved

## 7. General business

### 7.1 General business

#### Canterbury Policing proposal (Mayor Brown)

The recent proposal to change policing arrangements across Canterbury were discussed. Mayors of both urban and rural districts expressed concern at the new proposals, which are effectively reducing coverage in rural areas, not providing a fair staff allocation for the Selwyn District, and have a serious impact on the ability of emergency services to respond in emergency situations.

While submissions on the proposal have closed, and the new arrangements will be rolled out on 1 September, CMF members were urged to continue lobbying the Minister.



### Action

Secretariat to forward an invitation to the Commissioner of Police to meet with CMF members to discuss their concerns.

**Due Date:** 5 Sept 2025

**Owner:** Regional Forums Secretariat



### Action

CMF members to forward their individual council written submissions on the Canterbury Policing proposal to the Secretariat.

**Due Date:** 5 Sept 2025

**Owner:** Regional Forums Secretariat

## 7.2 Meeting review

## 7.3 Closing karakia

Craig Pauling led members in a closing karakia, formally closing the last meeting of the triennium.

## 8. Kai - lunch

### 8.1 Lunch

## 9. Close Meeting

### 9.1 Close the meeting

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

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Action List

## Canterbury Mayoral Forum



As of: 28 Nov 2025

### Action

**On Hold**

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

### Latest Update:

At the 22 August 2025 meeting it was agreed that with the recent Ministerial announcement of significant changes to the building consent system, this work will be paused until details of the proposed legislative changes are known.

Ann Fitzgerald | 27 Aug 2025

### 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**

#### 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

### Latest Update:

Information on the GE national conversation from William Rolleston will be circulated to members at a later date.

Ann Fitzgerald | 27 Aug 2025

**Action**

**Not Started**

Invitation to Sir Brian Roche to speak at future CMF meeting (arrange via RPSC).

**Due Date:** 3 Nov 2025

**Owner:** Regional Forums Secretariat

**Meeting:** 22 Aug 2025 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 6.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Hamish Dobbie, Chair, Chief Executives Forum

## Selection of Chair and Deputy Chair

### Purpose

1. This paper outlines the process for the selection of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

### Recommendations

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **agrees to use first past-the-post voting procedure for the selection of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum**
2. **agrees that, in the event of a tie between the highest polling candidates, a coin toss will determine the successful candidate.**

### Background

2. The custom is for the Chair of the Chief Executives Forum to chair the first meeting of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) until the Mayoral Forum has selected a Chair. This is consistent with the procedure to be followed at the first meeting of a local authority following local body elections (Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 21).
3. The Mayoral Forum must agree on the voting system to use to elect its Chair and Deputy Chair.
4. The recommended voting system is first-past-the-post, and in the event of a tie that a coin toss will determine the successful candidate.

### Voting process steps

5. The steps involved in the process are as follows:
  - the Mayoral Forum agrees to the voting procedure and the procedure in the event of a tie
  - the interim Chair calls for nominations for the position of Chair, which must be accepted and seconded
  - nominees may make a brief statement in support of their nomination

- voting for Chair takes place as per the agreed system
- Chair declared as elected
- Chair assumes the chair
- Chair conducts selection of Deputy Chair by the same method.

## **Cost, compliance and communication**

### **Financial implications**

6. No honorarium or other remuneration is payable to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

### **Risk assessment and legal compliance**

7. The proposed process to select the Chair and Deputy Chair complies with the Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7.

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2028

**Presented by:** Hamish Dobbie, Chair, Chief Executives Forum

## Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement

### Purpose

1. This paper invites the Mayoral Forum to adopt the attached draft Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028 and arrange for it to be ratified by Canterbury councils before 1 March 2026.

### Recommendations

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **adopts the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028**
2. **arranges for the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement to be ratified by member councils before 1 March 2026.**

### Local Government Act requirements

2. The Local Government Act 2002 (s.15) requires all local authorities within a region to enter into a triennial agreement no later than 1 March after each triennial local government election.
3. The parties to the Canterbury Local Authorities; Triennial Agreement (the Agreement) are the 10 territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Canterbury Regional Council.
4. The purpose of a triennial agreement is to ensure that appropriate levels of communication, co-ordination and collaboration are maintained between local authorities within the region. Agreements must include:
  - protocols for communication and co-ordination between 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.
5. Triennial agreements may also include commitments to establish joint governance arrangements to give better effect to the matters set out in paragraph 4 above.

6. A triennial agreement may be varied by agreement between all the local authorities within a region and remains in force until local authorities ratify a new agreement.

## **Canterbury triennial agreement**

7. The secretariat has drafted the Agreement at the direction of the outgoing Mayoral Forum. The attached draft was discussed and endorsed at the May and August 2025 meetings of the Mayoral Forum.
8. The draft Agreement includes terms of reference for the Mayoral Forum and mandates the Mayoral Forum as the primary mechanism for implementing the Agreement in Canterbury (Agreement, paragraph 14). The Agreement (paragraph 16) also mandates the Chief Executives Forum and other regional forums and working groups.

## **Engagement with Waitaha Papatipu Rūnanga**

9. The Mayoral Forum terms of reference, which form part of the Agreement, provide (paragraph 5(d)) that:

*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.*

10. Following ratification of the Agreement the secretariat will draft letters for the Chair of the Mayoral Forum to send to the chairs of the Waitaha Papatipu Rūnanga to confirm this arrangement.

## **Cost, compliance and communication**

### **Financial implications**

11. Member councils meet their own costs for meeting attendance (travel, accommodation and Mayoral Forum working dinners). When guests are invited to working dinners, members share the cost of their meals. Mayors and Chief Executives pay personally for any alcoholic beverages consumed.
12. The Chief Executives Forum has a regional forums budget for approved collaborative projects. This is funded by a levy on member councils to an agreed formula. The levy for 2025-2026 is \$63,000. The breakdown of the levy across all Canterbury councils is shown in Table 1 below.
13. 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 and will generally require ratification from each council.
14. Selwyn District Council provides meeting rooms for regional forums that meet in its premises.

15. Canterbury Regional Council covers secretariat salaries and overheads and some Mayoral Forum meeting costs (room hire and lunch). Canterbury Regional Council also acts as fund-holder for any grants obtained from central government.

<b>Regional Forums Levy</b>		<b>\$63,000</b>
<b>Contribution based on Regional Forums Levy</b>		
Environment Canterbury	20.5%	\$12,915
Christchurch City	20.5%	\$12,915
Selwyn District	10.7%	\$6,741
Waimakariri District	10.7%	\$6,741
Ashburton District	9.8%	\$6,174
Timaru District	9.8%	\$6,174
Hurunui District	5.2%	\$3,276
Waimate District	3.9%	\$2,457
Waitaki District	3.9%	\$2,457
Kaikōura District	2.5%	\$1,575
Mackenzie District	2.5%	\$1,575
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>

Table 1: Regional Forums levy breakdown

### **Risk assessment and legal compliance**

16. The Agreement complies with requirements in section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002.
17. The Agreement needs to be ratified by the parties to the Agreement – the 10 territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Canterbury Regional Council – no later than 1 March 2026.

### **Significance and engagement**

18. Adopting and ratifying a triennial agreement as required by the Local Government Act 2002 s.15 is unlikely to trigger Significance and Engagement Policies as adopted by councils to comply with s.76AA of the Local Government Act 2002.
19. A draft council report has been provided that council staff may wish to draw on when drafting individual council papers to ratify the Agreement (attachment 2).

### **Communication**

20. When all councils have ratified the Agreement, the secretariat will publish it on the Mayoral Forum's website at <https://canterburymayors.org.nz/>

## Next steps

21. The next steps for the Agreement are:

- Mayors/Chair and Chief Executives arrange for member councils to ratify the Agreement before 1 March 2026
- Secretariat publishes a signed copy of the Agreement on the Mayoral Forum website by 20 March 2026
- following ratification, Chair of the Mayoral Forum extends an invitation to the chairs of the Waitaha Papatipu Rūnanga to invite them to meet annually with the Mayoral Forum.

## Attachments

- Attachment 1 - draft Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028
- Attachment 2 – draft council report

# **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.

## **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).
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, Operations, Communications and Engagement, and Economic Development 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
  - 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 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 Canterbury Regional Council 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.

# COUNCIL REPORT

**Date:**

**Presented by:**

## **Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028**

### **Purpose**

1. This paper invites the council to ratify the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028 (the Agreement).
2. The Agreement formalises how we communicate, co-operate and collaborate within Canterbury and mandates the Mayoral Forum as the primary mechanism for implementing the Agreement.

### **Recommendations**

**That the Council:**

1. **ratify the Canterbury Local Government Authorities' Triennial Agreement for 2025-2028.**

### **Local Government Act requirements**

3. Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires all local authorities within a regional council area to enter into a triennial agreement by 1 March following each triennial local government election.
4. The purpose of the agreement is to ensure that appropriate levels of communication, coordination and collaboration are maintained between local authorities within the region.
5. The agreement must include:
  - protocols for communication and co-ordination between 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 protocol through which all councils can participate in identifying, delivering and funding facilities and services of significance to more than one district within the region.
6. Triennial agreements may also include commitments to establish joint governance arrangements to give better effect to the matters set out in paragraph 5 above.

7. A triennial agreement may be varied by agreement between all the local authorities within a region and remains in force until local authorities ratify a new agreement.

## Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement

8. Attached is the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028
9. The Agreement includes Terms of Reference for the Mayoral Forum and mandates it as the primary mechanism for implementing the Agreement in Canterbury.
10. While the Mayoral Forum is a non-statutory body, it is the primary mechanism to give effect to the statutory requirement within the Local Government Act. The Mayoral Forum Terms of Reference forms part of the Agreement and explicitly state that decisions of the Mayoral Forum are not binding on member councils.
11. The Mayoral Forum is supported by the Chief Executives Forum, which is also mandated by the Agreement. The five regional forums, and associated working groups, support the Chief Executives Forum to provide advice to the Mayoral Forum and implement its decisions.
12. The Agreement does not preclude local authorities from entering into other agreements among themselves, or outside the Canterbury region, to facilitate their responsibilities.

## Financial implications

13. The current regional forums levy is \$63,000 excl GST per year, pro-rated across all eleven councils. Our current commitment, covered in our **Long-Term/Annual Plan** is **(apply as appropriate)** is noted in the following table.

	Regional Forums Levy	\$63,000
	<b>Contribution based on Regional Forums Levy</b>	
Environment Canterbury	20.5%	\$12,915
Christchurch City	20.5%	\$12,915
Selwyn District	10.7%	\$6,741
Waimakariri District	10.7%	\$6,741
Ashburton District	9.8%	\$6,174
Timaru District	9.8%	\$6,174
Hurunui District	5.2%	\$3,276
Waimate District	3.9%	\$2,457
Waitaki District	3.9%	\$2,457
Kaikōura District	2.5%	\$1,575
Mackenzie District	2.5%	\$1,575
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>

14. The levy has not changed since 2019. Any proposed future increase would need to be ratified by each individual council.

15. Canterbury Regional Council covers secretariat salaries and overheads and some Mayoral Forum meeting costs (room hire and lunch). Canterbury Regional Council also acts as fund-holder for any grants obtained from central government.

## **Attachments**

- Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2025-2028

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Hamish Dobbie, Chair Chief Executives Forum

## Regional Strategy (Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury)

### Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to propose an approach and timeframe to review and update the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury as the regional strategy for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum for the 2025-2028 triennium.

### Recommendations

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **agrees to review and update the *Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025* for the 2025-2028 triennium**
2. **agrees to the proposed approach to review and update the *Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025* for the 2025-2028 triennium.**

### Background

2. The Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement states that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) will develop and lead implementation of a sustainable development strategy for Canterbury region for the local government triennium 2025-2028. Since 2020, the strategy has been packaged as the [Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury](#) (the Plan).
3. At the final Mayoral Forum meeting of the 2022-2025 triennium, members agreed to recommend that the incoming Mayoral Forum review, refresh and update the Plan as the overarching strategy for the Mayoral Forum for this triennium.
4. [Waitaha Canterbury 2025: An Overview](#) has been prepared to provide a snapshot of the current state and key trends in Canterbury. This is intended to support Mayoral Forum discussions and decisions on priorities and the development of a regional strategy for this triennium.

### The Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury

5. The Plan was first launched in September 2020 and reviewed in 2023. During the review process, members agreed that the vision and values of the 2020-2022 Plan were still

relevant. Key priority areas and actions were refreshed to account for changes in the economy, government policy, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. A mid-term review of the 2023-2025 Plan was undertaken in early 2024 to articulate the approach to engage with the incoming Government and to be well-prepared for discussions on regional/city deals.
7. A number of the activities in the Plan are multi-year, interconnected and run concurrently, creating a network of initiatives that collectively advance regional resilience and prosperity.
8. Given these interdependencies, coordinated prioritisation and strategic alignment across Mayoral Forum workstreams, through the Plan, are essential to maximise impact, avoid duplication, and ensure limited resources deliver the greatest benefit for Canterbury communities.

### **Vision, values and key priorities**

9. The Mayoral Forum's vision for Canterbury, as articulated in the Plan, 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 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.
10. There are three key priority areas on which the Mayoral Forum's work has been 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.
11. The Plan includes an [action plan](#) to address these priority areas. Nine key actions were identified and made 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.

## Proposed process to develop a regional strategy for 2025-2028

12. The Chief Executives Forum recommends that the Mayoral Forum adopt the following process for reviewing and updating the Plan for the current triennium:

- gather input from the regional forums through December 2025
- hold a facilitated workshop(s) with the Mayoral Forum in January/February 2026 to agree the vision, values, priorities and actions, informed by input from the regional forums and updates on existing and potential actions
- secretariat to prepare a draft plan, based on workshop outputs, for discussion with the Chief Executives and Mayoral Forum
- draft Plan (or components) considered at regional forums in March 2026
- finalise draft Plan for consideration and approval at the May 2026 Chief Executives and Mayoral Forums meetings.

13. This timeframe is based on minimal external engagement on the draft plan prior to finalisation.

## Cost, compliance and communication

### Financial implications

14. A budget of \$20,000 is available from the 2025/2026 regional forum's budget for the development of the Mayoral Forum's strategy. This includes research, workshops, limited engagement and production.

15. Should the Mayoral Forum wish to consider a different approach, or more extensive engagement, further funding may be required. This will need to be scoped.

### Communication

16. Following agreement on the approach for developing the strategy for the 2025-2028 triennium, a communications and engagement approach will be developed for approval by the Chief Executives and Mayoral Forums. The communications and engagement approach will identify key stakeholders, approach for engagement and be based on the draft CMF communication and engagement plan that is currently being reviewed.

## Next steps

17. Subject to agreement on the proposed approach, next steps will include:

- seeking input on potential priorities and actions from regional forums through December 2025
- a facilitated workshop with the Mayoral Forum scheduled, including engagement of facilitator, for January/February 2026

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Dr Deon Swiggs, Chair Canterbury Regional Council

## Canterbury Water Management Strategy Progress Report

### Purpose

1. This paper provides the Canterbury Mayoral Forum with a Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) implementation update, including on the work occurring across all Councils and Papatipu Rūnanga to establish CWMS local leadership groups.

### Recommendations

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **notes the update for July to September 2025 on work underway to implement the Canterbury Water Management Strategy**
2. **notes that the establishment of local leadership groups is progressing with establishment hui held in four out of eight areas, including discussions on the refinement of catchment boundaries**

## Overview of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and recent work

### Background

2. The CWMS was adopted by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) in 2009 to sustainably manage Canterbury's water resources. Key elements of the Strategy have been a shared vision and key principles, goals for what was to be achieved across ten holistic target areas (2015 – 2040), and the establishment of regional and local committees.
3. The key principle of the CWMS has been collaboration and collaborative decision-making, with several other primary and supporting principles. The Strategy also describes governance and implementation drivers, such as a 'gift and gain' approach to reach consensus, local decision-making, as well as a holistic, integrated and strategic approach to water management.
4. Ten Zone Water Management Committees (zone committees) and a Regional Water Management Committee (the Regional Committee) were established in 2010–2011 to continue collaboration and support the Strategy's implementation.
5. The context has evolved since the CWMS was adopted, which has affected the Strategy's role in supporting freshwater management across Canterbury and the

effectiveness of the Regional Committee and zone committees. This led to several work programmes to refresh the Strategy, including the Zone Committee Review 2024 (the Review).

6. The Review was prompted by the Mayoral Forum in August 2023 when it asked Canterbury Regional Council to undertake an assessment of zone committees. The Review provided an opportunity to determine functions, structures, and resources needed to support future local freshwater leadership.
7. The Review's first phase concluded in late 2024, with key findings presented to the Mayoral Forum in August 2024. At this meeting, the Mayoral Forum also nominated four Mayors for a working group that included two Papatipu Rūnanga Chairs and the Canterbury Regional Council Chair to develop advice for how to best support local freshwater leadership into the future.
8. Attachments 1 and 2 provide further details of the CWMS and the Zone Committee Review 2024–2025.

### **Zone Committee Review Outcome and Local Leadership Groups**

9. At its 30 May 2025 meeting, the Mayoral Forum endorsed the final recommendations of the CWMS Zone Committee Review Working Group. This marked the culmination of an 18-month review process, involving extensive engagements with Mayors, Papatipu Rūnanga Chairs, zone committees and the Canterbury Regional Council.
10. The Review highlighted that zone committees are no longer the preferred approach in some areas, while others still work well. Despite this sentiment, all CWMS partners reiterated that the CWMS's vision and fundamentals, including collaborative decision-making and consensus building, and guiding plans remain critical. To reinvigorate the Strategy, a replacement model that locally connects Councils and Papatipu Rūnanga at a leadership level was endorsed by the Mayoral Forum in May 2025.
11. Following endorsement of the new model of eight local leadership groups by the Mayoral Forum, Canterbury Regional Council staff have been working with territorial authorities and Papatipu Rūnanga to progress commitment towards the establishment of eight local leadership groups. This includes refining the geographic boundaries, group structure, and membership details of each group.
12. All CWMS Water Zone Committees, as joint committees of Council, were disestablished at the end of the 2022–2025 local government term, in accordance with clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

## **Analysis and advice**

### **Local Leadership Group establishment hui**

13. Representatives from territorial authorities, Papatipu Rūnanga, and regional council have attended initial hui in four out of eight local leadership group areas, namely:
  - Clarence/Waiiau Toa – Kaikōura

- Rangitata – Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora
  - Waitaki – Waihao
  - Hakatere.
14. During the last triennium, discussions were also held between the former Ashburton and Selwyn District Mayors and Canterbury Regional Council Chair on potential adjustments to the Rangitata and Rakaia alpine river catchments, and between Waimakariri District Council and Canterbury Regional Council focused on the status of the Ihutai catchment.
15. Further establishment hui are being scheduled for December, and the new local leadership groups are expected to hold their first meetings in early 2026. Canterbury Regional Council staff will support this transition by:
- organising initial discussions at a leadership level among core members for the four remaining areas
  - developing collaborative agreements for each local leadership group
  - starting preparatory work to support new groups to commence in early 2026.

### **Potential adjustments to local leadership group areas**

16. Through recent engagements, three potential adjustments to current local leadership boundaries have been discussed with the relevant parties, and these will require further discussion now new Councils have formed:
- whether the Rangitata catchment should sit with Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora local leadership group (as originally proposed) or the Hakatere group
  - whether the Ihutai catchment should sit with the Rakahuri – Waimakariri local leadership group (as originally proposed) or the Whakaraupō – Te Pātaka group
  - several options for the Rakaia catchment, currently part of the Waihora – Rakaia local leadership group.
17. Treatment of the Rangitata catchment was discussed at the initial Hakatere hui on 25 September, and a follow-up discussion was held with Mayor Bowen, former Mayor Brown, and former Chair Pauling. Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua Chair Fiona Pimm was comfortable with potential changes, as the Takiwā of Arowhenua which extends across relative catchments.
18. Adjustments sought to the Ihutai catchment reflect feedback from Mayor Gordon and Christchurch City Councillor Cotter. Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga have expressed that further engagement is required to confirm the final status of the Ihutai catchment. This engagement is being planned for December 2025.
19. Discussions were held between former Mayors Brown and Broughton and former Chair Pauling on whether the Rakaia catchment, which is currently part of the Waihora – Rakaia local leadership group, should be managed as a standalone local leadership group. Further engagement with relevant Councils and Papatipu Rūnanga is required to clarify the final status of the Rakaia catchment.

20. Attachment 3 outlines the potential adjustments.

### **CWMS Targets Progress Report 2025 and 2030 Targets**

21. At its 30 May 2025 meeting, the Mayoral Forum 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 2025.
22. Work is now underway to consolidate the 2030 CWMS Targets to align them with the reported 2025 Targets and provide a clearer, more streamlined framework that will:
- be easier for communities and partners to understand
  - better guide work programmes for CWMS delivery, including those of local leadership groups
  - enable more efficient reporting
  - better demonstrate progress to the community.
23. Following the Mayoral Forum's August 2025 endorsement to review reporting requirements, Canterbury Regional Council staff will continue working with CWMS partners and local leadership groups to develop a consolidated set of 2030 CWMS Targets and an updated reporting framework. This work will be informed by the suite of reforms to the national resource management system currently underway.
24. Timeframes for completing the 2030 CWMS Targets consolidation and updated reporting framework will depend on the outcome of these resource management reforms. However, it is intended that both are presented to the Mayoral Forum by mid-2026.

### **Interim approach to Action Plan funding**

25. Canterbury Regional Council's 2024–2034 Long-Term Plan provides \$500,000 for a CWMS Action Plan Budget to support community initiatives. This was previously allocated to projects following recommendations made by Zone Committees.
26. For the 2025/26 year and ahead of Local Leadership Groups being established, Canterbury Regional Council is working through options for how to best allocate this funding equally across Canterbury. The Action Plan Budget will remain focused on projects delivering towards the CWMS and existing Zone Committee Action Plans.
27. No decisions have been made on how the CWMS Budget will be allocated in future years.

## Other developments

### Canterbury Nitrate Emergency Notice of Motion

28. On 17 September 2025, Canterbury Regional Council declared a “nitrate emergency” as a result of a Councillor’s notice of motion. In response, the Canterbury Regional Council Chief Executive met with several rural sector Chief Executives on 9 October to discuss nitrates and drinking water and what practical steps can be taken together to further strengthen action.
29. There was an acknowledgement that significant effort has been made over the past fifteen years by all CWMS partners – the Canterbury Regional Council, Ngāi Tahu and territorial authorities, as well as landholders, industry groups, statutory bodies, NGOs and other agencies. The group discussed how this korero can be progressed with all parties around the table, and noted that the new local leadership groups could be a mechanism for this.
30. Canterbury Regional Council intends to meet with other stakeholders across the region, while freshwater was a key focus area of the induction for regional councillors.
31. This work follows a recent pilot study in Selwyn of private drinking water where multiple wells exceeded New Zealand’s maximum acceptable values (MAV) for nitrate-nitrogen (11.3 mg/l) and detections of *E. coli* (<1 in 100 mL).
32. In response to this pilot study and ongoing regional groundwater quality survey results, Canterbury Regional Council is progressing a Drinking Water Action Plan that focuses on improving drinking water quality in Canterbury, including better understanding of numbers of domestic self-suppliers (i.e. domestic supplies that serve 25 or fewer people) in high risk areas, better targeting of information to these suppliers, and seeking a coordinated, multi-agency response to this issue.
33. This work has been discussed with the Canterbury Drinking Water Reference Group, which includes all Canterbury councils, Health NZ Te Whatu Ora and Taumata Arowai. Shared and consistent messaging and engagement with domestic self-suppliers was discussed, recognising that domestic self-supplies and shared domestic supplies have no specific responsibilities under the Water Services Act 2021, and that no single agency holds full responsibility for domestic self-supplies.
34. Through August 2025 amendments to the Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai Act 2020, Taumata Arowai now has a role to facilitate, promote, provide, or support education and training for domestic self-suppliers and shared domestic suppliers. Taumata Arowai have expressed a desire to work together to shape guidance material for domestic self-suppliers.

### Resource Management Reforms

35. Central Government has recently consulted on three packages of national direction:
  - Package 1: Infrastructure and development

- Package 2: Primary sector
  - Package 3: Freshwater.
36. For consultations on Packages 1 and 2, submissions closed in July 2025 and next steps are for the Minister for Resource Management Act Reform to finalise his decisions and gazette changes to relevant instruments. Some of these changes may be gazetted before the end of year, and some will be gazetted next year.
37. Submissions for Package 3 closed in July and the Minister is considering advice. The next step is a second round of targeted consultation on an exposure draft of a revised National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and a National Environmental Standards for Freshwater. Further detail is expected in the first quarter of 2026.
38. In December the Government is expected to introduce two new Bills (a Planning Bill and a Natural Environment Bill). A public submission process will follow, and once passed into law, (mid-2026), the Bills will replace the RMA.

## **Next steps**

39. The next steps for the establishment of local leadership groups are as follows:
- continue to hold establishment hui with territorial authorities and Papatipu Rūnanga across all local leadership group areas
  - through these establishment hui draft collaborative agreements and work programmes for the first 12 – 24 months of operation
  - return to the Mayoral Forum with an update at its next meeting, including on any potential boundary changes.

## **Attachments**

- Attachment 1: Overview Canterbury Water Management Strategy
- Attachment 2: CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 – 2025
- Attachment 3: Potential adjustments to local leadership group areas

## Attachment 1: Overview Canterbury Water Management Strategy

### Background

1. The Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) was adopted by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in 2009 in response to severe droughts, lack of an operative freshwater planning framework, and needs identified through the Canterbury Strategic Water Study (1999 – 2006). Key partners were territorial authorities, Canterbury Regional Council, Ngāi Tahu, the Canterbury community, and organisations with interests in water.
2. The aim for the CWMS was to gain the greatest cultural, economic, environmental, recreational and social benefits from Canterbury's water resources within a sustainability framework both now and for future generations. Key elements of the Strategy have been a shared vision and key principles, targets for what was to be achieved (2015 – 2040), the parallel development of core approaches (environmental restoration, more reliable water supply through storage, and improved land management concerning nutrient and water efficiency), and the establishment of regional and local committees.
3. While the CWMS's focus has been holistic from the beginning, as highlighted in its ten target areas (see Fig. 1), there was an initial focus on water quantity and economic prosperity, for instance through expanding the area of irrigated agricultural land use across Canterbury. Since then, priorities have broadened around water quality, economic and climate change resilience, and other areas.

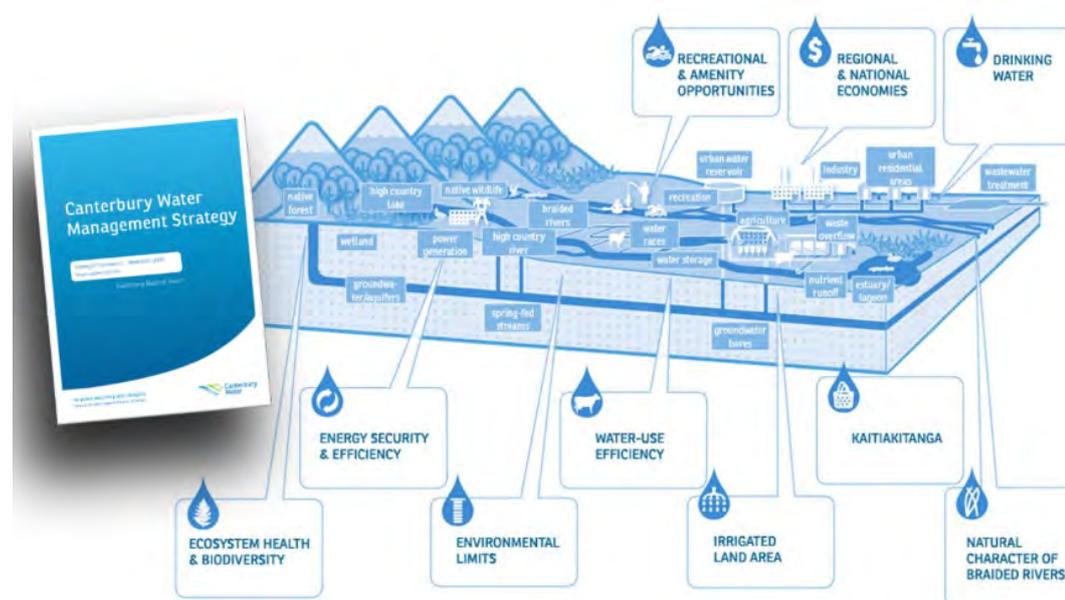


Figure 1 The ten target areas of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy

4. The key principle of the CWMS has been collaboration and collaborative decision-making, with several primary principles (sustainable development, regional approach, and kaitiakitanga) and supporting principles setting core intentions. The Strategy also describes governance and implementation drivers, such as a 'gift and gain' approach to reach consensus, subsidiarity (resolution of issues at the lowest practicable level), as well as a holistic, integrated and strategic approach to water management.

## Evolving water management context

5. Concerns that Canterbury would run short of water formed the lens through which freshwater management was viewed and which prompted development of the Strategy from the early 2000s onwards. This included a focus on water infrastructure together with re-allocation and efficiency gains as primary mechanisms for delivering a more resilient future. Another aim was to increase the supply of reliable water to add up to 400,000ha of irrigated land across Canterbury – up to 900,000ha irrigated land in total.
6. A focus on storage and large-scale irrigation projects was also reinforced by Central Government. Looking to enhance economic growth through increased agricultural exports, particularly dairy products, Central Government established initiatives such as the Irrigation Acceleration Fund at this time. As a result, infrastructure – particularly large-scale storage and irrigation infrastructure – was considered a key component for delivering CWMS goals and targets by helping to reduce the pressure on groundwater.
7. While issues such as water security and reliability remain critical aspects of freshwater management across Canterbury, the context has evolved in the intervening decade and a half since the CWMS was adopted in 2009. Key changes include:
  - *Growing importance of collective nutrient management:* The health of surface and groundwater sources has stagnated or declined in several areas, leading to growing efforts to mitigate further declines, such as nutrient management approaches set out in Plan Changes 2, 3 and 5 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.
  - *Growing role of Te Tiriti-based partnership:* The relation between many Canterbury councils and Ngāi Tahu has matured as, for instance, demonstrated in the Canterbury Regional Council (Ngāi Tahu Representation) Act 2022.
  - *More directive national legislation:* The Essential Freshwater package that came into effect on 3 September 2020 and associated instruments made national freshwater legislation more directive (e.g. National Bottom Lines for water quality), thereby limiting (sub-) regional flexibility in achieving locally determined visions.
  - *Growing role of catchment groups:* Supported by funding from national initiatives (e.g. Jobs for Nature), catchment groups and collectives have become increasingly active in recent years, often overlapping with CWMS-related efforts and initiatives.
8. This evolved context has affected the CWMS's role in supporting freshwater management across Canterbury and led to several work programmes to refresh the Strategy. These programmes include the Fit for the Future Review in 2020 and the Zone Committee Review in 2024. An overview of the latter review is provided in Attachment 2.

## Attachment 2: Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Review 2024 – 2025

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### Background

1. To continue the collaborative approach of developing the CWMS and support its implementation, ten Zone Water Management Committees (zone committees) and a Regional Water Management Committee (the Regional Committee) were established in 2010–11. These committees were tasked with developing Zone Implementation Programmes (ZIPs) and a Regional Implementation Programme, respectively.
2. The intention for establishing zone committees at a sub-regional level was to engage communities in local water management. In doing so, zone collaborative management was set up as the Strategy's foundation, with an aim to partner with stakeholders in decision making, including developing solutions on a consensus basis – endeavoring to take account of broad community interests and make decisions 'all can live with'.
3. Ten zones were delineated based on ecological, social, cultural, and political considerations to assist Canterbury councils and communities balance environmental management and economic objectives and to establish zone-based programmes capable of pursuing the implementation of these objectives in parallel.
4. Following this approach, the CWMS can be thought of as both the 'blue strategy book' containing regional vision, principles, priorities, targets and goals, as well as the social infrastructure of the zone committees and Regional Committee. As such, it has been as much a collaborative social process as a technical strategy-making process.

### Zone Committee Review 2024

5. Due to a lack of appropriate representation, the Regional Committee did not formally meet between June 2021 and late 2023. Consequently, the Mayoral Forum advised Canterbury Regional Council at its August 2023 meeting to discharge the Regional Committee, which was actioned on 20 September 2023.
6. The inability to re-establish the Regional Committee sat alongside concerns over the effectiveness of zone committees, with a potential review being discussed throughout 2023. At its August 2023 meeting, the Mayoral Forum therefore also asked Canterbury Regional Councils to undertake a review of zone committees in 2024 (the Review).
7. The Review provided an opportunity to determine functions, structures, and resources needed to support future local freshwater leadership. A range of stakeholders were engaged in 2024 through workshops, interviews and surveys, including zone committees, Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and Canterbury Regional Councillors.
8. The Review's first phase concluded in late 2024, with key findings presented to the Mayoral Forum in August 2024. A full [technical report](#)<sup>1</sup> was shared with territorial authorities, Papatipu Rūnanga, and zone committees in early 2025. In August 2024, the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/document/download?uri=5562967>

Mayoral Forum also nominated four Mayors for a working group that included two Rūnanga Chairs and the Canterbury Regional Council Chair ('the Working Group') to develop advice for how to best support local freshwater leadership into the future.

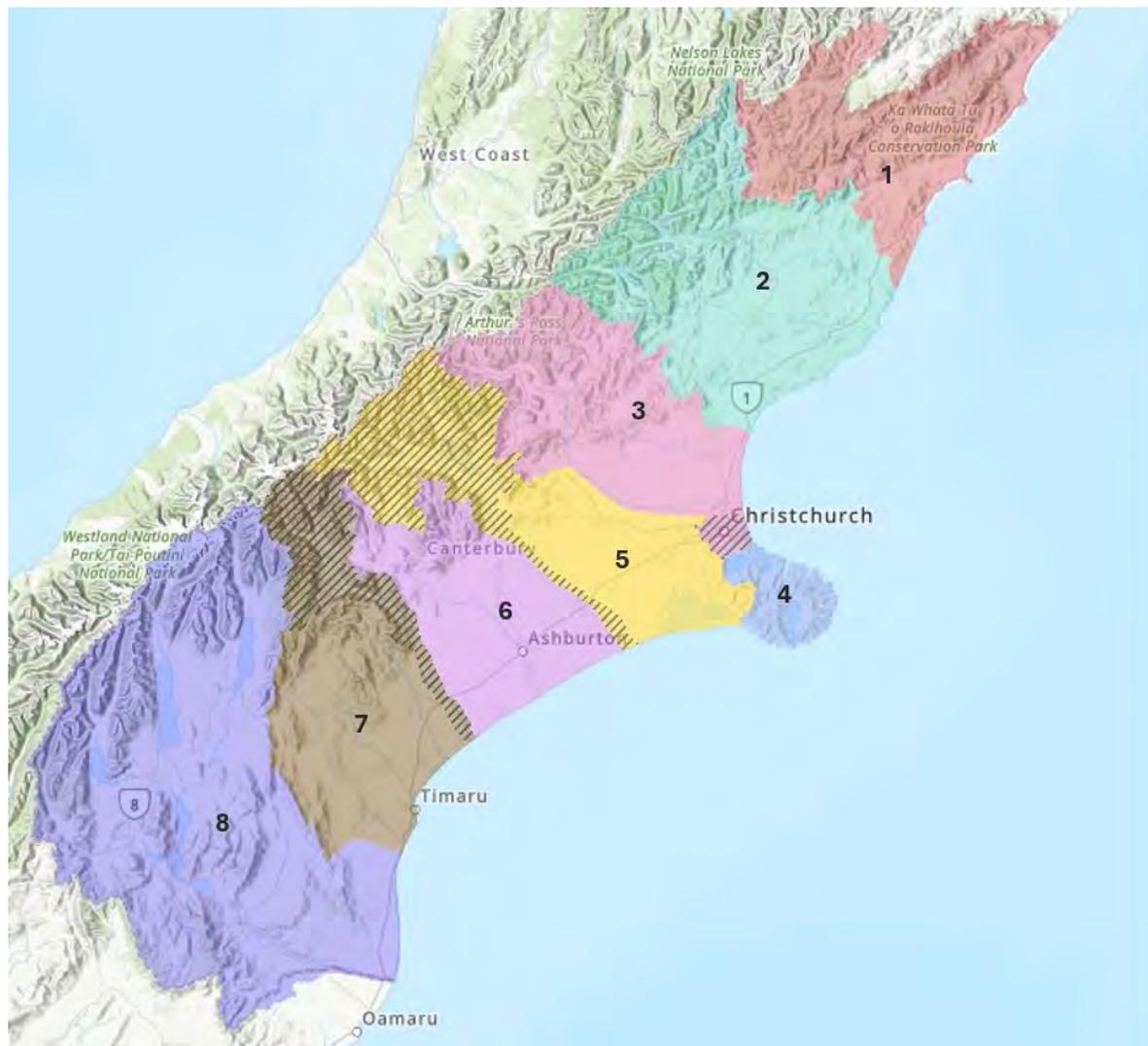
9. Based on the Review's first phase findings and feedback from the Working Group, the Mayoral Forum endorsed the following outcomes in November 2024:
- zone committees were integral for collaborative freshwater management, with involvement in plan changes, ZIP development, and local community-led initiatives
  - shifts from planning to implementation and evolved contexts mean zone committees are no longer the preferred approach in some areas, while others still work well
  - CWMS fundamentals and guiding plans remain critical
  - a replacement base model was identified that locally connects councils and mana whenua at a leadership level
  - further work to refine this base model is to be undertaken, supported by the working group of Mayors, Rūnanga representatives and Canterbury Regional Council Chair.

The Mayoral Forum requested final reporting on this work programme by May 2025.

### **Development of local leadership group model in 2025**

10. The Working Group met throughout early 2025 to specifying the purpose and function of the proposed local leadership groups. Additionally, design details were clarified, including groups' area boundaries, scope of work, and preferred structure.
11. Work was guided by engagements with each Canterbury Council and several Papatipu Rūnanga between March and May 2025 to discuss the purpose of proposed local leadership groups and key design questions. Several Councils and Rūnanga also provided submissions on the proposed local leadership group model.
12. At the Mayoral Forum's May 2025 meeting, the Canterbury Regional Council Chair presented the Working Group's recommendations and a detailed report. The Mayoral Forum endorsed these recommendations, which were:
- establishment of eight local leadership groups
  - groups will connect councils and mana whenua at leadership level to prioritise, align, and recommend actions that support integrated catchment management
  - each group will have flexibility to locally determine wider (community) membership or engagement mechanisms
  - collaborative agreements are the default structure, with options to (re)establish joint committees or Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements where preferred
  - groups will meet 4-6 times annually, guided by an adjustable work programme.
13. Since June 2025, work is underway to arrange engagements with all Councils and Papatipu Rūnanga in each local leadership group area to gain commitment to this new approach and collaboratively determine each group's structure and membership details.

### Attachment 3: Potential adjustments to local leadership group areas



1. Clarence/Waiiau Toa – Kaikōura
2. Hurunui Waiiau
3. Rakahuri Waimakariri – Ihutai
4. Whakaraupō – Te Pātaka
5. Waihora – Rakaia
6. Hakatere
7. Rangitata – Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora
8. Waitaki – Waihao

Figure 2. The eight local leadership group areas, with the Rangitata, Rakaia and Ihutai catchments indicated as subject to ongoing discussions.

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Dr Deon Swiggs, Chair Canterbury Regional Council

## Canterbury Biodiversity Champions

### Purpose

1. This paper summarises work undertaken by the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions in the 2022–2025 local government term and seeks that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum reinstate the Biodiversity Champions for the 2025–2028 local government term, as recommended by the Chief Executives Forum.

### Recommendations

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **notes a Canterbury Biodiversity Champions group comprised of councillors from each of Waitaha Canterbury’s 11 councils has been in place since 2020 to strengthen governance-level engagement on biodiversity**
2. **notes the overview of work undertaken by the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions during the 2022-2025 local government term**
3. **agrees to reinstate the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions councillor group for the 2025-2028 local government term.**

### Background

2. Waitaha Canterbury has some of Aotearoa New Zealand’s most distinctive and diverse ecosystems. However, Waitaha Canterbury’s biodiversity continues to decline because of habitat loss and ecological degradation, requiring coordinated action across councils and communities to protect and restore it.
3. Recognising both the significance of Waitaha Canterbury’s biodiversity and the need for stronger regional leadership, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) endorsed the formation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions (the Group) in September 2020, reinstating it for the subsequent local government term in November 2022.
4. At its 10 November 2025 meeting, the Chief Executives Forum agreed to recommend that the Mayoral Forum should reinstate the Group for the 2025–28 local government term.
5. The Group was established to strengthen governance-level engagement on biodiversity issues and opportunities across all Waitaha Canterbury councils, and to align collective

action under key frameworks, including the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023, the revitalised Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, and the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement.

6. Each of Waitaha Canterbury's 11 councils nominates one councillor to the Group, with administrative support provided by the Canterbury Regional Council. The Group's Terms of Reference are included at Attachment 1.

## **The work of the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions**

7. Collectively, the Group's work has elevated biodiversity as a regional priority and strengthened its visibility in long-term and annual plans. The Group has also fostered closer collaboration on national biodiversity policy and its local implementation.
8. Over the previous two local government terms, the Group has:
  - completed regular stocktakes of biodiversity staffing levels, actions and budgets across the 11 Waitaha Canterbury councils (a summary of the September 2025 stocktake is provided at Attachment 2)
  - provided oversight and input into the revitalisation of the Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy
  - supported the ongoing development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework to enable consistent measurement and reporting
  - shared progress and good practice on local biodiversity strategies and initiatives
  - received regular updates from territorial authority biodiversity staff and supported stronger staff-to-governance connections
  - explored links between biodiversity and biosecurity, including local authority roles in cat management.
9. These efforts have supported regional progress in biodiversity governance and investment. Significant achievements of the Group as of September 2025 include:
  - eight of the 11 councils now have a biodiversity strategy or equivalent plan in place (three adopted in 2024 alone)
  - most councils provide biodiversity grant funding to landowners and community groups, ranging from \$10,000 to \$400,000 per year
  - eight councils offer rates remissions as a non-regulatory incentive to protect indigenous biodiversity
  - six councils employ at least one dedicated biodiversity officer, with others assigning the function to planning or environmental staff.

## Recommendations for the future

10. At their final meeting of the 2022–25 local government term, the Group reflected on their work and identified ways to support the incoming group, should it be reinstated for the 2025–28 local government term. Moving forward, the focus areas for the next group may include:
  - reviewing and confirming the Terms of Reference to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose
  - continuing to develop the regional biodiversity monitoring framework, building on the progress made to date with staff across all councils
  - championing the uptake of the revitalised Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy across councils and communities, promoting consistent approaches to biodiversity protection and restoration
  - supporting councils to develop, implement, and review local biodiversity strategies, ensuring alignment with regional objectives
  - exploring opportunities for a shared regional approach to cat management, building on the early work of several local authorities.
  
11. It was also recommended that the next group continues several operational approaches that have worked well over the past two local government terms. These include:
  - meeting four times per year
  - using a blended (in-person and online) format to maximise participation across the region
  - that the Chair of the Group be the representative appointed by the Canterbury Regional Council
  - that administrative support is provided through the Canterbury Regional Council, aligned with the Chair role, for efficiency
  - to include at least one member who also sits on the Mayoral Forum to strengthen reporting and governance linkage, i.e. a mayor or the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council.

## Next steps

12. Subject to Mayoral Forum's endorsement the Canterbury Regional Council will confirm administrative support arrangements for the Group, work with territorial authorities to confirm councillor nominations and schedule the first meeting by mid-2026.

## Attachments

- Attachment 1: Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Terms of Reference
- Attachment 2: September 2025 Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Stocktake

# Canterbury Biodiversity Champions: Terms of Reference

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Updated 3 March 2021

## Purpose

1. Our purpose as Biodiversity Champions is to get our colleagues amped about biodiversity and to advocate for our councils' and communities' roles in weaving biodiversity through our living and working landscapes.
2. To achieve this purpose, we will
  - be a loud and positive voice for biodiversity and advocate for funding to build the tools and resources needed to protect and regenerate Canterbury's indigenous biodiversity
  - grow our knowledge of local and regional biodiversity issues and opportunities, and use this knowledge to lead conversations and build greater understanding of biodiversity around our council tables
  - share our councils' experiences in biodiversity management and learn from each other's challenges and successes
  - identify groups involved and interested in biodiversity protection and regeneration
  - be high-level matchmakers, creating connections amongst councils and communities and between council governance and biodiversity staff
  - encourage our councils to work together to face existing and upcoming challenges in biodiversity management, including by sharing information and resources, and working in coordinated ways towards common goals
  - celebrate work underway to protect and regenerate biodiversity.

## Establishment

3. The formation of the Biodiversity Champions was initiated at, and supported by, the Mayoral Forum in September 2020.

## Scope

4. Matters subject to the Group's consideration include
  - identifying and advocating for shared and/or aligned resources and services to implement the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
  - identifying and advocating for shared and/or aligned funds and programmes to deliver regional biodiversity objectives under the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and Canterbury Regional Policy Statement
  - supporting the revitalisation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.

## **Resourcing**

5. Individual Councils will support attendance of their own representatives and any specific information needs they have. Members are responsible for contributing district and council specific biodiversity knowledge to the Group.

## **Membership and operation**

6. The members of the Group are nominated by each Council.
7. The Group may invite other councillors, staff, or other agencies to present and participate as the Group considers appropriate.
8. Members may send alternates in their place if they are unable to attend a meeting.
9. Environment Canterbury will provide secretariat support to the Group.
10. The Group will meet monthly until June 2021 to support Long-Term Plan participation by Group members, and then reassess meeting frequency based on need.
11. The Group shall update the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on its activities.
12. The Group shall appoint a Chair from its membership.

## **Review and amendment of these terms of reference**

13. The Group will review these terms of reference on an as needs basis and will inform the Mayoral Forum of any substantive changes.

## September 2025 Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Stocktake

The table below provides a snapshot of each of Canterbury's 11 council's biodiversity direction and community funding available. This information was presented to the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions in September 2025.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Biodiversity Strategy (Status / Date)</b>	<b>Vision and Summary</b>	<b>Contestable Biodiversity Funding</b>	<b>Rates Remission</b>
<b>Canterbury Regional Council</b>	Yes – 2008 (under review)	<i>Vision (2008):</i> “The Canterbury community values and cares for the region’s biodiversity ... healthy ecosystems stretching from the mountains to the sea.” Regional-level document with shared goals and actions.	Waitaha Action to Impact (WAI) Fund (\$300 000, not specific to biodiversity)  Christchurch targeted rate (\$200,000–\$400, 000)  Additional grants as budgets allow	Mixed – enabled under rates policy; varies by local area
<b>Christchurch City Council</b>	Yes – 2008–2035 (due for review)	“The biodiversity of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula is valued, promoted, protected and enhanced.” Four goals: (1) conservation and restoration, (2) awareness and understanding, (3) community participation, (4) research and monitoring.	Christchurch Biodiversity Fund – \$400,000 annually	No
<b>Ashburton District Council</b>	Yes – adopted March 2024	“A district where biodiversity is protected and enhanced ki uta ki tai by an engaged community.” Goals: protection, restoration, education, collaboration. Includes 55 actions and annual reporting.	Biodiversity Grant – max \$7,500 (50% co-funding, ~\$17,000 total p.a.)	Yes – QEII and Reserves Act covenants eligible

<b>Hurunui District Council</b>	No (did not adopt 2008 Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy)	–	Main Power Hurunui Natural Environment Fund – \$10,000 (50:50 partnership)	Yes – QEII covenants (LTP provision)
<b>Kaikōura District Council</b>	No	–	Community Discretionary Fund (\$100,000 total; not ring-fenced for environment)	Yes – QEII covenants specific (2024 Policy)
<b>Mackenzie District Council</b>	No (did not adopt 2008 Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy)	–	No dedicated fund	No
<b>Selwyn District Council</b>	Yes – published Oct 2024	“Ecosystems ki uta ki tai are protected and thriving. Mana whenua exercise rakatirataka and kaitiakitaka.” Four goals cover partnership, state of biodiversity, landowner support, integration with built environments.	Selwyn Natural Environment Fund – \$225,000 annually	Yes – 100% for covenants to 25% for other mechanisms
<b>Timaru District Council</b>	No strategy but Biodiversity Policy (2018, rev. 2021)	“Timaru District Council is committed to the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity values.” 11 policies and methods; Biodiversity Working Group sets three-year programmes.	Significant Natural Areas Fund – \$100,000 annually (\$30,000 landowner / \$70,000 council projects)	Yes – for conservation land and SNAs (potential extension under review)
<b>Waimakariri District Council</b>	Yes – adopted 2024 ( <i>Natural Environment Strategy</i> )	“Our healthy and resilient natural environment sustains our communities and future.” Four strategic directions: prioritise nature; connect people and	Landowner and Community Funds – up to \$10,000 each  Aligned with 2024–34 LTP actions	Yes – for SNAs and land protected for conservation

		nature; improve knowledge; create resilient ecosystems.		
<b>Waimate District Council</b>	Partly – Biodiversity Action Group strategy supported by Council	Draft Vision: “Protection, restoration and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity within connected catchments.” Four objectives: protect, enhance, restore, engage.	Community Grant (\$10,000 annually; may fund catchment projects)	Yes – for land protected or enhanced for natural features
<b>Waitaki District Council</b>	Yes – 2014–2017 (due for review)	“The Waitaki community values and cares for indigenous biodiversity ki uta ki tai.” Goals: identify state, maintain/restore, engage Ngāi Tahu and community, support local initiatives.	Waitaki Biodiversity Fund – \$30,000 annually	Yes – automatic for covenanted land (stated in strategy)

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Mayor 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 present the quarter 1 year 2 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP) implementation progress report, outline the implementation approach for Year 2, confirm continuation of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group, and introduce the National Adaptation Framework.

### Recommendations

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **receives the quarterly Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan implementation progress report**
2. **approves the continuation of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group for the 2025-2028 triennium and its terms of reference**
3. **subject to the approval of the continuation of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group:**
  - 3.1. **select a member of the Mayoral Forum to chair the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group**
  - 3.2. **advise the Regional Forums Secretariat of the nominated councillor for the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group from each council, as soon as practicable**
4. **notes that analysis of the National Adaptation Framework will be undertaken and advice provided, as appropriate, to the Canterbury Policy Forum in December 2025**
5. **notes the presentation on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan at the recent Adaptation Futures 2025 conference**

### Background

2. Climate change mitigation and adaptation is one of the three key priorities in the 2023-2025 Plan for Canterbury. All Canterbury councils recognise climate change as a significant, long-term challenge requiring shared leadership and action. While councils

are at different stages in their climate journeys and have varying resources, all have committed to collaborative climate action in Canterbury.

3. One of the first of its kind in New Zealand, the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP) – approved by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) in August 2024 – sets out a collective commitment to climate action across the region. Its vision is a thriving, low-emissions, climate-resilient Canterbury and it outlines how councils will work together to reduce emissions and build resilience.
4. The CCPP was developed by the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), following completion of the Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment in 2022. Established in 2017, the CCWG brings together staff from all Canterbury councils and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to build shared understanding, manage climate risks, seize opportunities, and reduce emissions. It reports to the Canterbury Policy Forum.
5. Funded through existing Long-Term Plans until June 2027, the CCPP includes ten collaborative actions, each led by different councils to ensure shared implementation.
6. The Mayoral Forum's key projects are interconnected and running concurrently, creating a network of initiatives that collectively advance regional resilience and prosperity. For example, the CCPP Action 2 on transition to low emissions directly links to the work underway on a regional energy strategy and the Regional Land Transport Plan, ensuring that emissions reductions align with infrastructure investment and economic development.
7. These interdependencies mean that progress in one area accelerates outcomes in others, but they also highlight the need for coordinated prioritisation, particularly in the context of tight budgets. Strategic alignment across the CCPP, energy, housing, and regional deals will maximise impact, avoid duplication, and ensure that limited resources deliver the greatest benefit for Canterbury communities.

## **CCPP Implementation progress update**

8. The first year of CCPP implementation was delivered within the agreed action scopes, budget and timeframes.
9. The implementation progress report for quarter 1, year 2 is included in Attachment 1.
10. Most actions are currently on track, except for Actions 4 (nature-based solutions) and 5 (climate change education and advocacy) which are currently considered 'at risk' due to a delay in milestone delivery for action 4.1, and a potential change to scope in action 5 respectively. Staff are managing these risks and delivery is expected to be back on track by quarter 3 (FY 25-26). Further commentary is provided in Attachment 1.
11. The climate partnership continues to make significant and meaningful progress, despite resourcing pressures across councils related to limited staff capacity to contribute to the CCWG and CCPP implementation, particularly in smaller councils.

12. When the CCPP was endorsed by the Mayoral Forum, councils committed both financial contributions (based on Mayoral Forum funding ratios) and in-kind staff resourcing to support regional climate action. While financial contributions were clearly defined, staff resourcing levels were not, pending development of action implementation plans.
13. As implementation has progressed, the scale of necessary in-kind staff time has become clearer. This, combined with uneven council participation, has resulted in the implementation of the CCPP falling disproportionately on more active councils, threatening the collaborative intent of the CCPP.
14. To mitigate these risks, the CCWG reviewed the implementation approach for year 2, including estimated budget allocation and staff in-kind resourcing.
15. Following this, three key recommendations were approved by the Canterbury Policy Forum in September 2025:
  - appoint Selwyn District Council to lead the implementation of action 1 (understanding climate risks and improving resilience)
  - appoint Waimakariri District Council to lead the implementation of action 4 (nature-based solutions)
  - utilise available funds within the existing CCPP budget to appoint a project manager, hosted by Canterbury Regional Council, to support the delivery of the CCPP.
16. The revised implementation team structure is outlined in Attachment 2.

### **Year 2 CCPP budget allocation**

17. A total budget of \$858,510.25 is available for 2025/26. This includes year 2 council contributions of \$741,049 and a year 1 carry forward of \$117,461.25. This is summarised in Attachment 1, table 2.
18. Attachment 1, table 2 also shows the expenditure currently approved by the Convenor of the CCWG (noted in green), and the forecasted expenditure, yet to be finalised and approved through procurement processes (noted in orange).
19. As at October 2025, expenditure of \$265,750 has been approved under contract. Approximately \$592,000 has been forecasted for expenditure by the end of the financial year; however actual costs will be managed within the remaining available budget to ensure no overspend. Given the implementation and key deliverables of the CCPP actions is spread over multiple years, any unspent funds will be carried forward to year 3.

### **Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group**

20. The Canterbury Climate Change Action Planning Reference Group was a governance-level group of elected members from each council, established to support the development of the CCPP.

21. In May 2025, following the completion of the CCPP, the group evolved into the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group (CCRG). The purpose of the CCRG is to be a strong advocate regionally and within individual councils, for a thriving, climate resilient, low-emission Canterbury. It has been chaired by Mayor Dan Gordon and support is provided by the Regional Forums Secretariat, with input from the CCWG.
22. It is recommended that the Mayoral Forum approve the continuation of the CCRG for this triennium, including approving the Terms of Reference (Attachment 3); selecting a Mayoral Forum member to chair the group; and advising the Regional Forums Secretariat of the nominated councillor for the CCRG from each council.

## **Release of the National Adaptation Framework**

23. The Government released the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) on 16 October 2025. The NAF sets out central government's approach to prepare New Zealand for climate change, supporting the Government's Climate Change Strategy, published by the Ministry for the Environment in 2024, and wider work under the National Risk and Resilience Framework.
24. There are four pillars to the NAF, and the actions listed under each bring together new and existing work by central government:
  - risk and response information sharing
  - roles and responsibilities
  - investment in risk reduction
  - cost sharing pre and post event
25. Staff are assessing the implications of the NAF on the implementation of the CCPP actions. A rapid analysis indicates there are several NAF actions, such as the development of a National Flood Map, updates to the Natural Hazards Portal, and legislative changes affecting local government adaptation planning which may affect the scope and approach of CCPP actions e.g. actions 1 (risk tool) and 3 (adaptation planning).
26. Further advice on the impact of the NAF on CCPP implementation will be provided to the Canterbury Policy Forum in December 2025.

## **Cost, compliance and communication**

### **Risk assessment and legal compliance**

27. No legal compliance risks have been identified for the recommendations provided in this paper. Further commentary on risks is provided in the quarterly progress report (Attachment 1).

## Communication

28. A communication and engagement plan is currently being developed, and a draft will be considered at the Communication and Engagement Forum in December 2025.
29. Ōtautahi Christchurch recently hosted global leaders, researchers and climate adaptation experts from around the world for the Adaptation Futures 2025 conference.
30. Canterbury Regional Council Senior Strategy Advisor and CCPP Implementation lead, Isla Hepburn, presented on the CCPP and shone the spotlight on the collective action of Waitaha Canterbury's 11 councils to adapt international best practice frameworks to Canterbury's local context. The presentation (Attachment 4) focused on the power of collaboration for successful climate action and was well received by the international audience.

## Next steps

31. Action leads, with the support of their sub-groups, will continue to progress implementation across each of the actions.
32. The quarter 2 year 2 CCPP progress update and analysis of the implications of the National Adaptation Framework will be considered at the Canterbury Policy Forum in December 2025.
33. If the continuation of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group is approved, a date for the first meeting of the triennium will be set for March 2026.

## Attachments

- Attachment 1 – CCPP implementation quarterly report summary (July to September 2025)
- Attachment 2 – CCPP Implementation Structure
- Attachment 3 - Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group Terms of Reference
- Attachment 4 – CCPP Presentation to Adaptation Futures 2025

# Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Implementation Plan Quarterly Progress Report

July 2025 – September 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.

Action Theme		Primary Action	Sub-actions	Lead	Indicative G+S budget expenditure excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)
1	<b>Understanding Climate Risks and Improving Resilience</b>	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 with support from Canterbury Regional Council. See commentary regarding proposed change of lead to Selwyn District Council.	<b>Y1 (24/25)</b> Scoping \$14,375 (including GST) paid for by Canterbury Regional Council budget  <b>Y2 (25/26)</b> \$4,000 Finalising preliminary scoping report.	On track	At the 20 August CCWG meeting it was agreed that Waimakariri District Council/Canterbury Regional Council would continue to lead this action until the preliminary scoping report is completed by True North Consulting. After this point, it is proposed that Selwyn District Council will lead the action with support from Canterbury Regional Council.  The preliminary scoping report has been amended to allow for further feedback from Christchurch City Council. The consultant is following up with councils that didn't respond to the initial survey, as well as product suppliers, to obtain a more complete picture of the current state of environment.

<sup>1</sup> NB does not include in-kind staff time contributions.

Action Theme		Primary Action	Sub-actions	Lead	Indicative G+S budget expenditure excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)
					Develop tool \$340,000 (ear-marked)  <b>Y3 (26/27)</b> Maintenance & licensing tool \$70,000 (ear-marked)		The draft report has highlighted a general lack of awareness of the need for, and functionality of, a risk modelling tool. Christchurch City Council has offered to run an online knowledge building workshop before the end of the year. The findings from this work are expected to be presented to the 12 December Canterbury Policy Forum.
			<u>Sub-action 1.2</u> Climate change risk and urgency assessment	Canterbury Regional Council	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 depend on several factors including evolving national direction/legislation, and on the progress made toward a regional risk visualisation tool.
2	<b>Emissions reduction</b>	Work together across the region to build equitable, inclusive pathways, targets, and key actions to support New Zealand's commitments towards global	<u>Sub-action 2.1</u> Develop carbon inventories and identify transition pathways	Canterbury Regional Council	<b>Y2 (25/26)</b> \$70,600	On track	As delegated by the Canterbury Policy Forum, the Convenor of the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group approved ongoing participation in the New Zealand-wide Local Emissions Data Platform initiative in June 2025. This includes the use of a pathway modelling tool by the consultant Kinesis to model greenhouse gas emissions reduction pathways for the Canterbury region. Procurement for the 2025/26 financial year is underway. The outputs of this initiative will be a regional

Action Theme		Primary Action	Sub-actions	Lead	Indicative G+S budget expenditure excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)
		greenhouse gas emissions reduction.					emissions inventory for 2025, as well as emissions reduction pathways for Canterbury. Next steps include configuring a BAU emissions pathway, modelling the impact of draft interventions, and establishing assumptions.
			<u>Sub-action 2.2</u> Regional transition risk and opportunities assessment	Canterbury Regional Council	<b>Y2 (25/26)</b> Transition risks, opportunities assessment and engagement \$43,478.20 (procured)  Engagement \$20,000 (ear-marked) \$9,150 procured for workshop facilitation by Mene Solutions	On track	A consultant (Tonkin & Taylor) is currently developing the transition risks and opportunities assessment, which looks at greenhouse gas impacts of the opportunities and risks identified as part of the project's first stage, as well as assessing their economic, environmental, social and cultural impacts.  The assessment will be completed by the end of September and will inform stakeholder engagement in October 2025. Stakeholders to be invited include industry, iwi and mana whenua, local and central government. Workshops will be held in Timaru on 23 October and Rangiora on 30 October.

Action Theme		Primary Action	Sub-actions	Lead	Indicative G+S budget expenditure excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)
			<u>Sub-action 2.3</u> Regional low emissions transition strategy plan	Canterbury Regional Council	<b>Y2 (25/26)</b> Draft Strategic framework and actions \$69,000  <b>Y3 (26/27)</b> TBC	Not started	A procurement process is under way to select an appropriate consultant to support the development of the transition plan. The consultant will focus on developing the strategic framework and actions in time for 2027-37 LTP consultation.
3	<b>Adaptation planning</b>	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	Delivery predominantly reliant on in-kind staff contributions.  <b>Y2 (25/26)</b> \$10,000 (earmarked) for workshops with iwi, and other partners and stakeholders identified for this work	On track	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.  This action is still on track, but progress has been slow. There is a need to get a more balanced sub-working group (with skills spread across natural and social sciences, economic) plus more group members - Waimakariri District Council have withdrawn from the sub-group due to limited capacity in 2025.  It is expected that work will pick up in the latter half of Q1 2025/26 as the Action lead settles in their role at Hurunui District Council.

Action Theme		Primary Action	Sub-actions	Lead	Indicative G+S budget expenditure excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)
							Initial conversations with Rachel Puentener from Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu discussed the potential of having a workshop with rūnanga representatives to give councils an idea of how they can and should work with rūnanga on climate adaptation. This opportunity is being pursued.
4	<b>Nature Based Solutions</b>	Facilitate the development of a Canterbury blue-green network to increase natural capital, indigenous biodiversity and offer nature-based solutions to climate change effects	<u>Sub-action 4.1</u> Ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment	Canterbury Regional Council	<p><b>Y1 (24/25)</b> Ecosystem vulnerability assessment \$30,434.49 (spent)</p> <p><b>Y2 (25/26)</b> by 31 October 2025 \$65,000</p> <p>NB delivery of this action has been extended to October 2025 and therefore Y1 funds have been carried</p>	At risk	<p>Following an open procurement process through GETS in February/March 2025, Canterbury Regional Council engaged Wildlands, an ecological consultancy, to complete the Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for Ecosystems.</p> <p>Wildlands have completed their first stage of deliverables, and subsequent milestones are expected mid- and late-September. There have been delays obtaining relevant datasets to inform the assessment, and the final deadline of 31 October is potentially at risk. However, this delay is not expected to impact or delay the delivery of Action 4 as a whole, and the action lead and project team is working with Wildlands to arrive at an agreeable solution.</p>

Action Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Lead	Indicative G+S budget expenditure excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)
				forward to Y2.		There has been a request from Wildlands for additional funds to account for extra time taken in obtaining and processing the necessary data to include in the assessment. This request will be considered by the Convenor of the CCWG.
		Sub-action 4.2 Blue-green network plan for Canterbury	Waimakariri District Council	Y2 (25/26) \$150,000 (earmarked)  Y3 (26/27) \$190,000 (earmarked)	Not started	At the 20 August CCWG meeting it was agreed that Waimakariri District Council would step down from leading action 1 and become the sole lead for sub-action 4.2. This will allow more progress to be made on this action.
		Sub-action 4.2a Collaborate with key stakeholders to provide guidance on blue-green infrastructure placement and hazard resilience investment	Waimakariri District Council	Y2 (25/26) \$10,000 (earmarked)  Y3 (26/27) \$50,000 (earmarked)	On track	A start has been made on developing a regional inventory of existing blue-green network documents, actions and key contact people. The aim of this is to promote collaboration and avoid duplication of effort.
		Sub-action 4.2b Collaborate and align with Greater Christchurch Partnership and key stakeholders to deliver a blue-green network	Waimakariri District Council	No budget – delivery reliant on in-kind staff resourcing	On track	On 13 August the CCPP Implementation Lead and Waimakariri District Council staff met with Lincoln University staff who are preparing a white paper for Selwyn District Council on a blue-green corridor within the district to consider opportunities for collaboration.

Action Theme	Primary Action	Sub-actions	Lead	Indicative G+S budget expenditure excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)
		<p><u>Sub-action 4.2c</u> Investigate the feasibility of establishing blue-green infrastructure on council-owned land</p>	All councils	<p><b>Y3 (26/27)</b> \$80,000 (earmarked)</p>	Not started	
5	<p><b>Climate Change Education and Advocacy</b></p>	<p>Support community understanding about the local impacts of climate change and promote individual and collective climate action</p>	<p><u>Sub-action 5.1</u> Continue to develop the “It’s Time, Canterbury” initiative</p>	<p>Canterbury Regional Council</p>	<p>No CCPP budget allocated, paid for separately by Canterbury Regional Council budgets</p>	<p><b>At risk</b></p> <p>The It’s time, Canterbury platform faces a number of challenges in terms of resourcing by Canterbury Regional Council and strategic direction. Communications staff at Environment Canterbury are compiling feedback from the CCWG, the Communications and Engagement (C&amp;E) Forum and the project team to consider the future of the It’s Time Canterbury platform. As this action is funded and resourced by Canterbury Regional Council, the It’s time, Canterbury project team will be seeking direction from the regional council’s ELT on the priority and resourcing for ITC. The C&amp;E Forum recommended that direction be sought from the Mayoral Forum. A paper is being prepared for the December C&amp;E Forum to progress this.</p>

Action Theme		Primary Action	Sub-actions	Lead	Indicative G+S budget expenditure excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	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	Canterbury Regional Council	No CCPP budget allocated, paid for separately by Canterbury Regional Council budgets	Not started	This action is due to be scoped in Year 2 of the CCPP. Work has yet to commence however and is due to be discussed at an upcoming meeting with the communications team at Canterbury Regional Council.
6	<b>Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga</b>	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	<b>Y2 (25/26)</b> \$20,000  <b>Y3 (26/27)</b> \$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 excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)
7	<b>Integrating climate change considerations in council processes</b>	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 to progress this action and tested key questions with the CCWG. The group proposes to build a central repository of shared information to help build council capability and knowledge. This is being further investigated.
8	<b>Climate Funding and Financing</b>	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	Approached EECA and MBIE about hosting information sessions in Sept-Oct for Canterbury councils on what funds are available and how best to access these funds. Secured Horizon Europe funding to explore ways to make climate adaptation more attractive for private investment.
			<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	Completed	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. No further update.

Action Theme		Primary Action	Sub-actions	Lead	Indicative G+S budget expenditure excluding GST <sup>1</sup>	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)
9	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	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	Canterbury Regional Council	<b>Y1 (24/25)</b> Tonkin + Taylor engaged to develop Monitoring and Evaluation Report \$20,000 (spent)  (NB this work was co-funded by CRC)	On track	Canterbury Regional Council engaged Tonkin + Taylor to deliver a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan. This action has been completed, and the plan was approved by the CMF in August 2025. The next steps are to collect the baseline information for the indicators and metrics.
10	<b>Implementation</b>	Assemble an implementation team to ensure successful delivery and implementation of the CCPP.		Canterbury Regional Council (with action leads)	No budget – reliant on in-kind staff resourcing	Complete	The virtual implementation team from across councils continues to evolve. There has been a reshuffling of action leads on actions 1 (Risk visualisation tool) and 4 (nature-based solutions). It is proposed that Joe Gentilcore from Selwyn District Council leads the implementation of Action 1 and Veronica Spittal from Waimakariri District Council leads the implementation of action 4.

**Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Budget Summary 2024-2027**

1. The total CCPP budget agreed by the Mayoral Forum (excluding GST) is as follows: \$190,140 Year 1, \$741,049 Year 2, and \$540,143 Year 3, as shown in table 1 below. Year 1 council contributions 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. An error in the invoicing for year 1 resulted in the available year 1 budget including GST. The invoices for year 2 were sent to councils in September 2025 and were the agreed council contributions in table 1 below excluding GST.
3. The spread of the budget (table 2) across all the actions continues to evolve and is dependent on several factors including progress of actions and testing the market through procurement, so it is necessary to maintain some flexibility to spending within the total budget over the three years. Any unspent funds are carried forward to the following financial year.
4. Table 2 indicates the forecasted spread of budget across action deliverables. The green amounts are approved by the Convenor, the orange amounts are forecasted and yet to be confirmed. Note, the summary below does not include any additional financial contributions from partner councils to support actions.
5. Waimate and Waitaki District Councils have now confirmed funding contributions for Years 2 & 3 through their Long-Term Plans 2025-2034.

**Table 1: Revenue (2024-2027): Canterbury Council Financial Contributions**

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

Table 2: Financial Forecast CCPP Year 2 FY 25/26 (as at 30 August 2025)<sup>2</sup>

Phasing	Date	Deliverable	Forecasted Amount	Supplier
	1/07/2025	Revenue : Y1 carry over	\$117,461.25	Council contributions
Q1	30/09/2025	Revenue : Y2 Council Contributions	\$741,049.00	Council contributions
Q1	31/08/2025	<b>Spend: Risk Visualisation tool :</b> Finalise preliminary scoping report for Action 1 Risk Visualisation tool	\$4,000.00	True North Consulting
Q1	31/07/2025	<b>Spend: Ecosystem Risk Assessment:</b> Draft workbook with vulnerability, exposure, risk ratings	\$8,695.65	Wildlands
Q1	31/08/2025	<b>Spend: Ecosystem Risk Assessment :</b> Draft assessment report, draft spatial tool	\$26,086.95	Wildlands
Q1	30/09/2025	<b>Spend: Emissions Reduction:</b> Transition risks, opportunities and impacts assessment	\$43,478.26	Tonkin + Taylor
Q1	30/08/2025	<b>Spend: Emissions Reduction:</b> GHG Emissions modelling pathway tool subscription (LEDP)	\$70,600.00	RSHL/Kinesis
Q2	31/10/2025	<b>Spend: Emissions Reduction:</b> stakeholder engagement <b>facilitation</b> - transition opportunities and emissions reduction pathways	\$9,150.00	Mene Solutions
Q2	31/10/2025	<b>Spend: Emissions Reduction:</b> stakeholder engagement - <b>prep/collateral</b> transition opportunities and emissions reduction pathways	\$10,000.00	TBC
Q2	31/10/2025	<b>Spend: Ecosystem Risk Assessment:</b> Final risk and vulnerability assessment, spatial layer package of all data used in package, shared internal platform for hosting spatial data	\$21,739.13	Wildlands
Q2	30/11/2025	<b>Spend: Emissions Reduction :</b> Strategic framework and actions development	\$69,000.00	TBC

<sup>2</sup> Green – approved; orange - forecast

Q4	30/06/2025	<b>Spend: Nature based solutions:</b> Blue Green Network Plan (TBC)	\$150,000.00	TBC
<b>Phasing</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Forecasted Amount</b>	<b>Supplier</b>
Q3	31/03/25	<b>Spend: Nature Based Solutions:</b> Collaboration with stakeholders BGN Plan (TBC)	\$10,000.00	TBC
		<b>Spend: Understanding Rūnanga Requirements (TBC) and engagement with rūnanga for action 3 (adaptation planning)</b>	\$30,000.00	TBC
		<b>Spend: Understanding Risk :</b> Develop risk visualisation modelling tool (TBC)	\$340,000.00	TBC
		Project Manager ~0.5 FTE	\$50,000.00	TBC
		C+E Plan (TBC)	TBC	TBC
		MER Plan delivery (TBC)	TBC	TBC
Total Budget available			\$858,510.25	
Forecast expenditure as at 30 August 2025			\$852,749.99	

# CCPP Implementation (Action 10)

## GOVERNANCE

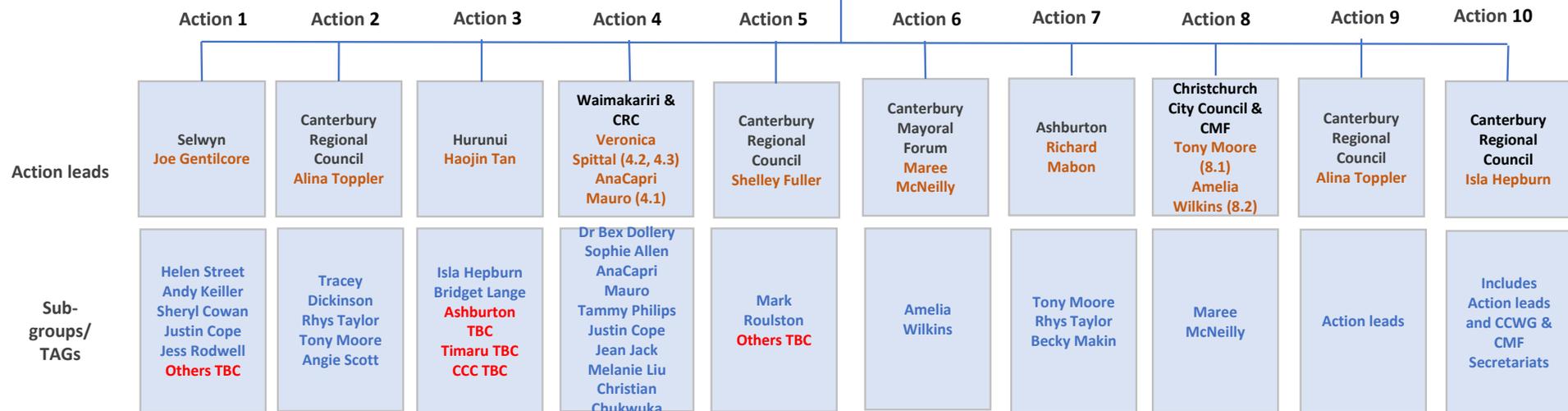
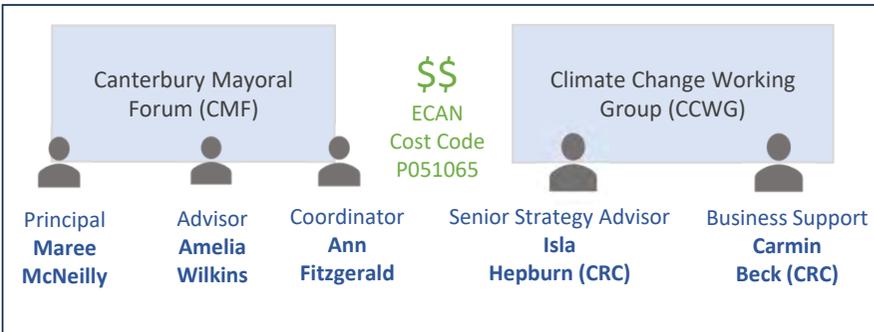


## OPERATIONS



## SECRETARIATS

Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group (members TBC post-election)



## Terms of Reference

### Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group

#### Background

1. The Climate Change Action Planning Reference Group (CCAPRG) supported and provided governance-level input into the work of the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group on regional climate action planning. The CCAPRG completed their role with the completion of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.
2. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is now being implemented by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) and Canterbury councils.
3. The CMF has agreed to reform the Action Planning Reference Group into the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group.
4. The Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group will provide a clear link to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum through the group being chaired by a member of the CMF and supported by the regional forums' secretariat. Membership will also include a member of the Chief Executives Forum. Reporting lines are shown in figure 1.

#### Canterbury Regional Forums Structure

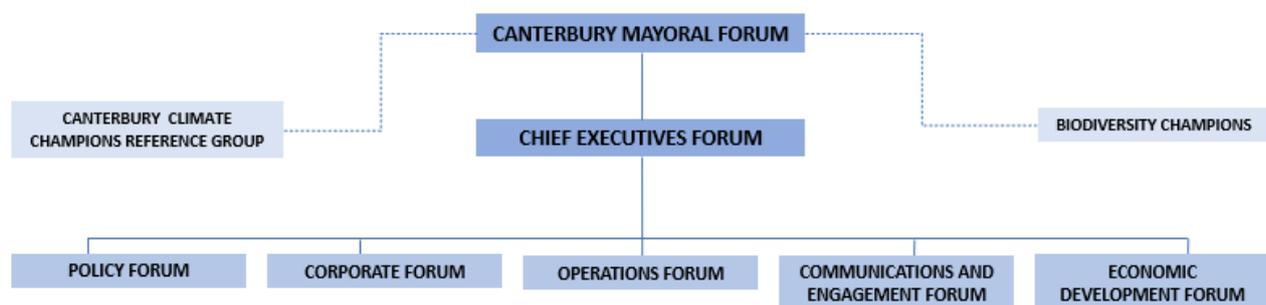


Figure 1: Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group reporting line

#### Purpose

5. The purpose of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group is to be strong advocates regionally and within individual councils, for a thriving, climate resilient, low-emission Canterbury.

#### Scope

6. The scope of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group is to:
  - grow our knowledge of local and regional climate change risks and opportunities, and use this knowledge to lead conversations, building a greater understanding of climate change actions around our council chambers
  - look for collaborative solutions and recognise the 'necessity of the commons' whereby it is in our common interests and needs to act together to mitigate, adapt to, and maximise the opportunities created by climate change in Canterbury
  - share our councils' experiences in mitigating and adapting to climate change, and learn from each other's challenges and successes
  - contribute insights from around Canterbury and provide strong buy-in from each council at every step of regional climate action planning

- be high-level super connectors, creating connections amongst councils and communities and between council governance and climate change staff
- encourage our councils to work together to enable transformational action in an inclusive and equitable way, tackling climate change adaptation challenges and opportunities head on and building community resilience, including by sharing information and resources, and working in coordinated ways towards common goals
- provide consistent Canterbury-specific messaging across Territorial Authorities and the Regional Council with regards to regional climate change action planning
- advocate for climate change action planning initiatives, providing a united voice from Canterbury Councils at a local, regional and national level
- receive regular updates on the implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

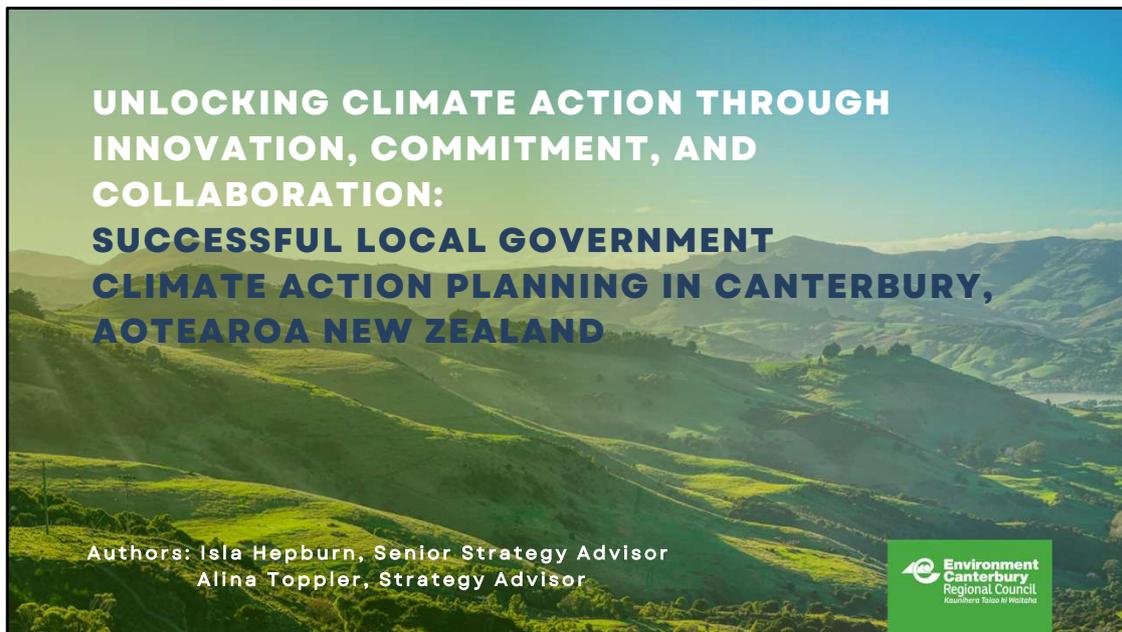
## **Membership and operation of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group**

7. The members of the Group are nominated by each Council. Membership will include one elected member from each local authority in Canterbury, chaired by a member of the Mayoral Forum and supported by the regional forums' secretariat. Membership also includes one representative of the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum.
8. The Group may invite other councillors, staff, or other agencies to present and participate as the Group considers appropriate.
9. Members may send alternatives in their place if they are unable to attend a meeting.
10. The Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group will seek representation from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and/or papatipu rūnanga on the group.
11. The Chair of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group will be appointed by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. The Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group will meet a minimum of twice yearly, or when deemed necessary.
12. Where members of the group wish to share confidential information, they shall identify it as such, and the group agrees to keep this information confidential and will not disclose or use it for any purpose. Confidential information will not be noted in the meeting minutes.

## **Changes to the Terms of Reference**

13. The Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group may recommend changes to the Terms of Reference to the Mayoral Forum for its consideration and approval.
14. The Group will review these terms of reference on a needs basis and inform the Mayoral Forum of any substantive recommended changes.

**Approved:** Canterbury Mayoral Forum *Month Year*



*Kia ora koutou, ko Isla Hepburn toku ingoa.*

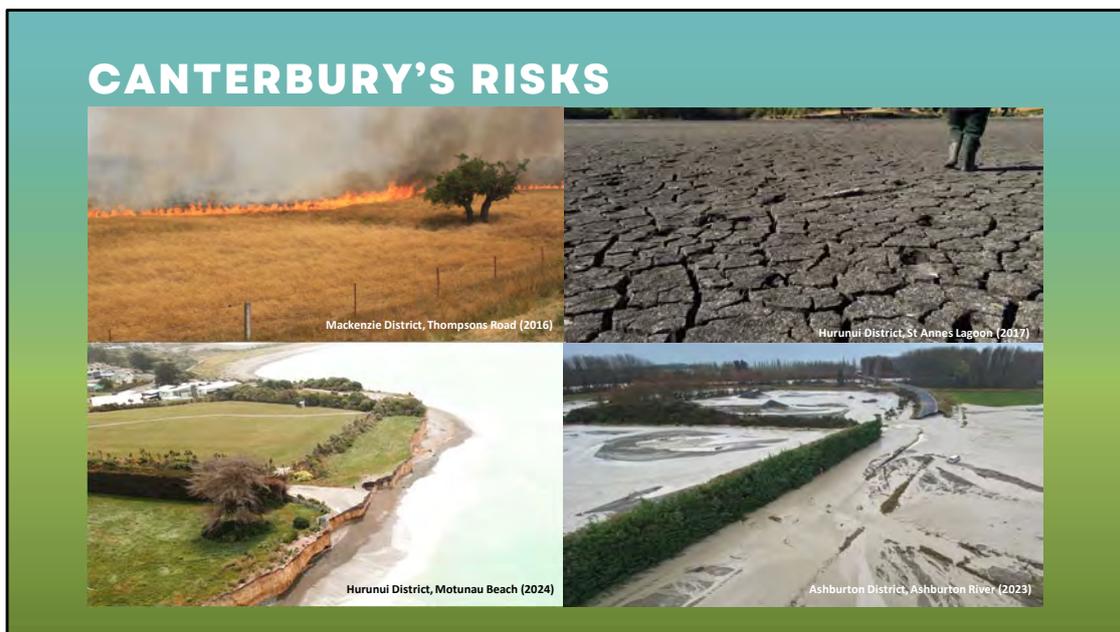
*Here to share local case study on regional climate action planning.*

Let me begin with a simple question:

**What is the secret ingredient for successful climate action?**

Is it the right science? The right technology? The right policy? Enough money? Those things matter. But in my experience, the real answer is simpler: **working together.**

We all know that climate change is not just a technical challenge; it's about people, communities, and our environment, and the choices we make together for the future of our whānau, family, and Tamariki/children.



Here, in Waitaha Canterbury, the evidence of climate change is already here as it is around the world.

We see it in our rivers breaking their banks, our coastlines eroding, our farms and forests stressed by drought, and our alpine ecosystems under pressure.

But alongside these risks, we saw an opportunity for local government: **to act collectively.**

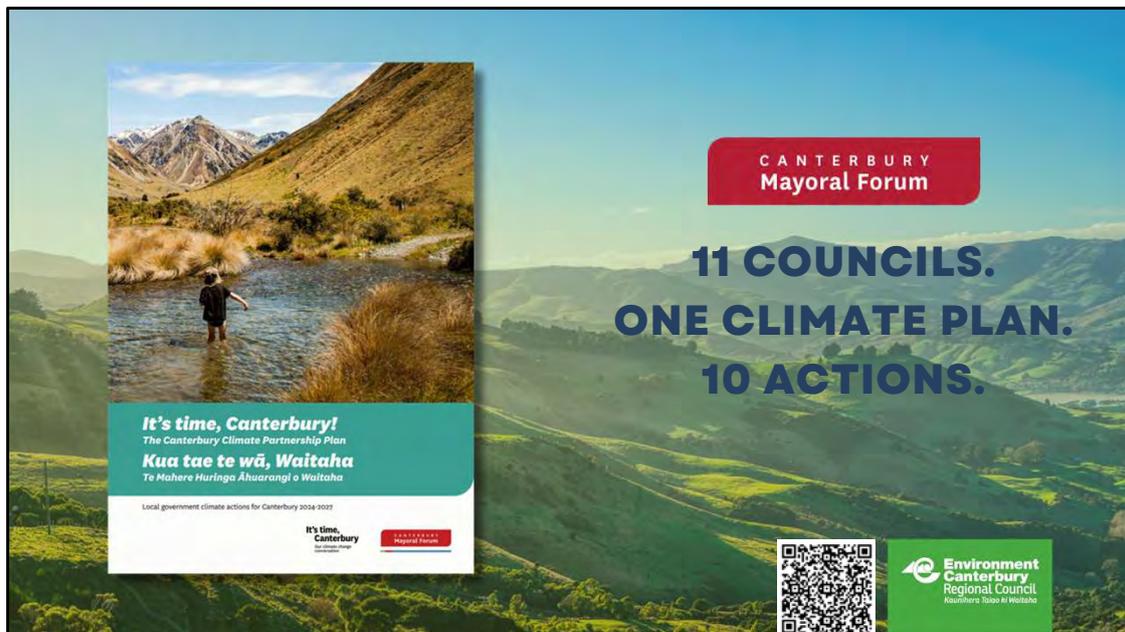
#### Canterbury Facts

Canterbury is the largest region by area

78,000km rivers and streams

800 km coastline

651,000 population



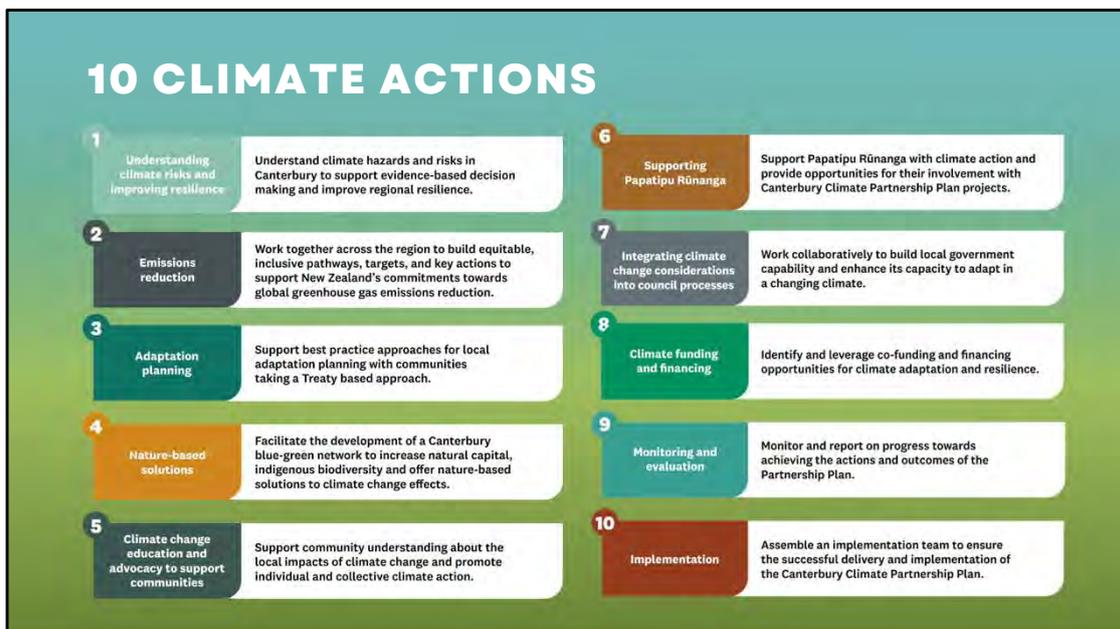
In 2022, following completion of our regional risk assessment, all 11 councils in Canterbury **chose to tackle climate change together.**

We created the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan: **our roadmap to a thriving, low-emissions, climate-resilient future.**

We formed this plan with the **health and wellbeing of our people and our unique Canterbury environment** in mind, focusing on the **key actions that councils can start together right now.**

Our vision of a **thriving, low-emissions, climate resilient future** sounds simple, but we know it will take time and effort. We want cleaner air, safer homes during floods and heatwaves, and for communities to be able to stay connected to the places they love, and able to continue with their cultural practices.

When we developed the plan, local government had an **explicit legislative purpose to promote the social, cultural, environmental, and economic wellbeing** of communities. That purpose has since been repealed, but our commitment to the four wellbeings through this plan remains. Because climate action demands nothing less.



We know that **climate change is a health story, as much as it is an environmental, social, and political one.**

**Those already experiencing inequities are often the most affected by the climate risks we face.**

As councils in Canterbury we identified **where we could work together** and make a difference, prioritising 10 actions with supporting sub-actions. More detail on these can be found within the plan itself. Our key actions include:

- **Understanding our region's hazards and degree of risk**, and providing better data and information to communities so they can make informed decisions
- **Reducing emissions** by developing a regional transition plan, and being clear on what local government can do to contribute to efforts
- **Adaptation Planning** - helping communities across the region adapt by improving the way councils work together, with partners and communities to identify what matters most to them
- **Nature-based solutions - Improving our environment and managing assets through nature-based solutions**, facilitating the development of a blue-green network which not only reduces risk but supports health and wellbeing of people and the environment, cultural identity and social connection.

This is why councils working together matters – we can achieve greater impact together. We're taking these opportunities to respond to climate change by safeguarding *hauora*, the health and wellbeing of people and place.



Now fortunately we didn't start from scratch. Instead, we drew on the **C40 Climate Action Planning Framework**, an international best practice model designed for global cities which many of you will be familiar with.

The **three pillars** gave us a strong foundation.

- Commitment & Collaboration – focusing on the plan's **governance and coordination**, and **engagement**
- Challenge & opportunities – using an **evidence base of climate risks, emissions/trajectories, socio-economic priorities**
- Acceleration and implementation – **prioritising actions**, ensuring there is an **implementation plan**, and then **monitoring and evaluation**

But when we started, we quickly discovered we **didn't yet have the full evidence base** including an emissions inventory that the framework assumed - and used - for action prioritisation. Nor did we have the time or money to complete this before we needed to complete the plan.

Instead of stalling, we **adapted the framework**, spending many hours together in climate action planning workshops: visioning, ideating, iterating.

We mapped a **long-list of 40 actions to the priority risks**, and the **values identified by our Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga steering group** in a local framework (which aligned a māori worldview with the national climate change risk assessment framework), from our Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment.

We then prioritised them based on a simplified approach of assessing the:

- Urgency
- Scale of impact
- Focus on solutions
- Collaboration potential

By doing so, we drew on global best practice **and shaped it into something real and practical for Canterbury**, using the best available knowledge and information we had at the time.



Collaboration sounds inspiring but I think we all know it's also **hard work and takes time**.

We **faced our share of challenges**. **Resourcing was limited**, relying heavily on in-kind staff time of our staff working group. We also had to **meet tight timeframes for our local government planning and budget process** and we were **asking for money before** we even knew how much we really needed. Even now, **implementation still relies heavily on in-kind staff time**, which at times stretches people thin and adds pressure to already full workloads.

Like all good collaboration projects, we also had to find the **sweet spot for collaborative climate actions**. Some councils were well ahead in their climate journeys while others were just starting out, so we spent time **finding actions that added value for councils and their communities**, making **concessions** along the way, and ensuring that the **bigger councils could support smaller councils** with some of the more significant actions.

Even with a strong governance structure, **getting buy-in across** every layer of councils hasn't been easy and we haven't been able to engage as widely or as often as we would have liked. We often felt like we were building the plane as we were flying it, learning as we went, without many examples to follow.

For many of us, **balancing the urgency of climate action with the pace of council processes was frustrating**, and it took two years of significant effort.

However, one of the things I kept coming back to was that **the journey itself matters** and **sometimes there aren't viable short cuts with collaboration**. Every conversation, every meeting, **every opportunity that we used to build trust with each other helped build momentum**. Collaboration doesn't just help manage risks, it unlocks innovation. By working together, **we opened doors to opportunities we couldn't see or do alone as individual councils**.

As a practitioner and the lead for the project, I focused on what I could control, particularly at a staff level (relationships, building trust and respect, ensuring the process was robust and defensible – anchored in international best practice, giving decision makers confidence, and always coming back to our shared vision, purpose) and brought a dogged determination to the process, discovering that **even with limited resources, strong collaboration makes a difficult task achievable** and results in **better outcomes** in the long run.



So, what's the lesson from Canterbury?

That with hard work, strong relationships, a clear vision, persistence and patience, **regional collaborative climate action is possible.**

It needs to be shared by many, rather than owned by a few.

Councils can **provide the backbone of climate action at a sub-national scale,** supporting each other, our partners, key stakeholders and communities.



This isn't just another council strategy that sits on a shelf. It's a plan created with current and future generations in mind.

Acknowledge councils involved.

Together, under the mandate of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, we are now knee-deep in implementing the plan, with different actions being led by different councils around Canterbury, all working for the greater good. We have \$1.47m of collective funding from councils and 3 years to make progress on these initial actions.



So I leave you with this **well-known whakatauki – a Māori proverb** - from Ngāi Tahu. This not only inspires and guides me, it gives me hope.

This process has taught me that hope isn't passive. It doesn't come from waiting for perfect conditions, more information or certainty. It **arises and is sustained by working with others, taking action and building momentum**. Collaboration on climate action isn't optional. It's the only way.

**Local governments must unite, collaborate, innovate, and commit.**

Because every step we take on climate action is also a step towards protecting and improving the health and wellbeing of our people and environment, today, and for generations to come.

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

*Ngā mihi. Tēnā koutou, Tēnā koutou, Tēnā tatou katoa.*



**THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...**

Access the  
Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan using QR Code  
Or email [isla.hepburn@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:isla.hepburn@ecan.govt.nz)



# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Hamish Riach, Chair Economic Development Forum

Jesse Burgess, Working group member, Environment Canterbury

## Canterbury Regional Deal – development approach

### Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for the next steps for the development of the regional deal proposal, estimated budget and nominations for the proposed governance group.

### Recommendations

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **approves the continued development of a regional deal proposal**
2. **approves the proposed process to develop a regional deal proposal**
3. **approves the proposed budget for development of the regional deal proposal**
4. **nominates representatives to form the Canterbury Regional Deal governance group.**

### Background

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) submitted an Expression of Interest in a future Regional Deal for Canterbury to the Minister for Local Government in December 2024, followed by a letter in February 2025 to state that this work is progressing.
3. A sub-group of the Canterbury Economic Development Forum (CEDF) developed the foundational document Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready: Key pillars for Canterbury's Regional Deal<sup>1</sup> proposal. This work was supported by a governance sub-group from the Mayoral Forum and included Business Canterbury. This document was approved by the Mayoral Forum in August 2025, subject to the inclusion of a fifth pillar – Innovation, and minor corrections.
4. Alongside this foundational work, the Mayoral Forum worked with Business Canterbury to engage the private sector on its vision for Canterbury. The draft document produced

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<sup>1</sup>[World-stage-ready-FINAL-Oct-2025.pdf](#)

was the Canterbury Ambition and aspects of this was incorporated into the World-stage ready document.

5. Further details of a proposed Canterbury Regional Deal were intended to be provided to the Minister for Local Government following the CMF meeting in August 2025. The decision was made to postpone this, in light of the Minister's announcement that no further proposals will be considered at this stage, and the Mayoral Forum's recommendation to continue the development of a more fulsome document post-election.
6. The Mayoral Forum Chair hosted a joint webinar with the Business Canterbury Chief Executive in September 2025 to update councillors around the region on the development of the foundational documents, advise next steps, and invite their involvement in the next stages.

## **Value proposition**

7. The World-stage ready document is our unique regional value proposition that sets us up for a regional deal. This is not our proposal for a regional deal, although it does set us up for that.
8. The five key pillars signalled in the Canterbury World-stage ready foundational document are all linked and interconnected, aligning with other key regional priorities such as the Regional Land Transport Plan, and emerging national requirements for regional spatial planning, the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan, Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, Canterbury Energy Workstream.
9. Given these interdependencies, coordinated prioritisation and strategic alignment across these workstreams are essential to maximise impact, avoid duplication, and ensure limited resources deliver the greatest benefit for Canterbury communities.

## **Development of a Canterbury Regional Deal**

10. Building on the work as discussed above, the next steps are to confirm the Mayoral Forum's intention to continue with the development of a Canterbury Regional Deal and agree on the recommended process to progress this work.

## **Governance structure**

11. It is recommended that a governance and working group structure is established to oversee and support the development of the Canterbury regional deal proposal.
12. The previous governance group included the Chair of the Mayoral Forum, Chair of Canterbury Regional Council, Selwyn, Waimakariri and Hurunui Mayors, and the Chief Executive from Business Canterbury.

13. The working group comprised a sub-group of the CEDF – Canterbury Regional Council, ChristchurchNZ, Venture Timaru, Mackenzie District Council along with a representative each from the Greater Christchurch Partnership and Business Canterbury.
14. For consistency with other Mayoral Forum steering groups, it is proposed that a representative from the Chief Executives Forum, chair the working group and provide support to the governance group.
15. Subject to the agreement of the Mayoral Forum, nominations are sought for the proposed governance group.
16. Terms of Reference for the Governance Group and Working Group will be developed for each groups' review and input, before coming back to the Mayoral Forum for approval.

### **Scope of work**

17. Subject to the Mayoral Forum's agreement to proceed, the next step is to develop the scope of works to outline the development of a Canterbury regional deal proposal.
18. The development of the regional deal proposal itself is expected to start in quarter one of the 2026/27 financial year, subject to budget approval. The timeframe for this work will be considered as the scope is developed.
19. It is proposed that the development of the scope of work is completed using in-kind resources from the from the existing CEDF working group. Canterbury Regional Council has indicated that they are in a position to hold the pen, with support from the Working Group.
20. The project scope would include, at a minimum, the following:
  - project purpose
  - key deliverables
  - funding and resourcing
  - governance and reporting
  - communications and engagement
  - provision for endorsement/agreement from member councils
21. The development of a scoping document is expected to be complete for the start of financial year 2026-2027.

### **Business Canterbury proposal**

22. Business Canterbury has developed a draft proposal to lead work to translate the Canterbury Ambition into action, however rather than have two streams of work, it is proposed that the scope of work to progress the regional deal include Business

Canterbury, the Canterbury Ambition and World-stage ready to develop a comprehensive regional deal proposal.

23. The intention is to position Canterbury as best we can to a national and international audience, and continue working with the private sector to help achieve this.

## Budget

24. In-kind resourcing is available to develop the scoping document. Further funding will be required for the expertise to develop the full regional deal proposal from 2026-2027.
25. Current indications suggest funding in the vicinity of \$250,000 is required for financial year 2026-2027. Given its complexity and the likely breadth of engagement required, this is expected to be a multi-year project. Further funding discussions to support subsequent stages of development will be timed with Councils Long-term Plan processes 2027-2037.
26. This is an estimation based on previous discussions on a regional deal. As the project progresses, further scoping of timeframes, deliverables and budget will occur informing LTP processes.
27. Based on the current regional forums levy, the proportionate contribution per council for 2026-2027 is provided in table 1.

	2026-2027	
	Regional Deal	\$250,000
<b>Contribution based on Regional Forums Levy</b>		
Canterbury Regional Council	20.5%	\$51,250
Christchurch City Council	20.5%	\$51,250
Selwyn District Council	10.7%	\$26,750
Waimakariri District Council	10.7%	\$26,750
Ashburton District Council	9.8%	\$24,500
Timaru District Council	9.8%	\$24,500
Hurunui District Council	5.2%	\$13,000
Waimate District Council	3.9%	\$9,750
Waitaki District Council	3.9%	\$9,750
Kaikōura District Council	2.5%	\$6,250
Mackenzie District Council	2.5%	\$6,250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

Table 1: Regional Deal proportionate contribution

## Cost, compliance and communication

### Financial implications

28. Funding for the development of a regional deal proposal exceeds what is available in the regional forums budget.

29. To continue this project, each member will need to seek council approval for the additional budget, likely through annual plan processes. There are other proposed Mayoral Forum activities that, if approved, also require budget over and above that available in the regional forums budget. The budget requirement for the regional deal work, alongside these other actions, is considered collectively in item 4.7.

### **Risk assessment and legal compliance**

30. There is no legal obligation to pursue a regional deal proposal.
31. If the project is discontinued, or significantly reduced in scope, there is a reputational risk for the Mayoral Forum. The Mayoral Forum has indicated to the Minister of Local Government that the region wants to progress a future regional deal with government, and work with the private sector, through Business Canterbury, could be delayed.
32. There is a risk if this work does not proceed that Canterbury may be overlooked in future opportunities to capitalise on local and central government alignment, and opportunities to position Canterbury as best we can to a national and international audience. This could manifest as a missed opportunity for significant investment in Canterbury's future.

### **Communications & Engagement**

33. A Communications & Engagement Plan will be considered during the scoping phase early 2026.
34. Engagement will be required with a range of partners, sectors and stakeholders in the development of a future regional deal. This includes, but is not limited to, each Canterbury council, Papatipu Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, health and tertiary education sectors, private sectors, key infrastructure providers, and the community.
35. 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.
36. As the scoping work progresses into development of a full proposal, specific engagement and endorsement from each Canterbury council will be sought. This needs to be incorporated into the scope of works and project plan for next steps.

### **Next steps**

37. Subject to the decision of the Mayoral Forum, the next steps will be:
- draft terms of reference for the governance and working groups
  - schedule a governance group meeting for early 2026 to begin the scope of works

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Hamish Riach, Chair Economic Development Forum  
Jesse Burgess, Chair Energy Strategy Steering Group

## Canterbury Regional Energy Workstream

### Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on the regional energy workstream and seeks approval of the associated budget requirements to continue its progression.

### Recommendations

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **continues to endorse the development of a regional approach to energy for the Canterbury region**
2. **approves funding of up to \$150,000 for FY 2026/27 to progress the regional energy workstream, including preparation of a regional energy strategy and action plan/roadmap.**

### Background

2. In 2024, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) agreed to initiate a regional energy workstream.<sup>1</sup>
3. The first step was the development of an energy inventory – the first comprehensive overview of the region’s energy landscape. The inventory also identified opportunities and challenges to inform the next stage of work in shaping Canterbury’s energy future.
4. The [Canterbury Energy Inventory](#) and accompanying summary [infographic](#) were approved for publication at the Mayoral Forum meeting on 30 May 2025. At this meeting the Forum also endorsed continuation of the regional energy work through a phased and staged approach (outlined in Table 1).

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<sup>1</sup> This workstream delivers on a specific action in the Canterbury Mayoral Forum’s: [Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025](#) – “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.”

Phase	A regional approach to energy	Progress
<b>One – Develop a regional energy inventory</b>	Energy Inventory for Canterbury (Year 1 – FY24/25)	Complete
<b>Two – Develop a regional energy strategy</b>	<b>Stage 1:</b> Strategic Framework (Year 1 – FY25/26)	In progress
	<b>Stage 2:</b> Strategic road map or action plan (Year 2 – FY26/27)	Not yet started
	<b>Stage 3:</b> Comprehensive energy strategy and implementation plan (Year 2/3+)	Not yet started

Table 1: Phased approach to Energy Workstream

- The energy workstream is delivered through a modular approach, where each stage is designed to stand alone and deliver immediate impact, while subsequent stages build on the foundations laid by earlier work.

## Alignment with regional priorities and other workstreams

- The global shift toward renewable energy is accelerating, creating both opportunities and challenges for Canterbury. The work underway to develop a regional energy strategy provides a clear framework for coordinated action - with a focus on unlocking the benefits of energy security, economic growth, and social and environmental benefits. Canterbury's role in the national energy landscape means that decisions made here have implications for neighbouring regions, the South Island, and New Zealand as a whole.
- The Mayoral Forum's key projects are interconnected and running concurrently, creating a network of initiatives that collectively advance regional resilience, prosperity, and Canterbury's transition to a low-emissions future. A resilient and innovative energy system underpins economic growth and sustainable development – supporting industry, attracting investment, and delivering better outcomes for communities.
- Energy is one of the five key pillars signalled in the *Canterbury World Stage Ready* future regional deal foundational document, and the regional energy strategy directly links to actions in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan focused on transitioning to low emissions. It also aligns closely with other key regional priorities such as the Regional Land Transport Plan, and emerging national requirements for regional spatial planning. Given these interdependencies, coordinated prioritisation and strategic alignment across the Mayoral Forum's energy, Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, housing, and regional deal workstreams are essential to maximise impact, avoid duplication, and ensure limited resources deliver the greatest benefit for Canterbury communities.

## **Developing a Canterbury Energy Strategy**

9. The work completed through the energy inventory provided the foundation to develop a strategic framework for energy (Phase Two, Stage 1). This is currently underway and will lead into the development of a road map or action plan (Phase Two, Stage 2). Subject to further consideration, an implementation plan could then be developed as Stage 3, completing a comprehensive energy strategy for the Canterbury region.

### **Strategic Framework for energy – (Phase Two, Stage 1)**

10. The Strategic Framework will provide the overarching structure and direction for Canterbury's regional energy strategy, setting out a shared vision, outcomes, and strategic priorities for coordinated action. Key deliverables are:
  - a. an A3 'plan-on-a-page' strategic framework; and
  - b. a short supporting report (8–10 pages).
11. A draft framework has been developed, drawing on insights from the Canterbury Energy Inventory and earlier stakeholder engagement. This was tested at a stakeholder workshop in September 2025, attended by around 50 representatives from the energy sector, industry, central and local government, and other subject matter experts.
12. Feedback from the workshop, together with input from mana whenua and community groups with an interest in energy, will inform revisions to the framework and supporting report. The final draft documents are anticipated to be completed and presented to the Mayoral Forum in early 2026 for endorsement of direction, establishing a clear foundation for the next stages of the regional energy strategy.

### **Developing a roadmap/action plan – (Phase Two, Stage 2)**

13. As development of the Strategic Framework progresses, stakeholders have expressed strong support for proceeding to Stage 2, focused on developing a roadmap or action plan. There is a clear appetite and sense of urgency among stakeholders to maintain momentum and to turn vision into tangible action. Advancing the work through the first half of 2026, rather than slowing, will help mitigate the risk of losing stakeholder confidence and missing out on opportunities for partnership, investment and innovation.

## Funding and Resourcing

### Existing budget to finalise the strategic framework and commence work on an action plan/road map

14. In May 2025, the Mayoral Forum approved the reallocation of \$40,000 of unspent funds from the Canterbury Energy Inventory budget to initiate the development of the regional Strategic Framework for energy (Phase Two, Stage 1).
15. In-kind resourcing for the work to date includes 1.5 FTE across four team members – two from the Regional Public Service and two from Canterbury Regional Council – plus administrative support. Kaikōura District Council is also contributing one staff member, providing eight hours per week across the broader Mayoral Forum climate change and energy workstreams. The Regional Public Service resourcing is confirmed through to 31 December 2025, after which the commitment will reduce from 0.7 to 0.4 FTE.
16. It is anticipated that a minimum of \$60,000 is needed to keep the work progressing from early 2026 through to 30 June 2026. An additional \$47,000 was approved by the CEF on 10 November 2025, which, when combined with an expected \$13,000 underspend from Stage 1, is intended to be used to support the recruitment of a dedicated project lead or project support and facilitate engagement with mana whenua and key stakeholders.
17. The recruitment of a dedicated project lead will be dependent on the commitment of future funding for the financial year 2026-2027 year to enable a fixed term contract. If this is not achievable the funding will be used to bring in resource or project management through a consultant or contractor.
18. This investment will bolster the existing 'in-kind' resourcing from Canterbury Regional Council (0.7 FTE) and the Regional Public Service (0.4 FTE) and ensure continuity and momentum across the workstream until funding is secured from 1 July 2026.

### Proposed ongoing budget to develop the action plan/road map and implementation plan (Phase Two, Stages 2 and 3)

19. Approval is sought from the CMF for an indicative budget of up to \$150,000 in financial year 2026-2027. This investment will support the continued progression of the work, including sustained stakeholder, community, and mana whenua engagement and dedicated project leadership. The estimate is informed by costs for a comparable project undertaken on the West Coast, with final budget details to be confirmed through the development of a detailed scope of work.
20. The dedicated project lead will be required, alongside the 1–2 FTE of in-kind resourcing support contributed by the Regional Public Service and Councils. The lead role could be delivered either through the engagement of an external consultant or the appointment of a fixed-term project lead. The preferred approach will be confirmed once the scope of work and resourcing requirements are finalised.
21. The contribution for each council is shown below in table 2.

<b>FY 2026-2027</b>		
<b>Energy Workstream</b>		<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>Contribution based on Regional Forums Levy</b>		
Environment Canterbury	20.5%	\$30,750
Christchurch City	20.5%	\$30,750
Selwyn District	10.7%	\$16,050
Waimakariri District	10.7%	\$16,050
Ashburton District	9.8%	\$14,700
Timaru District	9.8%	\$14,700
Hurunui District	5.2%	\$7,800
Waimate District	3.9%	\$5,850
Waitaki District	3.9%	\$5,850
Kaikōura District	2.5%	\$3,750
Mackenzie District	2.5%	\$3,750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

Table 2: Energy workstream budget contributions

## Stakeholder engagement

22. To date, the regional energy workstream has engaged positively with a wide range of stakeholders, including the energy sector, local councils, industry, major energy users, Ngāi Tahu Holdings, academics, and central government agencies such as EECA and MBIE. The development of the Energy Inventory highlighted broad stakeholder consensus on the need for a coordinated regional approach to energy – one that aligns with the goals and priorities of central and local government, industry, and communities.
23. Work is now underway to engage with mana whenua and community groups with an interest in energy.

## Next steps

24. The following key next steps are proposed for the regional energy workstream, subject to the decisions made by the CMF:
- continue engagement with mana whenua, community groups, and key sector stakeholders.
  - finalise the draft Strategic Framework and accompanying report for presentation to the CMF in 2026.
  - confirm the detailed scope and final budget for Phase Two, Stage 2 (development of the regional energy roadmap/action plan).

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Hamish Dobbie, Chair Chief Executives Forum

## Regional forums budget

### Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for a regional forums budget to support the regional forums works programme through to June 2027.

### Recommendation

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **approves the proposed budget through to June 2027 to support the regional forums work programme, subject to individual council processes.**

### Key points

2. The regional forums budget funds collaborative projects for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) and its associated Forums.
3. The current annual budget is \$63,000 pro-rated across councils.
4. There are two significant pieces of work being proposed by the Mayoral Forum, subject to earlier decisions (item 4.5 and 4.6), which cross multiple years and will require additional funding over and above what currently is available in the regional forums budget.
5. To be able to increase the budget for the 2026-2027 financial year, as proposed in this paper the Mayoral Forum's and individual council's approval will be required.

### Background

6. The regional forums budget was first proposed in May 2019. It was based on an expanded form of the Policy Forum levy, which had been in operation since 2014.
7. The budget is levied across all Canterbury councils and is broadly proportional to councils' operating expenditure (at 2014), with the exception of Waitaki which contributes the same level as Waimate as it participates in both Canterbury and Otago Forums.
8. The regional forums budget funds collaborative projects, workshop facilitation, regional training workshops and some sundry items, such as gifts for guest speakers.

Canterbury Regional Council acts as fund holder for the budget, as part of providing secretarial support.

9. The annual regional forums levy is \$63,000 and underspends have been carried over each year.

### **Canterbury Mayoral Forum work programme July 2025- June 2027**

10. Workstreams currently in progress, or recommended to progress, subject to decisions at this meeting, will require investment greater than the current regional forums budget.

### **Canterbury Regional Deal – 2026-2027 budget**

11. The Canterbury regional deal development approach is seeking a commitment of up to \$250,000 for the financial year 2026-2027 – see item 4.5. As noted in the paper the scoping for the development of a regional deal proposal for Canterbury will be developed with in-kind resources and Canterbury Regional Council holding the pen.

### **Energy Workstream – 2026-2027 budget**

12. Phase 2, Stages 2 and 3 of the energy strategy will require additional funding and resourcing over and above that available in the regional forums budget for the financial year 2026-2027. An indicative budget of up to \$150,000 and in-kind resourcing of 1-2 FTE is likely to be required. See item 4.6 for further detail.

### **Proposed budget 2026-2027**

13. The details of the funding requests for these proposals are included in their respective papers. The implication on the regional forums budget is shown below in table 1, including the existing regional forums budget.
14. The year-three contributions for the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan have not been included below as they have already been committed through each councils' long-term or annual plan (see Item 4.3, attachment 1).
15. To continue these projects, each member may need to seek their council's approval for the additional funding.

### **Next Steps**

16. Depending on the decision of the Mayoral Forum the next steps will be:
  - funding approved: each member will need to seek respective council approval, subject to council approval invoices will be raised July 2025
  - funding partially approved: scope(s) will be tailored as appropriate and brought to February Mayoral Forum for approval

- funding not approved: projects will complete stages as funding permits and provide a final update to the May Mayoral Forum meeting

<b>Proposed budget 2026-2027</b>		
		<b>2026-2027</b>
<b>Energy Inventory</b>		\$150,000
<b>Regional Deal Proposal</b>		\$250,000
<b>Regional Forums budget</b>		\$63,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$463,000</b>
<b>Contribution based on Regional Forums Levy</b>		
Canterbury Regional Council	20.5%	\$94,915
Christchurch City Council	20.5%	\$94,915
Selwyn District Council	10.7%	\$49,541
Waimakariri District Council	10.7%	\$49,541
Ashburton District Council	9.8%	\$45,374
Timaru District Council	9.8%	\$45,374
Hurunui District Council	5.2%	\$24,076
Waimate District Council	3.9%	\$18,057
Waitaki District Council	3.9%	\$18,057
Kaikōura District Council	2.5%	\$11,575
Mackenzie District Council	2.5%	\$11,575
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$463,000</b>

**Table 1: Regional Forums proposed budget 2026-2027**

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Hamish Dobbie, 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 August 2025, and seek approval on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's gift policy, and guidelines for preparing regional submissions.

### Recommendations

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. receives the quarterly report from the Chief Executives Forum
2. approves the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's gift policy
3. approves the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's guidelines for preparing regional submissions
4. 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 August meeting:
  - the Communications and Engagement Forum met in person on 5 September
  - the Corporate and Operations Forums met online on 8 September
  - the Economic Development and Policy Forums met in person on 12 September
  - the Chief Executives Forum met in person (hybrid option was available) on 20 October.

### Chief Executives Forum

3. Key agenda items discussed at the 20 October meeting included:
  - appointment of the chairs, approval of the terms of reference for the regional forums and noting the regional forums 2026 meeting schedule
    - Chief Executive Forum – Hamish Dobbie (Hurunui)
    - Corporate Forum – Jeff Millward (Waimakariri)
    - Operations Forum – Stuart Duncan (Waimate)
    - Policy Forum – Angela Oosthuizen (Mackenzie)

- Economic Development Forum – Hamish Riach (Ashburton) – interim chair
  - discussion on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum gift policy and guidelines for preparing regional submissions (see sections below)
  - options for reviewing and updating the Mayoral Forum’s Plan for Canterbury as the mechanism that fulfils the Triennial Agreement requirement to develop and lead a sustainable development strategy for Canterbury (see item 4.1)
  - an update from the Regional Public Service Commissioner, noting that there is likely to be less resource available to assist with CMF workstreams as the RPSC balances other priorities
  - a quarterly update on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (see item 4.3) including
    - the quarterly Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation progress report, and accompanying budget summary
    - discussion regarding the continuation of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group in the 2025-2028 triennium
    - noting that analysis of the National Adaptation Framework will be undertaken and advice provided, as appropriate, to the Canterbury Policy Forum in December 2025
    - noting a recent presentation on the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan delivered at the recent Adaptation Futures 2025 conference
  - a quarterly update on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (see item 4.2)
  - an update on the work undertaken by the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions during the previous local government term, and a recommendation that the group be reinstated for the 2025-28 local government term (see item 4.4)
  - discussion on continuing the development of the Canterbury regional deal proposal, and resourcing for this (see item 4.5)
  - discussion on the continued development of a regional approach to energy, and resourcing for this (see item 4.6)
  - discussion on a refreshed CMF Communications and Engagement Plan
  - 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 (see item 2.3)
  - an update on the September Regional Forum meetings, including the quarterly update on the 2025/26 budget and workstream tracker, and endorsing the 2026/27 financial year budgets for the energy workstream and regional deal development
  - the draft CMF agenda for 28 November 2025.
4. The Chief Executives Forum will meet next on 26 January 2026.

## Canterbury Mayoral Forum gift policy

5. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum gift policy (attachment 1) was first introduced in 2021 and signed by the chairs of the Mayoral Forum and Chief Executives Forum. This was reviewed and approved with no change following the 2022 local government elections.
6. One change has been proposed to the gift policy to exclude the purchasing or gifting of alcohol. This would be consistent with the Canterbury Regional Council's alcohol-free policy, as holder of the regional forums budget.

## Canterbury Mayoral Forum's guidelines for preparing regional submissions

7. The Mayoral Forum's guidelines for preparing regional submissions were first approved in January 2020.
8. The guidelines have been reviewed and minor, primarily editing, updates have been made to the document (attachment 2).
9. One key change is formalising the Mayoral Forum's practice to upload copies of submissions to the Mayoral Forum's website following lodgement with select committees, noting that if there is a concern about a pro-active release, the secretariat will seek advice from the Chief Executives Forum.

## Triennium strategic workplan

10. 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. This is updated with high-level commentary and reported quarterly to the CMF (see attachment 3).
11. 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 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.
12. 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 – Canterbury Mayoral Forum's draft Gift Policy
- Attachment 2 – Canterbury Mayoral Forum's guidelines for preparing regional submissions
- Attachment 3 - Strategic workplan

## GIFT POLICY

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### Policy Statement

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum values the contribution members make to regional forums and wishes to celebrate outstanding service and effort through recognition by the Forum.

### Purpose

To provide clear policy and guidelines on the giving of gifts in recognition of outstanding services and effort by regional forum members.

### Application

This policy applies to the members of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Chief Executives Forum.

### Definitions

Gift                    A token of recognition (an item or service) to acknowledge service, retirement, and/or significant event

### Responsibilities

Chair                    Approve the amount of the gift

Secretariat            Understand and abide by the policy

### Exclusions

Environment Canterbury is an alcohol free organisation and will not pay for the purchase of alcohol. As holder of the regional forums budget, this exclusion has also been applied to the CMF Gift Policy.

*Mayors standing together for Canterbury.*

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

## Policy

### Gifts

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum may from time to time wish to provide a gift to one of its regional forum members.

The reason for the gift may be to acknowledge service and/or retirement. All gifts must be approved by either the Chair of the Mayoral Forum or Chair of the Chief Executives Forum.

The amount spent on the gift will be commensurate with the contribution of the individual receiving the gift. Guidelines are below:

- long service or retirement: up to \$400
- significant event: up to \$100

Once the amount of the gift is approved by the Chair, the gift will be paid for from the Regional Forums budget.

### Review

This policy will be reviewed at the outset of each three-year term.

Approved

Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum	Chair Canterbury Chief Executives Forum
DATE:	DATE

## CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

## Guidelines for preparing regional submissions (November 2025)

### What is a regional submission?

Regional submissions are drafted for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, to voice the interests and concerns of the region and its communities.

Regional submissions include:

- Select Committee submissions
- responses to consultation documents issued by Offices of Parliament, public service departments and other agencies of state
- letters to Ministers, party leaders, Members of Parliament (MPs) and senior officials.

### The role of the Canterbury Policy Forum

Key reasons for establishing the Policy Forum in 2013 were to:

- identify issues affecting Canterbury and investigate whether they can benefit from collaboration and/or joint advocacy
- reduce duplication of policy effort and work more effectively and efficiently together
- provide support to smaller councils when assessing national and regional policy initiatives.

The Policy Forum is the Mayoral Forum's primary mechanism for developing and consulting with member councils on regional submissions. We operate on a 'no surprises' basis. Policy Forum members are expected and encouraged to seek feedback internally from their own council experts and leaders as appropriate to the work being undertaken.

### Why regional submissions?

A strong regional submission is *effective*. Our experience has been that a comprehensive, evidence-informed, well-argued submission that captures the interests and viewpoints of all eleven councils and is signed out by the region's Mayors and the Chair of the regional council carries considerable weight. Working together on a regional submission is also more *efficient*. It enables the participation of smaller councils that might otherwise not have capacity to submit on a particular issue.

### *Mayors standing together for Canterbury.*

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C/- Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140 T: 03 345 9323

Councils take turns at 'holding the pen'. And the Office of the Clerk appreciates it when Canterbury councils request a single, joint opportunity to appear before a Select Committee. When we do this, the Select Committee Clerk often provides more time for the Mayoral Forum's appearance and we are generally able to appear by teleconference, saving considerable time and money.

The Mayoral Forum is committed to standing together for Canterbury and speaking with one voice to secure the best possible outcomes for our region and its communities. The Forum accepts, however, that its members and their councils will not be of a single mind on every issue, and that Councils will continue to make individual submissions, as is their right.

Well-crafted regional submissions reflect majority/minority and dissenting views and do not require unanimity. This adds value to a submission by demonstrating the complexity of issues. The interests and concerns of member councils should be well captured in regional submissions through prior consultation with the Policy Forum, Chief Executives, Mayors and councils.

Regional submissions address interests at various levels – local, sub-regional, regional, South-Island wide and national. While 'standing together for Canterbury', the Mayoral Forum does not take a narrowly provincial approach but advocates for what, on balance, it judges to be in the best interests of Canterbury, the South Island, and the country as a whole. Alignment with the draft submissions and thinking of sector groups (LGNZ and SOLGM) is desired wherever possible.

### **Effective submissions**

- are concise – written in short sentences and short paragraphs, in plain English, with no technical jargon, ambiguity or wasted words
- provide brief context and background on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, how the submission has been prepared, and other parties with whom we have consulted
- summarise key points up front
- provide headings and sub-headings that capture our key points at a glance
- state clearly what we want or support and why – with evidence and reasoned argument
- are concrete and specific in our recommendations about what we do not support and seek to change
- anticipate and address counter-arguments
- take into account all submissions made by the CMF to ensure consistency
- indicate clearly what follow-up we desire; for example, an appearance at a Select Committee, or a request to meet with a Minister or senior officials
- are crafted as public records that are proactively published on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website, unless agreed not to by the CEs and/or CMF
- provide contact details for follow-up (usually the regional forums secretariat).

### **Select Committee submissions**

A submission to a Select Committee on a Bill or parliamentary inquiry is treated by the Office of the Clerk as *evidence*. Evidence can be written or oral and is generally released publicly. Select Committee hearings are public and include the media. In certain circumstances, evidence can be *private* or *secret* – this requires discussion with the Clerk.

Submissions become the property of the Committee once lodged, and are deemed confidential until the Committee releases them. Care needs to be taken when releasing a submission or making a media statement about it before it has been heard and released by the Committee. Our

usual practice is to upload a copy of the submission to the CMF website, following lodgement with the Committee. If there is any concerns about a pro-active release, advice will be sought by the secretariat from the CE Forum on a case by case basis. Note that all work undertaken up to and including the final document is subject to LGOIMA.

Further information is on the Parliament website:

- Select Committees: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/>
- the submission process: <https://www.parliament.nz/media/1876/the-select-committee-submission-process.pdf>
- how to make a submission: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/how-to-make-a-submission/>
- submission guide and suggested submission format: <https://www.parliament.nz/media/2019/makingasubmission2012-2.pdf>

The default position is that the CMF wants to be heard by the Select Committee on all submissions. The regional forums secretariat supports the Chair of the Mayoral Forum to prepare for Select Committee appearances – in person or by teleconference/videoconference. If you have held the pen on a regional submission, you may be asked to provide some notes and/or appear with the Chair or a lead Mayor when presenting to the Select Committee. See further:

- how to make a submission – including videoconferencing: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/how-to-make-a-submission/>
- submission guide and suggested submission format: <https://www.parliament.nz/media/2019/makingasubmission2012-2.pdf>

## **Submissions on departmental and other consultation documents**

Some proposals on which the Mayoral Forum submits are released by departments or other agencies of state (e.g. the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission). Check the agency's website for information on how to submit and the timeframe for this. Always plan to submit by the due date.

We have found it more effective to provide a submission in letter form than by completing a web-based consultation form. Difficulties with web forms are:

- they are not easy to consult on within the region and can extend to 10 or more pages
- they tend to steer and invite yes/no responses (with reasons) and don't always provide sufficient space to articulate our regional and sub-regional interests and concerns as we might want to express these.

In your submission, however, make sure you cover off all relevant points from the web form.

## **Correspondence with Ministers, party leaders, MPs and senior officials**

The Mayoral Forum frequently initiates correspondence. Usually the secretariat holds the pen on this, but may consult with Chief Executives, regional forums and working groups on technical content and evidence to inform the Mayoral Forum's advocacy.

## **Style and format**

When preparing a Select Committee submission, pay close attention to the suggested format in the Appendix at <https://www.parliament.nz/media/2019/makingasubmission2012-2.pdf>

The secretariat will format your draft submission onto Mayoral Forum letterhead, to Mayoral Forum style, provide quality assurance of the argument and presentation of the submission and work with you to ensure that it covers all required aspects and stands out. If necessary, the secretariat will also make any links to other submissions and provide any additional context.

### **Process, consultation and sign-out**

First, member councils agree that an issue impacts significantly on Canterbury on a regional or sub-regional basis:

- through the Mayoral Forum, AND/OR
- through the Chief Executives Forum AND/OR
- through Policy Forum horizon scanning of what's coming at us, AND/OR
- by a regional forum, working group or member council raising it with other councils and/or the relevant Forum Chair, AND/OR
- by the secretariat alerting the relevant Forum Chair, in response to an invitation or opportunity to submit on an issue.

The relevant Forum or its Chair then identifies and commissions a lead council or councils to prepare a draft submission in consultation with member councils – with the support of, and in consultation with, regional working groups as appropriate.

Policy Forum members support the lead council with consultation – engaging Chief Executives, Mayors/Chair and councils to establish any distinctive district/city or sub-regional interests and concerns. Members of the Mayoral Forum will wherever possible discuss regional submissions with their councils. The Policy Forum and Chief Executives have an important role to play in facilitating and supporting this.

The regional forums secretariat supports the process by:

- clarifying timeframes with the lead author
- formatting a final draft onto Mayoral Forum letterhead
- circulating the final draft to all Mayoral Forum members and Chief Executives for prior approval by 'reply all'
- working with the lead council to prepare an agreed final version for signature
- emailing the submission, or lodging it on the Parliament website for Select Committee submissions
- including a copy of the final, signed letter or submission in the quarterly CMF activities and engagements paper
- saving documents into the regional council's document management system and ensuring compliance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the Public Records Act 2005
- publishing submissions on the Mayoral Forum website when approved for publication by the Chair of the Mayoral Forum.

As a general rule, regional submissions generally require two and a half weeks for approval. This includes:

- one week for consultation with members of the Policy Forum
- one to two days for revisions
- one week for consultation with members of the Mayoral Forum
- two days for final revisions and sign-out with the Mayoral Forum Chair and other relevant signatories.

## Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2023-2025

Updated 20 November 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 confirmed co-investment to enhance the resilience of flood-prone communities in Budget 2024, which included \$5.7 million for Waitaha Canterbury. A further \$97M was announced in October 2025, \$21.5M of this committed to 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 identify 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 was adopted by Environment Canterbury in September 2025. 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:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Paul Barker & Warren Ulusele, DIA Partnership Directors

## **DIA – Local government update**

### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this item is to provide a local government update from the Department of Internal Affairs Partnership Directors on the range of central government activities as they affect local government.

### **Recommendation**

**That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:**

1. **receives the local government update from the Department of Internal Affairs Partnership Directors on the range of central government activities as they affect local government.**

### **Presentation**

2. The Local Government update from the Department of Internal Affairs is provided at Attachment 1.
3. Paul Barker and Warren Ulusele will be in attendance to speak to the presentation.

### **Attachment**

- Presentation - Local Government update from DIA presentation

# Local Government update

## Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Warren Ulusele & Paul Barker  
Local Government, Department of Internal Affairs

**November 2025**

# Outline

## **This presentation will provide an update on:**

- DIA role in the local government system
- Local Water Done Well
- Resource Management Reform
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Going for Housing Growth
- City and Regional Deals
- Local Government System Improvements:
  - Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill
  - Code of conduct and standing orders
  - Rates capping

# DIA role in the local government system

## Core functions include:

- Promoting a constructive and meaningful relationship between local and central government
- Monitoring and reviewing the local government system
- Administration of LG legislation including Local Government Act, Dog Control Act & Rates Rebate Act
- Support for Councils to undertake their roles
- Intervention powers in exceptional cases

## DIA support for the Minister and Secretary of Local Government

- Policy and Operations
- Water Reform
- Partnership role including 4 Partnership Directors

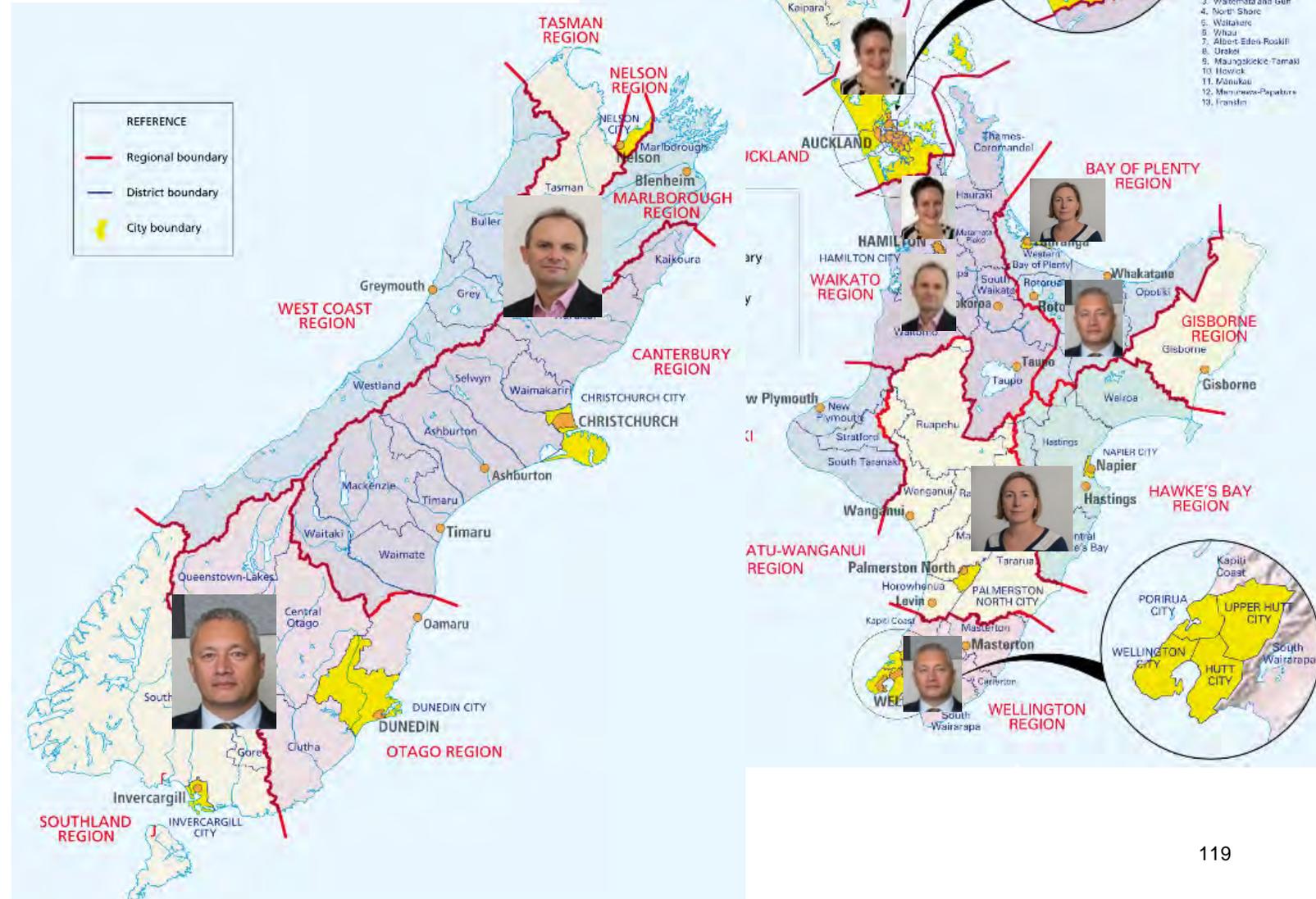
# Partnership Director Geographical allocations

**Vanessa Blakelock** – Northland, Auckland, Northern Waikato

**Rebecca Maplesden** - Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui, Hawkes Bay, Gisborne and Western Bay of Plenty

**Paul Barker** - West Coast, Canterbury, Nelson-Tasman and Marlborough and South Waikato

**Warren Ulusele** – Southland, Otago Wellington, Eastern Bay of Plenty



# Water Services Delivery Plans

Most Water Service Delivery Plans have now had a decision from the Secretary for Local Government

## Delivery model split

- 44 Councils entering Water Service CCOs
- 23 Councils forming In-house Business Units

## Capital projects uplift

- \$47.9 billion in new water infrastructure projects over the next 10 years
- \$16 billion in growth-related projects



Fit-for-purpose service delivery models and financing tools.



Ensuring water services are financially sustainable.



Introducing greater central government oversight, economic and quality regulation.

# What's next?

## Establishing water service organisations

- Overview webinars on 25 November and 4 December
- Guidance for CCOs and IHBU's coming in December
- Amendments to accepted Water Services Delivery Plans can only be considered by the Secretary for extraordinary circumstances

## Monitoring

- Templates for quarterly implementation reporting coming in December – first reports due April 2026

## Economic regulation

- The Commerce Commission has completed consultation on Information Disclosures and has published submissions

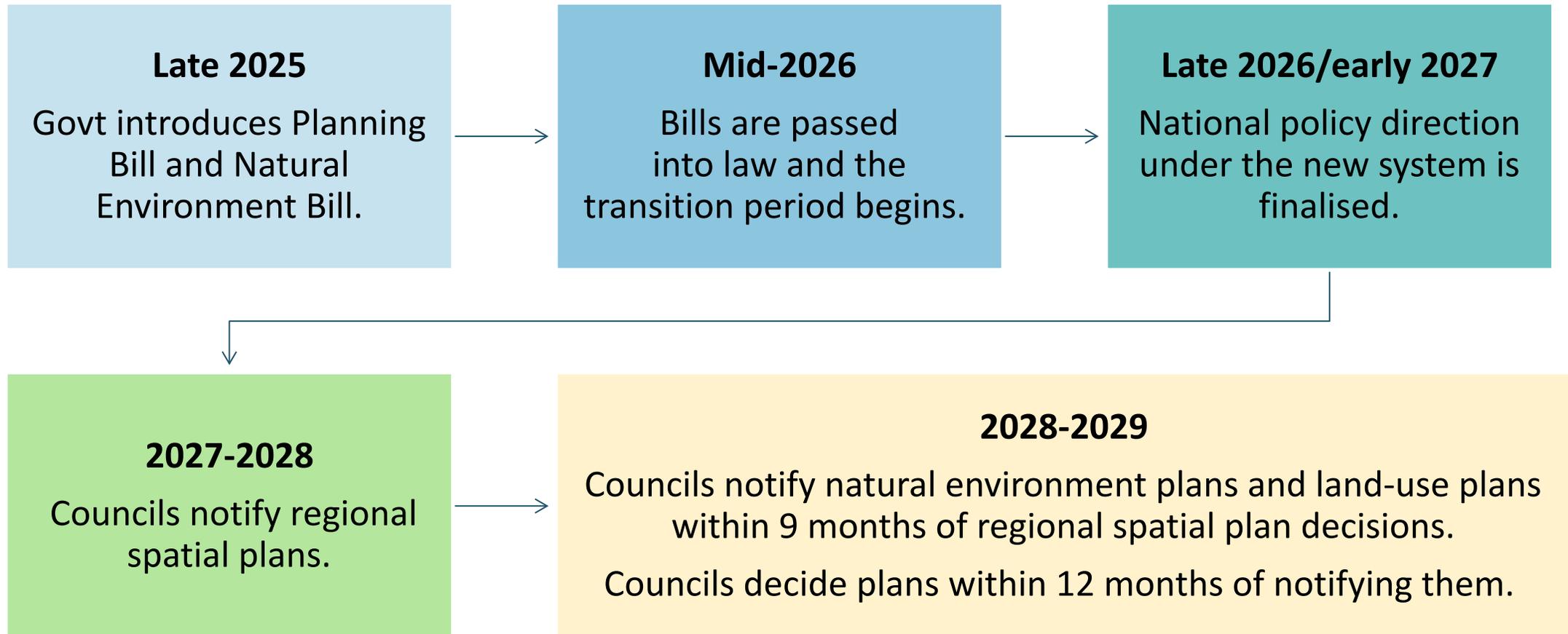
## Environmental regulation

- National Wastewater Standards are in development and will be released in the coming weeks



# Resource Management update

## Timeline for Planning and Natural Environment Acts



# Resource Management update (cont'd)

MfE lead, but DIA is engaging on three specific areas:

- **Governance**
- **Transition**
- **Implementation**

The RM reforms, along with other changes, will mean we need to think about how our current system of local government can best deliver.



# Climate Change Adaptation: National Adaptation Framework

The Government recently introduced the National Adaptation Framework, setting out an approach to prepare New Zealand for Climate change, support economic growth and keep overall societal costs as low as possible. The framework is built on four pillars:



## Risk and response information sharing

- A National Flood Map combining national and local data, for public use
- New hazard datasets and risk standards
- LIMs must now include information on property-level natural hazard risk



## Roles and responsibilities

- A new National Direction under the RMA will support councils to manage natural hazard risk
- A new requirement for councils to develop adaptation plans in priority areas is being introduced in 2026



## Investment in risk reduction

- Government has invested in the resilience and economic prosperity of the regions through the \$1.2 billion Regional Infrastructure fund
- This includes nearly \$200 million in co-investment into 74 regional flood resilience projects across New Zealand



## Cost-sharing pre and post event

- New tools will support government recovery decisions following major weather events
- New Zealand will transition towards a state that incentivises risk reduction and allows markets to adjust as risks change

# Going for Housing Growth

The Government's Going for Housing Growth programme focuses on fixing the fundamentals of our housing crisis. This is made up by the following three pillars:



## Objective is 'Growth pays for growth'

- As a package Pillar 2 changes will create a **flexible funding and financing system to match a new, flexible, planning system.**
- The improvements are expected to reduce the current cross-subsidisation by ratepayers and meet the GFHG objective of 'growth pays for growth'.

## Components of Pillar 2

1. Replacing Development Contributions with a Development Levy system

2. Making changes to improve the IFF Act

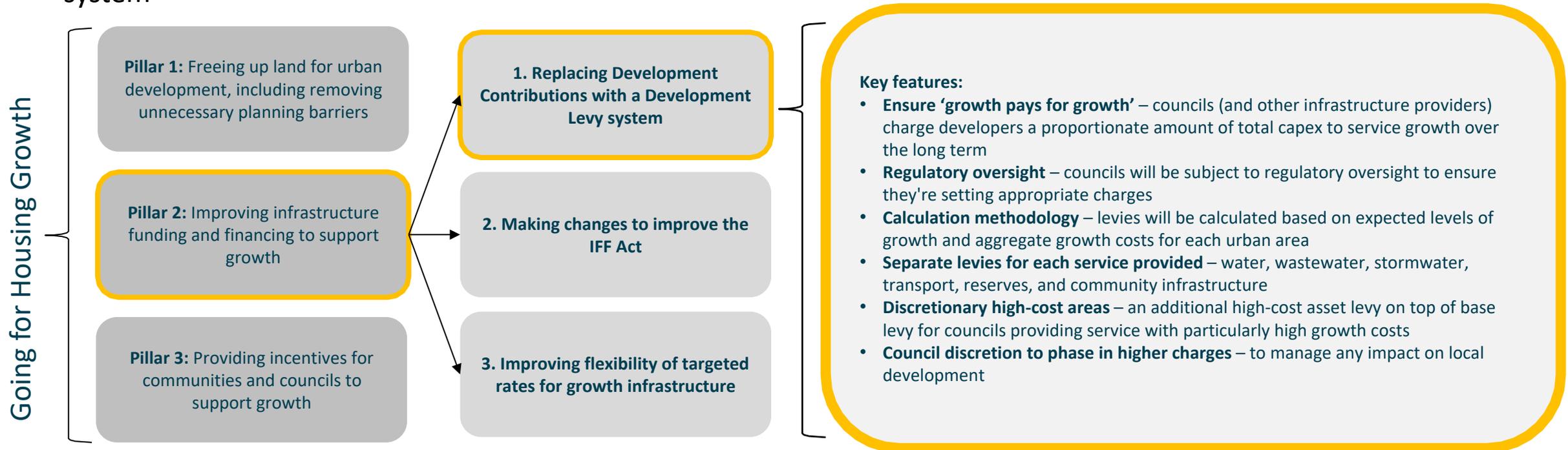
3. Improving flexibility of targeted rates for growth infrastructure

## Update on timing and engagement with Councils

- The intention is to introduce legislation in 2026 which would be passed after the general election.
- DIA and HUD will work with Councils to test the workability of detailed policy design.

# Shifting to a new development levy system

The most significant change is replacing the development contributions system with a new development levy system

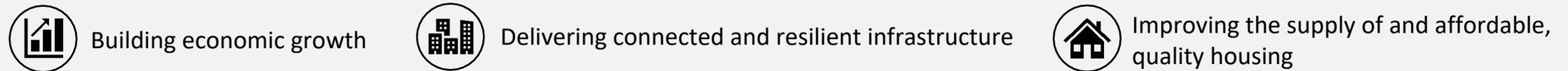


# City and Regional Deals - Background

Guiding principles will help set a foundation for Regional Deals:



The priority objectives for City and Regional Deals are:



The secondary objectives for Regional Deals will be:

**Greater Regional  
Collaboration**

**Improved local government  
decision making and funding**

**Promoting innovative and  
collaborative ways of  
working between central  
and local government**

**Ensuring resilient, and  
sustainable cities and  
regions**

- MOUs signed and deals are being negotiated with Auckland Council, Western Bay of Plenty and Otago-Central Lakes.
- Aim to finalise the first deal by December 2025, and two more by mid-2026
- DIA has provided all regions with feedback on their proposals.
- Updates on phase 2 of the programme will be provided in due course.

# Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill

## Refocusing the purpose of local government

- Remove the four well-beings
- Revert to a purpose statement focused on the provision of local infrastructure, public services, and performance of regulatory functions
- Reinstate core services
- Require councils to consider the purpose and the core services in financial management

## Better measuring and publicising council performance

- Shift groups of activities into regulations
- Make the issuing of rules for performance measures discretionary
- Expand the regulation-making power for benchmarks
- Require councils to report on contractor and consultant expenditure

## Providing regulatory relief to councils

- Modernise public notice requirements
- Remove six-yearly service delivery reviews
- Clarify the authority of an acting or interim CE to sign certificates of compliance
- Clarify that third-party contributions to capital projects can be targeted to specific drivers
- Remove the requirement for councils to consider tikanga Māori knowledge in CCO governance
- Extend the maximum length of CE second term

## Strengthening council transparency and accountability

- Empower the Secretary to issue standard code of conduct and standing orders
- Require councils to include standard code in elected member induction
- Require CEs to facilitate information sharing between councils and elected members
- Emphasise freedom of expression and collective responsibility in the local governance principles

# Code of conduct and standing orders changes

The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill enables the Secretary of Local Government to issue standardised codes of conduct and standing orders that councils will be required to use.

## Code of conduct

The Local Government Commission is developing the draft standardised code of conduct.

The Commission will report back to the Minister of Local Government by 20 December 2025.

## Standing orders

StandardsNZ has worked with LGNZ, Taituarā and a small group of sector stakeholders to develop a draft standing orders.

This draft is currently open for public consultation on the StandardsNZ website until 12 December 2025.

Councils will be able to amend their current codes of conduct and standing orders up until the Secretary issues the standard versions.

The estimated timeframe for the final documents to be issued is the second quarter of 2026.

# Rate capping

In response to recent significant and sharp rates increases, the Government is progressing work to constrain councils' ability to raise rates. Decisions are expected in Q4 2025 (as per Government's Q4 2025 Action Plan).

## Principles

In April, Cabinet agreed to a set of principles to guide the design of a rate capping system:

- **Independent** – Determined by an independent authority.
- **Transparent** – Simple for councils and their communities to understand.
- **Cost-reflective** – Accurately reflect cost changes for councils.
- **Localised** – Considers differences between councils across the country.

## A model for New Zealand

- In November 2024, the Minister outlined his intention to investigate whether a system similar to the NSW rate peg was applicable in New Zealand. While NSW's model placed limits on rate increases and achieved improved affordability, there were consequences on infrastructure spending.
- A rate capping system in New Zealand needs to be flexible enough to support housing growth aspirations, respond to the infrastructure deficit, while limiting spending on non-core activities.

# Useful links

## **DIA Implementation roadmap**

<https://www.dia.govt.nz/Water-Services-Policy/A3-LWDW-implementation-roadmap-Sept-2025.pdf>

## **Roles and responsibilities**

<https://www.dia.govt.nz/Water-Services-Policy/LWDW-A3-Regulatory-landscape-for-water-services-and-networks-Sept-2025.pdf>

## **Role of the Commerce Commission**

<https://www.comcom.govt.nz/regulated-industries/water-wai/>

## **Submissions on Water Services – Information Disclosure (scroll to 20 October on timeline)**

<https://www.comcom.govt.nz/regulated-industries/projects/economic-regulation-of-water-services-information-disclosure/>

# Canterbury Mayoral Forum

**Date:** 28 November 2025

**Presented by:** Secretariat

## Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements – September - November 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 22 August 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 22 August 2025.**

### Background

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

### Meetings and engagements

3. The following meetings and engagements were held, in addition to the regular quarterly meeting schedule:
  - meeting with the Police Commissioner Richard Chambers on 15 September to discuss proposed changes to rural policing in Canterbury.

### Correspondence

4. There has been no incoming correspondence
5. Outgoing correspondence:
  - invitation to Hon James Meager, Minister for the South Island, dated 15 August, to be guest speaker at the Mayoral Forum workshops in October on developing a regional plan to transition to a low-emissions future.
  - invitation to Police Commissioner, dated 27 August, to meet with the Mayoral Forum to discuss proposed changes to rural policing in Canterbury.

- invitation to Mike Casey, CEO Rewiring Aotearoa, dated 23 September, to be guest speaker at the Mayoral Forum workshops in October on developing a regional plan to transition to a low-emissions future.
- letter to Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, dated 8 October, providing feedback on the Tourism Growth Roadmap.

## Submissions

6. Submissions lodged since the August 2025 meeting include:
  - Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill
7. Submissions are generally available on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website: [www.canterburymayors.org.nz](http://www.canterburymayors.org.nz).

## Briefings

8. Mayor Nigel Bowen and Hamish Dobbie (Chair, CE Forum) provided a briefing to Selwyn District Council on the value of the Mayoral Forum and working together for Canterbury (Nov 2025)

## Media Release

9. There have been no media releases since the August 2025 meeting.

## Attachments

- Correspondence
- Submission

## CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

15 August 2025

Hon James Meager  
Minister for the South Island  
[J.Meager@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:J.Meager@ministers.govt.nz)

Kia ora James

### **INVITATION: Guest speaker Canterbury Mayoral Forum workshops**

On behalf of the Mayoral Forum, I would like to invite you in your capacity as Minister for the South Island to be the guest speaker at workshops the Forum is hosting in October on developing a regional plan to transition to a low-emissions future. We are hosting two workshops, and would welcome your attendance as guest speaker at one and/or both if your diary allows.

#### **Workshop 1 - Timaru**

- Date: Thursday 23 October
- Time: 8.45am for 9am start
- Location: Caroline Bay Trust Centre

#### **Workshop 2 - Rangiora**

- Date: Thursday 30 October
- Time: 8.45am for 9am start
- Location: Mainpower Stadium

The purpose of the workshops is to seek ideas and feedback on low-emissions opportunities across the region from stakeholders and partners in key sectors such as transport, waste, energy, agriculture prior to the project team beginning to draft actions for the transition plan.

The guest speaker slot is the first item of the day following a short welcome, and would be for approximately 20 minutes. Your attendance for the remainder of the day would be most welcome.

### ***Mayors standing together for Canterbury.***

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C/- Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140 T: 03 345 9323

For context, the transition plan project is one of 11 actions in our [Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan](#), and is focused on working together to build equitable, inclusive pathways to support meeting New Zealand's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. As you know, the Forum's Plan for Canterbury has a strong emphasis on meeting the challenges presented by climate change, and the transition plan project is a key part of helping us achieve our aspirations in this area.

Should you or your office have any questions about this invitation or the workshops, please contact our secretariat – Maree McNeilly 027 381 8924 or [secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi nui



Nigel Bowen  
Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum  
Mayor, Timaru District

## CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

27 August 2025

Richard Chambers  
Commissioner of Police  
Police National Headquarters  
PO Box 3017  
WELLINGTON

By email: [Richard.Chambers@police.govt.nz](mailto:Richard.Chambers@police.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Commissioner Chambers

### **Proposed changes to rural policing in Canterbury – invitation to meet**

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum is seeking a meeting with you to discuss the proposed changes to rural policing across Canterbury through the Canterbury District Review 2025. Forum members are supportive of increasing policing numbers in our growing urban areas but are deeply concerned about the potential loss of Police Officers across our vast rural areas in Canterbury.

For your information the Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the Mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council, supported by our Chief Executives. The purpose of the Forum is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.

All Canterbury councils actively participate in the Forum: the Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate, and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council, and the Canterbury Regional Council.

The Forum members have a high regard for the police officers who serve our communities and value their hard work in our districts. We understand the need for organisational change when it is in the best interests of both public and police safety. However, we believe the changes proposed for Canterbury risk creating gaps in service, increasing response times, and eroding the strong trust and relationships that have been built between our local officers and the communities that they serve.

#### ***Mayors standing together for Canterbury.***

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We believe relocating officers rather than increasing overall police presence simply shifts the gap in service from one area to another, which is likely to create new vulnerabilities.

Submissions from Canterbury councils have highlighted a number of key concerns. These are shared by the Mayoral Forum and are briefly outlined below.

### **Local emergency response**

In rural districts all over Canterbury, where resources are already stretched, reducing the number of locally based officers risks having a direct negative effect on the very types of crime the restructure is seeking to address in large urban areas. Centralising police response to urban centres will also increase response times for emergencies. Ultimately, this weakens our rural communities' sense of safety.

Our experience as community leaders indicates that local police officers who reside and are embedded in local communities enable effective, proactive policing. These officers can develop relationships and a deep understanding of their communities and their unique challenges. Centralising police into urban areas is likely to lose this local knowledge.

### **Civil Defence and emergency response**

As you know, New Zealand Police is a key partner agency in civil defence emergencies, working alongside councils, fire and emergency volunteers and health providers, including St John volunteers, to protect life and property. Locally based officers are critical in this role as they can respond rapidly in providing essential on the ground coordination during crises such as floods, earthquakes, and severe weather events.

In a crisis, over-reliance on centralised deployment risks support being delayed or not being able to get through at all. This would reduce effectiveness of emergency operations and potentially increase the threat to people and property in time-critical situations.

Local police officers hold a wealth of knowledge, including procedures and local understanding. When necessary, they are the face of authority. Losing these key individuals from expansive rural districts would be a significant blow to various councils' civil defence capacities and put increased pressure on FENZ, St John and Land Search and Rescue volunteer services.

### **Enforcement action assistance**

Our members are concerned that the proposed structure changes will mean that police will not be able to provide timely response for council staff who deal with high-risk enforcement activities such as dangerous animal complaints, wandering stock on roads, and noise control issues with aggressive individuals. This increases risk for our staff and reduces a sense of safety in our communities.

### **Change to particular roles**

We understand that some areas will be losing community constables, who will be replaced with a rural liaison officer. However, there is no clarity on the role and responsibilities of the proposed rural liaison officers, which is of concern to our members and communities. We would expect to receive more information on this as soon as possible.

We are also concerned with the reduction of Family Harm Constables and School Community Officers in rural communities. This will disproportionately affect vulnerable people, such as the elderly, youth, those with poor mental health and victims of family harm.

We have very serious concerns that the impact of these proposed changes will result in more responsibility being landed on local councils to provide for the safety of their communities. We have seen this in health, where our local councils are funding and supporting the provision of health facilities to ensure our communities have appropriate access to fair and reasonable health services.

## Conclusion

Canterbury's rural districts are geographically large, and while their population numbers may be smaller than that of larger more urban districts, we reinforce that a visible, responsive and locally-embedded police presence is critical for the safety of these communities.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet, either in Wellington or Christchurch, to discuss your structural change proposal and outline our concerns. We are particularly interested in working with you to find solutions that protect essential policing in our rural communities.

Please contact our secretariat, Maree McNeilly at [secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz) or on 027 381 8924 to arrange a suitable time.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen  
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum  
Mayor Timaru District

CC: Tania Kura, Deputy Commissioner Central and Southern  
Superintendent Tony Hill, District Commander Canterbury  
Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister of Police

[Tania.kura@police.govt.nz](mailto:Tania.kura@police.govt.nz)  
[Tony.hill@police.govt.nz](mailto:Tony.hill@police.govt.nz)  
[m.mitchell@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:m.mitchell@ministers.govt.nz)

## CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

23 September 2025

Mike Casey  
CEO Rewiring Aotearoa  
hello@rewiring.nz

Tēnā koe Mike

### **Invitation: Transitioning to a low emissions future workshops**

On behalf of the Mayoral Forum, I would like to invite you, in your capacity as CEO of Rewiring Aotearoa, to be the guest speaker at workshops the Forum is hosting in October on developing a regional plan to transition to a low-emissions future. We are hosting two workshops and would welcome your attendance as guest speaker at one or both if your diary allows.

#### **Workshop 1 - Timaru**

- Date: Thursday 23 October
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The purpose of the workshops is to seek ideas and feedback on low-emissions opportunities across the region from stakeholders and partners in key sectors such as transport, waste, energy, and agriculture prior to the project team beginning to draft actions for the transition plan.

The guest speaker slot is the first item of the day following a short welcome, and would be for approximately 20 minutes. Your attendance for the remainder of the day would be most welcome.

We appreciate that your schedule is busy. If you are unable to attend, we understand and will confirm an alternative speaker, as we are not seeking delegation of this speaking role within your organisation.

### ***Mayors standing together for Canterbury.***

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For context, the transition plan project is one of 11 actions in our [Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan](#), and is focused on working together to build equitable, inclusive pathways to support meeting New Zealand's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. As you know, the Forum's Plan for Canterbury has a strong emphasis on meeting the challenges presented by climate change, and the transition plan project is a key part of helping us achieve our aspirations in this area.

Should you or your office have any questions about this invitation or the workshops, please contact our secretariat - [secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Naku, nā

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

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

## CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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

8 October 2025

Hon Louise Upston  
Minister for Tourism and Hospitality  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

By email: [l.upston@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:l.upston@ministers.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Minister Upston

## Tourism Growth Roadmap

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### Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in July, and for forwarding a copy of the Tourism Growth Roadmap for feedback.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum values the benefit to our economies and communities of international visitors, and welcomes the drive to encourage more visitors to New Zealand, and particularly the South Island. However, the Forum believes the effort to attract more international visitors must be tempered with the ability to support them, and our communities, with quality services and infrastructure. This will enable our communities to take full advantage of increasing visitor numbers while providing them with the quality experience that they should expect when visiting New Zealand.

### Tourism Growth Roadmap

The Forum members support the concept of the Tourism Growth Roadmap. As a region with complex and contrasting infrastructure, we are conflicted between embracing a strong demand focus while also supporting communities which have serious concerns about increasing demand in the absence of addressing the supply matters.

For the smaller regions currently experiencing high visitor volumes, we think the current balance of 80% focus on demand side and 20% on supply lacks understanding of the current state on the ground. For those areas, we need to be cautious of pursuing large volumes of visitors at the

### *Mayors standing together for Canterbury.*

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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 • Wairarapa District Council • Waitaki District Council

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expense of a quality experience. A strong focus on off peak and shoulder seasons for those regions (and also for the whole country) may be a way to alleviate some of the pressures.

That said, Christchurch is yet to recover to pre-earthquake levels and has received significant public and private investment for infrastructure, which needs to be fully realised. An aim to have more people visiting Christchurch and spending a longer time in our city is supported.

## **Infrastructure**

Christchurch is currently experiencing growth in the city, including in the tourism sector. Several key infrastructure projects in the city have been completed, or are nearing completion, which will likely boost tourism demand.

This includes Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha, Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre, and the development of new accommodation, such as the recently announced five-star Sheraton Hotel. In Christchurch, we want to leverage this new infrastructure to attract more visitors to the city through hosting large events and making Christchurch an attractive place for visitors to stay longer in the city.

In contrast to this, the ratepayers in our smaller areas who are already experiencing the pressures of high tourist numbers, are left with a stretched infrastructure network and a relative decline in social licence. This is despite those same communities relying on the work that tourism brings.

Pressing issues include a lack of worker accommodation in the peak seasons and core infrastructure at capacity.

As we have already highlighted to you, we have two stand-out districts in Canterbury where guest nights significantly outweigh other districts - Mackenzie, with an average of 132.9 guest nights per resident, and Kaikōura with 115.6. The disproportionate number of tourists to residents, combined with visitors driving through districts and not spending the night is problematic. Along with the lack of funding for infrastructure to support continued tourism growth, the visitor experience will likely decline.

Constraints on worker accommodation limits the servicing of visitor growth, with short-term visitor accommodation currently a more attractive investment proposition. In addition, for Mackenzie in particular, the need to increase capacity of core infrastructure is crucial. For instance, the wastewater system in Tekapo that supports local residents, and the visitors that travel through the district, is at capacity. It is estimated that 30 percent of the town's wastewater is generated from the public toilets alone.

## **Addressing infrastructure issues**

We recommend a focus on infrastructure that complements both tourist and local needs. The Infrastructure Commission's recent release of the draft National Infrastructure Plan painted the current state in a bleak view.

Funding for infrastructure must be a priority, achieved through national mechanisms distributed locally, such as the International Visitor Levy (IVL), or an accommodation levy. You will be aware that 85% of submitters to the consultation on the IVL increase wanted it used for mixed-use infrastructure.

We recognise that not all of our districts have the same numbers of visitors or the same infrastructure needs. However, the desire for a quality experience for both locals and visitors for sustained growth in tourism is a strong sentiment throughout the Canterbury region.

## **Tourism Growth Roadmap - stages two and three**

The Forum strongly recommends Stages two and three of the Tourism Growth Roadmap should be prioritised as our communities have an immediate need for investment into mixed-use tourism infrastructure. We need to set up our regions and communities to manage and invest in the tourism system now, and we must also address the tourism funding system.

It is difficult to provide detailed comment on the medium-term plan in its current high-level form; what is the balance of demand and supply initiatives we can expect? What are the anticipated priorities? What does 'Regions and communities are set up to manage and invest in the tourism system' include?

## **International Visitor Levy**

The IVL provides a valuable resource and we have no objection to a levy being in place. This levy should support on-the-ground initiatives that create good experiences for everyone. We propose that the levy is distributed to where the funding is most needed and ringfenced to activity or infrastructure that enhances the guest experience.

We acknowledge, and as noted in our earlier correspondence with you, strongly support the proportion of the IVL that is being tagged for the Conservation Estate and wilding conifer control.

It was made clear at our meeting that there is an expectation that local councils will be playing their part and investing in tourism alongside central government. However, the various central government reforms currently underway are demanding council resources - such as Local Water Done Well and resource management reform - combined with the call for local government to focus on core services and a signal that a future rates cap will be introduced. These changes to local government seem counter to the roadmap's intentions.

We agree that local government should focus on the basics. From our perspective, that includes a clear delivery and funding plan for infrastructure which would support both locals and the additional visitors, and ensure they have a quality experience.

We look forward to continuing this conversation with you following the current local government elections. If you have any questions at all, please get in touch with our secretariat at [secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz).

Nāku, na



Nigel Bowen  
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum  
Mayor Timaru District Council

## CANTERBURY Mayoral Forum

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27 August 2025

Committee Secretariat  
Governance and Administration Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Tēnā koutou

### Canterbury Mayoral Forum Submission: Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill

1. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum thanks the Governance and Administration Committee for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill.
2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum comprises the Mayors of the ten territorial authorities in Canterbury and the Chair of the Canterbury Regional Council, supported by our Chief Executives. The purpose of the Forum is to promote collaboration across the region and increase the effectiveness of local government in meeting the needs of Canterbury's communities.
3. All Canterbury councils actively participate in the Forum: the Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate, and Waitaki District Councils, the Christchurch City Council, and the Canterbury Regional Council.
4. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum published the Plan for Canterbury in 2023 with the following three key focus areas:
  - **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.

#### *Mayors standing together for Canterbury.*

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## General comments

5. The following submission on the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill (the Bill) has been developed with input from across Canterbury councils and focusses on matters of general agreement, noting that some Canterbury councils will also be making individual submissions.
6. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) note that regional councils have a different remit to city and district councils and we support the government considering how this Bill applies to the wrap around activities regional councils undertake to support economic growth in indirect ways, through such things as maritime safety, flood protection, and other resilience efforts.
7. We acknowledge the Government is looking at many ways in which council rates can be reduced, and efficiency and accountability improved. We agree with this sentiment, and it is something each council scrutinises every three years in creating its Long-Term Plans, and yearly through its Annual Plan processes.
  - The Mayoral Forum supports a strong partnership between central and local government and appreciates opportunities to work proactively and collaboratively for the benefit of our communities and New Zealand. A more deliberate partnership can support greater understanding of the impacts on funding and delivery of services, and reduce the challenges that come with the u-turning of each new government, and the unfunded mandates that are issued to local councils.
8. The following highlights the key areas we believe need to be addressed under the five areas identified by the Minister for Local Government.

## Objective of the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill

9. We acknowledge, and agree with, the intention of the Bill to focus local government spending of ratepayers' money on core services, particularly in this time of high cost of living. While the Bill is well-intentioned, the CMF has some concerns about the effectiveness of the Bill as it does not address the key factors that have driven rates increases across the country.
10. It is acknowledged in the Bill, and we agree, that 'rates rises are being driven primarily by rising council costs, particularly for critical infrastructure'.
11. We also note the limited scope of the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) produced by the Department of Internal Affairs. Analysis on the impact of various market pressures that have influenced rates increases, for example but not limited to, the impact of inflation related to infrastructure and building activity, higher interest rates, increasing insurance premiums, and the increase in cost of goods and services, would be beneficial context to apply.
12. It gives rise to queries around where the concerns of fiscal discipline in local government have originated.
13. We would like to highlight that while this Bill is intended to reduce administration and costs to councils, there is considerable time and cost to reconsider and reposition activities every time the purpose of local government changes between governments. This is resource that could be focussed on delivering the core services that are already our priorities.
14. While we may not agree with the underlying assumptions driving the Bill, we do acknowledge and respect the Bill's intent.
15. While not in the scope of this Bill, we acknowledge the tangential discussions on rates capping and have provided some comment.
16. There are a number of new terms within this Bill that are unclear or ambiguous in their definition, such as 'cost-effective for households and businesses' and the breadth of activity included in 'other recreational facilities'. Also, what we 'must have particular regard to' when determining the contribution a core service makes to its community.

17. We note that it currently leaves room for councils to interpret some terms in the Bill, and what these mean. We question whether this leaves councils open or vulnerable to challenge about how these terms are applied. Further clarity about what terms mean would help mitigate this risk.

### **Refocusing the purpose of local government**

18. We agree that councils should focus primarily on core services, as outlined in the reviewed purpose.
19. We do not agree with the policy assumption that the four aspects of community wellbeing are driving rates increases. Removing these from the purpose statement, alongside the shift in focus to the new purpose statement, is unlikely to substantially alter what councils are already delivering. The vast majority of resourcing and effort is already directed to activities the Bill describes as core services.
20. The Bill appears to position the four aspects of community wellbeing currently in the Act in contrast to the core services that local authorities should be providing. The CMF does not share this view. We believe that community wellbeing and core services are not mutually exclusive. For example, a council's ability to effectively deliver core infrastructure and services creates community wellbeing. The removal of wellbeing from the Act should not mean that councils should no longer consider the wellbeing of their communities.
21. We also note from the Regulatory Impact Statement that 'feedback [from government agencies] suggested that removing the four well-beings could be seen as disempowering local government and while focusing councils on low rates may succeed, it would likely come at the expense of key council services and infrastructure development'. Thus, negatively impacting potential for economic growth.
22. We note the new emphasis on supporting local economic growth and development. Local, regional, and central government each have different responsibilities, levers, and abilities to influence. We urge government to work with local councils to take a more comprehensive look at the future system, including how these core services are appropriately funded.
23. We note the absence of environmental considerations in the new purpose, which we know is of high value to our region – both for our residents and tourists to enjoy, and to support our food and fibre sector. There may be occasions where supporting economic growth conflicts with other expectations of our communities.
24. The list of five core services appears to cover most activities councils undertake, however it does not appear to include requirements to perform regulatory functions found in other legislation. We suggest the inclusion of an additional clause that enables this work to be carried out as part of local governments' core services.
25. The CMF supports that the Bill still provides scope for councils to use their discretion to fund activities that are not captured under the list of core services in the Act. Councils need to be able to act in accordance with the desires and in the best interests of the communities they represent and, to do this, there are times when a council may want to fund activities that are not listed as a core service.
26. Currently, the Bill states that councils "must have particular regard to" the core services, and we think this does not and should not preclude councils from spending on non-core services, if the council and their community desire. Non-core activities also deliver benefits to the community.

### **Better measuring and publicising council performance**

27. The CMF sees value in measures that create transparency so that ratepayers can have confidence in what rates are being spent on. It is difficult to comment in detail as the impacts will only be understood once the regulations are made.
28. The Bill provides regulation-making powers to set benchmarks for council performance. The Bill does not state what these benchmarks are, so we are unable to provide specific comment at this stage.
29. Generally, benchmarks can provide a simple way to measure and compare performance. However, they can also lack context and detail and therefore are not always useful for comparison. There are

material differences between local authorities, such as whether they are high or low growth areas, whether they have high or low infrastructure deficits, their geographical differences (such as climate, proximity to certain industries), their natural disaster risk profile, and so on.

30. Providing benchmarks for comparison may not capture these differences and the different needs of local authorities. The intent of this provision is to give the public a better sense of “what good looks like” in terms of council performance but it is unclear how the public will be able to accurately do this, given the issue raised.
31. Regulations for measuring and publishing requirements must be reasonable and proportionate and allow the reader to make judgments within the context of that council.

### **Prioritising core services in council spending**

32. The Bill adds a new financial management principle, stating that a local authority “must have particular regard to the purpose of local government and the core services of a local authority” when determining its financial management approach. It is unclear what “must have particular regard to” means in practice and what is expected of councils, which leaves room for interpretation. There may be a risk of action against a council that is perceived to not have met this requirement. If the Bill is passed, guidance on this matter for local authorities may be useful.
33. While there are no provisions currently in the Bill to directly implement a rates peg system, the concept is discussed in the Bill’s explanatory note and in Cabinet decisions relating to the Bill. We believe the following is useful context to consider.
34. The CMF acknowledges the policy intent of a rates peg system, which is to ease rates increases for households. As identified in paragraphs above, many councils have had to increase rates, largely in response to market pressures, such as inflation and interest rates and to maintain levels of service that people expect in a well-functioning community.
35. A common criticism of both central and local government is that there has been underinvestment in critical assets and core services over the past decades and a rates peg is unlikely to help close any deficit of underinvestment. A fundamental review of the funding of these assets and services is required, and we welcome the opportunity to input into these discussions.
36. A broad one-size-fits-all approach to a rates peg is unlikely to be effective for many local authorities, and if pursued, a broad suite of inflationary measures should be considered, not just the Consumer Price Index, alongside each councils’ specific circumstances.

### **Strengthening council transparency and accountability**

37. We support endeavours to strengthen council transparency and accountability and there are many ways in which our member councils proactively facilitate this through livestreaming meetings, timely availability of agendas, papers, and decisions, and high expectations of elected members.
38. It is hard to comment on both the proposed Code of Conduct and set of standing orders at this stage, without the release of further detail. However, we are apprehensive about the benefit of a homogenous approach to issuing standing orders.
39. We do have concerns that mandated standardised standing orders may not be fit-for-purpose for every council. We would like the Bill to provide mechanisms to individualise or adapt aspects of the standing orders that are issued by the Secretary. It is important to recognise that each community is distinct and has different needs, and local authorities should be able to apply standing orders that are most appropriate for them.
40. We would appreciate opportunity to provide feedback on any potential change to Code of Conduct, or standing orders as these are drafted.

## Providing regulatory relief to councils

41. Providing regulatory relief for councils in areas where processes are outdated, ineffective or inefficient are welcome. The CMF supports the modernisation of public notice requirements by removing the requirement to publish public notices in newspapers, but leaving it as an option to be determined as appropriate by each respective council for their communities. This provision could also be applied to other legislation that calls for public notices to be published in newspapers.
42. We support clarifying that an acting or interim chief executive can sign certificates of compliance for lending arrangements.
43. The removal of the requirement to consider the relevance of tikanga Māori knowledge when appointing council-controlled organisation directors is not supported by the CMF. While we support efforts to improve council efficiency, we do not consider this provision in the Act as regulatory excess.
44. This requirement does not inhibit the appointment of a person without this knowledge, but gives pause to consider the collective expertise within an organisation and specific expertise that may be desired. Regulatory relief must be pursued in ways that uphold our obligations to Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
45. The CMF supports the ability to extend a chief executive's second term from two to five years and agrees with the policy principles behind this amendment. This change will provide greater efficiency and stability when an incumbent chief executive is performing well and does not remove the ability to end employment when underperforming.
46. We appreciate the efforts the government is taking to ease regulatory and procedural burden on local authorities. The Government's future intentions to review other regulatory requirements of local government, particularly the work that would review the Long-Term Plan and other council planning and reporting requirements, is supported by the CMF. These processes can come at a considerable compliance cost to councils. For example, we would support a policy that reduces compliance costs regarding auditing requirements and focuses on the key aspects of council business.
47. The CMF would also support measures that reduce the cost that central government imposes on local government through policy changes. Councils are required to implement changes directed by central government but bear much of the cost of this and a more collaborative approach to decision-making and funding is needed.

## Closing statement

48. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum wishes to be heard on this submission.
49. Please contact Amelia Wilkins at [secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz) or on 027 243 4304.

Nāku iti noa, nā



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