

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 22 August 2025
Time:	8:30 am to 12:35 pm (NZST)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Craig Pauling, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Marie Black, Neil Brown, Phil Mauger, Sam Broughton, Karen Morgan
Attendees:	Mayor Monique Croon, Alex Parmley, Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Riach, Jeff Millward, Mary Richardson, Nigel Trainor, Paul Eagle, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Maree McNeilly, Amelia Wilkins, Ann Fitzgerald
Apologies:	Ann Munro, Gary Kircher, Hamish Dobbie, Stuart Duncan
Guests/Notes:	Leeann Watson and Tait Dench, Business Canterbury (Items 2.1: 2.2) Jesse Burgess, Environment Canterbury (Items 2.1:2.2:2.3:2.4); 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 Status: On Hold	Maree McNeilly
30 Jun 2025	Action Status: On Hold	Maree McNeilly
30 Jun 2025	Action Status: 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.

Decision Date: 22 Aug 2025
Mover: Karen Morgan
Seconded: Sam Broughton
Outcome: 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 Papaihu Kūhanga 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
Owner: Regional Forums Secretariat



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
Seconded: 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 Plan discussion document, and this has now been submitted to central government.

The significant contribution Simon Hay 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
Seconded: 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 sign 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
Seconded: 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: Regional Forums Secretariat



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 underway 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 20 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: _____