

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

BOARD PACK

for

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Friday, 20 November 2026

8:30 am (NZDT)

Held at:

Commodore Hotel

449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch

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AGENDA

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM

Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 20 November 2026
Time:	8:30 am to 2:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Nigel Bowen (Chair), Marie Black, Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Dr Deon Swiggs, Liz McMillan, Lydia Gliddon, Melanie Tavendale, Phil Mauger, Scott Aronsen
Attendees:	Tania Wati, Hamish Dobbie, Alex Parmley, Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Riach, Jeff Millward, Nigel Trainor, Will Doughty, Steve Gibling, Dylan Murray, Bede Carran , Maree McNeilly, Amelia Wilkins, Ann Fitzgerald
Apologies:	Ben Bateman, Justin Tipa, Dr Stefanie Rixecker
Guests/Notes:	Nadeine Dommisse, Executive Leader Planning System Reform, MCERT (Item 3.1); Hemi Smiler, General Manager Local Government Reform and Deals, MCERT (Item 5.1); Marie Ward, Director Regional Public Service Commission (Item 5.2); Councillor Sophie McInnes, Chair Biodiversity Champions (Item 6.2); Jesse Burgess Canterbury Regional Council (Items 6.3; 6.4; 6.5)

1. Open Meeting

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

Nigel Bowen

1.2 Confirmation of agenda — 8:35 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting — 8:40 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.3.a	Minutes : Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 28 Aug 2026	8

1.4 Action List — 8:45 am (5 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

1.4.a	Action List	21

2. For discussion and decision

2.1 Central Government engagement 8:50 am (25 min)

Nigel Bowen

Supporting Documents:

2.1.a	CMF Central Government engagement Nov 2026.docx	22
2.1.b	CMF Central Government engagement Attachment 1 Nov 2026.pdf	25
2.1.c	CMF Central Government engagement Attachment 2 Nov 2026.PDF	27

3. For discussion

3.1 New Zealand's new planning system 9:15 am (45 min)

Nigel Bowen

Nadeine Dommisse, Executive Leader Planning System Reform
Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

Supporting Documents:

3.1.a	CMF New Zealand's new planning system Nov 2026.docx	31
3.1.b	CMF New Zealand's new planning system Attachment 1 Nov 2026.pdf	32

4. KAI - Morning tea

4.1 Kai - morning tea 10:00 am (20 min)

5. For discussion

5.1 Simplifying Local Government 10:20 am (45 min)

Nigel Bowen

Hemi Smiler, General Manager Local Government Reform and Deals
Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

5.2 Regional Public Service Commissioner 11:05 am (15 min)

Marie Ward

6. For discussion and decision

6.1 Canterbury Water Management Strategy 11:20 am (10 min)

Dr Deon Swiggs

Supporting Documents:

6.1.a	CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy Nov 2026.docx	44
6.1.b	CMF Canterbury Water Management Strategy Attachment 1 Nov 2026.docx	49

6.2 Canterbury Biodiversity Champions

11:30 am (10 min)

Sophie McInnes, Chair Canterbury Biodiversity Champions
Councillor, Selwyn District Council

Supporting Documents:

6.2.a	CMF Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Nov 2026.docx	66
6.2.b	CMF Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Attachment 1 Nov 2026.docx	70
6.2.c	CMF Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Attachment 2 Nov 2026.docx	74

6.3 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

11:40 am (10 min)

Dan Gordon

Jesse Burgess, Chair Climate Change Working Group

Supporting Documents:

6.3.a	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Nov 2026.docx	76
6.3.b	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Attachment 1 Nov 2026.docx	81
6.3.c	CMF Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Attachment 2 Nov 2026.docx	88

6.4 Canterbury Regional Energy Workstream

11:50 am (10 min)

Hamish Riach

Jesse Burgess, Chair Regional Energy Steering Group

Supporting Documents:

6.4.a	CMF Canterbury Regional Energy Workstream Nov 2026.docx	97
6.4.b	CMF Canterbury Regional Energy Workstream Attachment 1 Nov 2026.pdf	104

6.5 Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus

12:00 pm (10 min)

Hamish Riach

Jesse Burgess, Regional Deal working group

Supporting Documents:

6.5.a	CMF Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus Nov 2026.docx	122
6.5.b	CMF Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus Attachment 1 Nov 2026.docx	127
6.5.c	CMF Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus Attachment 2 Nov 2026.docx	135

6.6 Chief Executives Forum report

12:10 pm (5 min)

Hamish Dobbie

Supporting Documents:

6.6.a	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Nov 2026.docx	137
6.6.b	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 1 Nov 2026.pdf	139
6.6.c	CMF Chief Executives Forum report Attachment 2 Nov 2026.docx	140

7. For information

7.1 Activities and Engagements

Maree McNeilly

Supporting Documents:

7.1.a	CMF Activities and Engagements Nov 2026.docx	142
7.1.b	CMF Activities and Engagements Attachment 1 Nov 2026.pdf	144
7.1.c	CMF Activities and Engagements Attachment 2 Nov 2026.pdf	151
7.1.d	CMF Activities and Engagements Attachment 3 Nov 2026.docx	154

8. General business

8.1 General business

12:15 pm (5 min)

8.2 Meeting review

12:20 pm (5 min)

8.3 Closing karakia

12:25 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

9. Kai - lunch

9.1 Lunch

12:30 pm (90 min)

Invitation to all Canterbury MPs to join the Mayoral Forum for lunch

10. Close Meeting

10.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 19 Feb 2027, 8:30 am

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM

Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 28 August 2026
Time:	8:30 am to 12:45 pm (NZST)
Location:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Burnside, Christchurch
Board Members:	Craig Rowley, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Lydia Gliddon, Dr Deon Swiggs, Liz McMillan, Marie Black, Melanie Tavendale, Nigel Bowen (Chair), Scott Aronsen
Attendees:	Alex Parmley, Angela Oosthuizen, Bede Carran , Dr Stefanie Rixecker, Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Jeff Millward, Nigel Trainor, Steve Gibling, Will Doughty, Maree McNeilly, Amelia Wilkins, Ann Fitzgerald
Apologies:	Phil Mauger, Stuart Duncan, Justin Tipa, Tania Wati, Ben Bateman
Guests/Notes:	Deputy Mayor Victoria Henstock for Mayor Phil Mauger, Susan Goodfellow, Rebecca Whillans, Sara Black (Item 2.1); John Bartels (Item 3.2); Marie Ward (for Diane McDermott) (Item 5.1); Jesse Burgess (Items 6.1; 6.2; 6.3)

1. Open Meeting

1.1 Welcome, karakia and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia and noted apologies from Phil Mauger, Stuart Duncan and Diane McDermott. Late apologies were received from Justin Tipa, Tania Wati and Ben Bateman.

Nigel noted that this would have been Stuart Duncan's final meeting before retirement. This was acknowledged with a card and gift to be passed on to Stuart.

It was noted that the Regional Spatial Plan item had been brought forward in the agenda. The Chair welcomed Deputy Mayor Victoria Henstock, Christchurch City Council deputy mayor in attendance for Mayor Phil Mauger for the Spatial Plan discussion.

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

The Forum confirmed the agenda and agreed to include H5N1 avian influenza as an item of general business. The discussion noted community concern across several districts, the role of MPI as lead agency, the likely responsibilities of territorial authorities for managing dead or sick birds, and the potential implications for poultry production, native species and tourism - this is further discussed under General Business.

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

Canterbury Mayoral Forum 29 May 2026, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum - Regional Spatial Plan 17 Jul 2026, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

Decision

1. The minutes of the 29 May 2026 Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting were confirmed as presented.

Decision Date:	28 Aug 2026
Mover:	Craig Mackle
Seconder:	Melanie Tavendale
Outcome:	Approved

Decision

1. The minutes of the 17 July 2026 Canterbury Mayoral Forum Regional Spatial Plan meeting were confirmed as presented.

Decision Date:	28 Aug 2026
Mover:	Nigel Bowen
Seconder:	Craig Rowley
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	Nigel Bowen

The Board noted that the two outstanding actions remained on hold: the Regional Building Consent Authority options work and the genetic engineering national conversation.

2. For discussion and decision

2.1 Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan

John Bartels, Interim Programme Director Regional Spatial Plan, joined the meeting for this item to support the discussion.

Hamish Dobbie introduced the paper noting the update on progress to establish the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Programme, including the committee structure, the establishment workstreams, and the next steps needed to keep the programme moving.

The Christchurch City Council's recent resolution to support the committee terms of reference only if two additional voting members are added was discussed.

Key discussion points included:

- Deputy Mayor Victoria Henstock confirmed the Christchurch City resolution would not affect the agreement for CCC to host the RSP Secretariat.
- members noted that agreement to the CCC resolution would reopen discussion of the whole model that has been progressed collectively across the Mayoral Forum, and agreed to by a number of councils already, and it carries risks for regional cohesion, trust, and timely delivery. Councils who have already made their decision based on the original request from the Mayoral Forum would need to revisit their decisions, and in a worst case scenario, if no agreement is reached the structure of the Regional Spatial Plan Committee could become a Ministerial decision. This may slow the process and raise operational complexities in terms of meeting legislative timeframes.
- reaffirming the recommended committee membership model: one representative from each local authority, three mana whenua representatives, an independent non-voting chair, and non-voting central government representation. This model reflects consensus decision

making and the collaborative approach already agreed, keeping the committee manageable, and aligned to the Planning Bill's intent.

- all councils, with the exception of Waimakariri, Selwyn and Hurunui (who will be considering the matter at their September meetings) have made their decisions regarding terms of reference for the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee. It was noted that Kaikōura has deferred the funding decision until after advice on their Head Start proposal. Canterbury Regional Council will consider the debt funding request from the Mayoral Forum, and their contribution to the establishment phase, at their September meeting.
- the option of CCC supporting one representative initially, with consideration being given to two further representatives during the development of the process agreement was discussed, but ultimately not supported
- it was noted all local authorities need to agree on the terms of reference for the committee
- it was agreed that the Chair would write to CCC to explain the rationale for the CMF decision.

The attachment 'regional spatial plan decision making process flowchart" was briefly discussed, noting the number of decision-making gateways for individual councils throughout the process. The Process Agreement was also discussed, noting the intention to work with council officers, and through them individual councils on this throughout September-November, with the intention to come back to individual councils for final agreement, planning to be December 2026.

The six recommendations were voted on collectively, Deputy Mayor Victoria Henstock (CCC) voted against the recommendations.

Deputy Mayor Henstock left the meeting after this item.

Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the update on the establishment phase of the Regional Spatial Planning Programme

2. noted that at its full Council meeting of 12 August, Christchurch City Council resolved to:

> "5. Approves the terms of reference (Attachment A to this report) for the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee, conditional on the inclusion of two additional voting members, appointed at a future date by Christchurch City Council….and
> 7. Notes that approval for the alteration of the terms of reference required by Recommendation 5 above will be sought from other Canterbury councils".

3. agreed that the representation on the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee as proposed for individual council endorsement will remain, i.e. one representative for each 11 local authorities, three mana whenua representatives, with provision for alternates, non-voting independent chair, non-voting central government representatives as appointed by the Minister - (CMF Recommendation 29 May 2026).

> This recognises the committee membership model has been negotiated and well considered over the past several months through the Mayoral Forum, notes that a number of local authorities have, or are soon to, consider endorsement of the Committee Terms of Reference, and reflects the requirements of s74B of the soon to be enacted Planning Bill 2025 in relation to consensus decision making and dispute resolution for local authorities and Spatial Plan Committee for regional spatial planning.

4. requested the Chair of the Mayoral Forum formally communicate to Christchurch City Council, in response to its decision made at its 12 August 2026 full council meeting, seeking an additional two members on the Regional

Spatial Planning Committee, what is agreed by the Mayoral Forum in relation to recommendation 3 of this report and its underlying rationale and reasoning and seek Christchurch City Council to reconsider its decision on this specific matter as soon as practicable.

5. noted that the next decision milestone for the Mayoral Forum and individual local authorities, under the soon to be enacted Planning Bill 2025, is the approval of the Process Agreement for the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan, with the Spatial Plan Committee Terms of Reference as an attachment.

6. noted that the approval of the Process Agreement by individual local authorities is part of a series of decision-making gateways in the establishment, development, hearings and approvals and implementation of the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan.

Decision Date: 28 Aug 2026
Mover: Dan Gordon
Seconder: Marie Black
Outcome: Approved

Action

Nigel Bowen to write to Christchurch City Council communicating the Board's position and rationale on Regional Spatial Plan Committee representation, seeking reconsideration of the request for two additional members and offering further discussion.

Due Date: 4 Sept 2026
Owner: Nigel Bowen

3. For discussion

3.1 Canterbury Water Supply Schemes

The Forum received a presentation from Susan Goodfellow, CE Central Plains Water, supported by Rebecca Whillans, CE Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd and Sara Black, CE Amuri Irrigation Company, representing the Canterbury Water Scheme CEs, on the collective value and impact of all 11 Canterbury water schemes and the long-term role of Canterbury's collective freshwater infrastructure.

Discussion noted that the 11 major schemes collectively manage water for more than 2,000 users across approximately 350,000 hectares within a 470,000 hectare command area, manage about 75% of Canterbury's consented river water resource, and have contributed to a reported 50% reduction in nitrate leaching. The Schemes' collective annual economic contribution was presented as approximately $2 billion to GDP, with an asset replacement value of about $2.4 billion.

The presentation noted the schemes' contribution to multiple uses beyond irrigation, including drought resilience, flood buffering, stock water, drinking water, firefighting, hydrogeneration, managed aquifer recharge and support for environmental flows. A key asset from the schemes is the value of collective data, monitoring and long-lived infrastructure in supporting future planning and investment decisions.

The presenters noted the schemes' continued commitment to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and their interest in contributing to a future refresh with councils and iwi. Discussion also noted that, despite planning reform, environmental limits and over-allocation issues will remain important, and that regional spatial planning may provide a useful forum for considering long-term freshwater infrastructure, consent duration, and catchment-scale management.

The Chair thanked Susan, Rebecca and Sara for their presentation and the information provided.

4. For discussion and decision

4.1 Canterbury Water Management Strategy

Deon introduced paper and introduced Cameron Smith who is here to support the discussion.

In terms of the CMF request for advice regarding the future of the CWMS in light of government reforms, staff advice is to conduct a review early in 2027 once new legislation and regulations are enacted. Links with regional spatial planning will also be important. While understanding the rationale for pausing the review there is some concern at the resulting loss of momentum in some areas. There is significant community ownership of CWMS and delivery and the review needs to consider these views

The significant community ownership of CWMS through local leaderships group was noted, and this will be critical moving forward, particularly around any environmental limits. In terms of local leadership groups, while noting there have been some delays, when there is a request from a community to progress these CRC staff ready to support this process.

- Hurunui and Waimakariri confirmed support to progress local leadership groups
- Selwyn - good meeting with ADC and SDC and communities – want to work alongside the various parties, and redefine Zone Committee away from a funding focus
- Ashburton will go back to council to reaffirm councils committment

Stefanie noted that with RM reforms there will be more monitoring and this will be easier with the community on board. Deon noted that will be important for communities to be involved in discussions around monitoring and how limits will be set under new legislation.

Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the Government's reform programme will have significant implications for the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and freshwater management in Canterbury, and that clarity on final reform decisions is needed before assessing the future of the Strategy
2. noted that mana whenua and the community have played a critical part in delivering to Canterbury Water Management Strategy outcomes, and any decision on the future of the Strategy should be informed by mana whenua and community views
3. agreed that advice on timing and process for a review of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy come to the Mayoral Forum in mid-2027, pending further clarity on local government and resource management reform
4. agreed that establishment of local leadership groups only be progressed in areas where a request to do so has been received by local mayors and/or councils
5. agreed that each local mayor and/or council notify the Chief Executive of the Canterbury Regional Council in writing of their intention to progress the establishment of local leadership groups in their area by 25 September 2026

Decision Date:	28 Aug 2026
Mover:	Lydia Gliddon
Seconder:	Craig Mackle
Outcome:	Approved

Action

Each local mayor and/or council to notify the Chief Executive of the Canterbury Regional Council in writing if they intend to progress establishment of local leadership groups in their area.

Due Date: 25 Sept 2026
Owner: Maree McNeilly

5. For discussion

5.1 Regional Public Service Commissioner

The Forum received an update from Marie Ward, on behalf of the Regional Public Service Commissioner, covering current cross-agency priorities in Canterbury. Discussion focused on children and youth, including school attendance and post-school transitions, concern around negative statistics and challenges coming through for women in Canterbury including unemployment, homelessness and corrections-related impacts, and housing pressures including rough sleeping and hidden homelessness. Marie also noted ongoing work on skills and economic development with tertiary institutions.

It was noted that Christchurch City and Waimakariri District have received additional funding for housing, through consolidated work across housing groups speaking with one voice, giving government confidence to fund here, however it was noted that housing funding is not spreading wider across the region.

The Forum raised concerns about delays and sustainability issues in the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs contracting arrangements and noted the importance of aligning public service support with local and regional initiatives already underway.

Marie advised that MPI would provide an online H5N1 avian influenza session for councils and that a link to relevant information would be circulated. Forum members requested that the discussion also needed to include Department of Conservation given implications for wildlife and tourism.

Marie also noted the Regional Public Service support to the Canterbury regional energy work programme had reduced to a limited ongoing contribution, and that there was interest in ensuring regional work remains aligned with any future national energy strategy.

6. KAI - Morning tea

6.1 Kai - morning tea

7. For discussion

7.1 Simplifying Local Government

The Forum has a brief discussion on Simplfying Local Government reform, noting that at this stage we are waiting on decisions from Government. It was noted that MCERT had asked a question of the North Canterbury proposal (Hurunui, Waimakariri, Christchurch and Selwyn). Further discussion noted that responses from central government had been limited.

It was discussed that further work will be required with the Canterbury Regional Council on design, staffing, risk and funding implications, and that continuity of critical services such as emergency management and flood protection must be maintained through any transition.

8. For discussion and decision

8.1 Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus

Jesse Burgess, Regional Deal working group member, provided an update on the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus and noted that Phase 1 work had progressed using in-kind resources, drawing on Waitaha Canterbury World-stage Ready and Canterbury Ambition as the basis for a regional investment narrative. Discussion confirmed that the workstream had shifted from a Regional Deal focus toward a broader investment prospectus intended for multiple audiences.

It was noted that at this stage the work is progressing with in-kind resources which has an impact on the timing of deliverables.

The Forum raised the relationship between this work and Business Canterbury's Canterbury Ambition workshops, noting the overlap in themes, the need for clearer alignment, and the importance of ensuring the whole region is represented in any Canterbury-wide proposition.

A discussion was held on whether the Mayoral Forum should contribute funds to the Business Canterbury work streams, noting that $30,000 was provided for the initial Canterbury Ambition work.

It was agreed that the Chair, along with the Chair of the Economic Development Forum and appropriate staff should meet with Business Canterbury to discuss this directly. Clarity is needed on scope, deliverables and coordination with external parties. It was noted that if the Mayoral Forum is contributing, the work would need to reflect all of Canterbury, not just the area covered by Business Canterbury.

Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. provided feedback on the Phase 1 workstream 1 report for the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus
2. provided advice on next steps proposed for delivery of the next stages of the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus workstream
3. requested that the Chair, Chair of Canterbury Economic Development Forum, and appropriate staff, meet with Business Canterbury to discuss alignment between Canterbury Ambition and Mayoral Forum workstreams.

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Decision Date:	28 Aug 2026
Mover:	Nigel Bowen
Seconder:	Marie Black
Outcome:	Approved

Action

Secretariat to arrange meeting with Business Canterbury and the Chair, Chair Economic Development Forum and appropriate staff to discuss Canterbury Ambition workstreams.

Due Date:	4 Sept 2026
Owner:	Maree McNeilly

8.2 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan update

Mayor Dan Gordon introduced the paper, as Chair of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group, and highlighted key points, particularly noting delivery options for year 3.

The paper proposed three options going forward. Dan indicated he does not want to see progress on the Plan slowed and noted the Climate Champions group would be disappointed if this was the case. Dan expressed strong support for continuation of the Plan.

Jesse Burgess, Chair Climate Change Working Group, emphasised the efforts taken to achieve a balanced and prudent approach to progressing this workstream and that this is reflected in the recommendations. Progress has been made on several key actions, with Resilience Explorer (Action 1) and the development of a blue green network plan (Action 4) ready for procurement.

Links with the Regional Spatial Planning work were noted.

The key decision required is how to progress year 3 and the associated budget.

Lydia noted that Selwyn District Council (SDC) continues to support the Climate Partnership Plan, however they do have an issue with rating for work that is not undertaken, resulting in significant carry over of funding.

It was suggested that funds should only be requested when they are needed and will be spent.

Jesse noted that should the Forum agree to the recommendation to approve delivery of Year 3 through Option C, the team will proceed with the procurement of the Resilience Explorer tool, and the regional blue-green network plan, which will mean that the additional $114,368 for year three will be required now.

Based on this confirmation of a committed work programme, Lydia advised proceeding to invoice SDC for their share of year 3 funding (based on Option C) and she will take the updated work plan and additional funding decision back to her council.

Lydia Gliddon abstained from voting on this item.

Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan strategic review report
2. approved delivery of Year 3 of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan through a balanced delivery approach (Option C) as recommended by the Chief Executives Forum: proceeding with a total budget of $624,607 (comprised of $114,368 in year 3 council contributions and $510,239 in year 2 carry forwards)
3. agreed Year 3 council contributions will be shared via the agreed regional forums budget allocations
4. approved the procurement of the Resilience Explorer tool (Action 1) for a one-year regional pilot, at a cost not exceeding $250,000
5. agreed to provide feedback on the draft emissions reduction actions for the transition to low emissions plan (Action 2)
6. noted that Canterbury councils' subscription to the Local Emissions Data Platform will end in October 2026 and not progress into Year 3
7. approved the procurement of a regional blue-green network plan (Action 4) based on the draft scope for procurement
8. noted the disestablishment of the It's Time, Canterbury platform and the subsequent closing of Action 5.1, and that the Canterbury Regional Council will instead lead the delivery of regional climate change messaging through alternate channels
9. received the quarterly Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation progress report and accompanying budget summary for quarter 4, Year 2.

Decision Date:	28 Aug 2026
Mover:	Dan Gordon
Seconder:	Marie Black
Outcome:	Approved

Action

Jesse to provide further details of the resilience explorer tool and Blue Green Network to Selwyn District Council to support the request for year 3 funds

Due Date: 17 Sept 2026
Owner: Maree McNeilly

8.3 Canterbury Regional Energy Workstream update

Hamish Riach invited Jesse Burgess, Chair Energy Steering Group, to speak to the paper.

Excellent progress has been made on the energy workstream, noting in particular the high level of engagement with rūnunga, stakeholders and industry.

The Strategic Framework was presented for approval and the draft Action Plan for endorsement of the overall direction. Feedback is invited from members prior to the plan being finalised.

Options for governance and leadership arrangements for implementing the Action Plan, including a regional governance approach which would include private sector representation were noted, along with links to the Climate Partnership Plan emissions work and future regional spatial planning.

It is proposed to bring the final Action Plan and governance options to the November Mayoral Forum meeting.

Will acknowledged the work done and how useful this has been in various conversations Kaikoura District Council is involved in.

Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. approved the Regional Energy Strategic Framework, incorporating minor amendments since endorsement in May 2026, and noted that it would be circulated to stakeholders and published in September 2026.
2. endorsed in principle the overall direction of the draft Regional Energy Action Plan and invited further feedback by 11 September 2026, noting the Action Plan's alignment with regional spatial planning, climate action and broader economic development priorities.
3. agreed in principle that work should proceed on establishing an expanded Regional Energy Governance Group to support coordination and oversight, including consideration of a staged transition approach, and noted that the refined Action Plan and governance recommendations would return for approval in November 2026.

Decision Date: 28 Aug 2026
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconder: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved

8.4 Before the Deluge 3.0

Nigel welcomed Leigh Griffiths General Manager Hazards, Canterbury Regional Council to the meeting to join Deon in presenting the paper

Key discussion points

- the importance of continuing advocacy for co-investment with central government, particularly for Canterbury
- the benefits and consequences of where river and flood management work has been done, compared with where no action has been taken are clearly playing out.

- significant funding is required, and it is important to get visibility of this at central government level, with the aim of securing baseline funding in central government budgets for this work
- stop-start funding increases costs and risks, and flood resilience protects nationally significant infrastructure and communities
- each council needs to understand the work and funding required
- funding conversations at a national level, including with the insurance council, are planned. If insurance companies are to remain in NZ they will need evidence of mitigation strategies
- Leigh noted the data in the report will be updated when the 30-year infrastructure strategy is updated
- one off co-investment of several tranches of central government funding has been secured to get some of the work underway on the ground
- a database view of all the flood assets in NZ is needed to help prioritise work, including maintenance work such as gravel extraction
- current local government reform risks breaking the funding model for flood protection, and alternative funding models need to be explored
- the success of advocacy for this work over the years was acknowledged, and it is critical that new governance entities understand the work and what is required going forward, including funding.

Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the release of the updated Before the Deluge 3.0 business case for long-term Crown co-investment in national flood risk resilience
2. noted that the refreshed business case now includes operational expenditure as well as capital investment and updated project information from regional and unitary councils, including a proposed annual national programme of approximately $400 million based on a 60/40 Crown-council model.
3. endorsed use of the updated business case as a common evidence base for regional and national advocacy, noting the discussion that stop-start funding increases costs and risks, that flood resilience protects nationally significant infrastructure and communities, and that a more permanent co-investment framework is needed.

Decision Date:	28 Aug 2026
Mover:	Nigel Bowen
Seconder:	Craig Mackle
Outcome:	Approved

8.5 Regional and unitary council biosecurity interventions

The Chair welcomed Judith Earl-Goulet, General Manager Catchment Implementation Canterbury Regional Council to present the paper along with Deon.

Te Uru Kahika's role in commissioning the report on the benefits to primary production of regional and unitary council biosecurity interventions was acknowledged. It was also noted that the team worked closely with those involved in Before the Deluge 3.0.

Key discussion points:

- the current reform process risks significant disruption to the programmes that are currently being run, and this will have significant impact on biosecurity
- it is critical that these programmes are not fragmented through the reform process

- there are opportunities to structure this work differently – e.g. South Island wide but still retaining delivery in individual districts
- Deon is meeting with politicians, including Minister Hoggard, Labour and NZ First members to highlight how critical work is to the economy
- the success of the wallaby programme was noted
- a further $12M in funding for the Wilding Pine programme was agreed to by Canterbury Regional Council this week
- the Nasella tussock eradication programme is still active, with the focus now on early detection
- the increasing threat from golden clam was noted. Deon will raise this with Minister Hoggard, highlighting the importance of the clean boat programme
- current regional council rating mechanisms for this work were discussed – this includes both targeted and general rates
- the current negative impact of Canadian geese in the Waikato is an example of what can happen with the removal of control mechanisms
- there is an opportunity now with reform, to consider how this work can be delivered more efficiently and have better oversight.

Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the Heuser|Whittington report on the benefits to primary production of regional and unitary council biosecurity interventions.
2. noted that regional biosecurity work delivers strong and consistent economic returns
3. agreed that any transition of regional biosecurity functions should be managed carefully to avoid fragmentation of capability and losses to primary production.

Decision Date:	28 Aug 2026
Mover:	Craig Rowley
Seconder:	Dan Gordon
Outcome:	Approved

Action

Dr Deon Swiggs and Judith Earl-Goulet to provide district-wide cost information for biosecurity work.

Due Date:	28 Sept 2026
Owner:	Dr Deon Swiggs

8.6 Central government engagement

Decision

The Mayoral Forum:

1. approved the approach to pre-election briefing material for engagement with New Zealand political parties
2. noted that the Secretariat will prepare post-election briefing material for the incoming Prime Minister and Ministers following the 2026 general election.

Decision Date:	28 Aug 2026
Mover:	Liz McMillan
Seconder:	Nigel Bowen

Outcome: Approved

The central government engagement paper was taken as read, with the recommendations agreed as shown.

It was noted that in addition to the CMF advocating collectively, it is also important that individual Mayors continue to advocate for the region.

8.7 Chief Executives Forum report

The Chief Executives Forum report was taken as read. It was noted that the Strategic Workplan notes actions against the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury.

Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum received the quarterly report from the Chief Executives Forum.

Decision Date: 28 Aug 2026
Mover: Craig Rowley
Seconder: Dan Gordon
Outcome: Approved

9. For information

9.1 Activities and Engagements May-August 2026

Maree advised the Forum that a response to the letter received by Canterbury Mayors expressing concerns about recent Total Mobility subsidy reductions has been drafted, with support from the Canterbury Regional Council Public Transport team. This will be circulated to members before being sent.

Discussion noted the significance of the scheme for the disabled community and the need to consider more sustainable funding approaches.

Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum

1. received the update on Canterbury Mayoral Forum activities, engagements and correspondence since the previous meeting on 29 May 2026.

Decision Date: 28 Aug 2026
Mover: Dr Deon Swiggs
Seconder: Scott Aronsen
Outcome: Approved

10. General business

10.1 General business

The Forum returned to the H5N1 avian influenza discussion, noting uncertainty about national settings on vaccination, the risk of local species loss, possible impacts on tourism and wildlife, disposal and consenting challenges for large carcass events, and the absence of a clearly coordinated national approach.

It will be important to hear directly from MPI and the Department of Conservation. A Teams meeting will be arranged with invites to all of Canterbury's elected members.

Action

Secretariat to liaise with MPI in setting up a teams meeting for all Canterbury councillors on Avian Influenza H5N1

Due Date: 4 Sept 2026
Owner: Maree McNeilly

10.2 Meeting review

10.3 Closing karakia

11. Kai - lunch

11.1 Lunch

12. Close Meeting

12.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 20 Nov 2026, 8:30 am

Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

Action List

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

As of: 18 Nov 2026

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

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:

20 February 2026 Noted that this is not a priority at this time

Ann Fitzgerald | 24 Feb 2026

Action

Not Started

Dr Deon Swiggs and Judith Earl-Goulet to provide district-wide cost information for biosecurity work.

Due Date: 28 Sept 2026
Owner: Dr Deon Swiggs
Meeting: 28 Aug 2026 Canterbury Mayoral Forum, 8.5 Regional and unitary council biosecurity interventions

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 20 November 2026

Presented by: Nigel Bowen, Chair

Central Government engagement

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the Canterbury Mayoral Forum views and agreement on the proposed approach for engagement with central government through the next term.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. discuss and agree on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's approach for engaging with Central Government

Key points

2. The New Zealand general election was held on Saturday 7 November 2026.

3. The official results for the 2026 general election will be declared on Friday 27 November 2026.

4. As the time of writing this paper, preliminary results, indicate a National, ACT and New Zealand First coalition could hold a majority with 67 seats. However, preliminary results are indicative only, more than 399,000 special votes are still to be counted, and once finalised coalition negotiations are still to occur.

5. Currently as a result of the 11 overhang seats, Parliament will be made up of 131 seats with a 66 majority currently required to govern. No party has claimed victory or defeat given the close results.

6. The Canterbury electorate and Canterbury based list Members of Parliament have been invited to attend lunch with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, following today's meeting.

Background

7. The Mayoral Forum sent pre-election briefings to all Canterbury MPs, candidates and party leaders. The pre-election briefings were based on the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028 which articulates the Mayoral Forum's vision and priorities for this triennium, Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready, focused on the five key pillars of

transport, housing, energy, infrastructure and innovation. The pre-election briefing included Canterbury Mayoral Forum Delivering for New Zealand (Attachment 1) elevator pitch, which was developed to support the Plan for Canterbury and World-stage ready documents.

8. Both the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury and Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready provide agreed priority areas directly linked to advocacy with central government.

9. The pre-election briefings highlighted four key issues, as articulated in our one-page elevator pitch:
    - rebalanced Government Policy Statement on land transport
    - local government funding and financing
    - baseline flood resilience funding
    - coordinated workforce and skills investment

Other advocacy

10. Canterbury Regional Council produced Commit to Canterbury (Attachment 2), an open letter to election candidates, outlining seven priorities:
    - investment in flood resilience
    - a stronger national approach to biosecurity
    - strong environmental stewardship
    - investment in public transport and connected communities
    - sustainable funding and financing tools for local government
    - infrastructure investment that reflects Waitaha Canterbury's contribution to New Zealand
    - carefully sequenced reform so councils can keep delivering for their communities.

11. Business Canterbury has held a number of workshops to progress development of their Briefing for Incoming Ministers (BIM), supporting the Canterbury Ambition based on five topics:
    - transport and infrastructure
    - workforce, immigration and investment
    - energy
    - regulation and innovation
    - housing and planning

12. Workshops have involved representatives from local government and private industry and have been focused on developing a clear ask for each topic, why it makes sense for Canterbury and what positive outcomes it will unlock for New Zealand.

13. Business Canterbury is aiming for a December completion date for their BIM. At this stage it is understood that Business Canterbury intend to deliver their BIM to

Wellington, with representatives from the public and private sector, once a government is formed.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum advocacy

14. Following previous elections, the Mayoral Forum has prepared briefings for the Prime Minister and key Ministers based on the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury and other plans and strategies, such as the Regional Land Transport Plan.

15. All the briefings included invitations for the Prime Minister and Ministers to meet with Mayoral Forum members.

16. Following the announcement of the official election results on the 27th November, and subject to the Mayoral Forum's direction, the secretariat will develop draft briefings and invitations for the Prime Minister and relevant Ministers.

17. The briefings will include reference to the Mayoral Forum's elevator pitch, updated detail from the pre-election briefing, and any additional points that the Mayoral Forum members would like to be considered.

18. They will also consider the connection between the Mayoral Forum's briefing and Central Government's policy positions, understanding that these may change through the coalition negotiations.

19. It will also be critical that there is clear alignment, where necessary, between the Mayoral Forum briefings to incoming Ministers and those being prepared by Business Canterbury and other broader organisations (e.g. Local Government New Zealand, South Island Chambers of Commerce, etc).

Next steps

20. Following discussion and decisions of the Mayoral Forum the secretariat will work with the Chair and Deputy Chair to progress the approach the Mayoral Forum wishes to take in engaging with central government.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Canterbury Mayoral Forum Delivering for New Zealand
- Attachment 2: Canterbury Regional Council's Commit to Canterbury

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Delivering for New Zealand

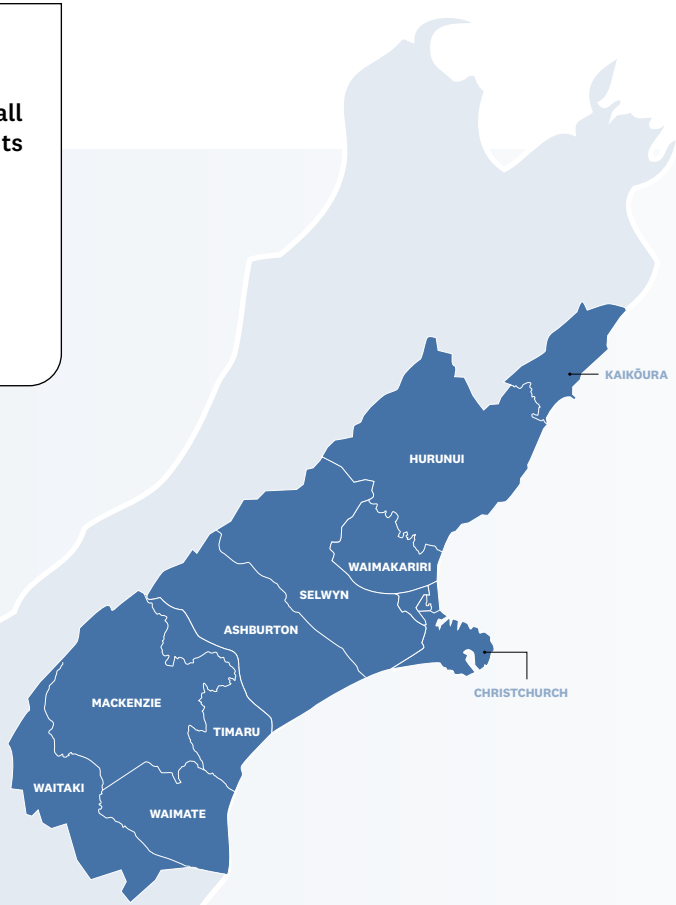
Canterbury is helping drive New Zealand's **growth**, **productivity**, and **resilience**.

As one of the country's fastest-growing regions, Canterbury already makes a nationally significant contribution through:

- housing supply and urban growth
- food and fibre production
- freight and logistics connectivity
- renewable energy and innovation opportunities
- tourism and regional economic activity
- infrastructure investment.

Canterbury contributes:

- **15%** of New Zealand's exports
- **13%** of national GDP
- **almost half** of all South Island freight movements
- is one of New Zealand's **fastest-growing populations**
- nationally significant food and fibre, manufacturing, tourism and innovation sectors.



These contributions support national priorities by:

- increasing economic productivity
- supporting export growth
- improving housing availability
- strengthening supply chain resilience
- enabling workforce and population growth
- strengthening regional and national resilience.

Councils across Canterbury are already investing heavily in transport networks, growth infrastructure, water services, flood protection, housing planning and regional development to deliver these outcomes.

Continuing these nationally significant outcomes will require:

- transport funding allocations that better reflect Canterbury's role in supporting national freight movements, population growth and economic productivity
- accelerated investment in strategic transport and freight corridors to support housing growth, resilience and efficient movement across the South Island
- infrastructure funding and financing settings that allow councils to deliver water, transport and community infrastructure ahead of population demand
- permanent Crown and local government co-investment in flood protection and resilience infrastructure to protect communities, productive land and nationally significant infrastructure
- coordinated workforce and skills investment to support increasing demand across construction, infrastructure and emerging industry sectors.

Canterbury is ready to continue working alongside Government, mana whenua and the private sector to help deliver practical, nationally significant outcomes for New Zealand communities and the wider economy.

Let's talk!



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CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum



Commit to Canterbury

Good for Canterbury. Good for New Zealand.

Environment Canterbury
Regional Council
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

Will you commit to Canterbury?

Waitaha Canterbury is a region of national significance.

Our rivers, aquifers, coastlines, biodiversity and productive landscapes are globally unique and among New Zealand's most important natural resources, while our communities and economy make a major contribution to the country's success. The region is also shaped by the enduring relationship between Ngāi Tahu and the land, water and natural environment, and by a shared commitment we all have to protecting these taonga for future generations.

Our region is growing. That brings opportunity, but also increasing pressure on our environment, infrastructure and services. Protecting what makes Waitaha special, building resilience and enabling our communities to thrive will require strong collaboration between local and central government. We are asking for investment and policy settings that help protect and restore our environment, strengthen community resilience, support well-functioning communities and plan for future growth.

In this document, Canterbury Regional Council sets out seven practical areas where we can work together to deliver lasting benefits for Waitaha Canterbury and New Zealand.



Build flood resilience before the deluge

Fund flood protection now, not flood recovery later.

Why: Investing before disaster strikes is far cheaper than paying for recovery afterwards. Waitaha communities, infrastructure, businesses and natural environments depend on reliable flood protection.

Key fact: Every $1 spent on flood resilience can save at least $5 in recovery costs. [Te Uru Kahika]

Our ask: Baseline investment in flood protection and resilience to help protect communities, infrastructure, livelihoods and the environment. Commit to long-term central government co-funding of $240m/year matched by $160m from councils.



Take a national approach to biosecurity

Pests don't respect boundaries, our response shouldn't either.

Why: Wilding conifers, wallabies and other pests do not stop at regional boundaries. Effective biosecurity requires sustained coordination across regions and between central and local government.

Key fact: Regional councils and unitary authorities invest more than $140m each year protecting the industries and environments that underpin New Zealand's $34bn primary sector and wider economy. [Te Uru Kahika]

Our ask: Strengthen national coordination and long-term investment in biosecurity and pest management.



Protect the environment

Healthy communities and a strong economy depend on a healthy environment.

Why: Waitaha Canterbury's wellbeing, economy, lifestyle and identity depend on healthy rivers, aquifers, coastlines and natural environments.

Key fact: Waitaha is home to more than 70% of New Zealand's groundwater and more than 60% of its braided river systems. [Stats NZ & DoC]

Our ask: Maintain effective environmental standards and ensure councils have the science, monitoring and enforcement tools needed to protect freshwater, biodiversity and coastal environments.





Sequence reforms for success

One step at a time. Sequence change carefully so councils can keep delivering.

Why: Resource management, local government and emergency management reforms all need to work together. Doing everything at once increases cost and risks failure.

Key fact: Successful reform requires prioritisation and staged implementation.

Our ask: Work with councils to coordinate and sequence major reforms, with realistic implementation timeframes and clear transition arrangements.



Invest now in Christchurch public transport

Build the public transport network our growing communities need.

Why: Greater Christchurch is growing rapidly. Investing in public transport now will provide more transport choices, improve access to jobs and services, and help manage the impacts of future growth on the transport network.

Key fact: Up to 700,000 people are expected to live in Greater Christchurch by 2050. [Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee]

Our ask: Fund improvements to Belfast – CBD – Hornby bus routes as the next step towards Mass Rapid Transit.



Enable sustainable funding

If government wants councils to deliver more, it must either fund the costs it creates or give them the tools to pay for it.

Why: The demands on councils are increasing with population growth, climate change and other pressures.

Key fact: Communities depend on councils for flood protection, public transport, climate adaptation, infrastructure and biosecurity.

Our ask: Ensure new responsibilities are accompanied by appropriate funding and provide councils with sustainable financing tools for the services communities rely on.



Invest in Waitaha Canterbury's transport infrastructure

Funding should reflect the transport contribution Waitaha makes.

Why: Waitaha helps drive New Zealand's economy, yet transport investment has not kept pace with growth.

Key fact: Waitaha contributes more than 12% of New Zealand's GDP but receives 5.5% of National Land Transport Fund investment. [SIRTC]

Our ask: Ensure national transport investment recognises Waitaha Canterbury's growth, strategic transport role and future infrastructure needs.

Canterbury's success is New Zealand's success



More than
700,000
people call Canterbury home.

Our region is a powerhouse for New Zealand's economy and one of Aotearoa's most important environmental assets.



We are home to over
60% of the country's braided rivers.

70% of its groundwater, globally significant landscapes, and thriving communities.





Waitaha Canterbury is nationally significant - environmentally, socially and economically.

Our natural environment underpins the wellbeing of our communities and supports a diverse regional economy. Waitaha is New Zealand's largest agricultural region by GDP, producing 20% of the country's total agricultural output. [ChristchurchNZ] Our productive farmland, irrigation infrastructure and rural communities help drive national prosperity. Alongside food production, Canterbury is home to growing tourism, advanced manufacturing, technology and space sectors. We also boast New Zealand's second-largest city.

As Waitaha grows and our climate changes, there is increasing pressure on our natural resources, infrastructure and services. The decisions we make now will influence the health of our environment, the resilience of our communities and the opportunities available to future generations.

Central and local government each have important roles to play. As a regional council we bring knowledge of place, strong relationships with mana whenua, communities and significant investment in the infrastructure, services and environmental management that underpin regional wellbeing. Continued partnership can help us protect our region's environment, manage natural hazards, strengthen biosecurity, create a well-functioning transport system and support resilient, thriving communities.

The seven priorities in this document identify areas where stronger partnership and investment can make a lasting difference, for Waitaha Canterbury and for New Zealand.

A stronger Canterbury helps build a stronger New Zealand. Will you commit to Canterbury?

We look forward to discussing these priorities and what commitment to Canterbury means in practice.

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Deputy Chair Iaean Cranwell
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Before the Deluge 2.0, Te Uru Kahika, Nov 2023 and 3.0 Aug 2026
Benefits of regional and unitary council biosecurity interventions, Te Uru Kahika, August 2026
Update of the national groundwater volume stock account: 1994 to 2020, Stats NZ, May 2021
Management and research priorities for conserving biodiversity on New Zealand's braided rivers, Department of Conservation, September 2016
Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan , Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee, February 2024
The South Island's contribution to the New Zealand economy, South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group, July 2026
Canterbury's twin engines of resilience - ChristchurchNZ.com April 2025

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 20 November 2026

Presented by: Nadeine Dommisse, Executive Leader Planning System and Reform, Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport

New Zealand’s new planning system

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the presentation on New Zealand’s new planning system.

Recommendation

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. receives the information provided in the presentation on New Zealand’s new planning system.

Key points

2. The Planning Act and Natural Environment Act became law in September 2026.

3. Nadeine Dommisse, Executive Leader Planning System and Reform will attend the Mayoral Forum and speak to the presentation (attachment 1).

Attachment

- Attachment 1 – New Zealand’s new planning system

Planning New Zealand

Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport

New Zealand's new planning system



November 2026

The information provided is intended to aid in understanding the new system. However comments on the new system and provisions of the Acts are to aid discussion, based on officials understanding/interpretation and are not a formal MCERT or Government position. The best source of information on the new system is the Acts themselves.

Our purpose

Connecting what shapes productive places and healthy environments, now and for future generations

The outcomes we help to shape



Productive cities and regions

Places generate and sustain opportunities, growth and access.



Thriving communities

People and communities are connected, supported and able to participate in and shape their futures.



Healthy environments

Healthy natural systems support wellbeing, prosperity and resilience.

The new planning system framework

WHY CHANGE

- Planning rules, plans and consenting processes became harder to understand and navigate.
- Similar issues were often revisited multiple times through plans and consent processes.
- Greater consistency, certainty and clarity are needed across New Zealand.
- The new system is designed to support growth, productivity and better long-term outcomes.

HOW IT WILL WORK

LEGISLATION
Planning Act + Natural Environment Act

NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS
National Policy Direction + National Standards

REGIONAL STRATEGY
Regional spatial plan

LOCAL REGULATORY PLANS
Land use + natural environment plans

DECISIONS AND COMPLIANCE
Consents + permits
Compliance and enforcement

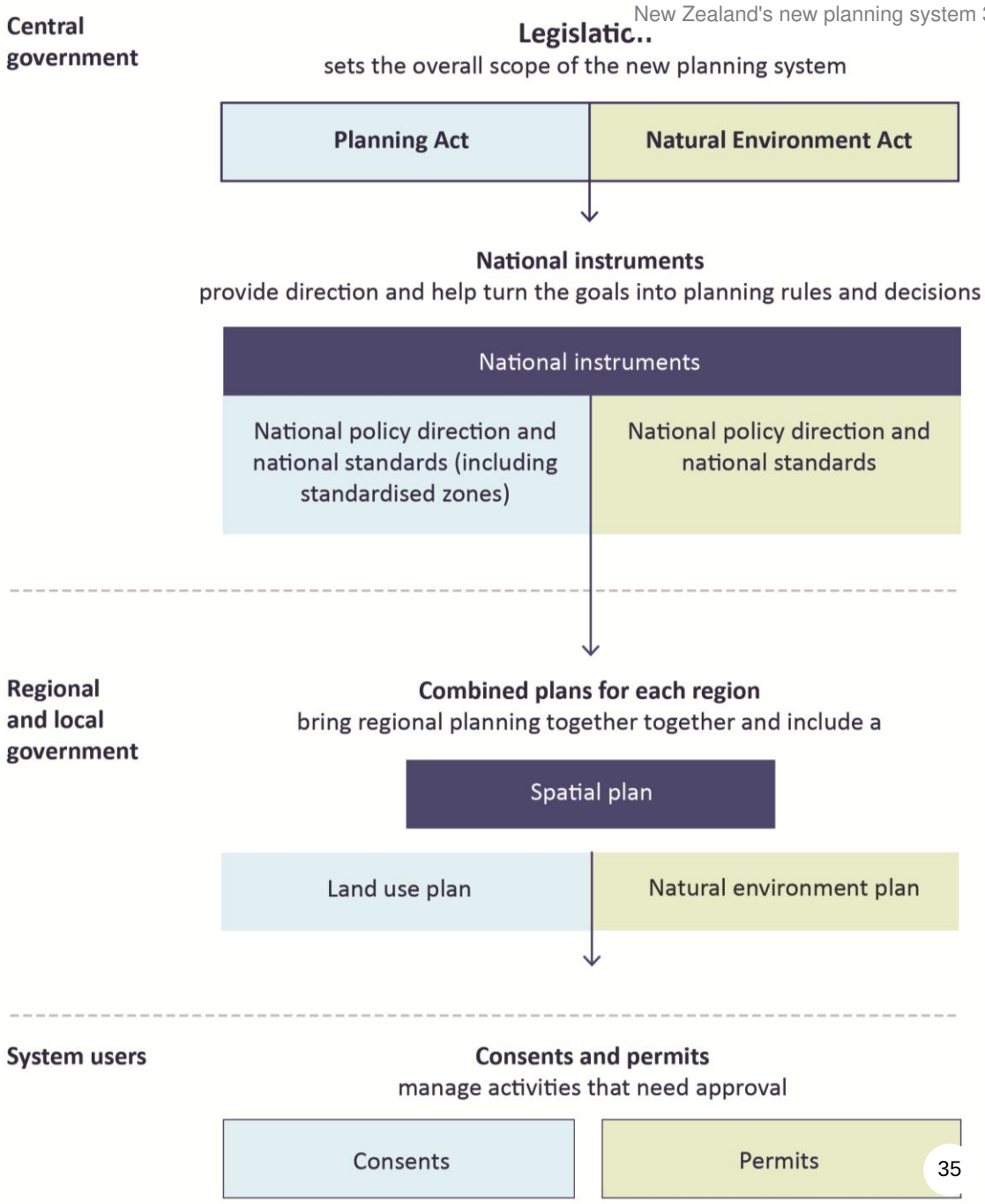
The new system intends to reduce duplication and litigation, and provide greater certainty for communities, councils, developers and investors.

Phased implementation will deliver simpler, faster and more consistent planning, supporting growth while protecting what matters most.

What is different?

The new system places greater emphasis on:

- Two new Acts
- National instruments (National Policy Direction, standards, regulations, standardised plan content)
- Regional spatial planning
- Data and evidence standards
- Regulatory relief
- Planning Tribunal
- Digital tools and data infrastructure



Implementation timeline

2026

- Public engagement on illustrative **national policy direction** in August 2026
- Government consideration of Head Start outline proposals
- **Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill enacted (30 September 2026)**
- **Transition period and transitional consenting** begins
- Establishment of spatial plan committees, secretariats and process agreements
- RMA plans and consenting stay in place until the new system takes over

2027

- **National policy direction** issued no later than 12 months after enactment (September 2027)
- **National standards**, providing direction on the **structure and form of regional spatial plans** finalised within 12 months of enactment (by September 2027, but not before national policy direction)
- **Planning Tribunal** comes into effect

2028

- **National standards** relating to **environmental limits** finalised within 18 months after enactment (e.g. March 2028)
- **National standards on standardised plan provisions** finalised within 21 months after enactment (e.g. June 2028)
- Councils **notify draft regional spatial plans** within 21 months of enactment (e.g. June 2028)

2029

- **Regional spatial plans** must be **decided** within 9 months after they are publicly notified (e.g. March 2029)
- Councils **notify natural environment plans** and **land use plans** within 9 months of regional spatial plan decisions (e.g. December 2029).
- Once all plans are notified, the Minister will recommend an Order in Council be made specifying the date the new legislation will apply (the **specified transition date**)

2030

- From the **specified transition date**, all notified plans have legal effect and the new system is fully 'switched on'
- Councils must **decide land-use plans** and **natural environment plans** within 12 months of notifying them.

National policy direction and national standards

Both are national instruments, but they perform different roles in both Acts

WHY

NATIONAL POLICY DIRECTION

Sets the strategic direction

PURPOSE	Particularises the system goals and directs how they are to be achieved.
ROLE	Identifies and provides for resolving conflicts within and between goals.
PLAN INFLUENCE	May direct outcome key instruments must achieve and matters that councils and spatial plan committees must consider
KEY BOUNDARY	Does not directly insert provisions into regional spatial plans or natural environment plans or land-use plans.

HOW

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Standardise implementation

PURPOSE	Implement national policy direction and provide procedural or regulatory consistency.
CONTENT	May include objectives, policies, rules, methods or requirements, including national rules.
PLAN INFLUENCE	May prescribe provisions, choices, processes, methodologies, monitoring and reporting requirements.
DIRECT EFFECT	May direct specific provisions into land-use plans or natural environment plans or regional spatial plans.

Five illustrative NPD themes. Formal statutory National Policy Direction is still to be developed. Illustrative NPD consultation closed on 16 October 2026. Feedback will inform NPD development ahead of statutory consultation in 2027.

Housing and development
Growth capacity, urban form and development priorities

Infrastructure
Strategic infrastructure priorities for growth and change in each region

Primary production
Productive land and activities that support the primary sector

Resources
How resource opportunities and constraints inform regional choices

Public values
Matters of national public importance to reflect in spatial decisions

Regional spatial planning: connects the reforms

A shared long-term view for each region

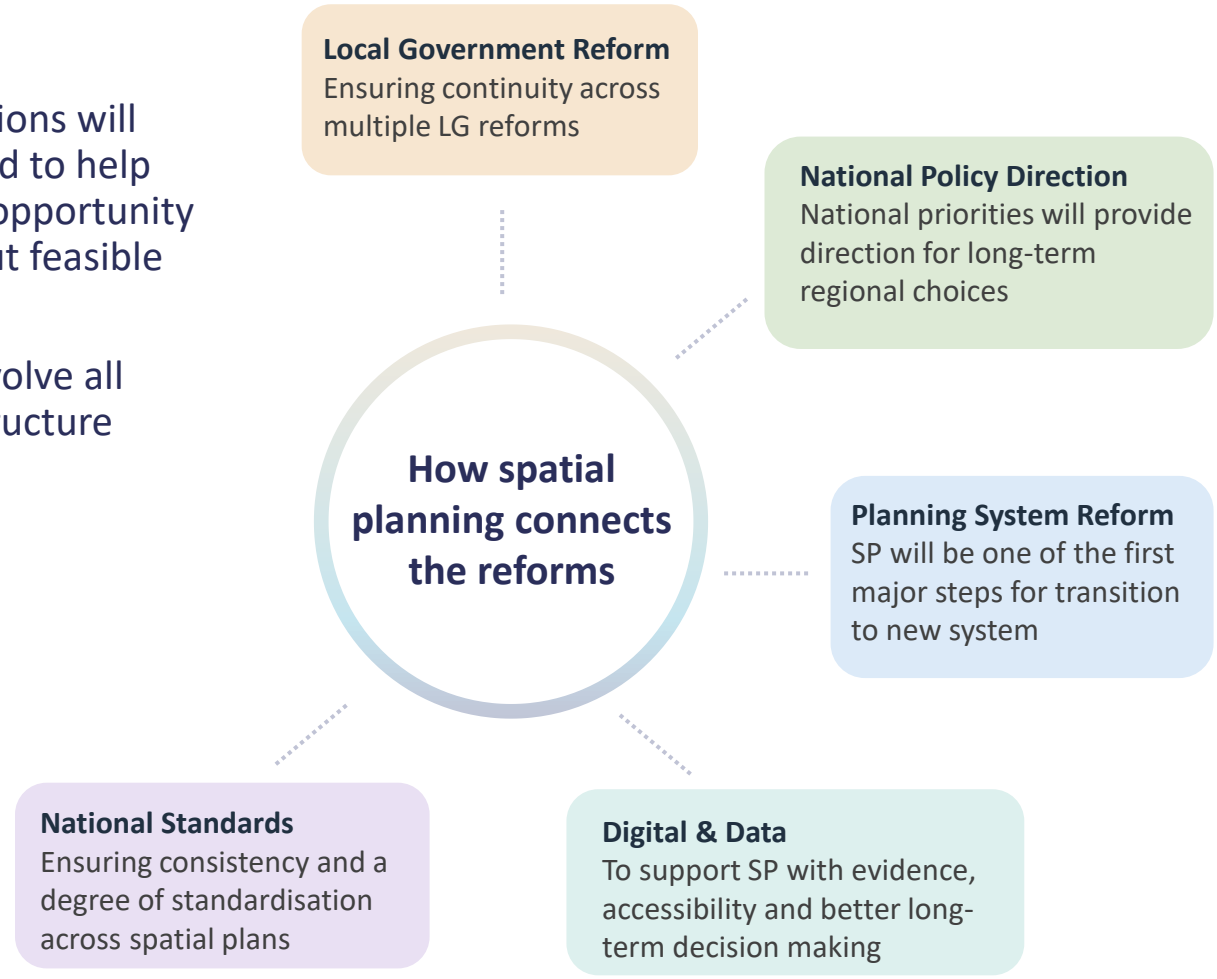
Regional spatial plans set the long-term strategic direction for how regions will grow and change over the next 30 years and beyond. They are intended to help regions respond to key drivers of growth and change and are an early opportunity to bring councils and communities together to agree an aspirational but feasible and achievable future for their region.

All regions will be required to deliver spatial plans. This process will involve all councils within the region, central government, iwi authorities, infrastructure providers and the wider community to deliver.

Why it matters

Many of the challenges councils are dealing with are connected, and decisions tend to work better when they're considered together.

- housing affordability
- infrastructure investment
- congestion and transport pressures
- environmental outcomes
- natural hazard and climate risks



Critical path to spatial plan notification

From OCTOBER 2026

Early governance

Agree process agreement, committee and secretariat, resources and consider Treaty settlement obligations.

Early scoping and vision building

Build evidence, identify drivers of growth and change, vision and capabilities.

BY 30 SEPTEMBER 2027

National instruments

National Policy Direction and spatial plan standards issued within 12 months of Royal Assent.

Apply national policy direction and standards

Use the issued instruments to confirm choices and complete spatial plan content.

Pre-notification consultation

Consult on the subject matter of the draft, allow time for advice and have regard to it.

BY 30 JUNE 2028*

Approve and notify

Committee recommends draft. Councils approve it for notification for submissions and committee notifies it.*

Development stage also includes designation applications and appointment of the independent hearing panel.

Pre-notification consultation includes Ministers, neighbouring councils, iwi, customary marine title groups, water organisations, infrastructure providers and sector/community representatives. Share the draft spatial plan with iwi and relevant parts with customary marine title groups.

Data and digital

National foundations – what central government is developing

- **National digital platform**
  Government is building foundations for a connected national platform. High-level options depend on Budget 2027, with council implications to follow.
- **Shared data for better planning**
  National investment will strengthen reusable data on communities, infrastructure, the environment and hazards. Investment priorities remain indicative but include the Flood Map.
- **Common standards for consistent use**
  National data standards will support consistent sharing and reuse. An initial package will help councils prepare while wider system design develops.

  Final data standards will be informed by national instruments and progressively released alongside their implementation.

Upcoming webinars:

NZPI and Taituarā will be running '*Digital and data*' focused webinars later in the year.

Registrations opening shortly. Keep in touch on our new planning website: [Implementation training and events - Planning.govt.nz]

Council readiness

Existing systems for first-round plans

Councils will use existing systems. The national platform will not be ready to author or support first-round plans, and platform options depend on Budget 2027.

Essential work now, flexible investment

Continue essential digital services and improve data quality and accessibility. Keep major new platform investment flexible until national arrangements are clearer.

What we are hearing from the sector

Emerging needs, challenges, and risks across transition and implementation

Capacity is the critical constraint

Sequencing and certainty will shape confidence

Transition needs to be treated as a delivery challenge, not just a policy change

Readiness is uneven and implementation support will need to adapt

Reform dependencies create delivery risk across organisational boundaries

What this means

We're hearing repeated feedback from webinar questions, the enquiries process, and partnership insights. We know the challenge is shifting from engagement to delivery: providing certainty, targeted support and coordinated action will be key for successful transition and implementation.

Pātai?

Questions

Ngā mihi nui
Thank you

Regional relationship teams
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Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 20 November 2026

Presented by: Dr Deon Swiggs, Chair Canterbury Regional Council

Canterbury Water Management Strategy

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Canterbury Mayoral Forum with the quarterly update (July to September 2026) on region-wide progress towards implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), including the consolidated 2030 CWMS Goals, and recent progress with the establishment of local leadership groups.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **notes the quarterly update on work underway to implement the CWMS and recent progress in establishing local leadership groups**

2. **endorse the consolidated 2030 CWMS Goals to help guide councils, partners, and community groups in achieving freshwater outcomes.**

Key points

2. Five Canterbury local councils have advised the Canterbury Regional Council that they wish to continue establishing CWMS local leadership groups. Two local councils do not wish to progress at this time, and no formal feedback has been received to date from the remaining three local councils.

3. Establishment is therefore progressing for five leadership groups. These are the Waiau Toa/Clarence-Kaikōura, Hurunui-Waiau Uwha, Rakahuri-Waimakariri, Waihora, and Hakatere leadership groups. Further establishment hui may be held in the proposed Whakaraupō-Te Pātaka, Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora, and Waitaki-Waihao leadership group areas if the relevant Papatipu Rūnanga or local councils wish further engagement.

4. Canterbury Regional Council staff will continue working with all councils, Papatipu Rūnanga, and community partners to strengthen ongoing delivery of CWMS outcomes. This includes support for community-led actions to achieve the 2030 CWMS goals.

5. For the 2026/27 financial year, $500,000 of community incentive funding for local environmental projects is provided through the fully contestable CWMS Action Plan

Fund. Applications closed on 12 October 2026. Decisions are expected by December 2026, with funding to be distributed by January 2027.

6. Canterbury Regional Council staff have completed work to consolidate the 2030 CWMS Goals to provide clearer measures and a more streamlined framework, guided by the Canterbury Operations Forum. The work resulted in the 68 original goals being consolidated into 42 more streamlined and refreshed goals, as detailed in Attachment 1.

7. On behalf of the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum, it is recommended that the Canterbury Mayoral Forum endorse the consolidated 2030 CWMS Goals to help guide councils, partners, and community groups in achieving shared freshwater outcomes.

Local Leadership Group Update

8. At its August 2026 meeting, the Mayoral Forum agreed that each local council notify the Canterbury Regional Council in writing of their intention to progress the establishment of local leadership groups in their area by 25 September 2026.

9. As of 30 October 2026, formal responses concerning the establishment of local leadership groups have been received from seven district and city councils. These are:

Territorial authority	Position	Details
Kaikōura District Council	In support	Supportive of progressing a leadership group in the Waiau Toa/Clarence-Kaikōura
Hurunui District Council	In support	Supportive of progressing a leadership group in the Hurunui District
Waimakariri District Council	In support	Open to formation of a leadership group, provided it is formed over the original area of the former Waimakariri Water Zone Committee
Christchurch City Council	Not in support	Not persuaded of the need for additional groups, given existing partnerships and collaborative forums
Selwyn District Council	In support	Intention to progress establishment based on previous Selwyn Waihora Water Zone boundary rather than a catchment-based redraw
Ashburton District Council	In support	In support of a Hakatere Leadership Group with three community representatives
Timaru District Council	Not in support – open to review	Wait-and-see approach to current Government reform before any commitment, with openness to further discussions as model is tested elsewhere

10. Staff also received feedback that Waimate District Council is still forming a position. Any further responses received before the meeting will be reported verbally on 20 November 2026.

11. Based on the responses Canterbury Regional Council received to date, establishment of the following five proposed leadership groups will be progressed:
    - Waiau Toa/Clarence-Kaikōura
    - Hurunui-Waiau Uwha
    - Rakahuri-Waimakariri
    - Waihora
    - Hakatere.

12. On 21 October 2026, Canterbury Regional Council resolved that constituent regional councillors and regional Ngāi Tahu councillors will continue engaging on the regional council's behalf in the establishment of leadership groups where local councils have indicated interest to progress.

13. Establishment hui may still be held at a later stage in the proposed Whakaraupō-Te Pātaka, Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora, and Waitaki-Waihao leadership group areas if the relevant Papatipu Rūnanga or local councils wish further engagement. Where Papatipu Rūnanga have indicated an interest in establishing a leadership group but the relevant local councils do not wish to proceed, Canterbury Regional Council staff will engage with those Papatipu Rūnanga to determine whether they wish to progress without local council membership at this time. This includes the Whakaraupō-Te Pātaka area.

14. Papatipu Rūnanga will shortly be notified of the formal responses received from local councils concerning the establishment of local leadership groups and planned next steps. Further individual or collective engagements with interested Papatipu Rūnanga will be arranged for late 2026 to early 2027 to discuss establishment options and CWMS actions.

15. In addition to progressing the establishment of leadership groups, Canterbury Regional Council staff will continue working with all councils, Papatipu Rūnanga, and community partners across Canterbury to strengthen ongoing collaborative delivery of CWMS outcomes and supporting community-led freshwater action.

Action Plan Fund 2026/27

16. Canterbury Regional Council's 2024–34 Long-Term Plan provides community incentive funding for local environmental projects, including the implementation of CWMS Action Plans. For 2026/27, $500,000 is allocated to fund these Action Plans. Funding is fully contestable and will be distributed evenly across the ten CWMS Water Management Zones.

17. The Action Plan Fund 2026/27 opened for applications on 1 September and closed on 12 October 2026. Decisions are expected by December 2026, with funding to be distributed by January 2027. Further information is available on Environment

Canterbury's Community Funding website[1]. Reporting on successful applicants will be included in the next CWMS update.

Consolidated 2030 CWMS Goals

18. Canterbury Regional Council staff have completed work to consolidate the 2030 CWMS Goals. This work aimed to align the 2030 Goals with the reported 2025 Goals and provide clearer measures and a more streamlined framework, so that they can:
    - be more easily understood and reported on to demonstrate progress
    - effectively guide work programmes for CWMS delivery
    - reflect changes in national direction, including resource management reforms.

19. The consolidation of the 2030 CWMS Goals has been guided by the Canterbury Operations Forum. A workshop was held with the Operations Forum on 16 March 2026, and additional feedback was received directly from staff at several local councils. Operations Forum members provided final feedback at their 15 June 2026 meeting.

20. The work resulted in the 68 original goals being consolidated into 42 more streamlined and refreshed goals. This consolidation has not affected the overall vision of the ten CWMS Target Areas, and the intent of the original 2030 goals has been maintained. A detailed overview, including the rationale for revising or consolidating goals, is provided in Attachment 1.

21. On behalf of the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum, it is recommended that the Mayoral Forum endorse the consolidated 2030 CWMS Goals to help guide councils, partners, and community groups in achieving the freshwater outcomes agreed upon with Canterbury's communities. This can provide continuity during the transition towards the new resource management and local government system. Details regarding implications of these reforms will be provided as part of a review of the CWMS, for which further advice will come to the Mayoral Forum in mid-2027.

22. This work aligns with the CWMS reporting framework update, which was endorsed by the Mayoral Forum in August 2025. Given the evolving context of Government reforms, no change to the quarterly frequency of CWMS progress reporting will be made until advice on the timing and process for a review of the CWMS has been presented to the Mayoral Forum in mid-2027.

Next steps

23. Canterbury Regional Council staff will:
    - progress the establishment of leadership groups where this has been requested, and continue working with all CWMS parties to strengthen delivery of CWMS outcomes

[1] https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/community-funding

- share the consolidated 2030 CWMS Goals with CWMS partners and the Canterbury community, subject to Mayoral Forum endorsement
- continue tracking potential implications of Government reforms on the CWMS and update the Mayoral Forum as details become available
- commence preparatory discussions with all CWMS partners on co-designing a review/refresh of the CWMS.

Attachment

- Attachment 1: Canterbury Water Management Strategy 2030 revised goals and consolidation summary

Attachment 1: Canterbury Water Management Strategy 2030 revised goals and consolidation summary

Environmental limits – page 1
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2025 – originally 72 goals, 55 reported on (11 met, 24 partially met and 20 not met)

2030 – originally 68 goals, 42 proposed following consolidation

Below is a summary of all goals and the modifications (if any) made. N.B. Colour coding does not refer to whether or not a goal has previously been achieved but their draft consolidation status:

Retained goals, including with minor revisions, are marked in green. Goals with substantive revisions or potential further consolidation are marked in orange. Removed or consolidated goals are marked in red.

Environmental limits *(1 goal removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
30	Environmental flows and catchment load limits	All planning processes include consideration of how environmental flows and catchment load limits will be achieved by a mix of regulatory and non-regulatory means that may include consent reviews.	Planning processes include regular consideration of current environmental flows and catchment load limit achievement through regulatory and non-regulatory means (may include consent reviews), with the aim that all catchments meet nutrient load limits and environmental flow requirements.	Goal retained and reworded for clarity. Removed “all” because current plans’ scope only looks at the implementation of existing limits. There are noted similarities between goals 30, 30.1 and 31. Goal 31 was, therefore, incorporated. Goal 2, from Drinking Water theme, was also incorporated due to alignment with meeting catchment load limits.

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
30.1	Environmental flows and catchment load limits	Of those consents that do not comply with plan environmental flows and catchment load limits, 50% have been reviewed to apply plan limits.	50% of all consents that do not comply with environmental flows and catchment load limits have been reviewed to apply current plan limits. All consents in review are linked to these limits.	Goal retained but reworded to remove references to 2040 goals and for clarity. Goal 74, from Recreation and Amenity – Recreational Water Flows theme, added. This goal is better aligned with the environmental limits target area and significant overlap makes it a logical consolidation (also see the reasoning of goal 59).
31	Environmental flows and catchment load limits	Review environmental flows and catchment load limits in response to changing monitoring information, new understanding and technologies, and if requested by regional and zone committees.	N/A	There are noted similarities between goals 30, 30.1 and 31. This goal was, therefore, incorporated into goals 30, together with goal 2.

Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity *(4 goals removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
17	Drylands	Maintain or improve existing high-quality indigenous dryland ecosystems in intermontane basins and on the plains.	Maintain existing monitored indigenous dryland ecosystems as of 2010, including indigenous high-quality dryland ecosystems in intermontane basins and on the plains.	Goal retained. The original goal is well defined but broad and difficult to measure. Added “monitored” to narrow scope and removed “improve” for alignment with other strategies (e.g. Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy). Goal 17.2 added due to close relationship, driving similar outcomes and likely to be measured using similar data. Reporting should focus on no detrimental impacts from water use (irrigation).
17.2	Drylands	Water use (irrigation and changing hydrology as a result of water use) results in no further loss of indigenous dryland ecosystems.	N/A	Consolidated into goal 17 due to similarities in topic and the likelihood that similar data would be used to report on both goals.

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
9	Understanding emerging contaminant risks	Emerging contaminant risks are identified with targeted remedial programmes in place and evaluated.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025 goal updates. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Removed as it should be an action included in a planned implementation programme rather than a CWMS Environmental Health and Biodiversity / Drinking Water goal, as emerging contaminants have impacts across the Targets.
18	Understanding emerging contaminant risks	Emerging contaminant risks are understood, and limits are set where appropriate; at risk areas are managed with targeted remedial programme in place.	Emerging contaminant risks are understood, and limits or management programmes are set where appropriate.	Goal retained at the recommendation of subject matter experts following removal of the corresponding goal in 2025. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Removed as it should be an action included in a planned implementation programme rather than a CWMS Environmental Health and Biodiversity / Drinking Water goal, as emerging contaminants have impacts across the Targets.
19	Catchment nutrient loads	Environmental flow regimes and catchment load limits are in place for all catchments and significant rivers affected by abstraction.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025 goal updates. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Second goal (also captured under Environmental Limits Target) does not provide any meaningful impact in Environmental Health and Biodiversity Target.
21	Freshwater species and their habitat	Reduction in threatened or at-risk status of indigenous fish species compared to 2025.	The number of monitored indigenous fish and other freshwater species classified as threatened or at risk decreased compared to 2025. Monitored at-risk species show increasing population trends.	Goal revised for clarity and measurability by adding “monitored” to narrow the scope of reporting. This revised goal also incorporates Kaitiakitanga - Wāhi taonga and mahinga kai theme goal 50 due to significant overlap between these goals. (See goal 50 revision reasoning.)

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
22	Hapua, lagoons, estuaries	All coastal lagoons, hāpua and estuaries show improvement in key ecosystem health indicators compared to 2010.	All monitored coastal lagoons, hāpua and estuaries show improvement in key ecosystem health indicators compared to 2010.	Goal retained, with the addition of “monitored” to narrow reporting scope. Note that wetlands exclude coastal areas, however some wetlands do cross into areas below Mean High Water Springs.
23	High country and foothill streams	Maintain or improve aquatic ecosystem health of all foothill and high-country rivers and high-country lakes.	Maintain or improve aquatic ecosystem health of all monitored foothill and high-country rivers and high-country lakes from 2020.	Goal retained (it is a repeat of revised 2025 goal), with the addition of "monitored" to allow better reporting.
24	Lowland streams	80% of lowland and spring-fed streams with at least good aquatic ecosystem health or showing an upward trend.	Sustained improvement in the health of lowland streams, rivers and lakes in Canterbury, with 80% of lowland and spring-fed streams having at least good aquatic ecosystem health or showing an upward trend.	Goal retained and rephrased to incorporate goal 58, which is intended to achieve aquatic ecosystem health for recreational use but has the same overall aim.
25	Lowland streams	Increase in extent of riparian management to protect aquatic ecosystems along prioritised waterways from 2020 figures.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025 goal updates. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Action rather than a goal and unclear if riparian management improves aquatic ecosystem health; also, difficult to obtain information on amount/length of riparian planting or how much impact that planting is making across the region. Unclear how riparian management is defined and how it improves aquatic ecosystem health. Information on amount/length of riparian planting or how much impact that planting is making across the region is difficult to obtain and assess.
26.2	Wetlands	All prioritised wetlands are under active management where required and are in the process of being restored to a self-sustaining system.	All prioritised wetlands are under active management where required and are in the process of being restored.	Goal retained, as it builds on the revised 2025 goal. Replaced “self-sustaining” with “prioritised” and removed “improve” for alignment with other strategies (e.g. Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy).

Natural Character of Braided Rivers *(5 goals removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
52.0	Braided River Ecosystems (Ecosystems, habitats & species/ riparian)	Continue to report on Target for 2010.	N/A	Goal removed and consolidated into goal 55.1 to align with changes in 2025.
53.0	Braided River Ecosystems (Ecosystems, habitats & species/ riparian)	Nine priority braided rivers are under active management to increase habitat area usable by all species of indigenous braided river birds.	N/A	Goal removed and consolidated into goal 55.1 to align with changes in 2025.
54.0	Braided River Ecosystems (Ecosystems, habitats & species/ riparian)	Increase area of actively managed habitat for indigenous flora and fauna in riparian wetlands, springs and lagoons associated with braided rivers compared to 2025.	N/A	Goal removed and consolidated into goal 55.1 to align with changes in 2025.
55.1	Braided River Ecosystems (Ecosystems, habitats & species/ riparian)	Nine priority braided rivers are under active management to increase the area of habitat for a full range of indigenous braided river flora and fauna.	Compared to 2020, at least nine priority braided rivers are under active management to: 1. create ecosystems which are thriving in a healthy and fully functioning state ki uta ki tai, and 2. protect and enhance habitats of indigenous flora and fauna.	Goal changed to align better with the goals of the Braided River Strategy, ensuring alignment with different work streams. From Braided River Strategy: 1. Braided River ecosystems are thriving in a healthy and fully functioning state ki uta ki tai. 2. Habitats of indigenous flora and fauna are protected and enhanced.
56.0	Braided River Character	Continue to report on Target for 2010	N/A	Goal removed and consolidated into goal 56.1 to align with changes in 2025.

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
56.1	Braided River Character	Continue to report on Target for 2025 (2025 goal - Made progress towards achieving environmental flows that maintain and enhance the dynamic, braided nature and indigenous ecosystems of braided rivers.)	Maintain the braided character and indigenous ecosystems of all Canterbury braided rivers, without compromising community safety and flooding protection, by: 1. maintaining upper catchments of Canterbury's alpine braided rivers as largely natural ecosystems and landscapes, 2. prohibiting new mainstem dams on alpine braided rivers, 3. maintaining extent of active floodplains, flow variability and sediment flow processes as best as possible, 4. supporting natural river mouth and coastal processes, and 5. achieving environmental flows set through planning regimes that support the above.	Goal retained, as it builds on the revised 2025 goal. The term “self-sustaining system” was removed because ongoing maintenance is typically required. A flood protection qualifier was added at the request of the Canterbury Operations Forum (March 2026) to reflect the trade-offs between these key points.

Drinking Water *(3 goals removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
1	Catchment nutrient loads (Drinking Water)	Refine, define and utilise detailed dynamic groundwater modelling to provide data that informs regional and district policies and rules that recognise impact of contaminants, land use and climate change.	Define, refine and utilise detailed dynamic groundwater modelling to provide data that informs relevant policies and rules that recognise impact of contaminants, land use and climate change.	Goal retained and removed reference to regions and districts in light of ongoing Simplifying Local Government reform.
2	Catchment nutrient loads (Drinking Water)	Catchment load limits are met (timeframes set in implementation programmes).	N/A	Goal removed and incorporated into goal 30 (under the Environment Limits – Environmental Flows and Catchment Load Limits theme), where it is more appropriately aligned.

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
3	Catchment nutrient loads (Drinking Water)	Achieved nutrient efficiency targets for all zones as set out in plans.	N/A	Goal removed following modifications to improve measurability, as noted in the 2025 key points for future reporting. As it closely aligns with the goal 7 in this target area, it has been reframed as a sub-goal/reporting measure under that goal.
8.3	Catchment nutrient loads (Drinking Water)	Decrease in the number of wells with increasing trends in nitrate level concentrations from 2025.	There is a decreasing trend in the number of drinking water wells with nitrate concentrations that exceed half the Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) of 11.3 milligrams per litre of water (NO3-N) (using 2025 data as the benchmark).	Goal reworded for clarity and to align with the revised 2025 goal. MAV value added to the goal at the request of the Canterbury Operations Forum (March 2026) to ensure it remains constant. The 2025 Annual Groundwater Quality Survey produced by Canterbury Regional Council will serve as the benchmark.
4.2	Source water quality targets	Drinking water supplies (community use and stock water) are maintained as a first order priority when reviewing regional policies and planning.	Priority is given to source water used for community drinking water supplies (including stock water).	Goal retained based on technical advice and to ensure water quality is considered at a source level with some edits made for clarity.
6	Source water quality targets	All drinking water supplies and self-supplied bores meet the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards for health-based determinants.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025 goal updates. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Goal covered by revised goal for community drinking water supplies. Self-supplied bores are not covered by national legislation at this stage.

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
7	Source water quality targets	Communities that, at 2010, had access to untreated and safe drinking water continue to have access to source water that does not require treatment.	Land use activities do not cause significant negative impact on drinking water quality or quantity.	Goal reinstated as the reason for prior removal was unclear (note this was not reported on in 2025). Recommendations made in 2025 included replacement with “Land use activities do not negatively impact source water quality and quantity” and highlighted that treatment does not need to be referenced as all registered suppliers now treat their supply. Content from goal 3 has been incorporated to provide a clearer basis for reporting. Source water quality replaced with drinking water at the request of the Canterbury Operations Forum (March 2026) and ‘significant‘ caveat added.

Kaitiakitanga *(8 goals removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
37	Marae water supply	All marae and associated papakāinga have access to high quality drinking water that meets Drinking Water Standards.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025 goal updates. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Goal pre-dates Water Services legislation and is otherwise captured by the Drinking Water Target as a community water supply.

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
38	Working together in partnership	Outcomes reporting is being informed by Mātauranga Māori Report.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025 goal updates. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Goal is redundant. Waterway health is already addressed in the ECan LTP with specific outcome measures. Existing reporting mechanisms cover water quality, and the goal is tied to outdated policy (NPS-FM 2020). Mātauranga is held by Rūnanga and thus it is inappropriate for ECan to require its provision.
39	Working together in partnership	Co-governance arrangements implemented for at least one nominated waterbody in North Canterbury and one in South Canterbury.	Partnership programmes implemented for at least two waterbodies nominated by Papatipu Rūnanga.	Rephrased to remain consistent with 2025 goal updates. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Alternative wording suggested to better reflect Mahinga Kai Strategic Partnership programmes. The goal has been amended to focus on investigating partnership opportunities for Rūnanga nominated water bodies.
40	Working together in partnership	All zones are sufficiently resourced by Tangata tāikāwai.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025. Rationale for changes in 2025 – The system for appointing Ngāi Tahu Tangata Tiaki Wai is not yet in place, and Ngāi Tahu should lead the development of this role. Many Rūnanga have stepped away from zone committees, and the goal has not progressed since 2015. Given the lack of progress and funding, this goal is no longer relevant.
41	Working together in partnership	Intergenerational representation is evident and supported, and ongoing development occurs in the CWMS process.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Succession planning is a priority and responsibility solely of Rūnanga, inappropriate goal for CWMS reporting / implementation.

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
42	Working together in partnership	Institutional capability within local government to adequately recognise and provide for the principle of kaitiakitanga in water management.	Institutional capability within local government to adequately deliver the principle of kaitiakitanga in water management.	Goal retained with changes to wording aiming to strengthen the goal, consistent with 2025.
43	Working together in partnership	Integrated Te Rūnanga O Ngāi Tahu/papatipu rūnanga reporting mechanism in place.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025 goal updates. Rationale for changes in 2025 – Goal is unclear, unnecessary, and misaligned with current priorities. Reporting requirements are under review as a part of the Tuia Te Herenga initiative. It is premature to develop a reporting mechanism at this stage.
44	Working together in partnership	All Iwi Management Plans are refreshed in relation to the integrated ki uta ki tai action plan and responded to.	N/A	Goal removed to remain consistent with 2025 goal updates. Rationale for changes in 2025 – This goal is unnecessary. Development and review of Iwi Management Plans (IMPs) are driven by Rūnanga, not ECan or territorial authorities (TAs) (CWMS partners), apart from providing resourcing. Reporting on IMPs is inappropriate, as ECan or TAs have limited control over these processes.
45	Working together in partnership	An integrated ki uta ki tai strategic plan is completed for all catchments that sets out the agreed actions for all participants.	An integrated ki uta ki tai strategic plan is completed for all catchments that sets out the agreed actions for all participants.	Goal retained
71	Working together in partnership	Papatipu Rūnanga are decision makers for allocations of Ngāi Tahu water in each catchment.	Papatipu Rūnanga are decision makers for allocations of Ngāi Tahu water in each catchment.	Goal retained
47	Wāhi taonga and mahinga kai	Mahinga kai is available that is of high quality.	N/A	Goal consolidated into goal 49 due to aligned outcomes and similarities.

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
49	Wāhi taonga and mahinga kai	10 sites in each papatipu rūnanga area (including freshwater mātaitai and Fenton Reserves) are being restored or protected in recognition of them as wāhi taonga and/or to support and be accessible to papatipu rūnanga for mahinga kai and resource gathering purposes.	High-quality mahinga kai is available and there is support for Papatipu Rūnanga to develop wahi taonga (including freshwater mātaitai and Fenton Reserves) for mahinga kai.	Revised to move away from an arbitrary number and align with the updated 2025 goal. Goal 47 added to this goal due to aligned outcomes and similarities. Rationale for changes in 2025 - Goal has been revised to focus on the important mahinga kai outcomes and priorities via delivery of Kaitiakitanga Mahinga Kai projects (including Fenton Reserves) rather than an arbitrary number of sites being “protected/restored”.
50	Wāhi taonga and mahinga kai	At risk species are increasing in abundance and the number of at-risk species is declining.	N/A	This was consolidated into goal 21 (under the Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity – Freshwater species and their habitat theme) because staff identified overlap with these two goals and felt it was better placed under the other target area.
51	Wāhi taonga and mahinga kai	An increase in the number of papatipu rūnanga whanau who are learning and carrying forward intergenerational cultural knowledge and practice.	Continued investment in initiatives that support Papatipu Rūnanga to maintain rangatiratanga over intergenerational cultural knowledge and practice. Other support opportunities are investigated.	Goal retained, as it builds on the 2025 goal. The proposed update advances the 2025 goal while maintaining realignment toward Papatipu Rūnanga ownership. Rationale for changes in 2025 – The goal should focus on how ECan and TAs can support Rūnanga in retaining and protecting cultural knowledge.

Recreation and amenity *(6 goals removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
57	Freshwater Angling	40% increase in the number and area of protected salmonid spawning sites from 2009 baseline in identified important areas.	40% increase in the number and area of protected salmonid spawning sites from 2009 baseline in identified important areas.	Goal retained

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
58	Freshwater Angling	Sustained improvement in health of lowland streams, rivers and lakes in Canterbury.	N/A	Consolidated into goal 24 due to similar overall aims and expected outcomes.
59	Freshwater Angling	Freshwater fishing opportunities in each zone are restored and protected.	N/A	Goal removed, as its intent and outcomes are captured by goal 30.1 and other goals. Goal 30.1 focuses on ensuring that environmental flows and catchment load limits are regularly reviewed and applied in line with the current plan, with all consents aligned to these requirements. As the intent of this goal is to protect fishing opportunities, subject matter experts advised that it is addressed in other goals (although not explicitly but they will lead to this outcome). In addition, safeguarding water quality and quantity supports fishing opportunities while making the goal more straightforward to report on and more directly within our sphere of influence.
61	Recreational Water Quality	Achieve the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management target of 92 percent of rivers and 81 percent of lakes in Canterbury being swimmable by 2030.	Achieve the national standards and/ or regional targets for swimability of Canterbury lakes and rivers, including reduction targets for cyanobacteria identified in regional plans	Goal retained and changed to move away from referencing national policy and to reflect the structure of regulations as proposed currently. Goal 62 was incorporated as the cyanobacteria-related goal is largely aimed at achieving swimability.
62	Recreational Water Quality	Progress is made towards achieving identified reduction targets for cyanobacteria.	N/A	Goal consolidated with goal 61.
63	Water based recreational opportunities	A continuing and measurable positive trend, against baseline information, in the diversity, availability and quality of recreational opportunities in each zone.	A continuing and measurable positive trend, against baseline information, in the diversity, availability and quality of recreational opportunities in each zone.	Goal retained

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
64	Water based recreational opportunities	Plans in place that recognise the values and provide protection for recreation and amenity opportunities.	Freshwater recreation and amenity opportunities are maintained or improved through plans that protect key recreation values and actively manage identified risks to water-based recreation.	Goal retained, and refocused on improving water quality and quantity, consistent with 2025 feedback. Goals 65 and 60 added due to similarities and based on technical advice. The reworded goal is more aimed at protection and active management of risks.
65	Water based recreational opportunities	Potential threats to freshwater recreational opportunities are understood and plans in place to reduce risk.	N/A	Consolidated with goal 64 due to closely aligned outcomes, similarities and based on technical advice. It is worth noting this goal was originally more aimed at threats while goal 64 was aimed at protection. However, the reworded goal is targeted more at protection and active management of risks.
60	Recreational water flows	Environmental flows, which support recreational requirements, are set as part of the rule setting process in new plans and included in existing plans when up for review.	N/A	Goal consolidated with goal 64 due to closely aligned outcomes and similarities, specifically regarding the planning processes.
74	Recreational water flows	All new and existing consents in review are linked to environmental flows.	N/A	Goal better aligned with the Environmental Limits theme and, therefore, incorporated into goal 30.1. Goal 30.1 focuses on ensuring that environmental flows and catchment load limits are regularly reviewed and applied in line with the current plan, with all consents aligned to these requirements. This goal was identified as very similar during the consolidation process.

Water use efficiency *(no goals removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
66	Best practice and benchmarking	100% of water users meeting or exceeding the agreed water use benchmarks.	100% of water users meeting or exceeding the agreed water use benchmarks.	Goal retained, however there are no existing benchmarks (confirmed in 2021 during goal analysis).
67	Best practice and benchmarking	100% of water used for irrigation and stock water is operating according to water use Good Management Practices.	100% of water used for irrigation and stock water is operating according to water use good management practices.	Goal retained
68	Best practice and benchmarking	Drinking water suppliers implementing demand management programmes as part of good infrastructure practices.	Drinking water suppliers implementing demand management programmes as part of good infrastructure practices.	Goal retained
69	Best practice and benchmarking	A percentage of the water saved through water use efficiency is returned back to the environment or is allocated to other uses.	A portion of the water saved through water use efficiency is returned back to the environment or is allocated to other uses.	Goal retained with minor rephrasing for clarity.
73	Best practice and benchmarking	Increased the benefits gained per unit of water so that the volume of water beneficially used (used in production of crops, electricity, or commercial uses) in each zone as a proportion of the volume of water take is, on average, 10% greater than that achieved in 2020.	The benefits gained per unit of water are increasing, with the volume of beneficially used water as a proportion of the volume of water taken growing.	Goal retained, reworded for clarity and specifics removed, which can later be used as reporting. Deleted reference to zones, as no longer applicable. 2020 baseline removed as likely incorrect (2020 and 2040 goals reference 2010 baseline).

Irrigated land area *(2 goals removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
33	Land area reliability (Irrigated Land area)	Achieved 95% reliability of supply for 75% of irrigated land while also ensuring all target area water uses (including ecosystem health/ biodiversity, drinking water and kaitiakitanga targets) are met as per CWMS priorities.	Achieved 95% reliability of supply for 75% of irrigated land while not negatively impacting other target areas.	Goal retained and simplified by removing self-reference to the CWMS.
32	Infrastructure	Reviewed regional infrastructure needs (including storage and distribution) based on revised supply and demand factors (including climate change) to meet 2040 goals with a focus on reliability.	N/A	Goal consolidated into goal 36 due to similar focuses on regional investment/ funding.
32.1	Infrastructure	Establish a "reliability of supply" metric methodology for economic and environmental outcomes of this strategy.	Establish a "reliability of supply" metric methodology for economic and environmental outcomes of this strategy.	Goal retained
34	Infrastructure	Progress made in construction of integrated infrastructure identified in zone implementation programmes (Integrated - both irrigation and environmental)	N/A	Goal consolidated with goal 35 because both goals focus on progressing integrated water infrastructure initiatives that improve reliability.
35	Infrastructure	Reviewed progress on infrastructure development and/or the reconfiguration of existing consents that facilitates reliability improvements and is linked into the regional storage plan.	Reviewed progress made on integrated infrastructure development (Integrated - both irrigation and environmental) and/or the reconfiguration of existing consents that facilitates reliability improvements.	Goal retained, with reference to storage plans removed and additional rewording to incorporate goal 34, reflecting a shared focus on progressing integrated water infrastructure initiatives that improve reliability.
36	Infrastructure	Reviewed progress on the funding of infrastructure development and/or the reconfiguration of existing consents that aligns with the principles and targets of this strategy.	Reviewed progress on understanding regional infrastructure needs (including storage and distribution) to guide the funding of infrastructure development and reconfiguration of existing consents, focusing on reliability improvements and other relevant metrics from this strategy.	Goal retained and reworded to incorporate goal 32 due to similarities, specifically both goals focus on reliability.

Energy security and efficiency *(no goals removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
27	Energy security and efficiency	Increased the productivity per unit of energy by 10% from 2025 (downward trend in energy use per hectare).	Downward trend in peak energy use per hectare (10% decrease since 2025).	Goal retained and reworded for clarity.
28	Energy security and efficiency	Continue to maintain or increase Canterbury's contribution to New Zealand's security of electricity supply	Maintain or increase Canterbury's contribution to New Zealand's security of electricity supply.	Goal retained and reworded for simplicity.
29	Energy security and efficiency	Factored efficient use of electricity in all irrigation infrastructure.	Efficient use of electricity factored into operations of irrigation infrastructure.	Goal retained and reworded for clarity, removed the term "all" as previously identified that it was not possible to assess all irrigation infrastructure.

Indicators of Regional and National Economies *(2 goals removed)*

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
10	Added-value from water	Increase the value-add per unit of water uses in consumptive activities.	N/A	Goal removed, as it duplicates goal 11.
11	Added-value from water	Productivity of water use grows by 3% per annum.	Productivity of water use grows by 3% per annum.	Goal retained (repeat of the 2025 goal), kept for completeness and because it was not achieved in 2025.
14	Added-value from water	No decline in rural economic and social vitality from that measured at 2010.	No decline in rural economic and social vitality from that measured in 2010.	Goal retained (repeat of the 2025 goal), kept for completeness and because it was not achieved in 2025.
12	Externalities and opportunities costs	Measures in place to assess the economic wealth benefits of freshwater biodiversity (and other ecosystem services) and recreational use of water.	Measures in place to assess the economic wealth benefits of freshwater biodiversity (and other ecosystem services) and recreational use of water.	Goal retained (repeat of the 2025 goal), kept for completeness and because it was only partially met in 2025.

Goal ref	Theme	Original 2030 goal	Revised 2030 goal	**Revision reasoning 2030** (incl. 2025 reasoning where applicable)
13	Externalities and opportunities costs	Develop a way of assessing costs and benefits using a capitals approach that recognises externalities and opportunity costs.	Develop a way of assessing costs and benefits using a capitals approach that recognises externalities and opportunity costs.	Goal retained at the request of technical advisers. This goal is a repeat of the 2025 goal and was not achieved in 2025.
15	Added-value from water	Canterbury household income is maintained or expanded relative to national household income.	Canterbury household income is maintained or expanded relative to national household income.	Goal retained (repeat of the 2025 goal), kept for completeness and because it was not achieved in 2025.
75	Externalities and opportunities costs	Develop options (including a preferred option) for funding the reinvestment in natural capital, including addressing legacy issues and future opportunity costs.	N/A	Goal deleted as met in 2025. Note, achievement appears limited to Selwyn Waihora and Ashburton and is tied to the corresponding Zone Implementation Programme Addendums (ZIPAs).

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 20 November 2026

Presented by: Sophie McInnes, Chair, Canterbury Biodiversity Champions

Canterbury Biodiversity Champions

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions since the Canterbury Mayoral Forum reinstated the group in November 2025 and seeks approval of the group's updated Terms of Reference.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **notes the overview of work undertaken by the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions since its reinstatement in November 2025**

2. **notes the updated council biodiversity stocktake, and the emerging areas of alignment outlined in this paper**

3. **approves the updated Terms of Reference for the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions councillor group for the 2025–28 local government term.**

Background

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) supported the formation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions in September 2020 to strengthen elected-member leadership and coordination on biodiversity across Canterbury's 11 councils. The group provides a forum for sharing council experience, identifying common issues and advising the Mayoral Forum on matters that would benefit from a collective regional approach.

3. The previous report, prepared for the Mayoral Forum's 28 November 2025 meeting, summarised the group's work during the 2022–25 term and sought its reinstatement for 2025–28. That work included council stocktakes, input into the revitalised Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, support for a regional biodiversity monitoring framework, and discussion of local biodiversity initiatives and the links between biodiversity and biosecurity.

4. The previous group identified several potential areas of focus for the new term, including reviewing its Terms of Reference, supporting implementation of the regional and local biodiversity strategies, continuing work on monitoring, and exploring a shared approach to cat management. These provide a starting point for the current group's work.

Work since reinstatement

5. The Canterbury Biodiversity Champions have met three times since reinstatement. At its first hui, the group appointed Selwyn District Councillor Sophie McInnes as Chair. To date, all councils have appointed Biodiversity Champions excluding Christchurch City Council. The appointed members are listed below:

Council	Councillor
Selwyn District Council	Sophie McInnes (Chair)
Ashburton District Council	Deb Gilkison
Timaru District Council	Stacey Scott
Waimate District Council	John Begg
Mackenzie District Council	Mark Adams
Hurunui District Council	Tom Davies
Waimakariri District Council	Niki Mealings
Waitaki District Council	Rebecca Ryan
Kaikōura District Council	Kevin Heays
Christchurch City Council	Vacant
Canterbury Regional Council	Nick Moody

6. Across these meetings, the group has shared experience, received updates and explored opportunities for collective action. Key matters considered include:
    - covenanting as a key measure for protecting indigenous biodiversity
    - progress towards introducing cat management bylaws, including learning from districts with bylaws already in place
    - reform and how councils can continue to promote indigenous biodiversity in a changing policy and local government environment
    - progress on the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan review
    - the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI, or bird flu) response and how members and their councils can support it
    - implementation of the Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy
    - learning about Canterbury's unique ecosystems and the work underway to protect them.

7. The group has also reviewed its Terms of Reference (Attachement 1) and Biodiversity Stocktake (Attachment 2). Together, these are helping members build a shared understanding of biodiversity issues across Canterbury and identify where coordination and elected-member leadership can add value.

8. Note, during this time Canterbury Regional Council staff have been presenting to district councils on the Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and its alignment with local biodiversity work. This offer to district councils remains open should they be interested.

Updated Terms of Reference

9. The updated Terms of Reference position the Champions as an elected-member group supporting collective leadership, coordination and advice on biodiversity. They explicitly state that the group is not responsible for operational delivery or directing the work programmes of individual councils, staff, agencies or partners.

10. The draft provides for quarterly meetings, council-nominated elected members and elected-member alternates. Environment Canterbury would continue to provide secretariat support unless otherwise agreed. A biodiversity staff working group, or equivalent mechanism, would provide technical advice, local information and support for agreed actions within staff roles and council work programmes.

11. The draft also clarifies how the group provides updates, advice and recommendations to the Mayoral Forum. It provides for considering biodiversity issues arising from changes to policy or local government arrangements, while making clear that the group is not responsible for determining positions on local government reform.

Council Biodiversity Stocktake

12. The updated stocktake (Attachment 2) brings together information on council biodiversity strategies or equivalent policies, community funding and rates remissions. It illustrates the range of approaches to supporting indigenous biodiversity and provides a basis for sharing experience and identifying opportunities to work together.

13. Through discussions with members and council staff, the Champions have also been gathering information on each council's current biodiversity priorities and exploring where these align. Several common themes have emerged that align with the five goals of the Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and offer practical opportunities to support implementation through existing activities, shared learning and coordination.

14. **Protecting, maintaining and restoring indigenous habitats and ecosystems.** Common priorities include protecting remaining indigenous vegetation and habitats, particularly significant and naturally uncommon ecosystems and remnants on the Canterbury plains. Councils also identify habitat restoration, improved ecosystem condition and stronger ecological connections. Contributions include covenanting, restoration and revegetation, and managing biodiversity values on council reserves, roadsides, river margins and other public land.

15. **Building resilience and managing threats.** Pest plants and animals, habitat loss, development and land-use change feature prominently. Weed control, predator management and trapping networks support the Strategy's goal of resilience to threats, including pests and climate change. Opportunities include coordinating biodiversity and biosecurity work, sharing experience of cat management bylaws, and engaging in the Regional Pest Management Plan review.

16. **Lifting community awareness, knowledge, action and support.** Councils emphasise environmental education, connections to nature, community participation and locally led conservation. Opportunities include sharing effective approaches to working with schools and community groups, communicating local biodiversity values, and showcasing protection and restoration projects.

17. **Improving knowledge and information.** Biodiversity mapping, ecological information, monitoring and reporting are recurring priorities. Councils identify information gaps and a need for stronger evidence to guide investment and assess outcomes. Opportunities include identifying shared information needs, supporting regional monitoring, and making existing information more accessible and useful.

18. **Supporting mana whenua, landowners and communities.** Common themes include voluntary stewardship, community-led restoration, partnerships with mana whenua, and access to funding, information and specialist advice. These support the Strategy's goal of empowering mana whenua, landowners and communities to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity and mahinga kai. Opportunities include sharing approaches to grants and rates remissions, improving access to funding information, and connecting councils, landowners and community initiatives, while recognising each council's relationships and engagement arrangements with mana whenua.

19. Delivery constraints identified across the Councils include limited staff capacity and funding, demand exceeding available grants, and uncertainty about future legislative responsibilities. The Strategy provides a shared direction, while recognising differences in councils' responsibilities, resources and ability to contribute.

Next steps

20. Subject to the Mayoral Forum's approval, the updated Terms of Reference would guide the group's operation for the remainder of the current term. The Champions would then confirm the stocktake and agree a small number of shared priorities, drawing on the common themes identified above.

21. Priorities would focus on matters where elected-member leadership and coordination could add value, such as covenanting and landowner support, lessons from cat management bylaw processes, shared information and monitoring needs, and sustaining biodiversity outcomes through reform.

22. Once priorities are agreed, the Champions would identify any supporting staff advice required, taking account of existing programmes, council mandates and available resources.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Updated Terms of Reference
- Attachment 2: Council biodiversity stocktake

Attachment 1: Canterbury Biodiversity Champions: Terms of Reference

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

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

Canterbury Biodiversity Champions: Terms of Reference

Updated [insert date]

Purpose

1. The Biodiversity Champions purpose is to support the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in in promoting collective and coordinated action towards a shared vision for biodiversity in the region.

2. To achieve this purpose, we will:

   - provide elected-member leadership, coordination and advice on biodiversity matters across Waitaha Canterbury
   - be a positive voice for biodiversity and advocate for funding to build the tools and resources needed to protect and restore Waitaha 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 within local authorities
   - share our local authorities' experiences in biodiversity management and learn from each other's challenges and successes
   - support connections between local authority governance and staff, Papatipu Rūnanga, and where relevant, other agencies and organisations
   - encourage local authorities 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 restore biodiversity
   - identify opportunities to support coordinated implementation of the Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and alignment with local authority biodiversity strategies
   - provide updates, advice or recommendations to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum where biodiversity matters would benefit from regional governance alignment or collective advocacy.

DRAFT

Establishment

3. The formation of the Biodiversity Champions was initiated at, and supported by, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in September 2020. The Biodiversity Champions reconvened following the 2025 local government elections to continue the progress made in the previous triennium and to recognise the opportunities and challenges ahead for biodiversity; including RM and local government reform, and the implementation of the Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and local biodiversity strategies.

4. The Biodiversity Champions continue to support the Canterbury Mayoral Forum by helping identify opportunities for local authorities to work collectively and in coordinated ways to protect and restore biodiversity across Waitaha Canterbury.

Scope

5. Matters subject to the Group's consideration include:

    - identifying and advocating for shared and/or aligned resources and services to implement the Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and respond to relevant national, regional and local policy direction and local government reform
    - identifying and advocating for shared and/or aligned funds and programmes to deliver regional biodiversity priorities and objectives
    - supporting the implementation of the Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy
    - improving visibility of local biodiversity strategies, priorities, funding approaches and work programmes
    - identifying opportunities for alignment between local authority biodiversity priorities and regional biodiversity priorities and outcomes
    - considering biodiversity implications of changing policy, legislative and governance settings
    - supporting discussion on regionally significant biodiversity issues.

6. The Group is not responsible for operational delivery or directing the work programmes of individual local authorities, staff, agencies or other partners.

Resourcing

7. Individual local authorities 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.

8. The Group will be supported by a local authority biodiversity staff working group or equivalent staff-level mechanism, which may provide technical advice, local context, information gathering and support for agreed actions.

9. The Canterbury Regional Council will provide secretariat support to the Group unless otherwise agreed through future regional arrangements.

Membership and operation

10. The members of the Group are nominated by each Canterbury local authority and participate as elected representatives of their local authorities.

11. Members are appointed for a term aligned with the local government election cycle, unless otherwise determined by their appointing local authority. Membership will be reviewed following each local government election.

12. The Group will meet quarterly. The Group will update the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on its activities and may provide advice or recommendations where biodiversity matters would benefit from regional governance alignment or collective advocacy.

13. The Group may invite Papatipu Rūnanga, agencies, staff or other stakeholders to present or participate where their input would support the Group's governance-level discussions.

14. Members may send elected-member alternates in their place if they are unable to attend a meeting.

15. The Group shall appoint a Chair from its membership, and the Chair will be appointed for the term of the Group unless the Group determines otherwise.

Local government reform and changing governance settings

16. The Group operates within a changing local government, policy and legislative environment. These changes may affect local authority roles, responsibilities, structures, funding arrangements and governance pathways over time.

17. The Group will support continuity of regional biodiversity leadership and coordination through these changes by maintaining a focus on shared biodiversity priorities, regional alignment, information sharing and collective advocacy where appropriate.

18. The Group may consider biodiversity matters arising from changes to local government roles or governance arrangements, particularly where those matters would benefit from regional discussion, local authority alignment, or advice to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

19. The Group is not responsible for determining local government reform positions. However, it may identify biodiversity-related issues, risks or opportunities for consideration by local authorities or the Canterbury Mayoral Forum where relevant.

Relationship with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

20. The Biodiversity Champions are supported by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum as a key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity.

21. The Group will maintain a clear relationship with the Mayoral Forum by providing updates, advice or recommendations where biodiversity matters would benefit from regional governance alignment, collective advocacy or shared direction.

22. The Group may identify matters for the Mayoral Forum to consider where biodiversity outcomes intersect with wider regional priorities, policy changes, planning processes, funding arrangements or changes to local government roles and responsibilities.

23. The Group may seek direction from the Mayoral Forum on matters requiring regional governance alignment, collective advocacy, or consideration of shared regional priorities.

24. The Group will support the Mayoral Forum by identifying opportunities for Canterbury local authorities to work collectively and in coordinated ways to protect, restore and regenerate biodiversity.

Relationship with local authority biodiversity staff

25. The Group will be supported by a local authority biodiversity staff working group or equivalent staff-level mechanism.

26. The staff working group provides technical advice, local context, information gathering and support for agreed actions.

27. The staff working group may support the Biodiversity Champions by:

    - providing technical advice and local context
    - identifying biodiversity priorities, work programmes, funding approaches and implementation issues across local authorities
    - supporting regional stocktakes and information gathering
    - identifying areas of alignment, duplication, gaps and opportunities
    - helping prepare advice, updates, presentations or papers for the Biodiversity Champions
    - supporting follow-up on agreed actions where those actions sit within staff roles and local authority work programmes
    - identifying matters that may require governance-level discussion or regional advocacy.

28. The Biodiversity Champions may request advice from the staff working group but do not direct the work programmes of individual local authorities or staff.

29. The Chair and secretariat will work with the staff working group to ensure agendas are informed by current local biodiversity issues, regional priorities and opportunities for collective action.

Review and amendment of these terms of reference

30. The Group will review these terms of reference on an as-needs basis. Any substantive changes will come back to the Mayoral Forum for approval.

31. The Terms of Reference should be reviewed following any significant changes to the Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, regional governance arrangements, or the Group's reporting pathway.

Attachment 2: Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Stocktake 2026

The table below provides a snapshot of each of Canterbury's 11 council's biodiversity direction and community funding available. This information was prepared by the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions - July 2026.

Council	Biodiversity Strategy (Status / Date)	Vision and Summary	Contestable Biodiversity Funding	Rates Remission
Canterbury Regional Council	Yes – 2025 Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy 2025	*The natural environment and indigenous biodiversity in Waitaha Canterbury is thriving ki uta ki tai. It is healthy, resilient and abundant; and is cared for collectively by the people of the region.*	Waitaha Action to Impact (WAI) Fund ($300 000, not specific to biodiversity) Christchurch targeted rate ($200,000–$400, 000) CWMS action plan funding ($500,000 in 25/26, not specific to biodiversity) Additional grants as budgets allow Community funding	Mixed – enabled under rates policy; varies by local area
Christchurch City Council	Yes – 2008–2035 (due for review) Christchurch Biodiversity Strategy	"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 Christchurch Biodiversity Fund	No
Ashburton District Council	Yes – adopted March 2024 Biodiversity Strategy 2024 | Ashburton District Council	"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.) Ashburton Biodiversity Grant	Yes – QEII and Reserves Act covenants eligible Link to policy
Hurunui District Council	No	–	Main Power Hurunui Natural Environment Fund – $10,000 (50:50 partnership) Main Power Hurunui Natural Environment Fund	Yes – QEII covenants (LTP provision)
Kaikōura District Council	No *Endorsed Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy 2025*	–	Community Discretionary Fund ($100,000 total; not ring-fenced for environment) Community Discretionary Fund	Yes – QEII covenants specific (2024 Policy) Link to policy
Mackenzie District Council	No (did not adopt 2008 Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy)	–	No dedicated fund	No

Selwyn District Council	Yes – published Oct 2024 Selwyn District Council - Selwyn Biodiversity Strategy *Endorsed Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy 2025*	"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 - $153,776 (2026/27) Predator Free - $50,000 – $225,000 annually Selwyn Natural Environment Fund	Yes – 100% for covenants to 25% for other mechanisms Link to policy
Timaru District Council	No strategy but Biodiversity Policy (2018, rev. 2021) Biodiversity Policy - Timaru District Council	"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) Significant Natural Areas Fund	Yes – for conservation land and SNAs (potential extension under review) Link to policy
Waimakariri District Council	Yes – adopted 2024 Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy	"Our healthy and resilient natural environment sustains our communities and future." Four strategic directions: prioritise nature; connect people and nature; improve knowledge; create resilient ecosystems.	Landowner funds (variable and dependent on project needs) and Community Funds (up to $10,000 annually) Aligned with 2024–34 LTP actions Biodiversity Contestable Funds | Waimakariri District Council	Yes – for SNAs and land protected for conservation Link to policy
Waimate District Council	Partly – Biodiversity Action Group and its' associated strategy supported by Council WDC Biodiversity Strategy 2026-02-18 WED version.pdf	"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 Link to policy
Waitaki District Council	Yes – 2014–2017 (due for review) waitaki-district-indigenous-biodiversity-strategy *Endorsed Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy 2025*	"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 Waitaki Biodiversity Fund	Yes – automatic for covenanted land (stated in strategy)

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 20 November 2026

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

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **notes that the Resilience Explorer tool (Action 1.1) to understand district- and region-wide climate risks is in development**

2. **approves the proposed initiatives to be included in the Waitaha Canterbury Transition to Low-Emissions Plan (Action 2)**

3. **notes the implementation approach for the Waitaha Canterbury Transition to Low-Emissions Plan was endorsed by the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum (Action 2)**

4. **notes the findings of the situational analysis of climate adaptation planning across Canterbury (Action 3)**

5. **approves the proposed Phase 2 scope for Action 3, comprising the development of principles and criteria to support councils to identify priority locations for adaptation planning**

6. **notes the procurement process for development of a blue-green network plan (Action 4a) is underway**

7. **receives the quarterly Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan implementation progress report and accompanying budget summary for Year 3, quarter 1**

CCPP implementation progress and budget update

2. The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan is now in its third year of delivery, in line with the balanced approach approved at the August 2026 Mayoral Forum meeting.

3. To date, $348,271 has been spent. Total funds available for Year 3 is $624,606, comprising $510,238 carry forward funds and additional contribution of $114,367.

4. The full implementation progress report and accompanying budget summary for Year 3, quarter 1 can be found at Attachment 1.

Action 1.1: Risk visualisation tool

5. Sub-action 1.1 requires the scoping and development of a Canterbury-wide risk visualisation tool to improve councils' understanding of climate hazards and risks in the region to improve resilience.

6. In August 2026, the Mayoral Forum approved the procurement of the Resilience Explorer tool for a one-year regional pilot, at a cost not exceeding $250,000.

7. Contracts are now in place with Urban Intelligence. It is anticipated that tool set up and staff training will be complete by December 2026, and the pilot testing phase will begin in January 2027.

8. An update on tool establishment will be presented to the Mayoral Forum in February 2027.

9. In June 2027, following evaluation of the pilot, each participating council will decide whether to continue using the tool for a second year. Councils may wish to consider the potential ongoing annual costs when developing their Long-Term Plans.

Action 2: Waitaha Canterbury Transition to Low-Emissions Plan

Initiatives

10. The Waitaha Canterbury Transition to Low-Emissions Plan will provide a shared regional roadmap for reducing emissions. It identifies opportunities for collective council action that can strengthen and complement existing council programmes, investment, and partnerships, supporting a climate-resilient, low-emissions future for Canterbury.

11. Following Mayoral Forum approval of the Plan's strategic framework in May 2026, draft initiatives have been developed with feedback from regional forums, the Climate Champions Reference Group and sector stakeholders. The initiatives were endorsed by the Canterbury Policy Forum in September 2026 and the Canterbury Chief Executives Forum in October 2026.

12. The draft initiatives are attached for Mayoral Forum approval (Attachment 2).

13. A final Plan will be brought to regional forums for approval following the November Mayoral Forum meeting.

Implementation and council commitments

14. The Chief Executives Forum has endorsed the recommended ‘toolbox’ approach to implementing the Plan. Under this approach, individual councils, or groups of councils, can select and progress initiatives that align with their priorities, capacity and existing work programmes. This provides councils with flexibility over their participation, timing and resourcing, enables initiatives to be progressed through existing work programmes, budgets and partnerships, and avoids imposing additional expenditure commitments.

15. Implementation will generally be determined by individual councils rather than centrally coordinated or sequenced across the region. However, targeted regional coordination and partnership arrangements will support initiatives that require collective action.

16. Initiatives requiring collaboration with industry, research organisations and mana whenua will be supported through targeted implementation steering groups, drawing on existing groups where appropriate. These groups will provide technical input, support partnership development and help ensure implementation is informed by sector expertise and practical considerations. This includes:

    - Action 1.2: Enable regional bioenergy opportunities through regional partnerships.
    - Action 5.1: Support farmers to understand and reduce on-farm emissions.
    - Action 5.2: Support the decarbonisation of high-energy users.

17. Initiatives are intended to be progressed through councils' existing work programmes and budgets, supported by in-kind contributions.

18. Under the toolbox approach, each council will determine which initiatives it participates in, and the timing and resources allocated to implementation. Approval of the Plan does not commit individual councils to new expenditure or additional funding. A light-touch annual reporting process to regional forums is proposed to provide visibility of progress and maintain accountability for the collective regional transition.

Action 3: Adaptation Planning

19. Action 3 aims to enable councils in Canterbury to work effectively and efficiently together with communities on adaptation planning and implementation.

20. A situational analysis of climate adaptation planning across Canterbury has been completed for Phase 1. The analysis identifies the adaptation work that was, or is, being carried out in the region by both regional and district councils, communities and other entities. It includes common needs, challenges and opportunities.

21. The findings of the situational analysis indicated that councils would benefit from:

    a. partnerships with research and think-tanks like universities and the Aotearoa Society of Adaptation Professionals | Rōpū Urutaunga Aotearoa

    b. better and more tailored communication and engagement support

c. strengthened guidance on certain aspects of adaptation planning, such as application of climate scenarios, prioritisation of adaptation efforts and equity.

22. The analysis found that councils are at different stages of developing their approaches to adaptation prioritisation. For example, Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council have already started developing their own criteria for identifying priority areas. However, councils have different levels of capacity and resourcing to undertake this work, and there is an opportunity to share learning and provide practical support to councils that have less capacity to develop their own approaches.

23. The analysis also acknowledges this work is occurring alongside significant changes in adaptation-related legislative framework over the past 12 months, notably the National Adaptation Framework and the Climate Change Response Amendment (CCRA) Bill.

24. While national legislation and guidance are expected to provide a future framework, sufficiently detailed guidance will not be available in time to support regional and district-level decision-making.

25. This creates a particular opportunity for Action 3 to support the regional spatial planning process, which will need to identify priority locations for adaptation.

26. It is proposed that Phase 2 focus on two outputs:

    a. principles for locally led adaptation, including practical guidance and examples on Te Tiriti alignment, partnership, community engagement, equity, and managing uncertainty. This will draw on international best practice, and existing guidance, and targeted engagement with practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand

    b. criteria for identifying priority locations for adaptation planning. These criteria would provide an interim basis for prioritisation while councils await regulations and guidance from central government, and support preparation for regional spatial planning. The Resilience Explorer tool will support this work.

27. Developing common principles and criteria for identifying priority areas now would provide councils a shared, defensible basis for identifying priority locations and applying risk information consistently across the region, strengthening the evidence base that feeds directly into the regional spatial planning process.

28. In September, the Canterbury Policy Forum endorsed the phase 2 scope, and noted interest in exploring regulatory, funding and financing pathways required for implementation of local adaptation plans. While action 3 has a deliberately tight scope, the Climate Change Working Group are considering how this request could be further explored following delivery of the CCPP. The Chief Executives Forum endorsed phase 2 scope in October.

29. The Mayoral Forum is now asked to approve the proposed Phase 2 scope, recognising the opportunity to provide councils with practical, regionally consistent principles and

criteria to support adaptation prioritisation and inform the regional spatial planning process.

Action 4: Nature-based solutions

30. The focus of action 4 is to develop a blue-green network plan for Canterbury and accompanying guidance to support locally led implementation.

31. Procurement of the plan was approved by the Mayoral Forum in August 2026, and the procurement process has commenced.

32. Once procurement is complete and the successful consultant commences the work, the first deliverable will be a project initiation and set up report, which will cover roles and responsibilities, project governance, quality assurance, project assumptions, project risks, a project plan, the stakeholder engagement approach and a detailed engagement plan co-created with the project team.

Risk assessment and legal compliance

33. No legal or compliance risks have been identified for the recommendations provided in this paper. Commentary on risks for the actions in the CCPP is provided in the quarterly progress report (Attachment 1).

Next steps

34. Action 1: Tool development continues. Staff training completed by December 2026, pilot testing phase beginning in January 2027.

35. Action 2: The final Transition to Low-Emissions Plan will be presented to the Policy Forum for endorsement in December 2026 before the Chief Executives Forum in January and Mayoral Forum in February 2027.

36. Action 3: Workshops will commence early 2027.

37. Action 4: Procurement will be finalised and the development of the Waitaha Canterbury Blue-Green Network Plan will begin.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: CCPP Implementation Plan Quarterly Progress Report – September 2026
- Attachment 2: Draft initiatives for the Waitaha Canterbury Transition to Low-Emissions Plan

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Implementation Plan Quarterly Progress Report: September 2026

Overall summary

CCPP is progressing well overall, with most actions advancing as planned. The strategic review was undertaken in March and in August the Mayoral Forum approved $114,367 additional funding for Year 3 delivery, including the $510,238 carry forward from Year 2. Total available funding for Year 3 is $624,606

Key actions 1–4 are generally on track. Actions 1 and 4 received approval from the Mayoral Forum in August to begin the procurement process. Action 2 strategic framework has been approved and now seeks direction on the implementation options.

Actions 5–10 face some challenges to delivery due to resource constraints.

Financial forecasting remains below the allocated budget, consistent with previous reporting, primarily due to earlier delays and resourcing constraints that have since been addressed.

Status
On track
Some risks, needs close attention
Off track, needs immediate attention
Not yet started / on hold

Action Progress Summary

Action Theme & Primary Action	Sub-actions & Lead	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)	Upcoming Deliverables & Key Dates
1.Understanding Climate Risks and Improving Resilience	Sub-action 1.1 Risk visualisation tool **Lead:** Selwyn District Council.	On track	A one-year pilot of the Resilience Explorer tool was approved by the Mayoral Forum in August 2026 The tool will enable councils to assess risk impacts across four decision contexts: adaptation planning, asset and infrastructure management, land use planning and development, and emergency management. The proposed approach is to pilot REx using existing data, allowing councils to test its functionality and inform recommendations on future investment beyond FY2027/28.	• Tool procurement: September 2026 • Tool setup completed: November 2026 • Council onboarding and staff training completed: December 2026 • Pilot testing phase: January–June 2027 • Evaluation and recommendations on future investment: June 2027 (to inform FY27/28 onwards)
	Sub-action 1.2 Climate change risk and urgency assessment **Lead:** Canterbury Regional Council	Not yet started		

Action Theme & Primary Action	Sub-actions & Lead	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)	Upcoming Deliverables & Key Dates
2.Emissions reduction	Sub-action 2.1 Develop greenhouse gas emissions inventories and identify transition pathways. **Lead:** Canterbury Regional Council	Proceeding to closure.	Community emissions inventories for the financial year 24/25, prepared as part of Canterbury councils' participation in the Local Emissions Data Platform (LEDP) initiative, are finalised and have been shared with Canterbury councils. LEDP discontinued from October 2026 due to increased subscription fee and tool not providing agreed features: CEF approval August 2026.	• Community level GHG emissions inventories (regional and district level) received for FY 24/25: August 2026

	Sub-action 2.3
	Regional low emissions transition plan
	
	Lead: Canterbury Regional Council
		On track	Draft actions for the Transition to Low-Emissions Plan have been agreed. Regional fora, council climate champions, and stakeholder feedback has been sought over June – August 2026, and refinements to draft actions have been made.
			A draft Transition to Low-Emissions Plan will be shared with regional fora for endorsement over Sept-Nov 2026, along with implementation considerations, before a final Plan is shared for sign-off in early 2027.
				• Transition to low emissions actions received for endorsement:
				  ○ CPF: 18 Sept 2026
				  ○ CEF: 19 October 2026
				  ○ CMF: 20 November 2026
				• Final transition to low emissions plan received for approval: early 2027

3.Adaptation planning	Sub-action 3.1
	Enable councils in Canterbury to work effectively and efficiently together with communities on adaptation planning and implementation.
	
	Lead: Hurunui District Council
		Minor risk to timeframes due to resource constraints	The situational analysis for adaptation planning has been completed. The findings from phase one, along with recommendations for the next phase, are being presented for review and endorsement.	• Engagement with Papatipu Rūnanga: TBC
				• Situational analysis of adaptation planning report & next steps:
				  ○ CPF: 18 September 2026
				  ○ CEF: 19 October 2026
				  ○ CMF: 20 November 2026
				• Phase Two (September 2026 – March 2027) work subject to CMF approval:
				  ○ Setting up working group
				  ○ Develop principles for local adaptation planning
				  ○ Develop criteria for priority locations selection

4.Nature Based Solutions	Sub-action 4.2 Blue-Green Network plan for Canterbury **Lead:** Waimakariri District Council	On track	Scoping for the Blue-Green Network Plan has been completed by Boffa Miskell to support the procurement process. The scoping document has been shared with the working group and councils. Consultation meetings have been held with ECan flood protection, biodiversity and science staff to inform the development of the tender document which has now been completed. The term of the contract for this complex project is around 44 weeks.	• Procurement of the BGN Plan: RFP on GETS • Contract signed: November 2026 (TBC) • First deliverable: project initiation and set up report (TBC)
	Sub-action 4.2c Investigate the feasibility of establishing Blue-Green	Not yet started		

Action Theme & Primary Action	Sub-actions & Lead	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)	Upcoming Deliverables & Key Dates
	infrastructure on council-owned land **Lead:** All councils			
5.Climate Change Education and Advocacy	Sub-action 5.2 Produce communications materials with CDEM that integrate climate action and resilience to natural hazards **Lead:** Canterbury Regional Council	Minor risk to timeframes due to previous delays	CRC and CDEM will collaborate to develop a practical, ready-to-use engagement toolkit for district Emergency Management Officers in 2027. The scope and approach will be discussed and agreed in September, once the CDEM Disaster Resilience Strategy is finalised.	• Meeting to develop scope and approach to produce content for a campaign/toolkit: August 2026 • Toolkit delivered: 2027
6.Supporting Papatipu Rūnanga	Sub-action 6.1 Understand the climate action requirements of papatipu rūnanga across Canterbury **Lead:** All councils	On track	See Action 6.2.	
	Sub-action 6.2 Support councils to work in partnership with papatipu rūnanga on climate action planning **Lead:** All councils	On track	This action is best led through each key action and the CCWG, as appropriate, to meet the overarching action to *Support Papatipu Rūnanga with climate action and provide opportunities for their involvement with Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan projects.*	Developing Rūnanga engagement approach to integrate into actions 3 and 4.
7.Integrating climate change considerations in council processes	Sub-action 7.1 Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations across all council business **Lead:** Ashburton District Council	Delivery risk due to constrained resource capacity	The delivery priority for Year 3 is to support councils in embedding climate considerations into long-term planning. The group is planning a webinar and a library of reference materials to help councils integrate climate considerations into their long-term planning processes. Delivery dates for these initiatives are still to be confirmed.	• Canterbury webinar on embedding climate considerations into LTPs: TBC • Library of reference material: TBC
8.Climate Funding and Financing	Sub-action 8.1 Advocate to central government for funding to be made available for the climate-related actions **Lead:** Christchurch City Council	Proceeding to closure.	Work to support the identification of funding opportunities for climate initiatives, particularly Action 2, is ongoing. Given this, and that no specific deliverables are anticipated under this action, it has been proposed that the action be closed as part of the CCPP Review, with the funding advisory function retained as a responsibility of the Climate Change Working Group. The recommendations were endorsed by the Policy Forum and Chief Executive Forum.	• Identification of funding options to support work following implementation of CCPP actions: TBC • Closure note – November 2026
9.Monitoring and Evaluation	Sub-action 9.1 Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan	Paused	A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was developed in September 2025 and agreed by action leads and the working group; however, progress has since been paused	• No upcoming deliverables or key dates at this stage

Action Theme & Primary Action	Sub-actions & Lead	Status	Commentary (scope, budget, timing, risks)	Upcoming Deliverables & Key Dates
	Lead: Environment Canterbury		due to staff capacity constraints. Implementation reporting continues through quarterly updates to regional fora, and recommendations for Year 3 and beyond are being provided as part of the strategic review of the CCPP.	
10.Implementation	**Lead:** Environment Canterbury (with action leads)	On track	A strategic review of CCPP actions was undertaken early 2026. The Mayoral Forum approved a balanced delivery approach, focussing on key actions 1, 2, and 4.	• Implementation continues as per balanced delivery approach

Actual Staff Time Reporting – hours/month

Table 1: Staff Time Reporting per month over the past 4 months

	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026
CMF Secretariat	0h	1h	1	3h
Kaikōura District Council	8h	0h	3h	10h
Hurunui District Council	28.5h	19.75h	37.25h	59h
Waimakariri District Council	67h	38.5h	38.5h	33.5h
Christchurch City Council	8h	3h	2h	7h
Selwyn District Council	40h	30h	30h	20h
Ashburton District Council	12h	6h	Not reported	Not reported
Timaru District Council	3h	8h	6h	5h
Mackenzie District Council	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Waimate District Council	0h	0h	0h	0h
Waitaki District Council	10h	9h	2h	9h
Canterbury Regional Council	392h	356.75h	303.5	322.5

Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Budget Summary 2024-2027

1. The original CCPP budget approved by the Mayoral Forum (excl. GST) is $190,140 for year 1 (Y1), $741,049 for year 2 (Y2), and $540,143 for year 3 (Y3).
2. Due to invoicing errors, only $165,339.54 was received in Y1. Of this, $47,878.29 was spent, resulting in an underspend of $117,461.25, which was carried forward to Year 2, increasing the Y2 budget to $858,510.25 (Table 3).
3. In Year 2, $348,271.49 was spent. It was agreed by the Mayoral Forum that the remaining underspend of $510,238.76 would be carried forward to Year 3 and combined with the revised Year 3 contribution of $114,367.64, resulting in a total Year 3 budget of $624,606.40 (Table 3).
4. Table 2 summarises expenditure to date across actions.

Table 2: Detailed breakdown of expenditure for Year 1, 2 and 3 (excl. GST)

Action	Deliverable	Y1 Expenditure	Y2 Expenditure	Y3 Expenditure
1.1	1.1 Risk Visualisation tool: Preliminary scoping report	$0	$4,000.00	$0
	1.1 Risk Visualisation tool: Tool development	$0	$48,000.00	$0
2	2.1 Emissions Reduction: GHG Emissions modelling pathway tool subscription	$0	$70,600.00	$0
	2.2 Emissions Reduction: Assessment	$0	$43,478.26	$0
	2.2 Emissions Reduction: stakeholder facilitation	$0	$7,875.00	$0
	2.2 Emissions Reduction: stakeholder catering	$0	$623.20	$0
	2.3 Emissions Reduction: Regional low emissions transition plan	$0	$50,000.00	$0
3	3.1 Best practice approach for adaptation planning	$0	$0	$0
4	4.1 Ecosystem Risk Assessment: Final risk and vulnerability assessment	$30,434.79	$69,521.73	$0
	4.2 Develop scope for procurement for a Blue-Green Network plan and guidance	$0	$27,500	$0
	4.2 Develop a Blue-Green Network plan and guidance	$0	$0	$0
	4.2.c Feasibility of establishing Blue-Green infrastructure	$0	$0	$0
6	Understand the climate action requirements of papatipu rūnanga	$0	$0	$0
9	Monitoring and evaluation indicators and plan	$17,391.30	$0	$0
10	Catering for Working Group	$52.20	$0	$0
	Project Manager (0.6 FTE)	$0	$26,673.30	$5,353.30
Totals		**$117,461.25**	**$348,271.49**	**$5,353.30**

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

The figures shown in Table 3 below are based on the Year 3 contributions agreed within the CCPP. Once a Year 3 delivery option has been confirmed by the Mayoral Forum, this will be updated.

Council	CMF ratios	Y1 LTP ($)	Y1 LTP ($)	Y2 LTP ($)	Y3 LTP ($)
Canterbury Regional Council	20.5%	38,950.00	33,791.74	151,700.00	23,445.37
Christchurch City	20.5%	39,000.00	33,913.04	152,000.00	23,445.37
Selwyn	10.7%	20,330.00	17,678.26	79,180.00	12,237.34
Waimakariri	10.7%	20,330.00	17,678.26	79,180.00	12,237.34
Ashburton	9.8%	18,620.00	16,191.30	72,520.00	11,208.03
Timaru	9.8%	18,620.00	16,191.30	72,520.00	11,208.03
Hurunui	5.2%	9,880.00	8,591.30	38,480.00	5,947.12
Waimate	3.9%	7,410.00	6,443.48	28,860.00	4,460.34
Waitaki	3.9%	7,500.00	6,521.74	29,609.00	4,460.34
Kaikōura	2.5%	4,750.00	4,130.43	18,500.00	2,859.19
Mackenzie	2.5%	4,750.00	4,130.43	18,500.00	2,859.19
TOTAL budget	**100 %**	**190,140.00** PLANNED	**$165,339.54** RECEIVED	**741,049.00** PLANNED AND RECEIVED	**$114,367.64** TO BE INVOICED Sep. 2026

Table 4: Summary of Budget and Actuals for Years 1 and 2.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Approved budget	$190,140.00	$741,049.00	$114,367.64
Actual budget received and expected	$165,339.54	$741,049.00	TBC
Adjusted budget (inc. carry-overs)	$165,339.54	$858,510.25 (Inc. carry-over from Y1)	$624,606.40 (Inc. carry-over from Y2)
Expenditure	$47,878.29	$348,271.49	$5,353.30
Forecast	-	-	$613,672.00
Total costs	$47,878.29	$348,271.49	
Underspent	$117,461.25	$510,238.76	

ATTACHMENT 2: The Plan on a Page – How we'll get there

The following presents a draft set of cross-council actions to support Canterbury's transition to a low-emissions future. The actions are grouped by core council functions and are intended to identify where councils can lead, enable, partner or advocate for emissions reduction across the region. They do not represent all emissions-reduction activity across the region but identify practical areas where council action can add value.

Democratic Governance

Regional leadership, collective advocacy, partnership brokering, and shared capability across councils.

1.1 Advocate for central government policy, regulation and funding to enable a rapid and inclusive low emissions transition.

1.2 Enable regional bioeconomy opportunities, including sustainable biomass and biofuels through regional partnerships.

Strategic Planning and Regulation

Embedding low-emissions outcomes in planning, investment frameworks, regulatory tools, and consenting pathways.

2.1 Integrate nature-based solutions into investment frameworks and planning strategies.

2.2 Enable renewable energy infrastructure through regional spatial and district planning.

2.3 Enable low-emissions mobility through integrated spatial and transport planning.

2.4 Explore regulatory levers and pricing mechanisms to enable low-emission mobility.

Asset and Infrastructure Management

Planning, investing in and operating council assets, infrastructure, and services to reduce emissions and improve resilience.

3.1 Embed energy transition, fuel resilience and renewable energy opportunities into council asset planning and operations, with a focus on water, wastewater, solid waste and council-owned buildings

Waste Service Delivery

Using waste planning, service design, procurement, industry partnerships, and circular economy initiatives to reduce landfill emissions and keep materials in use.

4.1 Promote existing reuse and recycling services in Canterbury.

4.2 Partner with industry to avoid, reuse and recycle construction and demolition materials.

4.3 Encourage the reduction, reuse, and recovery of organic waste in Canterbury.

Enabling Community Action

Supporting households, businesses, sectors and communities to understand options and take practical action.

5.1 Support farmers to understand and reduce on-farm emissions.

5.2 Support the decarbonisation of high-energy users in the region.

5.3 Work with partners to encourage, fund and finance Canterbury households, businesses, and communities to adopt clean, affordable and resilient energy solutions.

5.4 Promote existing information, funding and financing options for low-emissions mobility.

Data, Monitoring & Evidence

Enhance regional emissions data, monitoring, reporting and capability across councils to track progress, inform decisions, and strengthen regional accountability.

6.1 Continue to **build** greenhouse gas emission literacy, monitoring and planning capabilities across Canterbury councils.

Transition to Low-Emissions Plan: Sequencing Roadmap

Draft sequencing of the 15 actions in the Waitaha Canterbury Transition to Low-Emissions Draft Plan, by council function and delivery timeframe.

Vision: A thriving, climate resilient, low-emissions Canterbury

Council function	Short term (1–3 years)	Medium term (5–10 years)	Long term (10–30 years)
1 Democratic Governance Regional leadership and advocacy	1.1 Advocate for central policy, regulation and funding to enable a rapid and inclusive low emissions transition		1.2 Enable regional bioeconomy opportunities, including sustainable biomass, biofuels and low-carbon construction materials through regional partnerships
2 Planning and Regulation Embedding low-emissions outcomes in planning, investment and regulation	2.1 Integrate nature-based solutions into investment frameworks and planning strategies 2.2 Enable renewable energy infrastructure through regional spatial and district planning 2.3 Enable low-emissions mobility through integrated spatial and transport planning	2.4 Explore regulatory levers and pricing mechanisms to enable low-emission mobility	
3 Council Assets Infrastructure and council operations		3.1 Embed energy transition, fuel resilience, renewable energy, and lower carbon building material opportunities into council asset planning and operations	
4 Waste Service Delivery Waste planning, procurement and circular economy initiatives	4.1 Promote existing reuse and recycling services 4.2 Partner with industry to avoid, reuse and recycle construction and demolition materials 4.3 Encourage the reduction, reuse and recovery of organic waste in Canterbury		
5 Enabling Community Action Supporting households, businesses and communities to act	5.1 Support farmers to understand and reduce on-farm emissions 5.3 Work with partners to encourage, fund and finance Canterbury households, businesses, and communities to adopt clean, affordable and resilient energy solutions 5.4 Promote existing information, funding, and financing options to enable low-emission mobility	5.2 Support decarbonisation of high-energy users in the region	
6 Data and Monitoring Shared evidence and capability	6.1 Continue to build greenhouse gas emission literacy, monitoring and planning capabilities across Canterbury councils		

Outcomes

- Emissions reduction
- Future-proof energy system
- Well-planned urban form and transport systems
- Smooth transition
- Equitable and inclusive
- Prosperity
- Thriving nature

The implementation timeframe indicates the anticipated period over which each action will be delivered. While some actions may begin in the short term, their implementation may continue through the medium and long term.

Democratic Governance

Regional leadership, collective advocacy, partnership brokering, and shared capability across councils.
This function brings together actions that use the Mayoral Forum's collective voice, regional partnerships, and shared capability to enable Canterbury's low-emissions transition.

Action	What this involves	Why this matters	Implementation Timeframe	Lead & Partners	Funding	Linkages / alignment
1.1 Advocate for central government policy, regulation, and funding to enable a rapid and inclusive low-emissions transition	Collective advocacy to strengthen ETS incentives for indigenous planting, funding energy decarbonisation and bioenergy supply chains, removing regulatory barriers to good emissions reduction farming practices (e.g. methane inhibition technology, farm forestry, solar irrigation), support for local waste diversion options, and enabling low-emissions mobility (e.g. funding for vehicle decarbonisation, key infrastructure assets, EV charging infrastructure, mass rapid transport). Advocacy related to energy matters will be actioned through the Mayoral Forum's Energy Action Plan.	The Mayoral Forum provides councils with a powerful collective advocacy platform to call for Government support necessary to enable and accelerate Canterbury's low-emissions transition.	Short (1–3 years)	Key lead: Canterbury Mayoral Forum	Funding status: Funded	Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Mayoral Forum Regional Energy Action Plan Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan
1.2 Enable regional bioeconomy opportunities, including sustainable biomass and biofuels, through regional partnerships	Partner with regional economic development agencies, key industry actors and research institutions to identify and progress practical bioeconomy opportunities for Canterbury. This could include mapping sustainable biomass and organic feedstocks, assessing demand from high-energy users and transport/freight sectors, supporting second-generation biofuel opportunities, encouraging low-carbon timber and mass-timber construction, brokering partnerships, developing business cases, and supporting pilots.	Developing Canterbury's bioeconomy can reduce reliance on fossil fuels and emissions-intensive materials while creating value from sustainable forestry, biomass and organic waste streams. It can support regional economic resilience, new circular-economy opportunities, lower-carbon construction and fuel alternatives for sectors that are harder to electrify.	Long (10–30 years)	Key lead: TBC Potential key partners: MBIE, MPI EECA Regional Development Agencies Christchurch Airport Port of Lyttelton Fuel suppliers Waste sector High emissions industries Research institutions	Funding status: Unfunded Potential funding opportunities: Industry investment, Central government programmes, Regional development agencies, EECA	Mayoral Forum Regional Energy Action Plan

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Strategic Planning and Regulation

Embedding low-emissions outcomes in planning, investment frameworks, regulatory tools, and consenting pathways.
This function groups actions where councils can shape land use, infrastructure, transport, and regulatory settings to enable emissions reduction.

Action	What this involves	Why this matters	Implementation Timeframe	Lead & Partners	Funding	Linkages / alignment
2.1 Integrate nature-based solutions into investment frameworks and planning strategies	Incorporating nature-based solutions as alternatives to grey infrastructure where appropriate, with priority applications in urban waterways and drainage, streets and public open spaces, foreshores, estuaries, riverbanks, and marginal farmland.	Nature-based solutions can replace or supplement traditional grey infrastructure, displacing emissions-intensive concrete and steel, sequestering carbon, reducing operating expenditure, and creating biodiversity and recreational benefits.	Short (1–3 years) to medium (5–10 years) to Long (10–30 years)	Key lead: All Canterbury councils	Funding status: Partially funded through existing council work programmes	2025 Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Action 4: Blue-Green Network Plan 30 Year Infrastructure Strategies
2.2 Enable renewable energy infrastructure through regional spatial and district planning	Work with partners to assess renewable infrastructure needs and integrate them into regional spatial and district planning processes.	Enabling renewable energy infrastructure is essential to maintaining the pace needed for electrification and emissions reduction, while providing certainty to industry and building our renewable energy capacity.	Short (1–3 years) to medium (5-10 years)	Key lead: Regional Council Potential key partners: City and district councils, Electricity Distribution Businesses, Gentailers	Funding status: Partially funded under Regional Spatial Planning	Mayoral Forum Regional Energy Action Plan Regional Spatial Planning District Planning
2.3 Enable low-emissions mobility through integrated spatial and transport planning	Embed low-emissions mobility outcomes into regional spatial planning, district planning, and transport planning so communities are designed around shorter trips, connected centres, safe walking and cycling networks, public transport access, freight efficiency, and future charging and mobility infrastructure.	Urban form strongly influences travel choices. Planning for compact, well-connected communities enables more people and goods to move by low-emissions modes, reduces reliance on private fossil-fuel vehicles, and supports the effectiveness of vehicle electrification, public transport, active transport and freight initiatives.	Short (1–3 years) to medium (5–10 years)	Key lead: All Canterbury councils Potential key partners: Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, public transport operators, community groups, business associations	Funding status: Partially funded through existing spatial, transport and district planning	Regional Land Transport Plan Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan District plans and growth strategies Mayoral Forum Regional Energy Action Plan

Action	What this involves	Why this matters	Implementation Timeframe	Lead & Partners	Funding	Linkages / alignment
2.4 Explore regulatory levers and pricing mechanisms to enable low-emission mobility	Explore regulatory and pricing mechanisms (e.g., differentiated parking fees, congestion charges, low-cost public transport) to encourage zero-emission vehicle use and influence travel behaviour, with a strong equity focus.	Regulatory levers and pricing mechanisms can drive behaviour change while generating funding for alternative transport options, supporting active transport infrastructure, public transport services, and EV and micromobility uptake.	Medium (5–10 years)	Key lead: Regional Council	Funding status: Unfunded	Regional Land Transport Plan

Asset and Infrastructure Management

Planning, investing in and operating council assets, infrastructure, and services to reduce emissions and improve resilience.
This function focuses on opportunities in council buildings, water, wastewater, waste assets, and operational asset management.

Action	What this involves	Why this matters	Implementation Timeframe	Lead & Partners	Funding	Linkages / alignment
3.1 Embed energy transition, fuel resilience, renewable energy, and lower carbon building material opportunities into council asset planning and operations, with a focus on water, wastewater, solid waste and council-owned buildings	Embed low-emissions and resilience outcomes into council asset management, planning, procurement and renewal programmes, with a focus on water, wastewater, solid waste assets and council-owned buildings. This includes identifying energy-efficiency and cost-saving opportunities, enabling renewable energy and storage, supporting fuel-switching and fuel resilience, reducing embodied carbon through low-carbon building materials such as timber, and integrating practical interventions into asset management plans, infrastructure strategies, masterplans and building upgrade programmes.	Embedding energy transition and resilience considerations into asset planning supports better investment decisions by reducing emissions, operating costs and asset downtime.	Medium (5–10 years)	Key lead: All Canterbury councils	Funding status: Partially funded through councils' existing asset management.	Council Asset Management Plans Council controlled organisations

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Waste Service Delivery

Using waste planning, service design, procurement, industry partnerships, and circular economy initiatives to reduce landfill emissions and keep materials in use.

This function groups actions focused on reuse, recycling, construction and demolition materials, organics, and waste-related emissions reduction.

Action	What this involves	Why this matters	Implementation Timeframe	Lead & Partners	Funding	Linkages / alignment
4.1 Promote existing reuse and recycling services in Canterbury	Promote reuse, repair and second-hand options to residential and commercial audiences, and connect businesses with reuse services, keeping goods in circulation longer and reducing demand for new products.	Making reuse and repair more accessible reduces demand for new goods, cuts waste, saves money, supports our local economy, and reduces emissions.	Short (1–3 years)	Key lead: City and District Councils	Funding status: Funded under Councils' current Waste Management and Minimisation Plans	City / District Councils Waste Management and Minimisation Plans Canterbury Waste Joint Committee
4.2 Partner with industry to avoid, reuse and recycle construction and demolition materials	Work with industry and across Canterbury councils to reduce construction and demolition waste by strengthening reuse, recovery and recycling pathways. This includes targeted campaigns, consistent council approaches, options for source separation and site-level diversion requirements, investigation of local regulatory tools and levy settings that could support diversion, and promotion of construction methods such as prefabrication and mass timber that can reduce waste and support lower-emissions building.	Construction and demolition activities are a significant source of waste. Reusing construction materials reduces demand for new materials and diverts waste from cleanfill and landfill.	Short (1–3 years)	Key lead: City and District Councils	Funding status: Funded under Councils' current Waste Management and Minimisation Plans	City / District Councils Waste Management and Minimisation Plans Canterbury Waste Joint Committee
4.3 Encourage the reduction, reuse and recovery of organic waste in Canterbury	Deliver targeted campaigns for small-to-medium sized businesses promoting organic waste diversion and explore waste bylaws requiring separation at the source. Work with food rescue and reuse services to capture smaller organics streams for human and animal consumption, reducing waste to landfill and associated emissions.	Diverting organic waste from landfill reduces methane generation in landfills and increases the viability for businesses turning waste into products such as biogas, fertiliser or animal feed.	Short (1–3 years)	Key lead: City and District Councils	Funding status: Funded under Councils' current Waste Management and Minimisation Plans	City / District Councils Waste Management and Minimisation Plans Canterbury Waste Joint Committee Christchurch City Council Food Resilience Policy and Action Plan

Enabling Community Action

Supporting households, businesses, sectors and communities to understand options and take practical action.
This function brings together actions focused on advice, outreach, funding pathways, partnerships and behaviour change across farms, industry, households and transport users.

Action	What this involves	Why this matters	Implementation Timeframe	Lead & Partners	Funding	Linkages / alignment
5.1 Support farmers to understand and reduce on-farm emissions	Build the capability of Canterbury's farming community and catchment groups to understand, measure and reduce on-farm GHG emissions and costs through: • Assessing regulatory barriers to good greenhouse gas emissions reduction practice and, where appropriate, addressing these through regional planning frameworks and consenting pathways. • Supporting farmers to understand their emissions profile and use agricultural emissions mitigation technology • Working with farmers on on-farm improvements and sequestration opportunities. • Promoting good management practices through rural professional partnerships, i.e., animal efficiency, stocking rates, pasture management, low-tillage and regenerative farming practices, electrifying farming equipment. • Supporting farmers to use nature-based solutions to protect erosion-prone land and for flood prevention, through programmes such as the Hill Country Erosion programme. • Investigating farm-rebate incentives to alleviate financial pressures on farmers	Agriculture is central to Canterbury's economy, communities and emissions profile. Supporting farmers to understand and reduce on-farm emissions can lower costs, strengthen long-term productivity and maintain market competitiveness, while improving energy efficiency, soil health, water quality and biodiversity. Farm-scale mitigation, including woody vegetation and nature-based solutions, can also build resilience to storms, erosion and flooding, with benefits for downstream environments, infrastructure and communities.	Short (1–3 years) to medium (5–10 years) to Long (10–30 years)	Key lead: Regional Council Potential key partners: Agricultural sector bodies, research institutions, MPI	Funding status: Partially funded (partially underway through Canterbury Regional Council Farm Environment Plan Audit Programme)	Farm Environment Plan Audit Programme Environment Canterbury Soil Conservation and Revegetation Programme 2025 Waitaha Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Solar on Farm Initiative by EECA http://calculator.agmatters.nz/

Action	What this involves	Why this matters	Implementation Timeframe	Lead & Partners	Funding	Linkages / alignment
5.2 **Support the decarbonisation of high-energy users in the region.**	Develop a shared regional understanding of Canterbury's high-energy users, their emissions profiles, energy needs and practical decarbonisation opportunities. This includes engaging with priority sectors and support organisations to understand barriers, build the regional evidence base, promote pathways such as energy efficiency, fuel switching, electrification and renewable energy uptake, and connect businesses with existing EECA programmes, funding opportunities, technical expertise, industry networks and case studies. Councils' role is to coordinate, convene, share knowledge and support uptake of existing support programmes rather than duplicate national services or provide direct funding.	High-emitting, high-energy industries are central to Canterbury's economy and emissions profile. Supporting them to improve energy efficiency, switch from fossil fuels, and access practical transition pathways can reduce regional emissions while strengthening competitiveness, managing future energy and carbon cost exposure, and protecting local jobs and supply chains.	Medium (5–10 years)	Key lead: Regional Council Potential key partners: EECA, Christchurch NZ, Economic Development Agencies, high emissions industries in the region	Funding status: Unfunded	Regional Energy Transition Accelerator Mayoral Forum Regional Energy Action Plan
5.3 **Work with partners to encourage, fund and finance Canterbury households, businesses, and communities to adopt clean, affordable and resilient energy solutions.**	Promote energy transition funding for households and businesses (e.g. rooftop solar). Investigate the regional application of the **Ratepayer Assistance Scheme** for clean energy transition and embed funding information into existing council touchpoints.	Improving awareness of existing funding opportunities can support commercial and residential uptake of renewable energy solutions such as solar and batteries, reduce upfront cost barriers, and accelerate household and business participation in the energy transition.	Short (1–3 years)	Key lead: All Canterbury councils Potential key partners: EECA, LGFA/LGNZ, Green Loans, Energy Retailers, Rewiring Aotearoa	Funding status: Unfunded	Mayoral Forum Regional Energy Action Plan Switch on solar (EECA) Ratepayer Assistance Scheme
5.4 **Promote existing information, funding, and financing options to enable low-**	Centralise and promote information on low-emission mobility options, along with available funding and financing support. This includes electric vehicles (light and heavy), micromobility (e-bikes, scooters), shared mobility services, EV	Helping residents, businesses, and industries find information and funding opportunities can help drive the electrification of the regional fleet, one of the largest GHG-reduction opportunities in the region.	Short (1–3 years)	Key lead: TBC Potential key partners: Finance providers	Funding status: Unfunded	Travel Demand Management Programme Land Transport Management

Action	What this involves	Why this matters	Implementation Timeframe	Lead & Partners	Funding	Linkages / alignment
emission mobility.	charging availability, driving behaviour, carpooling, and vehicle maintenance.			Industry bodies Fleet managers		Regional Land Transport Plan

Data, Monitoring & Evidence

Enhancing regional emissions data, monitoring, reporting and capability across councils to track progress, inform decisions and strengthen regional accountability.
This function captures actions that build shared evidence, capability and monitoring systems.

Action	What this involves	Why this matters	Implementation Timeframe	Lead & Partners	Funding	Linkages / alignment
6.1 **Continue to build greenhouse gas emission literacy, monitoring and planning capabilities across Canterbury councils.**	Continue existing cross-council work to strengthen emissions literacy, shared tools and consistent monitoring approaches. This includes building staff and elected member capability, improving how councils track regional emissions, and using evidence to inform planning and investment decisions	Consistent data, shared capability and common monitoring approaches help councils track progress, make evidence-based decisions and communicate regional progress clearly.	Short (1–3 years) / ongoing	Key lead: All Canterbury councils	Funding status: Funded through Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan and councils' Climate Change Working Group participation	Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 20 November 2026

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

Canterbury Regional Energy Workstream

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on publication of the Regional Energy Strategic Framework, seeks endorsement of the revised Regional Energy Action Plan, and outlines a proposed approach to governance and leadership to support implementation, coordination, and oversight.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **notes that the Regional Energy Strategic Framework has now been published on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website, with stakeholders and partners notified by email**

2. **notes that a launch of the Regional Energy Framework and Action Plan is planned for early 2027**

3. **approves the Regional Energy Action Plan, subject to any feedback provided by Mayoral Forum members**

4. **delegates authority to the Energy Strategy Steering Group, in consultation with the Chair of the Economic Development Forum, to make any minor amendments to the Energy Action Plan before publication**

5. **supports the proposed approach to governance and leadership for implementation of the Energy Action Plan, including expansion of the Energy Strategy Steering Group**

6. **agrees to the appointment of a member of the Mayoral Forum as a regional energy Champion to help promote the regional energy work, build connections, and maintain momentum**

7. **appoints [insert name] as the Regional Energy Champion**

8. **notes that the appointment of an additional Champion may be considered in future, particularly if an external person with the appropriate profile, networks and credibility is identified**

9. **notes that ongoing resourcing and funding will be required to support implementation of the Energy Action Plan, with longer-term requirements to be informed through the scoping of individual actions.**

Background

2. In 2024, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) initiated the regional energy workstream. The workstream is led by the Economic Development Forum (ED Forum) and overseen by the Energy Strategy Steering Group, a sub-group of ED Forum members.

3. The work has been progressed through a phased approach, with each stage building on the work undertaken previously. Phase One delivered an Energy Inventory, published in May 2025, providing the first comprehensive overview of the region's energy landscape.

4. Phase Two is now nearing completion. The Waitaha Canterbury Energy Strategic Framework was approved by the Mayoral Forum in August 2026 and sets a shared direction for a more resilient, affordable and sustainable energy system. A Regional Energy Action Plan has also been developed to translate the strategic direction into a coordinated programme of action.

5. Following approval of the Action Plan, the focus will shift to progressing priority actions, establishing appropriate governance and partnerships, and identifying the resourcing and funding required to support implementation.

Table 1 – Phased approach to Regional Energy Workstream

Phase	Regional approach to energy	Progress
One – Develop a regional energy inventory	Energy Inventory for Canterbury (Year 1 – FY24/25)	Complete
Two – Develop a regional energy strategy	**Stage 1:** Strategic Framework (Year 1 – FY25/26)	Complete
	Stage 2: Action Plan (Year 2 – FY26/27)	Draft complete – subject to Mayoral Forum approval
	Stage 3: Implementation Plan (Year 2/3+)	To commence following approval of the Action Plan

Publication of Regional Energy Strategic Framework

6. The Mayoral Forum approved the Regional Energy Strategic Framework on 28 August 2026. The Strategic Framework was published[1] on the Mayoral Forum website in

[1] https://canterburymayors.org.nz/our-energy-future-a-regional-approach-to-energy-in-waitaha-canterbury/

September, and stakeholders and partners involved in the regional energy work were notified by email.

7. Consideration is being given to holding a modest launch in early 2027, to recognise the work completed to date, raise awareness of the regional energy work, and mark the transition to implementation.

Regional Energy Action Plan update

Development and engagement

8. The Regional Energy Action Plan has been developed to support implementation of the Strategic Framework.

9. The initial draft was informed by the Regional Energy Inventory, the Strategic Framework, and early input from stakeholders and partners. Targeted engagement with key stakeholders helped refine the proposed actions, identify opportunities for collaboration, and strengthen alignment with existing initiatives. The draft was independently peer reviewed by Beca, with the findings informing a further iteration that was circulated to approximately 80 stakeholder organisations, community groups, councils and partners for broader feedback.

10. The Action Plan was also informed by discussions with representatives of Te Pātaka Banks Peninsula Papatipu Rūnanga, facilitated by Mahaanui Kurataiao Limited, and feedback from Aoraki Environmental Consultancy (representing Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua) and Aukaha (representing Te Rūnanga o Moeraki and Te Rūnanga o Waihao).

11. The Action Plan provided as Attachment 1 incorporates further changes made since the Mayoral Forum's consideration of the previous draft in August 2026. These include refinements to improve clarity and consistency, and the replacement of placeholder text in the 'Leadership and delivery' section. Changes were also made to reflect feedback received on earlier drafts, including the need for greater visibility of mana whenua values and perspectives.

12. The Action Plan has also undergone a design process, and case studies have been incorporated to highlight examples of energy-related work already underway across the region.

Endorsement and finalisation

13. The Mayoral Forum is invited to provide any feedback on the Regional Energy Action Plan and approve the Plan, subject to any changes arising from its feedback. It is recommended that the Mayoral Forum delegates authority to the Energy Strategy Steering Group, in consultation with the Chair of the Economic Development Forum, to incorporate any resulting changes and finalise the Action Plan ahead of publication in early 2027.

Implementation

14. The actions have been sequenced across the short to medium term and longer term, with early priority actions and potential ‘quick wins’ identified for progression within the next year to build momentum and demonstrate progress. High-level scoping of these actions has been completed, including initial consideration of likely resourcing requirements.

15. Further work to prioritise, sequence and refine the actions, including implementation considerations is ongoing. This will help determine the best approach, resourcing, and partnerships needed for implementation, noting that future resourcing requirements would need to be considered through long-term or annual planning processes.

Monitoring and reporting

16. Consideration is being given to monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements to support implementation of the Strategic Framework and Action Plan. This work will help establish how progress and outcomes will be monitored and reported over time.

Governance and leadership arrangements for implementation

17. As the Action Plan moves into implementation, governance and leadership arrangements will be needed to support coordinated delivery, maintain momentum, monitor progress, and enable regional collaboration. Stakeholders have consistently highlighted that establishing the right governance or leadership arrangements will be critical to successful implementation.

18. The Mayoral Forum previously considered three governance models and agreed in principle that work be undertaken to establish an expanded Regional Energy Governance Group. The proposed approach is to expand the existing Energy Strategy Steering Group by up to four members. The Mayoral Forum would retain overall governance, with the Steering Group providing strategic direction, regional coordination, and oversight, supported by the Project Team.

19. Additional Steering Group members would be selected based on their commitment to the Action Plan, ability to contribute time, expertise, resources or networks, focus on regional outcomes, and influence to support strategic decision-making. Consideration would also be given to geographic representation and the expertise needed to progress early priority actions. The expanded Steering Group would not be expected to represent all interests or provide all expertise required to deliver the Action Plan. Partners, stakeholders and subject matter experts could be engaged as needed to support individual actions.

20. The expanded membership of the Steering Group and any updated Terms of Reference would be approved by the Chief Executives Forum. Membership could be reviewed as priorities evolve.

21. The proposed governance and delivery model is outlined below:

Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Overall governance and political leadership

↓

Chief Executives Forum
Executive leadership, budget ownership and strategic support

↓

Economic Development Forum
Strategic leadership and oversight

↓

Expanded Energy Strategy Steering Group
Strategic direction, regional coordination, and implementation oversight

↓

Project Team
Coordination and implementation

↓

Action-specific partners, stakeholders and subject matter experts
Engaged as required to support delivery of individual actions

22. The proposed approach provides a pragmatic basis for commencing implementation while retaining flexibility to evolve the governance model over time. It enables the regional energy work to build on existing governance and relationships, while using the initial implementation phase to test what governance, leadership, capability and resourcing arrangements may be required for the longer term. This would allow consideration of a potential trust-type structure to be informed by implementation experience and the future regional governance environment, including the implications of local government reform.

23. It is proposed that a Regional Energy Champion be appointed to help promote the regional energy work, build connections and maintain momentum. The Mayoral Forum is invited to nominate and appoint a member to the role. The potential appointment of an additional Champion may be considered in future, particularly if an external person with the appropriate profile, networks and credibility to advocate for the region’s energy priorities is identified.

Funding and resourcing

24. The Project Team currently comprises six members with varying levels of capacity to support workstream delivery. Current resourcing is approximately 1-1.5 FTE, drawn from the Canterbury Regional Council (two staff), Regional Public Service, Kaikōura District Council, Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council. A review of project team

resourcing will be required to ensure sufficient capacity is available to support ongoing delivery. Likely resourcing requirements will be further explored through the scoping of individual actions, which is currently underway.

25. Funding to date has supported engagement activities and external project support, including a technical peer review of the draft Action Plan. Of the overall budget of $87,000 for the regional energy workstream, approximately $37,000 has been spent, with a further $8,000 committed to ongoing engagement activities.

26. At its meeting on 19 October 2026 the CE Forum approved the utilisation of the remaining approximately $42,000 to support initial implementation, and launch, of the Action Plan. This would provide an initial resource while longer-term funding and resourcing requirements are developed and could support ongoing engagement and access to technical expertise as required.

Engagement

27. A wide range of stakeholders have engaged in the regional energy work to date, including councils across the region, the energy sector, industry, major energy users, Ngāi Tahu Holdings, academia, and central government agencies.

28. A light-touch, targeted engagement approach was used to invite feedback from community groups with an interest in energy, as well as disability, youth and older persons' advocacy groups. This was intended to ensure a broad range of perspectives were considered in the development of the Strategic Framework and Action Plan.

29. Efforts were undertaken to engage with all Papatipu Rūnanga across the region, including exploring opportunities for Papatipu Rūnanga Environmental Entities to support mana whenua engagement, consistent with direction from the Mayoral Forum. Two hui were held with representatives from Te Pātaka Banks Peninsula Papatipu Rūnanga, facilitated by Mahaanui Kurataiao Limited. The team also met with representatives from Aukaha, Aoraki Environmental Consultancy and Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and Whitiora. Written feedback was received from Aukaha and Aoraki Environmental Consultancy. The team also reached out by email to Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura.

Next steps

30. Key next steps for the regional energy workstream include:

    - subject to approval, finalise the Regional Energy Action Plan for publication in early 2027
    - prepare for a modest launch of the Regional Energy Strategic Framework and Action Plan in early 2027
    - progress governance and leadership arrangements to support implementation of the Action Plan

- establish the role of the Regional Energy Champion to help maintain momentum and promote the regional energy work
- continue detailed scoping of early priority actions, with a focus on understanding likely resourcing and funding requirements to inform implementation planning.

Attachment

- **Attachment 1:** Our Energy Future: Waitaha Canterbury Draft Energy Action Plan 2026

Our Energy Future:

Waitaha Canterbury Draft Energy Action Plan

Te Reo Heading

2026

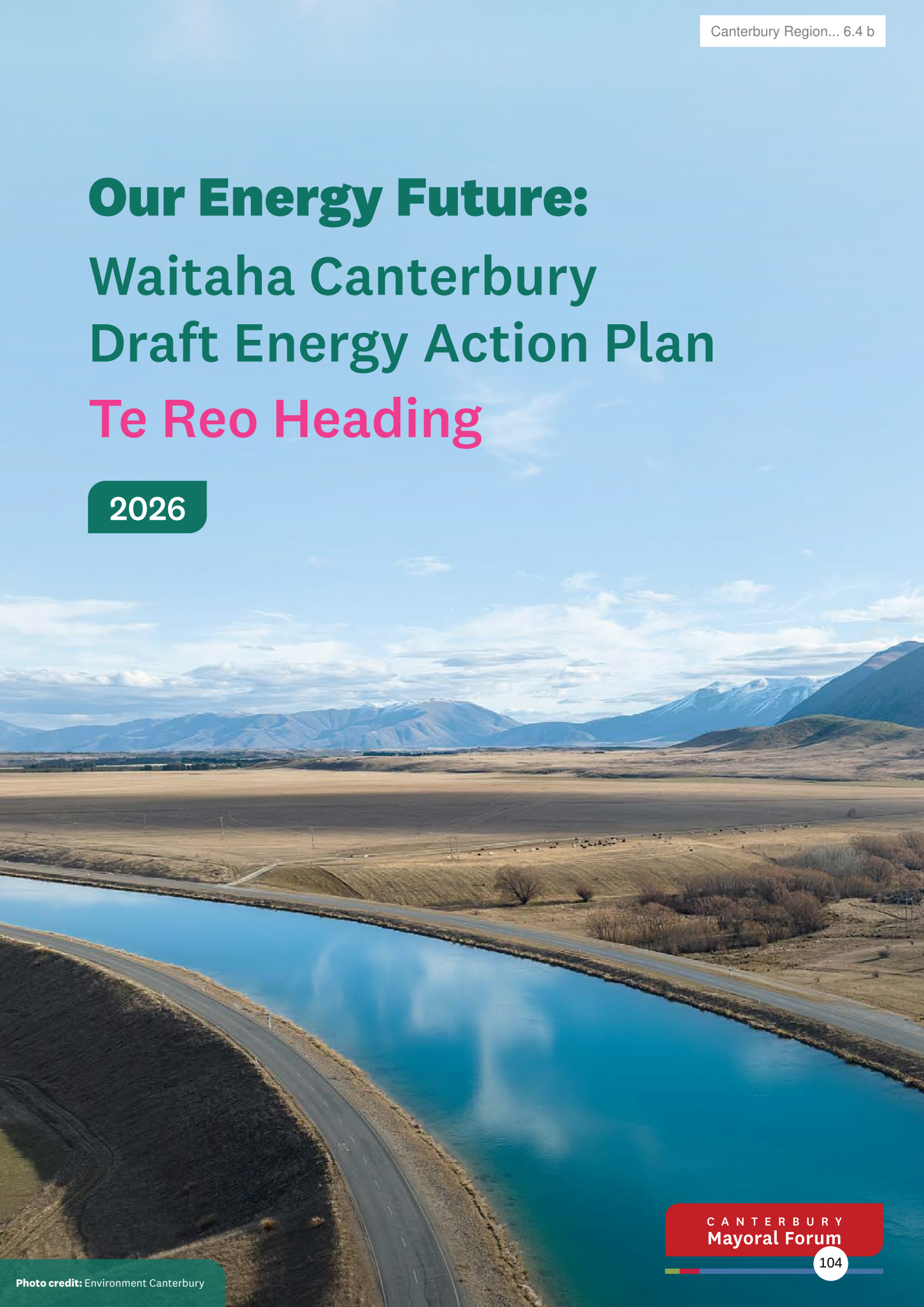

Photo credit: Environment Canterbury



Photo credit: Orion

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Introduction

Te Reo Heading

This draft Energy Action Plan builds on the Regional Energy Strategic Framework, which sets a shared direction for a more resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy system across Waitaha Canterbury. It translates that strategic direction into a coordinated programme of action, helping to deliver energy outcomes while also supporting wider community wellbeing, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability.

The Action Plan aligns with a range of related regional priorities and work programmes, including transport, climate action and emissions reduction, economic development, and spatial planning. Recognising these important interconnections will help to ensure that energy considerations are embedded across regional decision-making.

The Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory highlights the wide-reaching opportunities and challenges for the region associated with our energy transition. Key benefits of this transition include improved community health and wellbeing, making progress towards decarbonisation and climate change goals, improved energy resilience, support for existing and emerging industries, job creation, and strengthened energy workforce capability. Challenges identified include managing investment and access to capital, generation, addressing peak capacity constraints in a changing climate, and supporting community and consumer understanding.

A reliable and resilient energy system is fundamental to achieving Canterbury's wider economic ambitions. Energy is a key enabler of the regional economy. As Canterbury's population and economy continue to grow, and the transition to a more electrified, low-emissions future accelerates, ensuring energy supply and infrastructure can meet future demand will be essential to supporting sustainable growth and maintaining regional competitiveness. This aligns with the regional aspiration identified through the Canterbury Ambition and Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready to invest ahead of demand in resilient energy infrastructure.

Many of the actions in the Action Plan build on work already underway by councils, Rūnanga, government agencies, and the private and community sectors. In this context, the role of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum is to support coordination, alignment, enablement and amplification of these efforts, rather than to duplicate or replace them. By working collaboratively across organisations and initiatives, the region is better positioned to accelerate progress and deliver shared energy outcomes.

The Action Plan is closely aligned with the Canterbury Transition to Low-emissions Plan, which is being progressed in parallel by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. While the Emissions Reduction Plan has a broader scope, the two plans share important areas of focus. Together, the plans provide a coordinated approach to reducing emissions and supporting Canterbury's energy transition and growing energy demands.

The Waitaha Canterbury Energy Action Plan has been developed through collaboration across local government, industry, community organisations, and other stakeholders, and with valuable input from some rūnanga, helping to ensure it reflects a broad range of perspectives and expertise. The organisations below have contributed to the development of, and support the direction of, the Action Plan.

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum acknowledges the valuable contributions of the Regional Energy Steering Group and Project Team comprised of representatives from Enterprise North Canterbury, ChristchurchNZ, Venture Timaru, Regional Public Service, Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury), Kaikōura District Council, Christchurch City Council, and Selwyn District Council.

Leadership and delivery

Te Reo Heading

Implementation of the Energy Action Plan will require collaboration across a broad range of organisations and groups, including councils, Rūnanga, central government agencies, the energy sector, industry and business, academia, community organisations and other regional partners.

During the initial implementation phase, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum will retain governance oversight, supported by an expanded Regional Energy Steering Group with broader representation from organisations and individuals with relevant expertise, experience, and a commitment to successful delivery of the Action Plan. These arrangements will provide a basis for progressing implementation while longer-term governance and coordination arrangements are considered.

Individual actions will have different lead and delivery partners, with roles and responsibilities confirmed through further, detailed scoping. Leads and key partners are identified for each action, although additional partners may be involved depending on the action and its implementation.

For many of the actions, Rūnanga may have leadership, delivery or partnership roles, reflecting the importance of the partnership between councils and Papatipu Rūnanga and the commitment to giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu may also have an interest in, or a role in relation to, particular actions, reflecting its role as the iwi authority. The nature and extent of any involvement will be subject to further engagement with Papatipu Rūnanga and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Partnership with mana whenua and meaningful, ongoing engagement with communities and rūnanga will help ensure the energy transition responds to local priorities and aspirations. Energy activities must appropriately consider cultural values and practices, including wāhi tūpuna, mahinga kai and taonga species, and carefully manage potential environmental impacts. Supporting rūnanga to help shape the transition is essential to maximising its benefits while minimising adverse impacts and supporting positive outcomes for mana whenua.



Photo credit: Orion

Role of councils and partners

Te Reo Heading

The transition to a more affordable, resilient and sustainable energy future will require action from many organisations and communities across Canterbury. Councils have an important role to play through the decisions they make, the services they provide, and the levers available to them, such as planning and consenting, investment, asset management, education, advocacy and community leadership.

Not all potential initiatives or activities are specifically identified as actions within this Plan. This reflects the strategic and enabling nature of the Action Plan and recognises that many opportunities will be best progressed through individual council work programmes, business-as-usual activities, sector initiatives, or future implementation. The actions within this Plan seek to complement and not duplicate the efforts of other regional partnerships, such as the work of regional transport and waste committees.

Councils and other partners can also play an important leadership role by leading by example, trialling new approaches, sharing lessons learnt and supporting wider uptake across communities and businesses.

Evolving energy context

This Action Plan is being developed within a rapidly changing energy context, both nationally and across Waitaha Canterbury. New Zealand is facing increasing pressure on its energy system, including electricity supply constraints during dry years, tightening gas supply, fuel price volatility, and growing concerns around fuel security linked to global oil supply disruptions. As a country reliant on imported refined fuels, these challenges have direct implications for wellbeing, transport, freight, agriculture, and broader economic resilience.

In Canterbury, these pressures are occurring alongside population growth, transport and industrial electrification, and increasing demand for reliable and affordable energy to support productivity and wellbeing. At the same time, the region has significant renewable energy resources and opportunities to lead New Zealand's transition to a low-emissions energy system.

This context reinforces the need to accelerate action to improve energy resilience, manage demand, and support local renewable energy solutions, while strengthening coordination across organisations and sectors. The Action Plan is intended to remain adaptive and responsive as priorities, technologies, and system needs continue to evolve.

Canterbury Regional Energy Strategic Framework – plan on a page

Te anga o te rautaki pūngao o Waitaha – te mahere

Vision

Canterbury's energy system is resilient, affordable and sustainable

Harnessing our unique strengths to support the economy, empower communities, protect the environment and ensure the wellbeing of future generations

Outcomes

- Strong economy with local benefits
- Resilient and secure supply
- Thriving environment and a low emissions future

Strategic Priorities

1. Create regional benefits and foster innovation and investment
2. Build resilience and reliability
3. Enable choices and access
4. Embed a regenerative energy future
5. Reduce emissions from transport and industry

Enablers

- Coordinated regional governance
- Skills and workforce
- Policy, regulations and guidance
- Shared knowledge, data and insights
- Funding and investment
- Strategic partnerships

Principles

Coordinated and collaborative

Support energy partnerships and align councils, iwi, industry, and communities around shared goals and coordinated action

Affordable and equitable

Reducing hardship and supporting inclusive participation. Support a fair energy transition for everyone, from individuals to large energy users

Te Taiao (the natural environment)

A holistic view that prioritises the wellbeing and interconnections of Te Taiao and recognises that the relationship of mana whenua with Te Taiao is grounded in Te Ao Māori Values

Adaptative and action orientated

Take a least regrets approach that balances urgency with flexibility as technologies and circumstances evolve

Place-based

Ensure a place-based approach is integrated into energy system planning enabling local solutions

Strategic outcomes

Te Reo Heading

The Regional Energy Strategic Framework sets a vision for a resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy future for Canterbury. To support delivery of this vision, the Framework identifies three strategic outcomes that describe the long-term aspirations for the region's energy system.

The actions within this Energy Action Plan are intended to contribute to one or more of these outcomes. Together, these actions help progress the Strategic Framework's vision while delivering benefits for Canterbury's communities, economy, and environment. The icons shown below are used throughout the Action Plan to indicate the outcomes each action is expected to support.

Strong economy with local benefits

Supports economic productivity, business competitiveness, investment, innovation, workforce development, and local economic opportunities arising from Canterbury's energy transition, while also promoting affordable and equitable access to energy for households, communities, and businesses of all sizes.

Resilient and secure supply

Supports a reliable, secure, and resilient energy system that can meet current and future needs, withstand disruptions, strengthen community wellbeing, and enable communities and businesses across Canterbury to participate in and benefit from the energy transition.

Thriving environment and a low-emissions future

Supports the transition to a low-emissions energy system while reducing environmental impacts, improving resource efficiency, and helping to protect and enhance Canterbury's natural environment for future generations.

Energy decisions have important links to health, wellbeing, equity, and the environment. Recognising these connections can help ensure Canterbury's energy transition delivers wider co-benefits, including improved health outcomes, improved air quality, reduced emissions, and greater community wellbeing, while minimising unintended impacts and protecting important environmental values.

Overview of our actions – How we'll get there

Te Reo Heading

Many of the actions in this Action Plan build on work already underway across Canterbury by councils, rūnanga, government agencies, and the private and community sectors. The role of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum is to support coordination, alignment, and amplification of these efforts, rather than to duplicate or replace them.



Photo credit: Christchurch City Council

Vision: Canterbury's energy system is resilient, affordable and sustainable

Strategic Priorities	Quick wins/catalyst shifts (within 1 year)	Short-medium term (within 3 years)	Over the longer term (within 10 years)
1 Create regional benefits and foster innovation and investment	1.1 Develop energy scenario modelling for the region	1.2 Support workforce capability and capacity 1.3 Identify and support priority pilot projects	1.4 Facilitate energy innovation partnerships that grow our economy
2 Build resilience and reliability	2.1 Encourage renewable energy solutions for community resilience hubs and marae	2.2 Enable demand flexibility and peak load management	2.3 Support larger scale deployment of renewable energy generation and storage systems
3 Enable choices and access	3.1 Support community-led energy initiatives	3.2 Support households and businesses to adopt energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions	3.3 Support mana whenua and marae to pursue low-emissions energy solutions
4 Embed a regenerative energy future			4.1 Support circular economy initiatives in the energy system
5 Reduce emissions from transport and industry	5.1 Improve access to information and financing to support industrial energy transition	5.2 Support electric transport and enabling infrastructure 5.3 Support mode shift and integrated land use and transport planning	
Across the board actions	6.1 Develop a regional energy information and data platform 6.2 Develop a regional energy evidence base to inform regional spatial planning	6.3 Facilitate the development of a regional energy investment prospectus for Canterbury 6.4 Coordinate advocacy to advance regional energy outcomes	

Outcomes

Strong economy with local benefits

Resilient and secure supply

Thriving environment and low-emissions future

Strengthened partnership with mana whenua

Regional leadership and partnership

Clear governance, leadership, partnerships and accountabilities are needed for successful implementation of the Action Plan

Strategic Priority 1 –

Create regional benefits and foster innovation and investment

What this priority means: Prioritise investment, jobs, talent pipeline and economic opportunities that keep value in Waitaha, support research, training, new technologies and smart infrastructure that drive economic opportunity and emissions reduction.

1.1 Develop energy scenario modelling for the region	Quick win/catalyst shift (within 1 year)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Undertake scenario analysis of Canterbury's potential energy futures that reflects the region's specific characteristics. This will involve a coordinated and collaborative approach across the Electricity Distribution Businesses (EDBs), aligned with Transpower's *Te Kanapu Future Grid Blueprint,* with the resulting scenarios made available for wider use. This action will be led by the EDBs, with initial work already underway by Orion. Over time, this could be expanded in partnership with MainPower, Alpine Energy, Network Waitaki and Electricity Ashburton to provide comprehensive regional modelling.	Understanding possible energy futures and pathways is essential to support informed decision-making for infrastructure investment, spatial planning, emissions reduction, and economic development. Energy scenario modelling helps identify risks, opportunities, and trade-offs, supporting more resilient and coordinated long-term planning. It can also help identify opportunities to attract investment, support emerging technologies and skills, and maximise the benefits of the energy transition for Canterbury. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Electricity Distribution Businesses • Canterbury Mayoral Forum. **Key partners:** • Transpower • EPE Centre • Lincoln University • Local government • Iwi • Industry • Community groups.	• Canterbury Transition to Low-emissions Plan • Transpower NZ Scenario Modelling – Te Kanapu Future Grid Blueprint.

1.2 Support workforce capability and capacity	Short – medium term (within 3 years)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Convene stakeholders to build on existing energy workforce planning for Canterbury to encourage energy-related study, training and career opportunities to strengthen our energy sector workforce. This includes alignment with mana whenua aspirations for pathways into energy related green jobs and opportunities.	A skilled workforce is critical to the energy transition and supporting regional economic growth. Coordinated workforce planning ensures the right skills are developed at the right time. Canterbury could position itself as an innovative energy hub – attracting and retaining talent and strengthening pathways into energy careers. There are also opportunities to link industry 'real-world/ Canterbury problems with academic projects. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Canterbury Mayoral Forum. **Key partners:** • Electricity Distribution Businesses • Academic Institutions • Energy sector • Iwi • MBIE – Kānoa • Economic Development Agencies.	• Re-Energise 26 – An Industry Skills Action Plan • Aruhiko Power Engineering Excellence Trust.



Photo credit: Environment Canterbury

1.3 Identify and support priority pilot projects	Short – medium term (within 3 years)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Select a small number of cross-sector projects to test and demonstrate approaches, including consideration of scalability. This could include: • Energy efficiency and flexibility • Renewable energy • Transport. Where there are pilot projects already underway, case studies could be shared through this forum to support shared learning. Identify or establish a collaborative group to coordinate the identification, assessment and selection of new and existing pilot projects, and to determine the type of support that could be provided.	Pilot projects provide a practical way to test, refine, and demonstrate new approaches before wider rollout. They help reduce delivery risk, build evidence of what works, and enable scalable solutions that can accelerate system-wide change. Small, practical demonstration projects can also unlock wider system change by accelerating partnerships, investment, and market confidence. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Canterbury Mayoral Forum. **Key partners:** • Energy sector • Industry • Local government • Lincoln University • EPECentre • Electricity Distribution Businesses • Community groups • Economic Development Agencies.	• Christchurch International Airport energy transition initiatives • Collaborative energy hub concepts • EECA demonstration programmes.

Energy action in practice

Rolleston-based **Global Beacon Ventures** is developing hydrogen fuel-cell and battery-electric vehicles for heavy transport and other specialist applications. Its work demonstrates how locally developed technologies can be tested in real-world conditions, while bringing together vehicle manufacturers, fuel suppliers and fleet operators. Pilot projects such as this can help build understanding of where emerging technologies may have a role in Canterbury's future energy system, while identifying the infrastructure, partnerships and other enablers needed to support wider deployment.

1.4 Facilitate energy innovation partnerships that grow our economy	Over the longer term (within 10 years)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Facilitate and build on partnerships between private, public and community sectors to accelerate and invest in energy innovation that would benefit the region. This could include a focus on trialling emerging energy technologies, drawing on local, national, and global expertise and positioning the region as a testbed for innovation to accelerate decarbonisation and the transition to a low-emissions energy system. Support iwi-led and iwi-partnered renewable energy initiatives.	Collaboration across industry, government, communities, and the finance sector is key to accelerating innovation and investment in the energy system. Strong partnerships help share risk, unlock new solutions, and ensure the benefits of energy development are realised locally and more equitably across the region. Partnerships can support and strengthen more resilient, adaptive energy systems that deliver long-term environmental, social, and economic benefits. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Canterbury Mayoral Forum • Industry • Energy sector. **Key partners:** • Local government • Iwi • Electricity Distribution Businesses • EPECentre • Community groups • Economic Development Agencies.	• ChristchurchNZ CleanTech Cluster • European International Urban and Regional Cooperation programme • New Zealand Hydrogen Aviation Consortium • Christchurch Hydrogen Precinct (proposed) • University of Canterbury Sustainable Energy Research Group.

Energy action in practice

Christchurch International Airport is accelerating its energy transition through a range of initiatives that will reduce emissions, support renewable energy innovation, and create opportunities for future low-emissions aviation. Alongside improving its energy efficiency and electrifying operations, the Airport is developing Kōwhai Park, a renewable energy precinct that will include one of New Zealand's largest solar farms. The Airport is also looking to potentially generate green hydrogen, an important future fuel for domestic aviation. Working in partnership with industry and research organisations, these initiatives position the Airport as a leader in renewable energy innovation and aviation decarbonisation.

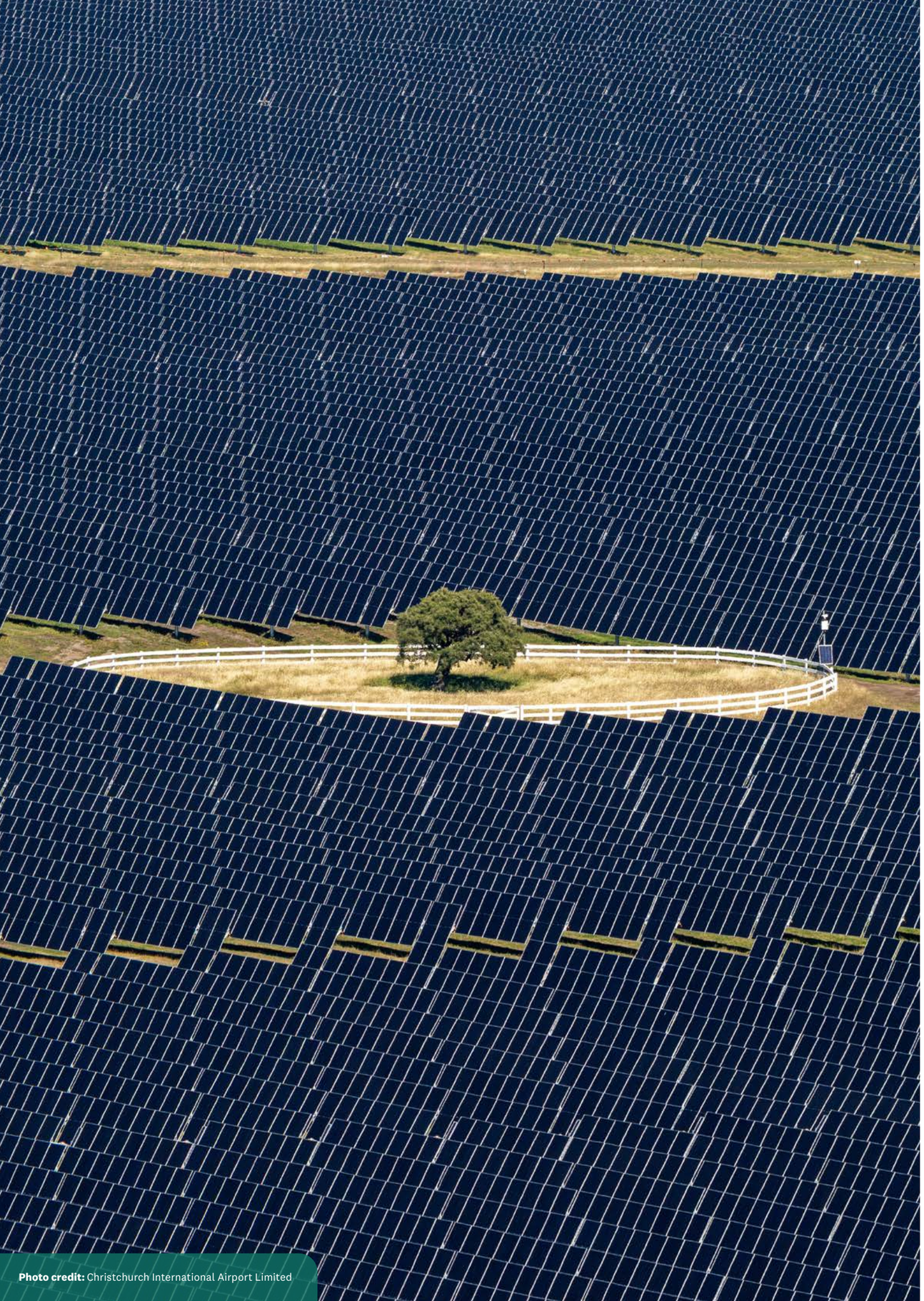

Photo credit: Christchurch International Airport Limited

Strategic Priority 2 – Build resilience and reliability

What this priority means: Invest in infrastructure, innovation and smarter networks to ensure Waitaha Canterbury's energy system is diverse, secure, flexible and future-ready. Consider the energy needs for adaptation and resilience hubs, marae, and other critical facilities that support community response and recovery.

2.1 Encourage renewable energy solutions for community resilience hubs and marae	Short – medium term (within 3 years)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Support the investigation and implementation of renewable and resilient energy solutions at community resilience hubs. Options could include solar energy, battery storage, electric vehicles and other technologies that help maintain essential services during emergencies and power outages. Identify suitable opportunities, share successful examples, and connect organisations with technical expertise, guidance, and funding opportunities. Build on existing tools, case studies and lessons learnt to help communities adopt solutions that meet local needs, including at critical facilities and lifeline infrastructure.	Communities are increasingly exposed to power outages and disruptions from extreme weather and emergencies, with many facilities unable to operate independently during these events. Renewable generation and storage can keep essential services running and strengthen local preparedness. Working with communities, particularly those most vulnerable, helps ensure energy solutions are practical, locally appropriate, and support an equitable energy transition. Marae are often key community resilience hubs during disruptions from extreme weather and emergencies. Strengthening marae resilience supports community resilience. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Local government • Community groups. **Key partners:** • Iwi • Civil Defence Emergency Management • Canterbury Lifelines Utilities Group • Electricity Distribution Businesses • EPECentre.	• National Adaptation Plan • Central Government funding programmes (e.g. EECA Solar on Schools programme) • Council installation of solar on community facilities in Christchurch District.

2.2 Enable demand flexibility and peak load management

Short – medium term (within 3 years)

What this involves

Increase flexibility in how and when energy is used, including by:

- supporting uptake of smart technologies
- working with energy providers and industry to better match energy supply with demand
- expanding demand management responses, including time-of-use programmes and incentives
- exploring how distributed energy resources such as solar, batteries and electric vehicles can contribute to a more flexible, resilient and lower-emissions energy system.

Why this matters

Demand flexibility reduces pressure on the electricity system at peak times, improves energy security, and can defer or avoid the need for costly network upgrades. Better matching demand with renewable supply also increases the value of renewable generation and can help households and businesses manage energy costs.

Alignment to outcomes

Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)

Key leads:

- Electricity Distribution Businesses.

Key partners:

- EECA
- Transpower
- Electricity Authority
- Commerce Commission
- MBIE
- FlexForum
- Electrify Christchurch.

Linkages/alignment

- EECA demand flexibility programme
- FlexTalk
- Electricity Authority demand flexibility market reforms.

The Orari Corridor: Strengthening regional energy resilience and reliability

Transpower is proposing a major upgrade of the electricity transmission network in the mid and upper South Island, including new switching stations near Orari and Rangitata and upgrades to existing transmission lines. Accelerating this investment would help address grid capacity constraints and improve supply reliability and resilience across Canterbury and the wider South Island. The project is a key enabler of a more resilient and reliable electricity system and the transition to a lower-emissions energy future, helping facilitate peak load management, the connection of large-scale renewable generation (existing and proposed), and the electrification of farming and industry.

2.3 Support larger scale deployment of renewable energy generation and storage systems

Over the longer term (within 10 years)

What this involves

Support larger-scale renewable energy generation and storage in appropriate locations across Canterbury by helping to improve investment readiness and reducing delivery barriers.

Work with partners to identify priority opportunities through spatial planning and demand forecasting, improve the visibility of regional opportunities, and support coordinated and efficient consenting pathways.

Facilitate connections between developers, landowners, iwi, councils, and network operators to progress viable projects. Consider network resilience, redundancy, distributed energy resources and alternative supply pathways to strengthen energy security and system flexibility.

Why this matters

Canterbury's energy system is vulnerable to outages and can be slow to recover from disruptions. Expanding renewable energy generation and storage enables more local generation and backup supply, reducing reliance on the central grid and helping businesses, homes, and community facilities to maintain power during outages and periods of peak demand.

Matching renewable energy generation opportunities to appropriate locations can help Canterbury capture the economic and social benefits of the energy transition while protecting important cultural and environmental values, including wāhi tūpuna landscapes, mahinga kai, and taonga species. Spatial planning can play a key role in guiding the development of the right generation in the right location.

Alignment to outcomes

Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)

Key leads:

- Local government
- Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

Key partners:

- Energy sector
- Transpower
- EECA
- Iwi
- EPECentre.

Linkages/alignment

- Regional spatial planning.

Strategic Priority 3 -
Enable choices and access

What this priority means: Empower communities, businesses, iwi and individuals through energy education and partnerships so everyone can participate in and benefit from an affordable, sustainable energy system – with expanded energy options and local energy initiatives.

3.1 Support community-led energy initiatives	Quick win/catalyst shift (within 1 year)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Identify opportunities and share knowledge, case studies and lessons learnt to support community-led energy initiatives. Facilitate partnerships between communities, councils, iwi, energy providers, and investors which unlock community values, strengthen community agency and ownership, and support broader health and wellbeing outcomes. Focus areas to include: • resilience • affordability, equity and energy hardship • energy literacy and capacity • funding and financing pathways.	Community energy initiatives can reduce energy costs, improve resilience and retain economic and social benefits within local communities but regulatory, technical, and funding barriers often limit delivery. Providing greater coordination and support, alongside enabling funding and governance models, can help more communities participate in the energy transition, strengthen local ownership and stewardship, and increase local renewable energy generation. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Community groups • Local government. **Key partners:** • Canterbury Mayoral Forum • Iwi/Māori • Energy sector • Lincoln University • EPECentre/UC.	• Electrify Christchurch • Electrify Castle Hill • Lyttelton Energy Transition Society • Community Energy Network • Canterbury Energy Wellbeing Collective.

Energy action in practice

The Castle Hill Village Community Energy Project shows how community-led energy initiatives can improve resilience and reduce emissions. Supported through the EECA Community Renewable Energy Fund, the project will install solar panels and battery storage at the Castle Hill Community Hall, the Craigieburn Basin's Civil Defence hub. The system will reduce energy costs during normal operations while providing backup power during emergencies. The project is also exploring longer-term opportunities such as community energy sharing and virtual power plant capabilities. It has brought together the local community, Selwyn District Council, Orion, the University of Canterbury, Ara Ake, and industry partners, demonstrating how local partnerships can deliver practical energy solutions and lay the foundation for future local energy innovation.

3.2 Support households and businesses to adopt energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions	Short – medium term (within 3 years)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Provide tailored advice, and support to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy costs, and adopt sustainable energy solutions across homes, papakāinga, marae, farms, and commercial and industrial buildings, with a focus on affordable and achievable solutions. This could include: • practical guidance and navigation support for energy efficiency and electrification options, including low-emission transport options such as electric vehicles and e-bikes, and available funding and financing opportunities • simple tools to understand costs, benefits, and return on investment • partnering with social service providers, marae and industry to reach more communities.	Clear information, independent advice, and coordinated support can help households, small businesses and farms use energy more efficiently and reduce costs. These services also improve equitable access to energy choices and available funding. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Canterbury Mayoral Forum • Community groups. **Key partners:** • Local government • EECA • Social service providers • Housing providers • Energy sector • EPECentre/UC.	• Rewiring Aotearoa • Electrify Christchurch • Lyttleton Energy Transition Society • Community Energy Network • Canterbury Transition to Low-emissions Plan.



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Photo credit: Kate Valley Group

3.3 Support mana whenua and marae to pursue low-emissions energy solutions	Over the longer term (within 10 years)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Support mana whenua and marae to identify and pursue energy solutions that reflect their needs, aspirations and circumstances, including opportunities to improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions, strengthen energy resilience and access appropriate funding, advice and partnerships.	Marae are at the heart of their communities, providing places of connection, cultural practice and manaakitanga, and supporting whānau and community wellbeing. Low-emissions energy solutions can reduce operating costs, reliance on fossil fuels, and emissions, while helping marae maintain essential services during power outages. This can strengthen marae resilience and mana motuhake. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Papatipu Rūnanga • Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. **Key partners:** • Local government • Electricity Distribution Businesses • EECA.	• Rewiring Aotearoa: Te Whakahiko i ngā Marae - A blueprint for resilience, savings and energy mana motuhake



Photo credit: Environment Canterbury

Strategic Priority 4 – Embed a regenerative energy future

What this priority means: Ensure energy choices safeguard the environment, restore ecosystems, reduce waste, and strengthen the circular economy with the right balance of sustainability and te taiao (the natural environment) to enable sustainable and healthy options for future generations.

4.1 Support circular economy initiatives in the energy system	Over the longer term (within 10 years)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Promote recycling and other circular approaches for renewable energy technologies (e.g. solar panels, batteries). Support and advocate for waste collection and management practices that maximise the beneficial use of organic waste for bioenergy. Ensure opportunities for informed discussion and engagement with communities and mana whenua on the role of circular economy initiatives, where appropriate.	Energy technologies create material and environmental impacts through extraction, manufacture, and end-of-life disposal. Supporting circular initiatives help reduce these impacts by extending product life, recovering materials, and making beneficial use of organic waste i.e. bioenergy. It can also create opportunities for new circular business models and local economic activity, while contributing to lower emissions and supporting a more sustainable, regenerative energy system. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Canterbury Mayoral Forum • Local government • Waste and recycling operators. **Key partners:** • Energy sector • Academic Institutions • Iwi • WasteMINZ • Industry.	• Bioenergy Association of New Zealand • Christchurch Ecogas and biomass drying facility.

Energy action in practice

The Kate Valley Landfill and Gareth James Energy Park demonstrate how waste management can support a more circular energy system. Methane produced as biodegradable waste breaks down within the landfill is captured through an extensive gas collection system and used to generate renewable energy at the Gareth James Energy Park. This renewable energy helps power operations at Kate Valley, including Kate Valley Group's expanding electric vehicle fleet, helping to decarbonise both its operations and the transport of waste. Surplus energy is exported to the national grid, equivalent to powering up to 4,000 homes.

Strategic Priority 5 –
Reduce emissions from transport and industry

What this priority means: Accelerate the transition of transport and industry to low emission energy through multiple energy options, efficiency measures and support for innovation and investment.

5.1 Improve access to information and financing to support industrial energy transition	Quick win/catalyst shift (within 1 year)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Work with industry to: 1. Identify opportunities and barriers for energy efficiency, electrification, and fuel switching 2. Connect businesses with relevant information, tools, funding and finance opportunities to support industrial energy transition.	Clearer pathways and targeted support can help industry to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, and manage transition costs. Better access to information and co-investment can accelerate electrification and fuel switching and improve business competitiveness. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Canterbury Mayoral Forum. **Key partners:** • Industry • Energy sector • Local government • EECA • NZTE • Sustainable Business Council • EPECentre/UC.	• Canterbury Transition to Low-emissions Plan • EECA–RETA.

Energy action in practice

Fonterra is supporting investment in new solar generation to encourage the growth of renewable energy in NZ and has entered into two separate long term virtual Power Purchase Agreements to support large-scale solar projects in Canterbury. One agreement underpins the development of a 42-megawatt Solar Farm near Rakaia, while the other supports a 129-megawatt Solar and Energy Storage Project in Darfield. These agreements reflect Fonterra's focus on securing reliable, cost-effective electricity, while supporting the continued development of New Zealand's energy infrastructure. They also contribute to Fonterra's broader efforts to reduce emissions and progress its programme of work on decarbonisation.

5.2 Support transport electrification and enabling infrastructure	Short – medium term (within 3 years)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Work with councils, transport agencies, network providers and industry to support the uptake of electric modes of transport and the infrastructure required to enable electrification across the region. Identify barriers and opportunities, work with partners to support coordinated development of charging infrastructure and electricity network capacity, and enable the electrification of passenger, public and freight transport. Prioritise underserved areas and key transport corridors.	A reliable, accessible charging network and sufficient electricity capacity are essential to support the transition to electric transport. Coordinated planning and investment can remove barriers, improve access across urban and rural areas, and ensure infrastructure is delivered efficiently. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Local government • Canterbury Mayoral Forum. **Key partners:** • Industry • Energy sector • Charging infrastructure providers • Public transport and freight operators • EECA • NZTA Waka Kotahi • EPECentre/UC.	• National rollout of new charging points • Canterbury Transition to Low-emissions Plan • Regional Land Transport Plan.

Energy action in practice

The Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury) is helping accelerate Canterbury's energy transition through the progressive electrification of the regional public transport fleet, with a commitment to achieving a fully zero-emission fleet by 2035. The Greater Christchurch Metro network now includes 71 electric vehicles (27% of the urban fleet), with the transition continuing across the region as the Timaru MyWay service moves to a fully electric fleet of 10 vehicles in 2026. The initiative demonstrates how councils can lead by example, reducing transport emissions, improving air quality and delivering wider community benefits through investment, innovation and partnerships.



Photo credit: Environment Canterbury

5.3 Support mode shift and integrated land use and transport planning	Short – medium term (within 3 years)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Support initiatives that enable mode shift, improve transport efficiency, and align transport planning and investment with land use planning and growth strategies. Such initiatives include: • improving public transport frequency, reliability and customer experience, including on-demand services • integrated land use and transport planning, including through spatial planning • travel demand management • consideration of freight movement and opportunities to support more efficient, lower-emissions freight transport. Build on existing transport, land use and growth planning across the region.	Better transport choices and integrated land use planning can reduce energy demand, reliance on private vehicles, emissions, congestion, and costs, while improving health and accessibility. Freight transport is also an important part of the transport energy transition. Together, these approaches help to create more sustainable, efficient, and connected communities. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Local government. **Key partners:** • NZTA Waka Kotahi • Central government • Property developers • Lincoln University • EPECentre/UC.	• Regional Spatial Planning • Regional Land Transport Plan • Regional Public Transport Plan.

Across the board

The table below identifies key cross-cutting actions that contribute to multiple strategic priorities across the Regional Energy Strategic Framework. The actions below support the delivery of many actions within this Action Plan.

6.1 Develop a regional energy information and data platform	Quick win/catalyst shift (within 1 year)
What this involves	**Why this matters**
Develop a regional approach to improving the availability, quality, and accessibility of energy information and data across Canterbury by: • Establishing an online platform for trusted information, guidance, tools, and resources, including case studies, good practice examples and lessons learnt • Working with regional and national partners to strengthen the regional energy evidence base and monitoring needed to support planning and investment decisions.	A shared source of consistent, reliable information would reduce duplication and support evidence-based decision-making by communities, industry and organisations. A stronger regional energy evidence base would also support scenario modelling, transport and land use planning, demand flexibility and investment, and provide a foundation for monitoring progress against the Regional Energy Action Plan. **Alignment to outcomes**
Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)	**Linkages/alignment**
Key leads: • Canterbury Mayoral Forum • Lincoln University • University of Canterbury. **Key partners:** • Energy sector • MBIE • EECA • Statistics NZ.	• Other regional and national data platforms.

6.2 Develop a regional energy evidence base to inform regional spatial planning

Quick win/catalyst shift (within 1 year)

What this involves

Identify the energy data and information needed to support regional spatial planning, review existing datasets and address key gaps. Develop a shared regional energy evidence base to inform strategic land use and infrastructure decisions, including mapping critical energy infrastructure, network capacity, constraints, renewable energy opportunities, and resilience considerations.

Why this matters

Robust, consistent energy data is essential for effective spatial planning and infrastructure decisions.

A shared regional evidence base can align land use and energy planning, identify constraints and opportunities, and support coordinated regional growth and investment. For example, it can help identify suitable locations for Renewable Energy Zones and other strategic energy infrastructure.

Alignment to outcomes

Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)

Key leads:

- Local government
- Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

Key partners:

- Energy sector
- Canterbury LifeLines Utilities Group.

Linkages/alignment

- Regional and District Plans
- Resilience Explorer.

6.3 Facilitate the development of a regional energy investment prospectus for Canterbury

Short – medium term (within 3 years)

What this involves

Facilitate the development of an energy investment prospectus for Canterbury that showcases priority regional energy opportunities. Draw on regional data, evidence and insights, alongside input from Invest New Zealand, the private sector, and other key stakeholders, to improve the visibility of investment opportunities, build investor confidence, and support private sector investment.

Publish key information online for domestic and international developers, strengthening Canterbury's position as a centre for energy innovation and investment.

Why this matters

Clear and coordinated investment signals can increase investor confidence, attract private sector capital, and reduce uncertainty. A regional investment prospectus provides a shared view of priority opportunities, helping coordinate investment and accelerate energy projects that support regional economic growth, resilience, and the energy transition.

Alignment to outcomes

Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)

Key leads:

- Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

Key partners:

- Invest New Zealand
- MBIE
- EECA
- Energy sector
- Academic Institutions
- Economic Development Agencies.

Linkages/alignment

- Canterbury Regional Deal/Investment Prospectus
- Waitaha Canterbury World-stage ready
- Canterbury Ambition
- South Canterbury Energy Prospectus.

6.4 Coordinate advocacy to advance regional energy outcomes

Short – medium term (within 3 years)

What this involves

Coordinate advocacy and submissions on agreed regional energy priorities and promote policies that advance energy outcomes for Canterbury. This could also help unlock funding and investment opportunities.

Work with interested organisations and communities to develop coordinated regional positions, strengthen relationships with national agencies and regulators, and support access to funding and investment opportunities.

Why this matters

A coordinated regional voice helps present clear, consistent regional priorities to government and other decision-makers. This can improve coordination, increase the visibility of regional priorities, and support better policy, funding, and investment outcomes for Canterbury.

Alignment to outcomes

Delivery agencies/key partners (TBC)

Key lead:

- Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

Key partners:

- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga
- Energy sector
- Industry
- Community groups
- Academic Institutions.

Linkages/alignment

- Canterbury Transition to Low-emissions Plan
- Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan.



What happens next?

Te Reo Heading

The actions outlined in this plan provide a strong foundation for delivery, but they are not exhaustive. As implementation progresses, there will be opportunities to refine, expand, and adapt actions in response to emerging priorities, new technologies, policy changes, and evolving regional needs.

The next stage will involve partners working together to confirm the scope and approach for each action, clarify roles and responsibilities, and identify the resources and funding needed to support delivery. Building on the work already captured in this Action Plan, this process will help ensure actions remain practical, achievable, and responsive to opportunities and changing needs across the region.

Monitoring and evaluation of the Energy Action Plan will focus on tracking progress against agreed actions, outcomes, and broader system impacts over time. A light-touch but structured approach will be used, drawing on a mix of quantitative indicators and qualitative insights from stakeholders.

Annual reporting will be used to highlight progress, emerging issues, and opportunities for adjustment, with periodic three-yearly reviews to assess progress towards the Strategic Framework vision and outcomes, review the continued relevance of priorities and actions, and identify any changes required in response to emerging opportunities and challenges. These reviews will also provide an opportunity to ensure the Action Plan remains effective and deliverable in an evolving policy, technology, and investment environment, and in the context of significant changes to local and central government roles and responsibilities.

Photo credit: Christchurch City Council



CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

Photo credit: Environment Canterbury

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 20 November 2026

Presented by: Hamish Riach, Chair Economic Development Forum
Jesse Burgess, Regional Deal working group

Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on development of the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus, including next steps, and the alignment with Business Canterbury's Canterbury Ambition. Also included is a brief summary of the Otago Central Lakes Deal that was signed on 7 October 2026.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **endorses the draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus Phase 1 report**

2. **provides feedback on the next stage of work for the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus**

3. **notes that it is expected that some external resource will be required to complete the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus**

4. **considers a $10,000 contribution to support Business Canterbury's Canterbury Ambition to demonstrate commitment to alignment of the Mayoral Forum and Business Canterbury workstreams**

Background

2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) confirmed its intention to continue with the development of a Canterbury Regional Deal proposal at the November 2025 meeting. To maintain progress, a scope of works was developed in early 2026 and approved by the Mayoral Forum in May 2026.

3. This scope reframed the Regional Deal as an investment prospectus[1] to support conversations across the political and private sectors, and position Canterbury as best we can to both a national and international audience. The working group has

[1] Noting that "investment" may relate to funding, finance, regulation, legislation, and/or policy levers.

approached this goal with central government as the primary audience and the private sector as a secondary audience.

4. This scope builds on the Mayoral Forum's work on *Waitaha Canterbury World-stage Ready* and the five pillars of housing, transport, infrastructure, energy, and innovation. It also provides room to address cross-cutting issues, like workforce skills and development, that affect all five pillars and different parts of the region.

5. The scope also considers the Canterbury Ambition, developed by Business Canterbury and supported by the Mayoral Forum through workshop attendance and a contribution of $30,000. The Canterbury Ambition has been referenced in both World-Stage Ready and the Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028 and is a key input into prospectus development.

6. The work to date has been developed in the context of wider local government reforms. It is intended to proceed on a 'no regrets' basis by delivering a concise but comprehensive economic development resource that will be useful to all parts of the region and remain relevant in the long term.

7. The strategic goal is to build an action-based partnership between Canterbury and central government that recognises the region's demonstrated economic strength and development potential, and gives Canterbury the tools it needs to maintain and accelerate its strong growth trajectory.

8. The current work programme follows a three-phase approach.
    - Phase 1 provides the detailed outline of the Prospectus, and the plan to fill in that outline.
    - Phase 2 will execute that plan, and deliver a Prospectus that will be the core of any future Regional Deal or other partnership arrangement with central government.
    - Phase 3 will explore subsequent modular packages focused on sectors outside the core Prospectus.

9. This approach was designed to manage resources prudently by using in-kind resources to keep the scale of this work proportionate to wider priorities and funding demands, while still supporting steady progress.

10. While the bulk of the Phase 1 work has been completed, some aspects, such as the communications and engagement plan, remain outstanding and will be incorporated into Phase 2.

Phase 1 report

11. The Phase 1 report (Attachment 1) provides the working group's advice on:
    - the outline of the Prospectus, including its scope, proposed audiences, priorities and outcomes, strategic narrative, and themes

- the process that will turn this outline into a pre-release draft of the Prospectus for the Mayoral Forum's consideration and approval during Phase 2.

12. Besides the core task of expanding the draft narrative into a full document, the key parts of the Phase 2 process will be to identify specific actions and investments that could be included in the Prospectus, engage with key stakeholders, and fill in any critical gaps in the evidence base.

Identifying investments under the pillars

13. The critical gap that Phase 2 will fill is confirming a set of "cornerstones" to sit at the heart of the Prospectus. These will be the shortlist of actions that are important enough to the region to be the must-haves for any case to central government or others.

14. The cornerstones will be the feasible, targeted actions any future Government could take in each pillar that will do the most to support Canterbury's current economic trajectory and long-term prosperity. They should include place-based opportunities from across Canterbury, so that the Prospectus is representative of the whole region.

15. Through Phase 2, the working group will work with councils and economic development agencies to scope a longlist of actions in each of the pillars that could be cornerstones. These will then be refined into the final shortlist of cornerstones to include in the Prospectus. That decision will sit with the Mayoral Forum.

16. To support that decision, the working group will assess the longlisted actions against key criteria grounded in the *Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028* and provide advice on how well they align with the intent of the Prospectus and the broader outcomes the Mayoral Forum is seeking.

17. It is not proposed that the working group perform a full ranking of all longlisted options. Rather, its advice will focus on identifying which best align with the purpose of the Prospectus, the "near-term / high impact" intent of the cornerstones, and the objective of building a regionally representative shortlist of key actions.

Communications and engagement

18. The working group still needs to develop a communications and engagement plan to guide engagement with partners, sectors, and stakeholders during and beyond Phase 2.

19. A key requirement for communications is to develop collateral for Mayoral Forum members to share with their councillors to build awareness, understanding and support for the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus.

20. Further than this, the plan will establish engagement protocols for key stakeholders as the prospectus is developed.

Filling evidence gaps

21. Through Phase 1, the working group has done early scoping of the evidence base available that the Prospectus could use to support the strategic case it will make to government for action in Canterbury.

22. In general, the region has a good body of evidence available to support the strategic case for investing in Canterbury. However, there may be a need to develop or further refine evidence for some aspects of the Prospectus, particularly where it attributes measurable benefits to specific investments or actions.

23. This consideration also applies strongly to the cornerstones. As the centrepiece of the Prospectus, they will need to be backed by evidence-based arguments that can convince central government to act. This will increase the likelihood of securing a good outcome for Canterbury.

24. The working group is reviewing the potential scope of any information gaps and will consider the need for further work to fill these as we proceed into Phase 2.

Anticipated timelines and resource needs for Phase 2

25. Subject to the Mayoral Forum's direction and approval of the Phase 1 report, the intent is to move straight into Phase 2 and progress development of the initial draft Prospectus for delivery in the first half of 2027.

26. Based on our work to date, we remain confident that we can deliver the majority of Phase 2 (approximately 80%) using in-kind resource, subject to the availability of council and economic development agency staff to support this work.

27. However, the working group considers specialised external resources necessary to make the Prospectus market-ready by the end of Phase 2, as this work exceeds available in-kind capacity and relevant expertise.

28. Based on understanding of the development of other regional deals, both locally and internationally, the specific external tasks may involve economic analysis, data analysis, development of business cases to support identified projects, external peer review, stakeholder engagement and workshop facilitation.

29. As the work on Phase 2 progresses, the working group will further refine the requirements and budget for external resources. Currently there is approximately $75,000 in the regional forums budget that could be allocated to this work.

Canterbury Ambition – Business Canterbury

30. Business Canterbury has held a number of workshops to progress development of their Briefing for Incoming Ministers (BIM), supporting the Canterbury Ambition based on five topics:
    - transport and infrastructure

- workforce, immigration and investment
- energy
- regulation and innovation
- housing and planning

31. Workshops have involved representatives from local government and private industry.

32. Their workshops have been focused on developing a clear ask for each topic, why it makes sense for Canterbury and what positive outcomes it will unlock for New Zealand.

33. Business Canterbury is aiming for a December completion date for their BIM.

34. The is a clear case for alignment between the Business Canterbury BIM, and the Mayoral Forum's BIM and the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus. To this end, the Chief Executives have recommended that the Mayoral Forum considers a $10,000 contribution to support Business Canterbury's Canterbury Ambition. There are unallocated funds in the existing regional forums budget.

Financial implications

35. We are confident that the remainder of Phase 1 and the majority of Phase 2 can be delivered with in-kind resources. However, there will be a need for some resource to do targeted work that exceeds the available capacity of in-kind resourcing.

36. As noted in paragraph 29, the working group will further refine the requirements and budget for external resources

Otago Central Lakes Deal – summary

37. The Otago Central Lakes Deal was signed on 7 October in Queenstown. An analysis of the Deal, and potential impacts for Canterbury is provided at Attachment 2.

Next steps

38. Subject to Mayoral Forum approval, work will continue to progress Phase 2 using in-kind resources, with the intention to bring an initial draft prospectus to the Mayoral Forum in the first half of 2027.

39. The Regional Deal Working group will develop collateral for Mayoral Forum members to share with their councillors to build awareness, understanding and support for the Canterbury Regional Deal.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus Phase 1 Report
- Attachment 2: Otago Central Lakes Deal - summary

Attachment 1: Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus Phase 1 Report

1. This paper provides the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) with the outputs of Phase 1 of this work programme. These are the outline of the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus (the Prospectus), and the proposed process to turn this outline into a final, market-ready product during Phase 2.

2. The first part of the paper covers the outline, which includes the scope, audience, priorities and outcomes, and strategic narrative of the Prospectus.

3. The second part provides the plan for Phase 2. This includes how the working group will identify investments that the Mayoral Forum could decide to include in the Prospectus, engage with key regional stakeholders during and beyond Phase 2, and fill any critical gaps in the evidence base.

Part 1: Outline of the Prospectus

4. Phase 1 has focused on confirming the broad scaffolding of the Prospectus, including:
    - its scope and key goals
    - the main audience it will aim to reach
    - a set of priorities and outcomes to improve its clarity and consistency
    - the strategic narrative and investment themes that will anchor the call to action made by the Prospectus.

Scope and goals

5. The Prospectus will aim to attract investment that will maintain and enhance Canterbury's economic trajectory while safeguarding its social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing. It should consider the full range of actions and opportunities across Canterbury that could unlock the region's economic development potential.

6. This may include investment of financial resources, potential changes to legislation and regulation, potential changes in practice by Ministers or government departments, possible devolution or delegation of certain powers and tools from central to local government, or different public-private co-investment models. For simplicity, the Prospectus will refer to these actions collectively as 'investment'.

7. The Prospectus will attract these investments by explaining the region's current strengths and highlighting the five investment pillars that will do the most to achieve this goal. This will support Canterbury in conversations across the public and private sectors by giving the region a compelling argument it can make for others to take action.

8. Following the example of the Auckland City Deal, a key goal of the Prospectus will be to form a partnership with central government that recognises Canterbury's size and

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significance within New Zealand, elevates its profile, and secures commitments for senior Government leadership to meet regularly with local leaders. This will give the region meaningful channels to inform the direction of government policy and ensure its interests are considered in national conversations.

9. This scope is wider than the focus other regions have taken on short-term financial commitments. While the Prospectus will reflect Canterbury's need for such investments, it will also look beyond any single Government's funding decisions and towards the other levers that could give the region more control over the outcomes it wants economic development to achieve.

Audience

10. The Prospectus will position the region to a range of audiences, including Government and other private or public sector audiences. These will be divided into primary and secondary audiences to keep the overall tone of the Prospectus consistent.

11. Central government will be the primary audience of the Prospectus, with the private sector and others being secondary audiences. This is because central government often holds most of the resources and levers that can influence the outcomes the Mayoral Forum is setting out to achieve.

12. The overall tone of the Prospectus will reflect this by framing investments in terms of their public benefits, linking the direct benefits for Canterbury's communities with the wider benefits for the rest of the country. This will strengthen the case to central government by showing how actions targeted at Canterbury can help improve national outcomes.

13. Within the region, it will show how partnership with local government can support improved social outcomes as well as economic growth. Beyond Canterbury, it can highlight where those gains extend to the rest of New Zealand, creating a clear rationale for central government to take the actions the region will seek through the Prospectus.

14. The secondary focus on the private sector recognises the key role businesses will play in realising the region's growth opportunities, alongside the importance of central and local government creating an enabling environment that gives them the confidence to invest. The Prospectus will highlight where opportunities exist across the investment themes that the private sector may wish to support, without directly picking winners.

Priorities and outcomes

15. The Prospectus work stemmed from the Mayoral Forum's work to progress the 'shared prosperity for all our communities' area of the *Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028* through the development of *Waitaha Canterbury World-stage Ready* (*World-stage Ready*).

16. Using *World-stage Ready* and other Mayoral Forum documents as the starting point, Phase 1 has defined:

    - a strategic vision that outlines what kind of region Canterbury aspires to be

- the outcomes that the Mayoral Forum wants economic development to achieve
- the regional priorities that actions in the Prospectus should pursue and reflect.

17. These features will improve the overall coherence of the Prospectus by providing a balanced and consistent basis for selecting investments, explaining why these investments matter in terms of the region's current priorities, and demonstrating how they will contribute to the Mayoral Forum's long-term vision and desired outcomes.

Strategic vision

18. The vision statement "A strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life for all", as articulated in the Mayoral Forum's *Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028*, provides a clear and comprehensive direction for the narrative and contents of the Prospectus to build towards. The strategic narrative has been drafted to reflect this long-term goal.

Outcomes

19. The outcomes that sit underneath the strategic vision help explain what this vision looks like for Canterbury. Capturing the range of regional interests that should be supported by advocacy and action will help to understand what enhanced economic development looks like for Canterbury.

Table 1: Vision outcomes for Canterbury in *Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028*

Strong partnerships with mana whenua	Accelerated sustainable and inclusive economic growth	Climate-resilient, future ready infrastructure
Diverse, affordable, quality housing and choices for a growing population	Equitable transition to a low-emissions, renewable energy future	A strong tourism sector supported by resilient infrastructure and appropriate regulatory funding tools
Working with the private sector on growth opportunities	A well-functioning local government sector	Great communities

Priorities

20. The core priority in *World-stage Ready* to supercharge Canterbury's economic development by partnering with central government, the private sector, and others on the five key pillars of transport, housing, infrastructure, energy, and innovation sets the tone for the Prospectus and anchors the investments it will highlight to its audiences.

21. The priorities in *Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028* reinforce this by explaining how the region can pursue the vision and outcomes in the way that will have the most impact:

- strengthening shared prosperity for all our communities
- sustainable environmental management of our habitats (land, air, water and ecosystems)
- preparing communities for climate change.

22. These priorities reinforce the core economic development argument by describing what kind of actions and investments should be included in each pillar of the Prospectus, and explaining how these will enable Canterbury to achieve its vision and desired outcomes.

Strategic narrative and investment themes

23. The strategic narrative, summarised in Table 2, lays out all the pieces of the argument the Prospectus will make to central government and others on behalf of the region.

Table 2: Proposed structure and strategic narrative of the Prospectus

Section	Purpose and contents
Context and conditions	***What is Canterbury's context?*** Outlines Canterbury's background and existing asset base. Broadly covers the natural, financial, built, social, and human factors (including lifestyle) specific to the region.
Economic advantages and potential	***What does Canterbury do well, and where else can it grow in future?*** Explains how Canterbury's asset base has led to certain competitive advantages and its existing economic strengths. Highlights where these are already on display and identifies emerging areas with strong potential.
Regional vision	***What kind of region does Canterbury want to become?*** Clearly states the vision of the future Canterbury wants economic development to build towards. Defines the objectives and outcomes that will tell us we are on track to achieve that vision. This will highlight the important matters for Cantabrians and what it wants to hold onto as the region grows.
Regional value proposition	***What is the specific Canterbury opportunity?*** Building on previous sections, sets out the specific value proposition that distinguishes the region nationally and globally, and answers the question of what unique opportunity Canterbury offers to government and others.
Obstacles	***What is stopping Canterbury from taking advantage of its full potential?*** Identifies the obstacles and issues preventing the region from taking advantage of its potential, and the costs of inaction that should motivate central government to act. Helps define what interventions might be needed to shift the dial.

Strategic investment priorities	***Where should investment in Canterbury focus, and why?*** Identifies the five pillars as the priority areas for investment that will maintain and enhance Canterbury's advantages. For audiences drawn in by the value proposition, this will encourage them to invest in a way that adds optimal value to the region, giving Canterbury what it most needs.
Pillar-specific stories	***What is the self-contained story told by each pillar?*** Sets out the five self-contained investment stories, each covering: • Definition: what topics like "innovation" or "infrastructure" mean • Context: the current state of play in Canterbury • Opportunities and challenges: what is possible and what stands in the way • Actions: specific asks (interventions, investments) to effect change, including cornerstone projects • Impacts: what outcomes these actions and changes will achieve • Delivery and measures: how we will get there and how we will know
Intervention logic	***How will action in these pillars translate into outcomes?*** Pulls these stories together to explain why they work best as a joined-up package, and how they reinforce each other. Explains to central government how the actions sought will directly support public benefits, including economic and social outcomes. Also highlights where these public benefit actions could be a catalyst for wider private sector-led investment and activity. This will focus on providing an enabling environment that increases business confidence.
Partnering for delivery	***How will everyone work together to deliver this vision?*** Explains how the network of relationships in Canterbury between local government, the private sector, mana whenua, and the wider community will support delivery of this approach to development. Sets Canterbury up to negotiate an enhanced partnership with central government, based on this action-oriented approach.
Call to action	***What action does Canterbury want its audiences to take now?*** The specific, immediate asks the region is proposing its different audiences take to help unlock the opportunities. These asks could include a mixture of smaller, practical first steps to get those audiences to approach and partner with the region (e.g. through starting negotiations on a Regional Deal or other private sector-focused approaches) and more concrete requests to support specific key projects that are deliverable and will help build momentum.

24. The primary focus of this argument is to explain to central government the need to empower Canterbury with specific tools and resources (the investments) so that it can maintain and accelerate its strong growth trajectory and deliver economic and other outcomes, within and outside the region.

25. A secondary focus will be explaining how these tools will support Canterbury's local leadership to provide the enabling environment and long-term certainty the private sector needs to make its own complementary investments. This is particularly important for the innovative sectors that will lift productivity and supercharge the region's economy in the long term.

26. The five investment themes of *World-stage Ready* will sit at the heart of this narrative. These capture the economic development issues that matter most right now and in the long term, are simple enough to be easily understood by audiences outside Canterbury, and are relevant to every part of the region while still having space to talk about the different needs and opportunities of specific districts and communities.

27. Using these themes will enable the Prospectus to showcase Canterbury's local variation in a way that can be understood easily by government, allowing the Mayoral Forum's single regional voice to raise local priorities to the national level.

Part 2: how Phase 2 will build the Prospectus

28. Phase 2 of this work programme will turn the outline developed in Phase 1 into a final, market-ready Prospectus that the Mayoral Forum can present to the government and private investors.

29. The core task will be to add the content that will turn the outline in Table 2 into a document-length narrative. Much of the content needed to do this is already available, based on the extensive body of strategic and economic development work across the region and the economic evidence available.

30. However, there remains some critical gaps that Phase 2 will need to address to deliver a complete prospectus. This work sits under three key tasks:

    - identifying the specific actions and investments the Prospectus will include
    - engagement with key stakeholders
    - filling in any gaps in the evidence base that add essential value.

How investments under the pillars will be identified

31. The scope of works noted that the market-ready Prospectus delivered at the end of Phase 2 would include "cornerstone" projects. These will be the feasible, targeted actions any future Government could take in each pillar that will do the most to support Canterbury's current economic trajectory and long-term prosperity.

32. In effect, the cornerstones will be the shortlist of actions that are important enough to Canterbury to be the must-have items in any investment discussion with central government or others. Confirming what goes into that set of items will be the most important gap to fill in Phase 2.

33. The working group will work with councils and economic development agencies to scope a longlist of actions in each of the pillars that could be good cornerstones. Some items that could populate the longlist are already known, particularly in pillars like housing and energy where the Mayoral Forum has completed in-depth strategic pieces of work to identify issues and solutions across Canterbury.

34. The working group will draw upon this existing thinking to build the longlist, while also taking care to uncover any potential investments that have not been identified in Phase 1. The longlist will then be refined down into the final shortlist of cornerstones that will sit at the heart of the Prospectus. That decision will sit with the Mayoral Forum.

35. To support that decision, the working group will assess the longlisted actions against key criteria grounded in the strategic vision, priorities, and outcomes, and provide advice on how well the actions align with the intent of the Prospectus and the broader outcomes the Mayoral Forum is seeking.

36. It is not proposed that the working group perform a full ranking of all longlisted options. Rather, its advice will focus on identifying which best align with the purpose of the Prospectus, the intent of the cornerstones, and the objective of building a regionally representative shortlist of key actions.

37. This process will also consider how to showcase different place-based opportunities across Canterbury, so that the Prospectus is a regionally representative document. This will be important to ensure the broad pillars accurately capture specific local issues and solutions. The Prospectus should articulate that one-size-fits-all solutions will not serve all parts of the region well.

Communications and engagement

38. A communications and engagement plan will be developed to govern engagement with partners, sectors, and stakeholders during and beyond Phase 2. This was unable to be developed during Phase 1.

39. The plan will establish engagement protocols with key regional stakeholders during and beyond Phase 2.

Identifying and addressing any evidence gaps

40. Through Phase 1, the working group has reviewed the evidence base available to support the strategic case for increased government investment in Canterbury. In general, there is a good body of evidence available to support the strategic case for investing in Canterbury.

41. There may be a need to develop or further refine evidence for some aspects of the Prospectus, particularly regarding the cornerstones. As the centrepiece of the Prospectus, they will need to be backed by evidence-based arguments that can convince central government to act.

42. Being able to demonstrate how specific investments and actions will deliver measure benefits (e.g. impacts on employment or GDP) will increase the likelihood of securing a good outcome for Canterbury.

43. The working group is reviewing the potential scope of any information gaps and will consider the possible need for further work to fill these as Phase 2 gets underway.

44. Some information gaps may not be critical for the overall success of the Prospectus. Targeted work will be prioritised where it gives the Prospectus analytical heft and credibility with key audiences. Two possible areas include detailed economic analysis of specific cornerstone investments, and expert peer review of the Prospectus.

Projected timelines and resource needs for Phase 2

45. Subject to the Mayoral Forum's direction and approval of the outline and process detailed in this report, the intent is to move straight into Phase 2 and progress development of the draft Prospectus for delivery in the first half of 2027.

46. Based on the work undertaken in Phase 1, the working group estimates that the majority of Phase 2 work (approximately 80%) can be delivered with in-kind resource. This estimate is subject to the availability of council and economic development agency staff to support this work.

47. However, the working group considers specialised external resources necessary to make the Prospectus market-ready by the end of Phase 2, as this work exceeds available in-kind capacity.

48. Based on understanding of the development of other regional deals, both locally and internationally, the specific external tasks may involve economic analysis, data analysis, development of business cases to support identified projects, external peer review, stakeholder engagement and workshop facilitation.

49. As the work on Phase 2 progresses, the working group will further refine the requirements and budget for external resources.

50. These pieces of work will give the Prospectus analytical heft and improve its credibility with key audiences.

Attachment 2: Analysis of the Otago Central Lakes Deal

1. On 7 October 2026, the Otago Central Lakes Deal was signed between central government and the Otago Central Lakes sub-region (comprising Queenstown Lakes District Council, Central Otago District Council, and Otago Regional Council).

2. This Deal has few differences with the Auckland or Western Bay of Plenty Deals. Like them, it is based on a partnership between central government and the sub-region that builds on existing collaboration and governance mechanisms (in this case, by replacing the existing Urban Growth Partnership) and sets expectations around how they will work together on key issues over the next 10 years.

3. It largely groups together and restates the Government's support for pieces of work that were already underway, does not include any new funding commitments, and does not firmly commit the Government to any specific new policy direction or revenue tools. Any commitments to explore changes in the sub-region's priority areas are conditional on further policy work, and central government could leave existing settings in place.

4. As summarised below in Table 1, the key areas and priorities are similar to the other Deals. There is some overlap with sectors important to Canterbury, particularly tourism and, to a lesser extent, innovation and agricultural productivity. Unlike the earlier Deals, though, recognition of the sub-region as a centre of excellence for tourism productivity notes that successful initiatives will be expanded nationally.

5. Like Auckland, Otago Central Lakes commits to explore asset recycling on a case-by-case basis, where it is seeking new central government funding above BAU. This remains far below the level of commitment in the Western Bay of Plenty Deal.

6. Like the other Deals, the main value of the Otago Central Lakes Deal is an enhanced partnership with central government. It tailors this to Otago Central Lakes by recognising the impact of tourism growth and Fast Track decisions on the sub-region. It also specifies how government agencies will support key industries like tourism and film, largely through process improvements to their existing functions. The Inland Otago chapter of the Otago Regional Spatial Plan is central to this partnership.

7. Like Auckland, the Deal also includes regular six-monthly meetings between Responsible Ministers and the Mayors and Chair of Otago Central Lakes to discuss progress. It does not include Auckland's Prime Ministerial meetings. The only other difference in the enhanced partnership is that the Otago Central Lakes Deal Oversight Board includes "appropriate representatives" from government agencies, while the Auckland and Western Bay of Plenty Deals list specific senior officials.

Implications for Canterbury

8. Like the previous Deals, the Otago Central Lakes Deal does not rule out Crown investment in other regions. While some projects are named as potential candidates for funding, nothing in the Deal automatically guarantees they will be selected or funded

ahead of other regions, and they will remain subject to standard government funding decisions and processes.

9. While there is some overlap with the Mayoral Forum's priorities, Canterbury may stand to benefit from the commitment to replicate successful initiatives elsewhere. Overall, the Otago Central Lakes Deal reinforces the previous impression that these Deals are not zero-sum equations, do not make Canterbury worse off and could offer indirect benefits.

10. However, this Deal may reinforce the previous impression that central government is giving its relationship with Auckland a much higher profile than other regions and sub-regions, possibly due to the difference in scale. This makes it prudent to continue advocating strongly for Canterbury's interests to ensure the relationship with central government reflects the significance of the region's contribution to New Zealand.

Table 1: City and Regional Deals signed to date

	Auckland	**Western Bay of Plenty**	**Otago Central Lakes**
Economic outcome targets	Increase regional GDP growth by 2.9% by 2045	Increase regional GDP growth by 4.6% through to 2035	Increase regional GDP growth by 5.6% through to 2035
	Contribute **an additional** $21.6 billion to the New Zealand economy	Contribute $21.6 billion **(overall)** to the New Zealand economy	Contribute $12 billion **(overall)** to the New Zealand economy
Meetings between local and national leaders	Mayor and Prime Minister: three times per year in Auckland Responsible Ministers and Councillors: at least every six months	None specified	Responsible Ministers and Mayors and Chair: every six months
New funding	Approximately $11 million	N/A	N/A
Other signals	Recognises Auckland as a centre for innovation, Eden Park as National Stadium of New Zealand	None specified	Designates Otago Central Lakes a centre for excellence for tourism productivity research
Key areas and priorities	Partnership for growth	Partnership for growth	Partnership for growth
	Innovation, technology, and science	Transport infrastructure	Provision of health services
	Trade and investment	Land and housing development	Energy resilience and innovation
	Transport as an enabler of growth	Social infrastructure	Affordable housing
	Environment and harbour	Export growth	Attracting investment
	Urban development	Economic diversification	Enabling key sectors
	Priority growth areas	Governance	Reliable transport
	Other enablers, including new funding and financing tools	Other enablers of growth	Funding and financing mechanisms to enable growth

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 20 November 2026

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 the last Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting on 28 August 2026.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **receives the quarterly report from the Chief Executives Forum**
2. **notes the 2027 Canterbury Mayoral Forum calendar**

Regional Forums activity

2. Since the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's August 2026 meeting:
   - the Communications and Engagement Forum met in person on 11 September
   - the Corporate and Operations Forum met online on 14 September
   - the Economic Development and Policy Forums met in person on 18 September
   - the Chief Executives Forum met on 19 October 2026.

Chief Executives Forum

3. Key agenda items discussed at the 19 October meeting are noted below. Excluding the Davison report and the Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill discussion, these items are included in the 20 November Mayoral Forum agenda.
   - a discussion on External review into the Mount Beachside Holiday Park landslide (Davison Report) and implications for councils' management of known risks on council land and facilities
   - preparation of a Mayoral Forum submission on the Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill
   - an update from Sarah Polaschek, Partnership Director Local Government, MCERT on the current status of the Simplifying Local Government programme and the Ministry's organisational restructure
   - a Regional Public Service Commission update, including H5N1 avian influenza preparedness, engagement with council leadership teams, involvement in

addressing health workforce pressures, children and youth attendance initiatives, housing and homelessness action planning and supporting the regional energy workstream

- Waitaha Canterbury Regional Energy Workstream
- Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan
- Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus
- Canterbury Water Management Strategy

4. Chief Executives will meet next on 25 January 2027.

Triennium strategic workplan

5. The Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028 highlights ten specific actions against the three priority issues of strengthening shared prosperity for all our communities; sustainable environmental management of our habitats (land, air, water and ecosystems) and preparing communities for climate change.

6. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2025-2028 has been developed to monitor progress on the actions and will be updated with high-level commentary and reported quarterly to the Mayoral Forum (see Attachment 1).

7. To support the strategic workplan, the Chief Executives Forum uses a workstream tracker to track and report on progress of the range of initiatives under way that sit under each of the Plan for Canterbury's action areas. The workstream tracker also tracks progress against key projects and programmes from the regional forums. The workstream tracker is updated and reported quarterly to the Chief Executives Forum.

8. 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.

Draft 2027 Canterbury Mayoral Forum calendar

9. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum calendar for 2027 is attached for information. Mayoral Forum and other regional forum 2027 meeting invitations have been sent to members.

Attachments

- **Attachment 1:** Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2025-2028
- **Attachment 2:** 2027 Canterbury Mayoral Forum calendar

Canterbury Mayoral Forum strategic workplan 2025-2028

Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028

			Update	Objectives	Outcomes
1	Provide leadership for Canterbury through central government reforms, including the development of the regional spatial plan	Sustainable environment Shared Prosperity Climate Change	**Submissions** Rates Target Model for New Zealand Natural Environment and Planning Bills Emergency Management Bill (No 2) 2026 Simplifying Local Government proposal Building Amendment Act Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Act **Regional Spatial Plan** Chief Executive Steering Group established Regional Spatial Plan Committee nominations received - first meeting scheduled 19 Nov 2026 Agenda item 7.1 Aug 2026	Ensure Canterbury's voice is heard by central government through the reform processes Ensure Canterbury delivers a fit-for-purpose Spatial Plan within the legislated timeframes	
2	Advocate with government to address the chronic underinvestment by central government in Canterbury's transport network	Shared prosperity	Ongoing advocacy to Central Government from Chair Regional Transport Committee and South Island Regional Transport Chairs	Increased share of the NLTF for Canterbury to reflect the contribution of Waitaha Canterbury to New Zealand	
3	Work with the region's Economic Development Agencies to encourage and advocate for economic development opportunities for investment in our regional economy	Shared prosperity	Waitaha Canterbury Regional Investment Prospectus under development CMF Agenda item 6.5 Nov 2026	Ensure Canterbury is at the forefront of economic development, investment and growth opportunites Grow, attract and retain a skilled workforce	
4	Advocate for a centrally coordinated workforce skills and development plan to minimise known/forecast skills gaps through training pathways, foster business growth and support employment opportunities for Cantabrians and New Zealanders	Shared prosperity	Included in Canterbury Mayoral Forum Delivering for New Zealand elevator pitch - will be included in pre- and post- election briefing CMF Agenda item 2.1 Nov 2026	Understanding of future industry skills needs and a plan to address them, resulting in an uplift in wages and incomes	
5	Support the region to foster partnerships and advocate to improve our energy security and systems	Shared prosperity	Energy Strategic Framework and draft Energy Action Plan CMF Agenda item 6.4 Nov 2026 To be included in pre- and post- election briefings	A secure energy sector that supports opportunites for the region and remains at the forefront of an energy transition to attract and retain talent, investment and technologies	
6	Continue oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy	Sustainable environment	CMF Agenda Item 6.1 Nov 2026	Continued local collaboration to support ongoing implemetnaton of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy	
7	Continue to support Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa in advocating for enduring government co-investment in river and flood management	Sustainable environment Shared prosperity	CMF Agenda Item 2.1 Nov 2026 To be included in pre- and post- election briefings	Enduring and on-going Central Government co-invesetment in river and flood management	
8	Support the Biodiveristy Champions as a key conduit for a shared regional approach to biodiversity	Sustainable environment	Work is progressing with Biodiversity Champions and supporting TA staff on shared regional biodiversity priorities for potential Long-Term Plan consideration - CMF Agenda Item 6.2 Nov 2026 CMF Agenda Item 6.2 Nov 2026	Biodiversity is promoted and woven through Canterbury's living and working landscapes	
9	Support the Biosecurity Advisory Groups a for a for working together to poromote and encourage community involvement in pest management in Waitaha Canterbury	Sustainable environment	To be included in pre- and post- election briefings	Community involvement in pest management proivding advice and feedback on pest management work	
10	Oversee implementation of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan	Climate Change	CMF Agenda Item 6.3 Nov 2026	Deliver Climate Change Actions	

Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Greater Christchurch Partnership meeting dates 2027

As at 15 September 2026.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
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f	1 New Year's Day	5	5 GCPC	2	7	4	2	6	3 GCPC	1	5	3 SOG CCEF	f
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s	3	7	7	4	9	6	4	8	5	3	7	5	s
m	4 Public Holiday	8 Waitangi Day (observ)	8	5	10	7 Kings Birthday	5	9	6	4	8	6 CCF and COF	m
t	5	9 CEAG	9	6	11	8	6	10 CEAG	7	5	9	7	t
w	6	10	10	7	12 LGNZ R & P Sector	9	7	11	8	6	10	8	w
t	7	11 LGNZ NC (online)	11	8	13 LGNZ Sector groups	10	8	12	9	7	11 LGNZ Reg Sector	9	t
f	8	12 LGNZ NC (online)	12 SOG CCEF LGNZ Nat Cl (online)	9	14 LGNZ Reg Sector	11 SOG CCEF	9	13 LGNZ NC (online)	10 SOG CCEF	8	12 Canterbury Anniversary Day LGNZ Reg Sector	10 CEDF and CPF LGNZ Nat Cl (online)	f
s	9	13	13	10	15	12	10	14	11	9	13	11	s
s	10	14	14	11	16	13	11	15	12	10	14	12	s
m	11	15	15 CCF and COF	12 TMG/PMG	17 TMG/PMG	14CCF & COF	12 TMG/PMG	16 TMG/PMG	13 CCF & COF	11 TMG/PMG	15	13 TMG/PMG	m
t	12	16	16	13	18	15	13	17	14	12	16	14	t
w	13	17	17	14	19	16	14	18	15	13	17	15	w
t	14	18 CMF Dinner	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	14	18 CMF Dinner	16	t
f	15	19 Mayoral Forum	19 CEDF & CPF	16	21	18 CEDF & CPF LGNZ NC	16	20	17 CEDF & CPF LGNZ NC	15	19 Mayoral Forum	17	f
s	16	20	20	17	22	19	17	21	18	16	20	18	s
s	17	21	21	18	23	20	18	22	19	17	21	19	s
m	18 TMG/PMG	22 TMG/PMG	22 TMG/PMG	19	24	21 TMG/PMG	19 LGNZ NC	23	20 TMG/PMG	18 CE Forum	22 TMG/PMG	20	m
t	19	23	23	20	25	22	20	24	21	19	23	21	t
w	20	24 LGNZ AoLG	24	21	26	23	21	25	22	20	24 LGNZ R & P	22	w
t	21	25 LGNZ Sector grps	25	22	27 CMF dinner	24	22	26 CMF dinner	23	21	25 LGNZ R & P	23	t
f	22 SOG / PA SOG	26	26 Good Friday	23	28 Mayoral Forum	25 Matariki	23 SOG / PA SOG	27 Mayoral Forum	24	22 SOG / PA SOG	26 GCPC OTP review?	24	f
s	23	27	27	24	29	26	24	28	25	23	27	25 Christmas Day	s
s	24	28	28	25	30	27	25	29	26	24	28	26 Boxing Day	s
m	25 CE Forum		29 Easter Monday	26 ANZAC Day	31	28	26 LGNZ SuperLocal	30	27	25 Labour Day	29	27 Christmas Day (observed)	m
t	26		30	27		29	27 LGNZ SuperLocal	31	28	26	30	28 Boxing Day (observed)	t
w	27		31	28		30	28 LGNZ SuperLocal		29	27		29	w
t	28			29			29 LGNZ SuperLocal		30	28		30	t
f	29			30 SOG / PA SOG LGNZ Nat Cl			30 LGNZ SuperLocal			29 LGNZ NC (online)		31	f
s	30						31			30			s
s	31									31			s

Canterbury Mayoral Forum	
Group	**Membership**
Mayoral Forum	Canterbury mayors, Canterbury regional council chair, Canterbury council chief execs
CEs Forum	Canterbury council chief executives
CEDF (Economic Development Forum)	One Canterbury council CE and economic development reps from Canterbury councils
CPF (Policy Forum)	One Canterbury council CE and policy managers from Canterbury councils
CCF (Corporate Forum)	One Canterbury council CE and corporate managers from Canterbury councils
CCEF (Communications and Engagement Forum)	One Canterbury council CE and communications managers from Canterbury councils

Greater Christchurch Partnership		Agenda distribution –one week prior.
Group	**Membership**	**Frequency**
Partner Governance	All mayors, councillors, mana whenua and CEs of the GCP Partners	6 monthly
GCPC (GCP Committee)	GCP Committee members (mayors and two councillors, three mana whenua governors, One representation each for Te Whatu Ora and NZTA)	6 monthly
UGP (Urban Growth Partnership)	GCP Committee members, plus two ministers	6 monthly
CEAG (Chief Executives Advisory	Greater Christchurch chief executives (4.30-6.30pm)	6 monthly
SOG (Senior Officials Group) PA SOG (Priority Area SOG)	Greater Christchurch partner senior officials (9am-12pm) Bi-monthly Greater Christchurch partner senior officials and MoE (11-12pm)	Bi-Monthly Quarterly
TMG (Transport Managers Group) PMG (Planning Managers Group)	Officer level groups	Monthly

Local Government New Zealand	
Group	**Membership**
LGNZ National Council	Dan Gordon (Zone 5) Dr Deon Swiggs (Regional Sector)
LGNZ Regional	Environment Canterbury chair and CE
LGNZ R&P (Rural & Provincial)	All council mayors and CEs except Christchurch
LGNZ Conference	All council mayors and CEs except Christchurch
LGNZ CE Forum	
LGNZ Metro	

Other		
Council meeting days (note that councils often have committees on other days and may not meet every week)		
Tuesday	Hurunui, Mackenzie, Timaru, Waimakariri, Waimate, Waitaki	
Wednesday	Ashburton, Kaikōura, Selwyn, Christchurch City, Environment Canterbury	
School holidays		

UNCLASSIFIED

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 20 November 2026

Presented by: Secretariat

Activities and Engagements

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 28 August 2026.

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 28 August 2026.**

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 Mayoral Forum hosted a meeting for all Canterbury councillors on 11 September to hear an update from Ministry for Primary Industries on the Avian Influenza H5N1.

Correspondence

4. Incoming correspondence

   - responses from MP's Candidates, Party leaders regarding the invitation to meet with Canterbury Mayors (refer Attachment 1).

5. Outgoing correspondence

   - Invitation dated 9 October 2026 to leaders of New Zealand political parties, local MP's and candidates to meet with Canterbury Mayoral Forum members to outline key regional matters that require central government attention, and opportunities for central government to invest in the Canterbury region. Due to time constraints and prior commitments, meetings did not go ahead prior to the general election. (Attachment 1)

- Invitation to successful Canterbury electorate and Canterbury based List Members of Parliament to join the Canterbury Mayoral Forum for lunch following the Mayoral Forum meeting on 20 November - an opportunity to build relationships, discuss regional priorities, and explore how local and central government can work together. (Attachment 2)

Submissions

6. A submission on the Building Amendment Bill closing date 15 Nov (Attachment 3)

7. A submission on the Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill is being prepared. The closing date is 1 December 2026.

8. Submissions are generally available on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website: www.canterburymayors.org.nz.

Briefings

9. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum hosts a webinar for all Canterbury councillors following the quarterly forum meetings to provide an update on matters discussed at the meeting.

Media Release

10. Proactive media releases are generally available on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website: www.canterburymayors.org.nz.

Attachments

- **Attachment 1:** Invitation to leaders of New Zealand political parties, local MP's and candidates
- **Attachment 2:** Invitation to Canterbury MP's - CMF lunch
- **Attachment 3:** Building Amendment Act submission

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

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

9 October 2026

«Title» «First_name» «Last_name»

By email: «email»

Tēnā koe «First_name»

Canterbury and its continued success – invitation to meet

Canterbury is leading New Zealand's growth, productivity and resilience.

As Canterbury's elected leaders, we know this region. We're clear on what's needed to maintain this momentum, and we know Canterbury is at the heart of New Zealand's economic recovery.

Growth does not happen on its own; sustaining and managing the benefits of strong economic and population growth requires action from central and local government.

As one of the country's fastest growing regions, Canterbury contributes over 12 percent of national GDP, 15 percent of New Zealand's exports, almost half of all South Island freight movements, and nationally significant food and fibre, manufacturing, tourism and innovation sectors.

These contributions support national priorities by increasing economic productivity, supporting export growth, improving housing availability, strengthening supply chain resilience, enabling workforce and population growth, and strengthening regional and national resilience.

Councils across Canterbury are already investing heavily in transport networks, growth infrastructure, water services, flood protection, housing planning and regional development to deliver these outcomes.

We'd love to meet with you

{As a Member of Parliament representing Canterbury}, or **{As a candidate for a Canterbury electorate}**, Mayoral Forum members would welcome the opportunity to meet with you while you are on the campaign trail across Canterbury to discuss how we can, collectively, continue this positive trajectory.

We have developed the attached one-pager – *Canterbury Mayoral Forum – delivering for New Zealand* – which sets out how we are contributing to the national story and how Central Government can invest in the region to continue this trajectory.

Key issues that need to be addressed:

A rebalanced Government Policy Statement on land transport so investment in the South Island better reflects our contributions and supports our continued growth through accelerated investment in strategic transport and freight corridors and Greater Christchurch public transport, mass rapid transit and growth

- Canterbury is growing fast; investment in Canterbury's transport networks will back New Zealand's growth, with the corollary that underinvestment threatens to stamp out the economic green shoots. Rebalanced transport funding is not a regional favour; it is a national productivity investment.
- In 2025, Canterbury contributed over 12 percent ($56 billion) towards New Zealand's GDP, with 14 percent of New Zealand's vehicle-kilometres-travelled (VKT) chipping into the National Land Transport Fund and 15 percent of New Zealand's goods exports using our transport networks. Despite this, Canterbury only received 5.5 percent of NLTF funding. In many cases the fragility of these transport networks means disruption causes cascading impacts across society and the economy: the detour around the Kaikōura flooding in July added two hours to the trip north from Christchurch.

Local government funding and financing so that whoever delivers a service has access to the funding they need to make it happen

- Local government is responsible for the fundamentals that prosperous, resilient communities and economies rely on. Civic infrastructure, flood management, transport networks are all essential for our regions and cities, and they are increasingly hard to deliver with existing revenue tools, especially when central government increasingly expects more costs to be covered by local government, through unfunded mandates, reform transition costs and the impact of rates constraints.
- Where we're asked to do something, we and our communities need the funding and financing tools to deliver.

Baseline flood resilience funding to strengthen resilience through stable central government co-investment

- Flooding is New Zealand's most frequent and costly natural hazard, and climate change is making flooding more common, severe, and unpredictable. We know this only too well: the July 2026 floods in Kaikōura cost around $30 million, while nationwide the average annual cost to infrastructure from flooding is $446 million.
- Around 750,000 New Zealanders live in flood-prone areas and critical infrastructure worth billions of dollars depends on functioning flood protection schemes.
- Flood resilience is a solid investment: $1 of prevention generally saves at least $5 of recovery.
- Enduring long-term co-investment recognises that the impacts of weather events and the benefits of flood protection are experienced by both local communities and the Crown. Local government is a proven and trusted delivery partner for flood resilience works.

Co-ordinated workforce and skills investment to support increasing demand across construction, infrastructure and emerging industry sectors

- More people participating in sustainable employment will support increased productivity, stronger workforce capability and continue to build on the growth, productivity and resilience of Canterbury. Multiple stakeholders, including central government agencies, local government, and business representative groups are currently seeking insights into future workforce requirements and emerging skill needs.
- A centralised approach, alongside regional co-ordination, would create a shared understanding of regional labour market demand, improvement alignment across agencies and sectors, and provide the evidence base required to inform workforce planning and skills development priorities.

Canterbury is ready to continue working alongside Government, mana whenua and the private sector to help deliver practical, nationally significant outcomes for New Zealand communities and the wider economy, and we need to work together.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum – delivering for New Zealand also includes our individual contact details so get in touch when you are in our area or contact our secretariat Maree McNeilly (secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz, or 027 381 8924) to make arrangements.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Chair Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Mayor Timaru District Council

Encl. Canterbury Mayoral Forum – delivering for New Zealand

Further information:

- Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2026-2028
- Waitaha Canterbury World-Stage ready

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Delivering for New Zealand

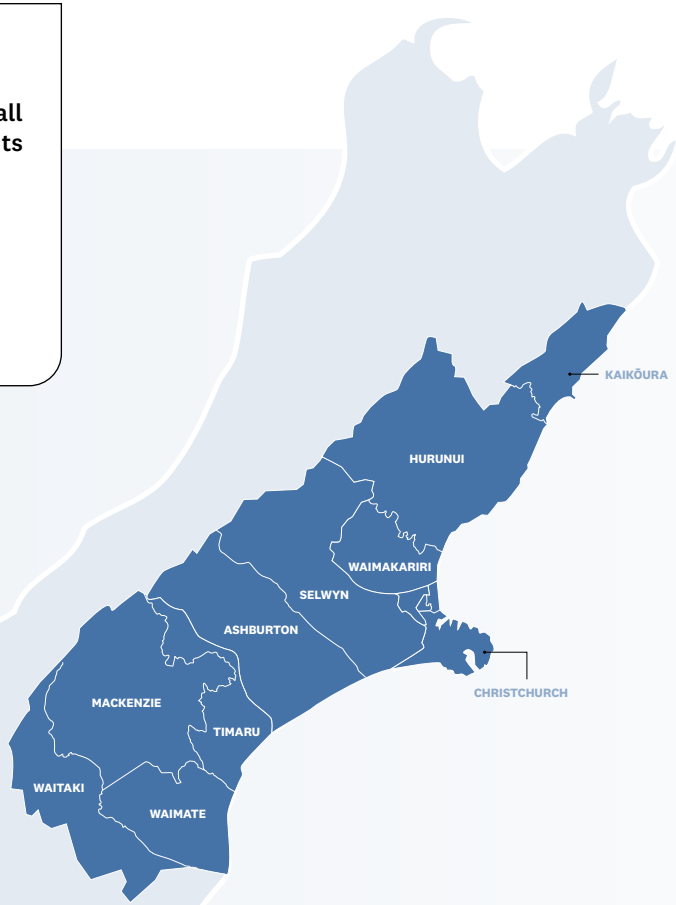
Canterbury is helping drive New Zealand's **growth**, **productivity**, and **resilience**.

As one of the country's fastest-growing regions, Canterbury already makes a nationally significant contribution through:

- housing supply and urban growth
- food and fibre production
- freight and logistics connectivity
- renewable energy and innovation opportunities
- tourism and regional economic activity
- infrastructure investment.

Canterbury contributes:

- **15%** of New Zealand's exports
- **13%** of national GDP
- **almost half** of all South Island freight movements
- is one of New Zealand's **fastest-growing populations**
- nationally significant food and fibre, manufacturing, tourism and innovation sectors.



These contributions support national priorities by:

- increasing economic productivity
- supporting export growth
- improving housing availability
- strengthening supply chain resilience
- enabling workforce and population growth
- strengthening regional and national resilience.

Councils across Canterbury are already investing heavily in transport networks, growth infrastructure, water services, flood protection, housing planning and regional development to deliver these outcomes.

Continuing these nationally significant outcomes will require:

- transport funding allocations that better reflect Canterbury's role in supporting national freight movements, population growth and economic productivity
- accelerated investment in strategic transport and freight corridors to support housing growth, resilience and efficient movement across the South Island
- infrastructure funding and financing settings that allow councils to deliver water, transport and community infrastructure ahead of population demand
- permanent Crown and local government co-investment in flood protection and resilience infrastructure to protect communities, productive land and nationally significant infrastructure
- coordinated workforce and skills investment to support increasing demand across construction, infrastructure and emerging industry sectors.

Canterbury is ready to continue working alongside Government, mana whenua and the private sector to help deliver practical, nationally significant outcomes for New Zealand communities and the wider economy.

Let's talk!



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secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz | canterburymayors.org.nz

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

Name	Portfolio(s)	Electorate	Party	Response
Rt Hon Christopher Luxon	Prime Minister		National	y
Hon Matt Doocey	MP	Waimakariri	National	
Hon Nicola Grigg	MP	Selwyn	National	y
Hon James Meager	MP	Rangitata	National	y
Miles Anderson	MP	Waitaki	National	
Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee	MP	List	National	
Dr Hamish Campbell	MP	Ilam	National	
Stuart Smith	MP	Kaikōura	National	
Dr Vanessa Weenink	MP	Banks Peninsula	National	
Dale Stephens	candidate	Christchurch Central	National	y
Tracy Summerfield	candidate	Wigram	National	
Alexandra Davids	candidate	Christchurch East	National	
Hon David Seymour	Deputy Prime Minister Leader ACT Party		ACT	
Laura McClure	MP	List	ACT	y
Rt Hon Winston Peters	Leader NZ First		NZ First	y
Jamie Arbuckle	MP	List	NZ First	
Michael Laws	candidate	Waitaki	NZ First	
Bryce Park	candidate	Wigram	NZ First	
Isaac Nicholson	candidate	Rangitata	NZ First	
Mark Arneil	candidate	Christchurch Central	NZ First	y
Nathan Walton	candidate	Ilam	NZ First	
Elizabeth Mundt	candidate	Selwyn	NZ First	
Jackie Farrelly	candidate	Waimakariri	NZ First	y
Shane Wiremu	candidate	Christchurch East	NZ First	y
Rt Hon Chris Hipkins	Leader Labour Party		Labour	
Reuben Davidson	MP	Christchurch East	Labour	
Dr Tracey McLellan	MP	Banks Peninsula	Labour	
Hon Dr Megan Woods	MP	List	Labour	
Dan Rosewarne	List	Waimakariri	Labour	
Dominik Yanzick	candidate	Wigram	Labour	
Rata Jamieson	candidate	Ilam	Labour	
Sange Malama	candidate	Rangitata	Labour	
Mananui Ramsden	candidate	Te Tai Tonga	Labour	
Dr Sunita Gautam	candidate	Selwyn	Labour	
Matt Flight	candidate	Kaikōura	Labour	

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Chlöe Swarbrick	Co-Leader Greens Party		Greens	y
Hon Marama Davidson	Co-Leader Greens Pary		Greens	
Kahurangi Carter	MP	List	Greens	
Mike Davidson	MP	List	Greens	y
Craig Pauling	candidate	Banks Peninsula	Greens	
Shreejan Pandey	candidate	Wigram	Greens	
Alma de Anda	candidate	Selwyn	Greens	
Teresa Butler	candidate	Christchurch East	Greens	
Dr Lisa te Morenga	candidate	Te Tai Tonga	Greens	
Dave Richards	candidate	Rangitata	Greens	y
Richard Wesley	candidate	Waimakariri	Greens	y
Qiulae Wong	Leader Opportunity Party		Opportunity	y
Eden Skipper	candidate	Christchurch Central	Opportunity	y
Helen Tait	candidate	Waitaki	Opportunity	
Matt Harris	candidate	Rangitata	Opportunity	
Adrian Mee	candidate	Selwyn	Opportunity	

IN-CONFIDENCE

CANTERBURY
Mayoral Forum

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

9 November 2026

«Title» «First_name» «Surname»

By email: «email»

Tēnā koe «First_name»

Invitation to Meet – 20 November 2026

The **Canterbury Mayoral Forum** warmly congratulates you on your election as Member of Parliament for **«Electorate»**. We look forward to working with you to advance the priorities and aspirations of communities across the Canterbury region.

As we begin a new parliamentary term, we would like to invite you, together with your fellow Canterbury MPs, to join members of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum for lunch following our next Forum meeting. This will provide an opportunity to build relationships, discuss regional priorities, and explore how local and central government can work together to deliver positive outcomes for Canterbury and New Zealand.

Canterbury Mayoral Forum Lunch

Date:	Friday 20 November 2026
Time:	12.30pm – 2.00pm
Venue:	Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue, Christchurch
RSVP:	**Monday 16th November** to secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum brings together the mayors of Canterbury's ten territorial authorities, alongside the Chair of Environment Canterbury, with a standing invitation Ngāi Tahu, supported by our Chief Executives. The attached sets out how Canterbury is delivering for New Zealand and our members contact details.

Canterbury continues to play a vital role in New Zealand's economic growth, productivity, and resilience. Our region is committed to working alongside Government to deliver practical solutions and nationally significant outcomes that benefit local communities, businesses, and the wider economy. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these priorities with you and look forward to connecting over lunch.

If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me (nigel.bowen@timdc.govt.nz) or our secretariat, Maree McNeilly secretariat@canterburymayors.org.nz or 027 381 8924.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nigel Bowen
Chair, Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Encl: Canterbury Mayoral Forum Delivering for New Zealand

Invitation list - CMF Lunch meeting 20 November 2026

Dr Tracey McLellan	Banks Peninsula	Labour
George Hampton	Christchurch Central	Labour
Reuben Davidson	Christchurch East	Labour
Dr Hamish Campbell	Ilam	National
Stuart Smith	Kaikōura	National
Hon James Meager	Rangitata	National
Hon Nicola Grigg	Selwyn	National
Hon Matt Doocey	Waimakariri	National
Miles Anderson	Waitaki	National
Dominik Yanzick	Wigram	Labour
Mananui Ramsden	Te Tai Tonga	Labour
Laura McClure	List	ACT
Iain Murray	List	ACT
Kahu Carter	List	Greens
Craig Pauling	List	Greens
Hon Dr Megan Woods	List	Labour
Hon Damien O'Connor	List	Labour
Michael Laws	List	NZFirst
Eden Skipper	List	Opportunity

CANTERBURY
Chief Executives Forum

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

Committee Secretariat
Transport & Infrastructure Committee
Wellington

By email: ti@parliament.govt.nz

12 November 2026

SUBMISSION: Building Amendment Bill

Introduction

1. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum (Mayoral Forum) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission on the Building Amendment Bill.

2. The 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: Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki District Councils, Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Regional Council.

4. The following submission has been developed with input from across Canterbury councils and focusses on matters of general agreement. Some Canterbury councils will also make individual submissions addressing matters specific to their districts or operational circumstances.

General Comments

5. Overall, the Mayoral Forum supports several key aspects of the proposed reforms, particularly those aimed at creating a fairer allocation of risk and responsibility within the building sector.

6. The Mayoral Forum considers that the reforms should balance greater efficiency and flexibility with the need to maintain the integrity, accuracy and reliability of the building consent system. Changes intended to accelerate consenting processes should not inadvertently transfer unreasonable risk to Building Consent Authorities (BCAs) or compromise the quality of regulatory decision-making.

7. The Mayoral Forum also considers that it would be appropriate to repeal those provisions of the Building Amendment Act 2012 that have not been brought into force, where those provisions are no longer required as a consequence of the current reforms

Proportionate liability

8. The Mayoral Forum strongly supports the proposed shift from joint and several liability to proportionate liability. We consider this represents a fairer approach to allocating responsibility across parties involved in building work.

9. However, greater certainty is required around how proportionate liability will operate in practice. In particular, the Mayoral Forum recommends that the concept of "just and equitable proportions" be more clearly defined to provide greater certainty for BCAs, building owners and other parties.

10. The Mayoral Forum also seeks greater clarity on how proportionate liability will operate where a party responsible for building defects is insolvent, uninsured, cannot be located, or has ceased to exist. The legislation should make clear that another party, including a BCA, should not become liable for the uncollectable share of a party simply because that party is unable to meet its proportion of liability. Without this protection, there is a risk that BCAs could continue to effectively become the party of last resort, undermining the intended benefits of moving to a proportionate liability regime.

11. The Mayoral Forum recommends that consideration be given to establishing a statutory cap on BCA liability. This would provide greater certainty regarding councils' exposure to liability and better reflect the regulatory role performed by BCAs.

12. The Mayoral Forum recommends that the legislation provide appropriate protection for BCAs where they have reasonably relied on information, certification or advice provided by suitably qualified and competent building professionals. This may include producer statements, engineering certifications, geotechnical and fire reports, energy assessments and specialist design reports. Where a BCA has acted reasonably in relying on such information, it should not assume liability for errors or omissions that properly sit with the professional who provided that information.

13. The Mayoral Forum recommends that proposed section 393F be amended so that responsibility for identifying all parties involved in a building project sits with the building owner, rather than the BCA. BCAs do not select or control the contractors, professionals and other parties engaged by an owner and should therefore not carry responsibility for identifying all parties that may subsequently be relevant to a liability claim.

14. Greater clarity is also required in the transitional provisions. This is particularly important for developments where different stages or building consents relating to the same building may be issued before and after the commencement of the new liability regime.

15. The Mayoral Forum recommends that the legislation clearly establish how proportionate liability applies to building work, developments and consent processes that span the commencement date.

Building sector consolidation and collaboration

16. The Mayoral Forum supports voluntary collaboration and consolidation between BCAs where this delivers demonstrable benefits for councils and their communities.

17. Canterbury councils already collaborate through arrangements including the Mainland Group cluster and associated sub-groups. These relationships enable councils to share knowledge, experience and resources while retaining the flexibility to respond to local circumstances.

18. The Mayoral Forum does not support compulsory amalgamation or forced consolidation of BCAs. Decisions about collaboration and service delivery should remain sufficiently flexible to reflect local circumstances, capability, geography and community needs.

19. Any reforms in this area should therefore enable and encourage collaboration rather than prescribe a single delivery model.

Home warranty and professional indemnity insurance

20. The Mayoral Forum supports, in principle, measures designed to strengthen consumer protection through home warranty insurance. However, Canterbury councils have identified concerns about whether the provisions as proposed will provide adequate and equitable protection for homeowners.

21. The Mayoral Forum recommends that the proposed limitations relating to the size and use of buildings covered by the home warranty scheme be reconsidered, with the objective of ensuring appropriate protection is available to homeowners across a broader range of residential building types.

22. The proposed one-year warranty period for non-structural defects is not considered adequate. The Mayoral Forum recommends that the adequacy of this period be reconsidered to ensure homeowners have a meaningful opportunity to identify and remedy defects, such as weathertightness, which would not occur until well after this period.

23. BCAs should not be responsible for validating or verifying home warranty insurance arrangements. The Mayoral Forum recommends that the legislation expressly exempt BCAs from responsibility or liability associated with validating home warranty cover.

24. Testing for a home warranty before consent suits group housing companies but not owners who engage a designer first, then tender the work. Those owners typically arrange a warranty just before work starts. The Mayoral Forum recommends that evidence of a home warranty be required before building work commences, for example before the first inspection, rather than at consent.

25. Further consideration should also be given to ensuring there is appropriate ongoing or “run-off” cover where an individual practitioner or company ceases operating. Without this protection, there is a risk that consumers could be left without an effective remedy despite mandatory insurance requirements. Developers often operate through single-purpose companies that are wound up once a project is finished. Under proportionate liability, their share of any loss would then fall on the homeowner. The

professional indemnity insurance requirement, or equivalent run-off cover, should extend to developers.

26. There is no established New Zealand market for home warranties and professional indemnity insurance at the scale the Bill requires. If products are not available or affordable, building work will stall. The Mayoral Forum asks that the market capacity analysis be published and a readiness assessment be done before commencement.

27. The Mayoral Forum supports, in principle, the introduction of appropriate professional indemnity insurance requirements where these provide an effective mechanism for managing risk and ensuring that consumers have access to remedies.

28. The detailed design of these requirements should ensure that insurance obligations are proportionate, workable and capable of providing meaningful protection over the period in which building defects may become apparent.

Off-site constructed dwellings

29. The Mayoral Forum supports enabling off-site construction but is concerned about verification. Records of work for off-site building go to the constructor, not the territorial authority, and the dwelling is complete and enclosed by the time council first sees it. MBIE is already investigating off-site buildings that do not meet the Building Code. The Mayoral Forum asks that the Bill clarify what verification councils are expected to do and what powers they have when records are missing. It also asks that, under proportionate liability, councils not be held to have contributed to loss from work they had no opportunity to inspect.

PIMs within 10 working days

30. The Mayoral Forum does not support reducing statutory processing timeframes for Project Information Memoranda (PIMs) from 20 working days to 10 working days without clear evidence that the reduced timeframe can be achieved reliably for complex applications.

31. PIMs can require input from multiple council functions and, depending on the circumstances, information from separate infrastructure or water service entities. The complexity of this work can vary significantly between developments.

32. Although the Mayoral Forum supports initiatives that make consenting systems more efficient, speed should not come at the expense of accuracy or completeness. Compressing statutory timeframes may increase the risk of errors without delivering a material benefit to the overall development programme.

33. We also note that while PIMs are currently optional, they are relevant to many new building projects. Requiring a PIM to be issued within 10 working days, including where it forms part of a wider building consent process, could place significant operational pressure on councils and other agencies involved in providing the necessary information.

Solar electricity-generating building or sustainable building

34. The Mayoral Forum does not support the proposed reduced building consent processing timeframe for applications involving solar electricity generation or sustainable building features.

35. We recommend that proposed new section 47A, and the related proposed amendment to section 48, be removed from the Bill.

36. Prioritising building consents based on the inclusion of solar panels creates operational challenges for BCAs and may increase the risk of errors as a consequence of compressed processing timeframes.

37. The reduction in consenting time also appears unlikely to materially reduce the overall time required to design and construct a building. The Mayoral Forum does not therefore consider that a reduced consenting timeframe is the most effective mechanism for encouraging increased uptake of solar generation or sustainable building features.

38. There is also a risk of unintended consequences if applicants include solar panels in an initial consent application in order to access a faster processing pathway and subsequently apply to amend the consent to remove them.

39. Instead, measures designed to encourage sustainable building should focus on mechanisms that directly support or incentivise improved building performance, rather than imposing shorter regulatory processing timeframes on BCAs.

Building research levy

40. The Mayoral Forum supports the continuation of a dedicated building research levy and recommends that the Building Research Levy Act 1969 be retained.

41. BRANZ undertakes independent research for the benefit of New Zealand's building sector, including research conducted over extended periods. Its independence and established role are valuable to the sector and should be protected.

42. There may be merit in allowing some levy funding to support other independent, non-profit research, including research undertaken by universities. However, the Mayoral Forum considers that BRANZ should remain the primary beneficiary of the levy.

43. If improvements to governance, accountability or the allocation of levy funding are considered necessary, these should be addressed by amending the existing levy framework rather than repealing it.

44. The Mayoral Forum is concerned that integrating this research function more closely with central government could reduce the independence associated with the existing BRANZ model and potentially affect the funding available for independent building research.

Funding and unfunded mandates

45. The Bill creates new statutory functions for BCAs, including the home warranty check, the fast-track pathway and the two-part levy. Each needs system changes, new forms, training and updated

accreditation evidence. None of this is funded. Fees under section 219 lag implementation and cannot recover one-off system costs or liability exposure. The Mayoral Forum asks that implementation funding, or a workable cost recovery pathway, be confirmed before these provisions commence. There should be no more unfunded mandates.

Transition periods, guidance, and flexibility for delivery models

46. The scale of the changes proposed through the Bill means that adequate transition periods and clear implementation guidance will be essential.

47. Councils and BCAs will require sufficient certainty to adapt their processes, systems and operational arrangements to the new requirements, particularly where changes affect liability, insurance, PIMs and building consent processing.

48. The Mayoral Forum recommends that implementation arrangements:

- provide adequate transition periods before substantive new requirements take effect
- include clear guidance for BCAs, building owners and building professionals
- clearly address building work and consent applications that span commencement dates
- retain sufficient flexibility for councils to determine appropriate local and collaborative service-delivery arrangements.

Conclusion

49. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum supports the overall direction of reforms that create a fairer allocation of risk and responsibility across the building sector, particularly the introduction of proportionate liability.

50. However, reforms intended to improve efficiency should not create new regulatory risks or impose timeframes that undermine the accuracy and quality of BCA decision-making.

51. The Mayoral Forum wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

Yours sincerely



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