



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

**I hereby give notice that the
Council Meeting**

will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 29 July 2025

Time: 11:00 am

**Location: Council Chamber, Third Floor
Office of the Waitaki District Council
20 Thames Street, Oamaru**

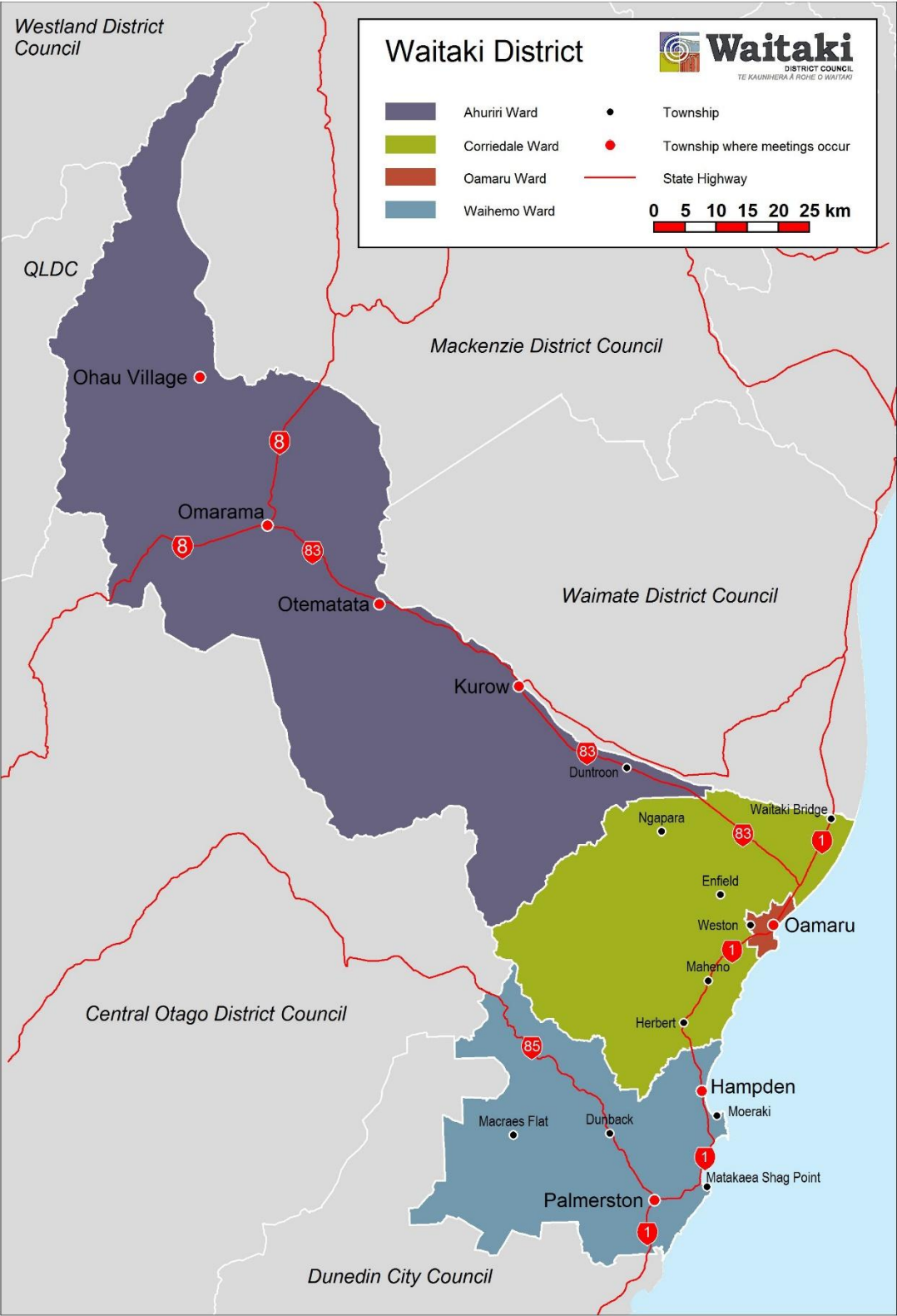
Agenda

Council Meeting

29 July 2025

**Alex Parmley
Chief Executive**

This meeting will be livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpTWN03-FiQ>





Agenda Items

1	Apologies	5
2	Declarations of Interest	5
3	Public Forum.....	5
4	Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes.....	6
4.1	Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 30 June 2025.....	6
4.2	Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 8 July 2025	17
4.3	Public minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025.....	25
5	Recommendations from Committees Reports	34
5.1	Recommendations of the Waihemo Community Board Meeting held on 7 July 2025.....	34
6	Decision Reports	36
6.1	Adoption of the Communication and Engagement Strategy including Endorsement of new Council Brand	36
6.2	Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw	119
6.3	Council endorsement of agreement with Corriedale Water Management Limited for operation of Corriedale water supplies.....	228
6.4	Ratification of Council Submission on the matter of the Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill.....	242
6.5	Exempt Council Controlled Organisations from the Local Government Act	251
6.6	Recommendation to Continue with Waitaki District Health Services Ltd as a CCO until a Complaint is Resolved	261
7	Resolution to Exclude the Public	263
8	Public Excluded Section	264
8.1	Asset Sales - LTP 2025/34.....	264
8.2	Recommendations from the Development Contributions Subcommittee PE.....	264
8.3	Public Excluded minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025	264
9	Resolution to Return to the Public Meeting	264
10	Release of Public Excluded Information	264
11	Meeting Close	264

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 PUBLIC FORUM**

4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

4.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2025

Author: Arlene Goss, Governance Services Lead

Authoriser:

Attachments: 1. Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 30 June 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 30 June 2025, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES
OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT
COUNCIL , 20 THAMES STREET, OAMARU
ON MONDAY, 30 JUNE 2025 AT 2:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Kircher, Deputy Hana Halalele (online), Cr Jim Hopkins, Cr Tim Blackler, Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Brent Cowles (online), Cr Guy Percival, Cr Jim Thomson (online).

IN ATTENDANCE: Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)
Roger Cook (Director, Natural & Built Environment)
Paul Hope (Director, Support Services)
Joanne O'Neill (Director, Strategy, Performance & Design)
Lisa Baillie (Director, Community Engagement and Experience)
Amanda Nicholls (Finance Manager)
Mandy McIntosh (Strategy and Commissioning Lead)
Jason Lilley (Livestream Support)
Arlene Goss (Governance Lead/Minutes)
Dereck Ollsson (Audit New Zealand) online

This meeting was livestreamed and can be viewed at
<https://www.youtube.com/live/yeBBByGUmww?si=e5rqVmtxxW0-d0Au>

The Chair declared the meeting open at 2.01pm and welcomed everyone present.

1 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED WDC 2025/060

Moved: Cr Jeremy Holding

Seconded: Cr Tim Blackler

That the apologies from Crs Linwood, Ryan and McCone be accepted.

CARRIED

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Wayne Murphy originally registered for the public forum at the last council meeting but was in hospital on the day, so was given an opportunity to speak at this meeting instead. He attended on Zoom.

Mr Murphy introduced himself as a former employee of council and outlined his history in the district. He said it was clear that the community hates the four options consulted on regarding the three waters proposal. He said there was insignificant data provided in the consultation document and pointed out a mistake in a table, which he said reduced his confidence in the data.

He spoke against the council's preferred option and gave his reasons for this.

The Mayor thanked Mr Murphy for his submission.

4 DECISION REPORTS

4.1 ADOPTION OF THE 2025-34 LONG TERM PLAN

The purpose of this extraordinary council meeting was to adopt the 2025-34 Long Term Plan.

Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to have a Long Term Plan at all times. It must be adopted before the commencement of the first year to which it relates (1 July 2025 in this case).

Strategy and Commissioning Lead Mandy McIntosh tabled the final version of the Long Term Plan. (A copy of this is available on request as an attachment to these minutes).

She also tabled the following minor changes to the Long Term Plan, as requested by auditors after the final draft went to councillors:

Page 36 – Changed \$217m to \$247m and changed \$794m to \$820m.

Page 69 – Footer moved for completeness.

P 116 – Change to Township Amenity – Weston and Weston flat charge.

P 117 – Changed \$2,777,776 to \$2,777,428.

P 131 – Changed to refer to rating units.

P 135 – Changed total outstanding borrowings from \$36 million to \$34 million.

P138 – Rates affordability graph axis change to rating units.

P 139 – The table on this page showed 2035. This has been removed.

P 165 – Roads and Footpaths figures have been updated to reflect the Financial Strategy.

The Chief Executive introduced the final version of the Long Term Plan to Councillors. He said there were some difficult challenges in providing what the community needed, while keeping rate rises to a minimum.

He thanked the Governance Team for the many hours they had spent on this, and thanked staff for their work in a challenging process. Every part of the council budget has been scrutinised in detail. It has been very difficult.

Mr Parmley also thanked the auditors for their work.

Dereck Ollsson from Audit New Zealand then spoke about the challenges caused by the three waters proposal.

He outlined two matters raised in the audit opinion, namely uncertainty over water service delivery and uncertainty over third party funding for the Waitaki Events Centre. (A copy of the audit opinion was tabled and is available on request as an attachment to these minutes).

The following minor changes were then requested by Cr Hopkins and agreed to by Mr Ollsson:

On page 57 it says council will consult on the option of delivering kerbside collection in the future. This is to be amended to consulting on either maintaining the status quo for curb side rubbish collection or delivery.

Page 164 suggests kerbside collection is a fact but this is not correct as no vote has been taken. The word “possible” to be added. This is also mentioned on page 185, with no change requested to this page.

Page 186 says the key assumption was that the Resource Management Act would continue as the primary mechanism for resource management over the life of the plan, being nine years. Councillor Hopkins questioned this. Mr Parmley said the government's plan to implement changes

to the Resource Management Act was a six year plan. A statement was to be added to the Long Term Plan to say that the government may change the RMA in the term of the Long Term Plan.

Cr Blackler was surprised that the suggestion of rates capping hadn't been addressed. The council has opted for unfunded depreciation in some areas and he was concerned that if rates capping was introduced and benchmarked against this LTP, council would not be able to make a change to its approach on depreciation.

The Chief Executive said while Council was constantly scanning the horizon, it could only respond to what was currently happening. There was no formal proposal for rates capping at this stage. He was unable to reflect rates capping in a LTP with no formal proposal.

The Mayor noted the 9.44 percent final average rates rise was not wanted by anyone but was less than other Otago councils.

Cr Blackler said he would abstain from voting because he believed he had shared a concern that needed to be understood and addressed. He did not agree with the approach to unfund water depreciation for two years as part of the water transition programme. He also did not agree it was prudent to have an unbalanced budget in year two of the plan.

Cr Thomson said he would be voting against adopting the Long Term Plan due to a philosophical position he held regarding the problems that councils have with the imposition of work without reimbursement from central government. He said council had trimmed the budget to the point that it has posed risks to the community going forward, if there was an emergency situation.

Cr Hopkins agreed that the way local government was funded in NZ was broken. Central government should be coming to the party and paying for unfunded mandates. However, if everyone voted like Cr Thomson, the only people being penalised was us.

The Mayor spoke in support of the Long Term Plan. He said we don't know all the answers. Legislation is changing almost by the day. We live in an uncertain world and the only thing we can do is have certainty over what we do - which is the Long Term Plan.

The resolutions were considered and a minor change was made to number 7, with the words "and minor changes as approved by council" added.

Cr Blackler abstained from voting and asked for this to be recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/061

Moved: Chairperson Gary Kircher

Seconded: Member Jim Hopkins

That Council:

1. Confirms the following minor matter that supports the 2025-34 Long Term Plan and Rates Resolution:

- a) Confirm the Selected Owner Dog Fees effective from 1 July 2025 at the corrected amount, to align with the Policy.

2. Rescinds Resolution WDC2025/002:

That Council:

Resolves that it is financially prudent to adopt an initial unbalanced budget for each financial year of the term of the draft 2025-34 Long Term Plan, noting that during the deliberations the Governance Team and Officers will develop a balanced budget for the Long Term Plan;

3. Resolves that it is financially prudent of Council to have an unbalanced budget in Year 2 of the 2025-34 Long Term Plan, under section 100(2) of the Local Government Act 2002.

4. Notes the level of rate increase indicated each year of the nine year term of the 2025-34 Long Term Plan as set out in Attachment 1.
5. Receives the Audit New Zealand report on the 2025-34 Long Term Plan, to be tabled at this meeting, and notes that the report is included in the 2025-34 Long Term Plan.
6. Adopts the 2025-34 Long Term Plan, to be tabled at this meeting, pursuant to section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002.
7. Notes that officers may make final minor changes and corrections to the 2025-34 Long Term Plan prior to the printing and publishing of the document, subject to audit clearance and minor changes as approved by council.
8. Notes that the 2025-34 Long Term Plan must be made publicly available within one month after the adoption of the Long Term Plan.
9. Delegates authority to Council's Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, for officers to make any necessary final non-material changes and corrections to the 2025-34 Long Term Plan prior to legal deposit

.CARRIED

4.2 RESOLUTION TO SET THE RATES FOR THE 2025-26 RATING YEAR

The purpose of this report was to set the rates for the 2025-26 financial year in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, and Council's 2025-34 Long Term Plan.

Strategy and Commissioning Lead Mandy McIntosh tabled a new version of the rates table, with several corrections as requested by Audit New Zealand. This is reflected in the resolution below.

Moved Hopkins/Holding

Carried.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/062

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That Council:

1. Agrees to set the rates and due dates for payments, and to authorise the penalty regime for the 2025-26 year commencing 1 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026, in accordance with the information contained in the 2025-34 Long Term Plan as set out below.

All amounts are GST inclusive and the rates in the dollar are shown per \$100 of value.

Name of Rate	Summary Narrative	Local	Rate Set	Required
		Government (Rating) Act Ref	(GST inclusive)	Revenue (GST inclusive)

To be read in conjunction with the Funding Impact Statement

General Rate	A uniform rate in the dollar based on the land value of each rating unit in the district.	s13(2)(a)	\$0.0810	\$5,065,080
---------------------	---	-----------	----------	-------------

Uniform Annual General Charge	Charged on each Separately Used or Inhabited Part (SUIP) of a rating unit in the district.	s15(1)(b)	\$590	\$8,418,125
District Services Rate	A targeted rate be set at a uniform rate in the dollar, based on the capital value of each rating unit in the district.	s16(3)(a)	\$0.0252	\$3,025,153
Ward Services Charges	Charged on each Separately Used or Inhabited Part (SUIP) of a rating unit in the district, differentiated by Ward.	s16(3)(b)		
Ahuriri Ward Services Charge			\$173	\$362,944
Corriedale Ward Services Charge			\$440	\$1,198,760
Ōamaru Ward Services Charge			\$722	\$5,362,350
Waihemo Ward Services Charge			\$163	\$332,743
Ward Services Rates	A targeted rate set at a uniform rate in the dollar, based on the capital value of each rating unit in the district differentiated by Ward.	s16(3)(b)		
Ahuriri Ward Services Rate			\$0.0240	\$721,365
Corriedale Ward Services Rate			\$0.0118	\$402,156
Ōamaru Ward Services Rate			\$0.0536	\$2,142,564
Waihemo Ward Services Rate			\$0.0466	\$735,992
Community Board Rates	A targeted rate set at a uniform rate in the dollar, based on the land value of each rating unit in each Ward.	s16(3)(b)		
Ahuriri Community Board Rate			\$0.0026	\$36,238
Waihemo Community Board Rate			\$0.0053	\$52,533
Ōamaru Business Area Rates	A targeted rate set at a uniform rate in the dollar, differentiated by use and location, based on the capital value of each rating unit in the defined areas.	s16(3)(b)		
Ōamaru Business Area A			\$0.2253	\$478,485
Ōamaru Business Area B			\$0.1127	\$85,173
Roading Rate	A targeted rate differentiated by land use based on the capital value of each rating unit in the district.	s16(3)(a)		

Electrical Generation	\$0.0997	\$830,871
Mineral Extraction	\$1.7485	\$519,295
Forestry	\$0.3134	\$316,250
General	\$0.0819	\$9,035,724

Local Amenity Rates	A targeted rate set at a uniform rate in the dollar, based on the land value of each rating unit in each defined area.	s16(3)(b)		
Duntroon			\$0.0100	\$1,006
Hampden			\$0.0465	\$31,625
Herbert			\$0.0094	\$1,006
Kakanui			\$0.0288	\$37,375
Kurow			\$0.0192	\$9,508
Lake Ōhau			\$0.0056	\$3,002
Maheno			\$0.0082	\$1,006
Moeraki			\$0.0067	\$3,397
Ōmarama			\$0.0217	\$24,013
Ōtematata			\$0.0412	\$69,784
Palmerston			\$0.0523	\$45,104
Shag Point			\$0.0042	\$1,006

Local Amenity Rates	A targeted rate differentiated by land value based on a uniform rate in the dollar or a fixed amount on each rating unit in each defined area.	s16(3)(b)		
Ōamaru (land value less than \$1,340,000)			\$0.0297	\$418,447
Ōamaru (land value exceeds \$1,340,000)			\$400	\$12,000
Weston (land value less than \$500,000)			\$0.0788	\$91,172
Weston (land value exceeds \$500,000)			\$400	\$6,800

Public Hall Rates	Charged on each Separately Used or Inhabited Part (SUIP) of a rating unit in the defined areas.	s16(3)(b)		
Airedale Public Hall Rate			\$40	\$1,080
Ardgowan Public Hall Rate			\$30	\$4,770
Awamoko Public Hall Rate			\$40	\$3,440
Dunback Public Hall Rate			\$30	\$3,930
Duntroon Public Hall Rate			\$30	\$4,620
Enfield Public Hall Rate			\$20	\$2,720
Five Forks Public Hall Rate			\$30	\$2,340

Hampden Public Hall Rate	\$40	\$11,680
Kakanui Public Hall Rate	\$20	\$8,060
Kauru Hill Public Hall Rate	\$90	\$4,140
Kurow Public Hall Rate	\$110	\$36,080
Lower Waitaki Public Hall Rate	\$80	\$16,560
Macraes Public Hall Rate	\$60	\$3,000
Maheno Public Hall Rate	\$40	\$7,840
Moeraki Public Hall Rate	\$40	\$9,280
Ngapara Public Hall Rate	\$20	\$1,740
Ōmārama Public Hall Rate	\$50	\$20,100
Otekaieke Public Hall Rate	\$20	\$1,700
Otematata Public Hall Rate	\$60	\$33,240
Otepopo Public Hall Rate	\$50	\$9,200
Palmerston Public Hall Rate	\$40	\$29,040
Pukeuri Public Hall Rate	\$20	\$2,100
Tokarahi Public Hall Rate	\$50	\$5,450
Totara Public Hall Rate	\$40	\$9,920
Waianakarua Public Hall Rate	\$30	\$1,860
Waitaki Bridge Public Hall Rate	\$20	\$3,140
Weston Public Hall Rate	\$40	\$26,160
Windsor Public Hall Rate	\$20	\$1,400

**Sewerage
Rates and
Charges**

A targeted rate based on a fixed amount per water closet. Some targeted rates are differentiated.

s16(3)(b)

Ōamaru	\$336	\$2,777,428
Duntroon	\$357	\$3,569
Kakanui	\$336	\$120,254
Kurow	\$406	\$123,954
Lake Ōhau Village	\$306	\$21,715
Lake Ōhau Village – connection availability	\$153	\$8,717
Moeraki	\$1,421	\$288,455
Moeraki – connection availability	\$710	\$26,288
Ōmārama	\$503	\$295,223
Otematata	\$370	\$213,348
Palmerston	\$730	\$468,366

**Water Rates –
Urban**

Targeted rates based on a fixed amount per rating unit or by the

s16(3)(b)

nature of connections. Some
targeted rates are differentiated.

Ōamaru Water – Supply	\$445	\$3,048,816
Ōamaru Water – Reticulation	\$386	\$2,501,673
Ōamaru Water – Weston Zone	\$985	\$1,070,865
Ōamaru Water – Kakanui Zone – ordinary supply	\$985	\$463,411
Ōamaru Water – Kakanui Zone – crib unit supply	\$758	\$36,404
Ōamaru Water – Hampden-Moeraki Zone – domestic supply	\$758	\$392,102
Ōamaru Water – Hampden-Moeraki Zone – water supply	\$985	\$146,957
Kurow	\$990	\$304,568
Ōmārama	\$992	\$370,738
Otematata	\$880	\$470,681
Waihemo Water – Palmerston Zone	\$1,082	\$666,745
Rural Water	Uniform targeted rates based on type of connection.	s16(3)(b)
Awamoko	\$699	\$167,838
Bushy Creek	\$270	\$25,619
Waihemo Water – Dunback Zone	\$1,082	\$184,958
Duntroon	\$1,197	\$96,996
Ōamaru Water – Enfield Zone	\$985	\$245,683
Waihemo Water – Goodwood Zone	\$1,082	\$275,263
Ōamaru Water – Herbert-Waianakarua Zone	\$985	\$603,702
Kauru Hill	\$626	\$125,578
Lake Ōhau Village	\$483	\$39,100
Lake Ōhau Village – connection availability	\$241	\$11,827
Lower Waitaki	\$857	\$356,466
Ōamaru Water – Maheno Zone	\$985	\$68,437
Ōamaru Water – Maheno Zone – half charge	\$492	\$11,324
Stoneburn	\$601	\$198,782
Tokarahi	\$525	\$367,773
Windsor	\$472	\$92,198
Construction Loan Rates	A targeted rate charged on rating units that have not paid a lump sum. Excludes businesses with water meters	
Ōamaru Water Treatment Loan Rate	\$154	\$863,924

Metered Water Rates	Targeted rates per cubic metre, based on volume of water supplied.	s19(2)(a)
Ōamaru Water – All zones		\$1.73
Waihemo Water – All zones		\$1.73
Kurow		\$0.77
Lake Ōhau village		\$0.77
Ōmārama		\$1.40
Otematata		\$0.77

Instalments

Rates, except metered water rates, will be collected by four equal quarterly instalments due on the following dates, or the first working day after this date.

Payments will be applied to the oldest debt first.

Instalment Number	Due Date
One	25 August 2025
Two	25 November 2025
Three	25 February 2026
Four	25 May 2026

Metered Water Rates

Actual consumption of water by meter will be billed based on meter readings undertaken quarterly and will be due for payment on the following dates, or the first working day after this date.

Payments will be applied to the oldest debt first.

Water usage invoiced for	Due Date
Period ended 30 June 2025	25 August 2025 (billed at the 2024-25 rate)
Period ended 30 September 2025	25 November 2025
Period ended 31 December 2025	25 February 2026
Period ended 31 March 2026	25 May 2026
Period ended 30 June 2026	25 August 2026

Penalty Regime

As authorised under section 58(1)(a) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, an additional charge of 10% of any amount of an instalment or metered water charge that remains unpaid after the due date for that instalment or metered water charge will be added on or after the 25 August

2025, 25 November 2025, 25 February 2026, 25 May 2026 and 25 August 2026 respectively for each instalment of rates or metered water charge.

As authorised under section 58(1)(b) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, a further charge of 10% of any amount of rates or metered water charges that remain unpaid from previous financial years will be added on 7 July 2025, being five working days after this resolution.

In addition, as authorised under section 58(1)(c) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, a further charge of 10% on any amount of rates or metered water charges that remain unpaid from previous financial years will be added on 7 January 2026, being six months after application of the previous penalty.

Council confirms that all matters that can be delegated under section 132 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 are delegated to the Chief Executive, Director Support Services, and Rates Supervisor.

CARRIED

5 MEETING CLOSE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.57pm.

4.2 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2025

Author: Arlene Goss, Governance Services Lead

Authoriser:

Attachments: 1. Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 8 July 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 8 July 2025, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES
OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT
COUNCIL , 20 THAMES STREET, OAMARU
ON TUESDAY, 8 JULY 2025 AT 9.00AM

- PRESENT:** Mayor Gary Kircher, Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele, Cr Rebecca Ryan, Cr Jim Hopkins, Cr Tim Blackler, Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Brent Cowles, Cr Guy Percival, Cr Courtney Linwood, Cr Jim Thomson, Cr John McCone (arrived online at 9.45am)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)
Lisa Baillie (Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Community Engagement and Experience)
Roger Cook (Director, Natural & Built Environment)
Paul Hope (Director, Support Services)
Joanne O'Neill (Director, Strategy, Performance & Design)
Amanda Nicholls (Finance Manager)
Simon Neale (Chairman, Performance, Audit and Risk Committee)
John Palethorpe (Media and Communications Specialist)
Jason Lilley (Livestream Support)
Arlene Goss (Governance Lead/Minutes)
Allyson Woock (Governance Services Officer)
- VISITORS:** Bryan Cadogan (Mayor of Clutha District)
Ben Bell (Mayor of Gore District)
Tamah Alley (Mayor of Central Otago District)
Stu Cross (Morrison Low) online
Andrew Strahan (Geoco) online
Marlon Bridge (DIA) online
Warren Ulusele (DIA) online
Andrew Ashton (Journalist with Otago Daily Times and Oamaru Mail)
David Wilson (mayoral candidate)
Melanie Tavendale (mayoral candidate)

[This meeting was recorded and can be watched here.](#)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.02am and welcomed everyone present.

1 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED WDC 2025/063

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele

Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That the apology from Cr John McCone be accepted.

CARRIED

Cr McCone was away on leave so an apology was accepted, however he attended online after this happened and was present from 9.45am until the end of the meeting.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 DECISION REPORTS

3.1 LOCAL WATER DONE WELL WATER SERVICES DELIVERY MODEL

[3.35](#) The chief executive acknowledged the Mayors of the Clutha, Central Otago and Gore districts in the room. He said it was great to see a spirit of partnership. He also acknowledged the work of staff and contractors at all councils.

Councils want to do the best for their communities but have under-invested in water services to keep rates low. The government was clear that higher standards needed to be met and this cost will not be paid by the government, but by the users of the water.

While Waitaki District has invested well in water in recent years, the idea that all our water schemes were alright was a myth. There was a need to maximise efficiency and minimise charges to the people of Waitaki. This decision will have long term impact on the community in years to come.

Recommendations had not been driven by any vested interest, but by a desire to provide the best outcome for the community.

The Mayor welcomed the Mayors in the room and said he appreciated their work to get to this point. Decisions would be made on this matter at Central Otago and Clutha on Thursday, and at Gore next Monday.

[14.05](#) Representatives from the Department of Internal Affairs joined the meeting online and were asked to provide an update. Marlon Bridge and Warren Ulusele introduced themselves.

They said if Council chose to go it alone and failed to meet the financial sustainability test, a crown facilitator would be appointed to work with Council. Another option would be a crown observer being appointed and this person would look across all of council finances. They would have the power to unilaterally pull money from other areas of council or lift rates to ensure sustainability.

The situation across the country was then outlined.

The councillors asked questions about intergenerational outcomes, whether a deferred approach would be acceptable, and what would happen if a decision was made to continue with an in-house approach.

Cr John McCone joined the meeting online at 9.45am from overseas.

The Mayor asked how comments from submitters have been included in the decision making. Full copies of the submissions are attached to the agenda of this meeting, with a summary also included.

Is there any legislation that requires submissions to be treated as a referendum. No.

The chief executive said he had taken legal advice on the weight that should be given to public consultation. He read out a statement from this legal advice clarifying that public submissions did not carry more weight than other sources of information such as expert advice.

One of the concerns raised by submitters was the loss of local control. All solutions involved a loss of local control because of new powers given to the Commerce Commission and Taumata Arowai.

There is no status quo in this case. It was going to be a very different environment no matter what was decided.

[52:46](#) The Mayor moved the staff recommendations in the report and these were seconded by Cr Hopkins. The Mayor then read from a prepared statement giving his reasons for supporting the collaborative approach.

Each councillor was then given an opportunity to speak.

[1:00:20](#) Deputy Mayor Halalele spoke against the motion.

[1:02:26](#) Cr Linwood spoke against the motion.

[1:03:58](#) Cr Holding spoke against the motion.

[1:04:46](#) Cr Thomson spoke against the motion.

[1:06:37](#) Cr Ryan spoke against the motion.

[1:09:13](#) Cr Cowles spoke against the motion.

[1:12:48](#) Cr Hopkins spoke in support of the motion.

[1:22:55](#) Cr Percival spoke against the motion.

[1:24:57](#) Cr Blackler spoke against the motion.

[1:30:17](#) Cr McCone spoke against the motion.

The Mayor exercised his right of reply. He said this was not a rushed decision. It had been at least six years in the making and was a 50-plus year decision. He wanted to keep water affordable for all ratepayers across the district.

The Morrison Low report was modelling a \$100 saving per household in the first year, increasing each year, if the collaborative approach was taken.

The rates rises involved in remaining in-house were going to impact people severely, and people on lower incomes just could not afford it.

He recognised the councillors were making decisions based on imperfect information regarding all the options, but this was the nature of it. They were elected to make decisions and short-term decision-making by councils had led to the current position.

The debt headroom was an issue because in 10- or 20- years' time there were bridges to replace and there wouldn't be enough debt headroom available to do this work. He was concerned about this and said this was his motivation to get the best deal for the community.

He then called for a vote and Cr Thomson asked for a division.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/064

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Jim Hopkins

That Council:

1. Agrees to adopt a Jointly Owned Council Controlled Organisation as the Council's model for the delivery of water services in accordance with section 13(1)(k) of the Local Government (Water services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024
2. Requests staff to prepare a Water Services Delivery Plan containing the matters set out in section 13 of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and the Council's chosen proposed water services delivery model, to be brought back to Council for approval and certification by the Waitaki District Council Chief Executive prior to being submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025 for acceptance.

3. Agrees to establish a Jointly Owned Council Controlled Organisation with Central Otago, Clutha and Gore Councils.
4. Notes the submissions received and thanks all submitters for their feedback.

In Favour: Cr Jim Hopkins and Mayor Gary Kircher

Against: Crs Guy Percival, Courtney Linwood, John McCone, Jim Thomson, Rebecca Ryan, Hana Halalele, Tim Blackler, Jeremy Holding and Brent Cowles

LOST 2/9

Cr Blackler called for an alternative motion (below) to be put on the screen in the chambers and moved this motion, with Cr Linwood seconding.

[1:39:03](#) Cr Blackler then spoke in support of the alternative motion.

Cr Hopkins asked for some amendments. These were:

Amendment 1 – Add the words “for a minimum of two years” to the first motion.

Amendment 2 – Add the words “for consideration” to the second motion.

Amendment 3 – Remove the words “not to relitigate the decisions above, but rather” from the fourth motion.

That Council:

1. Agrees to adopt an enhanced in-house water services delivery unit **for a minimum of two years** as the Council's model for the delivery of water services in accordance with section 13(1)(k) of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.
2. Requests staff to prepare a Water Services Delivery Plan that complies with matters set out in section 13 of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and the Council's chosen proposed water services delivery model, to be brought back to Council **for consideration**, approval and certification by the Waitaki District Council Chief Executive prior to being submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025 for acceptance.
3. Will exercise its right to exit the joint arrangement with Central Otago, Clutha and Gore under the current commitment agreement.
4. Agrees to further discuss details surrounding the future management of water at another time and requests staff to prepare an outline with input from Elected Members for a workshop to that effect.
For clarity, this future discussion is ~~not to relitigate the decisions above, but rather~~ to explore key issues or themes raised through the consultation and investigation to date. It would also include looking at the various models adopted by other councils and highlighting matters for further investigation and focus - including exploring the feasibility of a future shared services/Joint CCO approach with South Canterbury Councils.
5. Notes the public submissions received and thanks all submitters for their feedback.

[2:08:27](#) Cr Blackler said he was opposed to these amendments, so the Mayor called for a vote on each amendment individually. All three were agreed by majority vote.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/065

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Mayor Gary Kircher

That the words “for a minimum of two years” be added to motion number one as above.

CARRIED

RESOLVED WDC 2025/066

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Mayor Gary Kircher

That the words “for consideration” be added to motion number two as above.

CARRIED

RESOLVED WDC 2025/067

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Mayor Gary Kircher

That the words “not to relitigate the decisions above, but rather” be deleted from motion number 4 as above.

CARRIED

[2:10:34](#) The Mayor then spoke to the substantive motion and gave his reasons for opposing it. This included the need for future water rates to be affordable.

[2:15:15](#) Cr Holding spoke in support of the motion.

[2:16:16](#) Cr Cowles spoke in support of the motion.

[2:18:01](#) Cr Ryan spoke in support of the motion.

[2:19:57](#) Cr Blackler responded and the Mayor called for a vote. Cr Thomson asked for a division.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/068

Moved: Cr Tim Blackler

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That Council:

1. Agrees to adopt an enhanced in-house water services delivery unit for a minimum of two years as the Council’s model for the delivery of water services in accordance with section 13(1)(k) of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.

In Favour: Crs Guy Percival, Courtney Linwood, John McCone, Jim Thomson, Rebecca Ryan, Jim Hopkins, Hana Halalele, Tim Blackler, Jeremy Holding and Brent Cowles

Against: Mayor Gary Kircher

CARRIED 10/1

2. Requests staff to prepare a Water Services Delivery Plan that complies with matters set out in section 13 of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and the Council’s chosen proposed water services delivery model, to be brought back to Council for consideration, approval and certification by the Waitaki District Council Chief Executive prior to being submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025 for acceptance.

In Favour: Crs Guy Percival, Courtney Linwood, John McCone, Jim Thomson, Rebecca Ryan, Jim Hopkins, Hana Halalele, Gary Kircher, Tim Blackler, Jeremy Holding and Brent Cowles

Against: Nil

CARRIED 11/0

3. Will exercise its right to exit the joint arrangement with Central Otago, Clutha and Gore under the current commitment agreement.

In Favour: Crs Guy Percival, Courtney Linwood, John McCone, Jim Thomson, Rebecca Ryan, Hana Halalele, Tim Blackler, Jeremy Holding and Brent Cowles

Against: Crs Jim Hopkins and Mayor Gary Kircher

CARRIED 9/2

4. Agrees to further discuss details surrounding the future management of water at another time and requests staff to prepare an outline with input from Elected Members for a workshop to that effect. For clarity, this future discussion is to explore key issues or themes raised through the consultation and investigation to date. It would also include looking at the various models adopted by other councils and highlighting matters for further investigation and focus - including exploring the feasibility of a future shared services/Joint CCO approach with South Canterbury Councils.

In Favour: Crs Guy Percival, Courtney Linwood, John McCone, Jim Thomson, Rebecca Ryan, Jim Hopkins, Hana Halalele, Gary Kircher, Tim Blackler, Jeremy Holding and Brent Cowles

Against: Nil

CARRIED 11/0

5. Notes the public submissions received and thanks all submitters for their feedback.

In Favour: Crs Guy Percival, Courtney Linwood, John McCone, Jim Thomson, Rebecca Ryan, Jim Hopkins, Hana Halalele, Gary Kircher, Tim Blackler, Jeremy Holding and Brent Cowles

Against: Nil

CARRIED 11/0

[2:23:26](#) The Mayor then moved a further motion as below and it was seconded by Cr Hopkins. He gave his reasons for adding this to the list of resolutions, which included the need to get a better understanding of the complexity and challenges.

Cr Ryan asked for an amendment to include keeping councillors regularly updated. The words "and regular updates" were added.

[2:26:18](#) Cr Hopkins spoke in support of the motion.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/069

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Jim Hopkins

That Council instructs staff to provide clarity to the community and regular updates as immediately as possible, on how much more the in-house options will cost them over the joint Southern Group CCO, according to the most up-to-date modelling available.

CARRIED

The Mayor noted a disrespectful comment that was made earlier in the meeting regarding the other three councils. Cr Blackler said he was withdrawing the comment and apologising.
The Mayor thanked everyone for their work.

[2:30:51](#) The Chief Executive then outlined the next steps in this process.

4 MEETING CLOSE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.32am.

TO BE CONFIRMED at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 29 July 2025.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

4.3 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2025

Author: Arlene Goss, Governance Services Lead

Authoriser:

Attachments: 1. Public minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

**OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT
COUNCIL, 20 THAMES STREET, OAMARU
ON TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025 AT 11:00 AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Kircher, Cr Rebecca Ryan, Cr Jim Hopkins, Cr Tim Blackler Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Brent Cowles, Cr Guy Percival, Cr Courtney Linwood, Cr Jim Thomson.

IN ATTENDANCE: PAR Committee Chair Simon Neale
Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)
Roger Cook (Director, Natural & Built Environment)
Paul Hope (Director, Support Services)
Joanne O'Neill (Director, Strategy, Performance & Design)
Lisa Baillie (Director, Community Engagement and Experience)
Amanda Nicholls (Finance Manager)
Jason Lilley (Livestream Support)
Arlene Goss (Governance Lead/Minutes)

IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:

Ōmarama Airfield Limited (Chairman Clive Geddes on Zoom)
Whitestone Contracting Limited, (Chief Executive Paul Bisset and George Kelcher)
Tourism Waitaki Limited (General Manager Dr Philippa Agnew and Chairman Mike McElhinney)

This meeting was livestreamed and can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/live/cx9oA1V0drA?si=i4KZPutBf3JU7TX>

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11.00am and welcomed everyone present.

1 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED WDC 2025/075

Moved: Cr Tim Blackler
Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That the apologies received from Cr Hana Halalele and Cr John McCone be accepted.

CARRIED

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

The following speakers were registered for the public forum:

Public Forum: Arriving at 11am:

Alex Familton on Water Reform
Hamish Carswell on Water Reform
Ken Mitchell on Water Reform
David Wilson on Beach Road
Hamish McFarlane on Waihemo Recreation Reserve Grazing Licence

Arriving at 11.30am:

Simon Laming on Water Reform
Peter de Reus on Water Reform
Wayne Murphy on Water Reform

Alex FAMILTON

Mr FAMILTON was concerned about the water proposal and the possibility of amalgamation as a result. He was concerned about the Morrison Low consultant's report. He believed there was a focus by that consultant on amalgamation, and he disagreed with this.

He did not believe council needed to amalgamate with other councils to get staff expertise. He said the skills were already available in the community. He said the district would lose expertise if the four councils amalgamated.

Cr Hopkins asked what Mr FAMILTON envisaged when he used the term amalgamation, and noted that the Minister had said "the status quo is not an option". Mr FAMILTON said he meant the amalgamation of water services, not councils generally.

Hamish Carswell

Mr Carswell said he was from Dunback. He said the four-council approach was beyond comprehension. He had lived in the Gore district for many years. The Clutha and Gore district finances were in disarray. Why would WDC want to combine finances with these councils with big financial problems? He talked about Southland District Council choosing to push back against the district and believed that Waitaki should do the same.

He claimed that Mayor Kircher tried to convince the Mayor of Southland to join the four-party approach but was not able to. The Mayor challenged this as inaccurate, and asked Mr Carswell to withdraw it.

The Mayor answered questions raised by Mr Carswell during his verbal submission. Councillors did not have any questions of Mr Carswell.

Ken Mitchell

Mr Mitchell introduced himself. He had a history of working in the power industry. He said water and energy were important to this district. The number one issue to Network Waitaki in the electricity reforms was the protection of assets. It was the same for Council, which needed to protect the water assets and manage them in the best interests of the people.

He suggested that Council should pre-empt the government's move. The only solution that worked in the power industry was in the districts that formed a power trust that was 100% consumer owned. There was an advantage to having nobody in the room that could make a profit from selling the assets.

As a result of the power reforms the government was getting billions of dollars of tax and dividends that it did not get before. Big was not better and more efficient. It was slower and more cumbersome.

David Wilson

Mr Wilson congratulated councillors and staff on achieving a \$3 million grant towards Project Reclaim. He said Beach Road was an important alternative route if the state highway was not available. It was a very important road but was unfortunately closed. He viewed the \$3 million grant as an opportunity to maintain Beach Road. He asked Council to consider bypassing the holes and protecting the road.

The Mayor said Council had asked staff to bring a report to a future meeting looking at how that money should be allocated.

Hamish McFarlane

Mr McFarlane is the chairman of the Puketapu Trust. He spoke in advance of Council's decision on the grazing licence at the Waihemo Recreation Reserve in Palmerston. He would like the whole area

retired from grazing at once, and not a staged retirement as proposed by the Hearings Committee. He said the area was intensively farmed, and under the Reserves Act the public should have free access, and the flora and fauna should be protected.

He asked councillors not to be swayed by arguments and doubts that the area would be a fire risk, full of weeds, or there would not be enough volunteers.

Cr Holding asked about trust's capacity in terms of volunteers and equipment. It has a good core of eight people who are capable of carrying out work in the reserve, and who have access to appropriate equipment.

Cr Blackler asked about concerns around gorse and broom. Mr McFarlane said the trust was starting with a clean slate and the native seedlings would eventually over-top the weed seedlings and block them out.

Simon Laming

Mr Laming claimed council services had been mismanaged for years. He said the four council water services proposal added another layer of bureaucracy and he disagreed with this. He did not see any benefit. He said the best option was a stand-alone CCO led by people with strong skills in business.

He said the council was inept and this was shown by council's management of the Oamaru Airport. He then outlined issues he had with the chief executive over the Oamaru Airport manager's role.

He called for Council to employ a contractor to manage the airport and named his preferred contractor. He criticised the mayor, chief executive and councillors for how this issue had been managed.

The Mayor responded to Mr Laming on the issues he raised.

Mr Laming claimed the chief executive refused to meet with him and there was a discussion held on this matter, with the chief executive clarifying that he did not refuse, but his diary was full so he referred Mr Laming to the manager responsible for the airport so Mr Laming would not have to wait to see someone. The Mayor gave both the Chief Executive and Director responsible for the airport the opportunity to respond, which they did. He then offered Mr Laming a meeting with the chief executive but Mr Laming did not accept this offer.

Peter de Reus

Mr de Reus said the ratepayers own the water assets. He was concerned that shifting water assets to another entity would lose local control and local knowledge. It seemed to him that the reason for this was to allow Council to borrow and spend more money. He called for Council to push back on the government.

He asked why workshops were secret. This caused poor communication and understanding by ratepayers. He also objected to the Thames Street trial and the use of the library as a service centre.

Mr de Reus called on Council not to fund minority groups or climate change, or make things difficult for farmers.

The Mayor said he agreed with a lot of what Mr de Reus said. Rate increases were a challenge and the biggest cause of this was water services. Cr Hopkins spoke about the imposition of the water proposal by central government. Mr de Reuss said Council had a responsibility to push back on this.

Wayne Murphy

Mr Murphy sent his apologies as he was in hospital. Another time for him to speak would be arranged.

Annie Baxter

Annie Baxter asked to speak. She supported the in-house option for water services. She said the democratic voice needed to be listened to. People had read the consultation document and considered the options. Now it was time to listen to them.

4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

4.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2025

On Page 16 of the current agenda there is a section in italics attributed to Cr Cowles. Cr Hopkins asked for this to be changed, as there was a sentence in that section that should not be in italics. Cr Cowles agreed.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/076

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins
Seconded: Cr Brent Cowles

That the Council confirms the Public minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting, with the change noted above.

CARRIED

5 LEADERSHIP REPORTS

5.1 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor updated councillors on a number of issues and events that he felt were relevant to the community, that had happened since his last Mayor's report on 29 April 2025.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/077

Moved: Cr Guy Percival
Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That Council receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.20pm and reconvened at 12.45pm. The next item was brought forward on the agenda to suit guest attendees.

6.3 COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS - FINAL STATEMENTS OF INTENT 2024/2025

The purpose of this report was to formally receive the Final Statements of Intent for 2025/26 from three Council Controlled Organisations. A Statement of Intent lays out the intentions for the next financial year and the objectives to which it contributes.

Following the decision to transfer the provision of health services from Waitaki District Health Services Limited to Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand, from 1 July 2024, there was no requirement for that company to submit a Statement of Intent for 2025/26.

Tourism Waitaki

General Manager Dr Philippa Agnew and Chairman Mike McElhinney joined the table.

Mr McElhinney summarised the current work of Tourism Waitaki, and work carried out at the penguin colony.

Tourism numbers were ahead of the national average. The colony recently hosted the biannual penguin symposium, which attracted 100 people from around the country. Recent weather conditions had impacted the penguins due to murky seawater, but numbers were still increasing.

The organisation was well represented at TRENZ and they were in the process of recruiting staff.

Councillors asked questions about tourism numbers, new staff, and future direction. The Mayor thanked them for attending and for their work.

Omarama Airfield

Chairman Clive Geddes attended online and spoke about the work programme at the airfield.

Ground rents are going to be reviewed and lifted over the next three years. The goal was to collect enough money from the ground rent to cover the \$20,000 per annum loss.

The airfield planned a formal board meeting tomorrow. The Mayor acknowledged the work of he unpaid board members and thanked them for their work.

Whitestone Contracting

George Kelcher and Chief Executive Paul Bisset joined the table.

Mr Bisset read out a statement outlining the plans for the company as outlined in the Statement of Intent. There were no questions from councillors.

The Mayor noted that the social outcome requirements asked of Whitestone would be reflected in council's procurement policy, to put them on an equal footing with other contractors. He thanked them for attending.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/078

Moved: Cr Brent Cowles

Seconded: Cr Tim Blackler

That Council formally receives and notes the attached Final Statements of Intent 2025/2026 for its Council Controlled Organisations, namely Ōmarama Airfield Limited, Tourism Waitaki Limited and Whitestone Contracting Limited.

CARRIED

6 DECISION REPORTS

6.1 ASBESTOS CEMENT PIPE POLICY GUIDELINES

This report sought Council's adoption of the Asbestos Cement Pipe Policy Guidelines to support the implementation of the Asbestos Cement Pipe Policy.

Councillors asked questions and these were answered by staff.

The Mayor asked if more context could be included in reports so people reading the agenda could understand the background.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/079

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That Council adopts the attached draft Asbestos Cement Pipe Policy Guidelines.

CARRIED

6.2 DECISION ON WAIHEMO RECREATION RESERVE GRAZING LICENCE

The purpose of this report was to determine whether a new grazing licence should be issued to the current licensee for all or part of the council-owned reserve.

Recreation Specialist Lindsay Hyde joined the table. There has been a mixed view from the community on this matter. Strong points have been raised regarding the availability of reserves to the public and there have been passionate views expressed on both sides of the argument.

Councillors asked questions about several issues including:

Whether Council would monitor the state of the reserve going forward. Yes, but staff were not as proactive in the more distant parts of the district.

Were the minutes of the hearing available. Yes and the chief executive was currently considering releasing the public excluded part of the minutes.

Formalising the route to the summit was a separate piece of work and not related to the grazing licence.

If there was a partial handover, how long would the tenure of the remaining grazing lease last? This would need to be negotiated.

If the trust did a good job and in five years was ready to take on more of the land, should today's council preclude that by offering a longer grazing lease for the rest of the land?

The Mayor said if the trust could show progress with part of the land, after maybe three years more can be taken from grazing and added to the rehabilitated part.

Discussion took place on whether the amount of money council received for the lease should remain public excluded.

Cr Hopkins was concerned about the costs of fencing and suggested the following motion.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

b) That the current licence to occupy be - subject to confirmation of costs associated with reduction and agreed apportioning of those costs.

The motion was not seconded.

Lindsay Hyde said the relocation of the fence should be part of the resizing of the land. The grazer was responsible for ensuring their stock did not get out of their land.

Discussion took place on whether more details on fencing costs should come back to council. And who was responsible for fencing.

Cr Blackler suggested an amendment to resolution (c) as below and Cr Hopkins removed his initial motion.

Cr Hopkins said this was an opportunity for the trust to honour its commitment to succeed with a portion of the reserve, and its success would almost inevitably result in further opportunity.

The Mayor wished the trust well with the portion of the land that would be their responsibility and encouraged them to apply for biodiversity grants towards the cost of rehabilitation.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/080

Moved: Cr Tim Blackler

Seconded: Cr Jim Hopkins

That Council:

1. Accepts the recommendation of the Hearings Committee to allow as follows:

- a) That the progressive rehabilitation of the Puketapu/Waihemo Recreation Reserve, as proposed by the Waihemo Community Board, proceeds, and
- b) That the current grazing licence to occupy be reduced by approximately 20 hectares as agreed with the licensee to assist with the progressive rehabilitation of the reserve.
- c) That Council delegates to the Chief Executive the authority to negotiate and undertake necessary actions for the renegotiation of the licence to occupy, and renewal terms that allow sufficient notice for the lessee, but align with the eventual establishment of the entire reserve.

CARRIED

5.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The chief executive took the report as read and raised some of the highlights contained in the report.

Simon Neale, chairman of the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee, asked for a breakdown of full time, part time and casual staff. This will be emailed to councillors.

Cr Percival asked about an increase in staff numbers from the 2023-24 year to now. As the information wasn't immediately to hand, the Mayor asked him to put his question in writing so an accurate response could be given.

The Mayor asked for clarification on how management would be held to account. Further to that, he requested information on why the action to ensure that the Governance Team and Community Boards felt supported had been defined as being delivered in the 2025 calendar year rather than the original proposal. When adopted in September 2024 for the 2024/25 year KPIs, that KPI was intended to be carried out in the current financial year.

RESOLVED WDC 2025/081

Moved: Cr Tim Blackler

Seconded: Cr Rebecca Ryan

That the Chief Executive's Report be received.

CARRIED

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 3.14pm for a workshop on the Water Services Delivery Plan decision.

This workshop was livestreamed and is available on YouTube at -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ww5Bj7K_t4&pp=ygUYd2FpdGFraSBkaXN0cmliZCBjb3VuY2ls

The meeting reconvened at 5.21pm.

7 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED WDC 2025/082

Moved: Cr Jeremy Holding

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of

the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
8.1 - Strategic Land Purchase Proposal	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
8.2 - Public Excluded Recommendations of the Waihemo Community Board Meeting held on 12 May 2025	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
8.3 - Public Excluded minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025	s6(a) - the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
8.4 - Public Excluded minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 September 2024	s6(a) - the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

CARRIED

8 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION

9 RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLVED WDC 2025/083

Moved: Member Jeremy Holding

Seconded: Member Jim Hopkins

That Council resumes in open meeting and decisions made in the public excluded session are confirmed and made public as and when required and considered.

CARRIED

10 MEETING CLOSE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.24pm.

TO BE CONFIRMED at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 29 July 2025.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES REPORTS

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WAIHEMO COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2025

Author: Arlene Goss, Governance Services Lead

Authoriser:

5.11. HAMPDEN WASTEWATER INVESTIGATION FUNDING

This report followed earlier discussions with the community board at a workshop regarding a budget that was allocated to investigate a wastewater system in Hampden.

The community board expressed disappointment that this situation had occurred. They had asked for a report because they didn't know that one already existed. The purpose was to provide costs to the Hampden community so they could be consulted.

The recommendation to not proceed and repay the loan was the right thing to do.

The Mayor believed the loan had not actually been taken out, so there was nothing to repay. This resolution was a technicality more than anything.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/004

Moved: Mr Kerry Stevens

Seconded: Mrs Tanya Bell

1. That the Waihemo Community Board:

Accepts that the 2022 Waugh report meets the requirements of the board's request into understanding the financial implications of a Hampden wastewater system and that no further funds are required to be spent for this purpose.

2. That the Waihemo Community Board recommends to Council:

- a) That the loan-funded amount of \$40,000 originally set aside for a study into a Hampden wastewater system be repaid.
- b) That staff communicate (or consult) with the Hampden community on the cost of developing a reticulated wastewater system.

CARRIED

5.12. LINCOLN STREET RAIL CROSSING, HAMPDEN

The purpose of this report was to get Community Board advice and support to make Lincoln Street one-way. KiwiRail and the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association have identified a safety concern at the Railway crossing on Lincoln Street, Hampden, and have suggested Lincoln Street be made one-way.

The chairwoman said this would be favourable for the Hampden community, especially at busy times.

Cr Stevens said there was time available between this meeting and when the recommendation goes to council. This time should be spent notifying the community so they can contribute their views before the council meeting, particularly the residents of that street.

The busy time of the tourist season was probably not going to kick in until summer so there was time to do this. The Mayor asked if the roading subcommittee should consider this when it meets next.

The community board agreed to pass the resolution, noting that public submissions would be called for.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/003

Moved: Mr Kerry Stevens

Seconded: Mrs Carol Watson

That the Waihemo Community Board recommends:

That Council:

1. Approves making Lincoln Street one-way where it crosses the rail lines to alleviate safety concerns.

CARRIED

6 DECISION REPORTS

6.1 ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY INCLUDING ENDORSEMENT OF NEW COUNCIL BRAND

Author: Sonia Martinez, Strategic Communications and Engagement Manager

Authoriser: Lisa Baillie, Director Community Engagement and Experience

Attachments: 1. **WDC Communications Strategy**  
2. **Council Brand Development**  

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the new Communications and Engagement Strategy as attached.
2. Endorses the new Waitaki District Council logo.

DECISION OBJECTIVE

Adoption of the new Communications and Engagement Strategy to enable activation of the key initiatives and staged roll-out of the new Council logo which is the first step in our transformed brand identity.

SUMMARY

The **Waitaki District Council Communications & Engagement Strategy 2025–28** is a shift toward shared ownership of communications and engagement across all of Council and the community. It's a strategy for all of us. It supports Council's transformation efforts, changing the way we Waitaki, and aims to create a culture where everyone – staff, elected members, and residents – plays a role in building a thriving, connected Waitaki.

The strategy is a roadmap for how Council plans to inform, listen, and build stronger relationships with its communities. It will provide practical guidance to help foster trust, improve decision-making, and make sure everyone in the district is given opportunities to take part in shaping its future.

A rebrand is a chance to update the Waitaki District Council logo so it fits better with our district's shared identity. A new logo signals a fresh start for our newly transformed Council and shows the public that the Council is serious about improving how it connects with people.

DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS

Governance Decision-Making:	Adoption of the Communications & Engagement Strategy and endorsement of the new Waitaki District Council logo.
Operational Decision-Making:	Activation of the key initiatives in the Strategy and staged roll-out of new brand across Council platforms and communications.
Communications	Media Releases – contributed to by officers and Elected Members

Media/public enquiries regarding governance decision-making topics above can be addressed by governance

Media/public enquiries regarding operational decision-making topics above can be addressed by officers

SUMMARY OF DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA

	No/Moderate/Key		No/Moderate/Key
Policy/Plan	No	Environmental Considerations	No
Legal	No	Cultural Considerations	No
Significance	No	Social Considerations	No
Financial Criteria	No	Economic Considerations	No
Community Views	No	Community Board Views	No
Consultation	No	Publicity and Communication	Key

BACKGROUND

As part of our work in *Changing the way we Waitaki* we've created a new Communications and Engagement Strategy to help Council build better, more trusted relationships with the people in our district. This strategy explains how we'll share information clearly, listen better, and work more closely with our communities.

As work on the Waitaki Story and Identity progressed over the past year, it highlighted inconsistencies in how Council is presenting its brand, services and facilities to the community – too many logos, different styles and no unified voice. The current Council brand, which reflects Ōamaru's colonial heritage, doesn't represent our growing and diverse community.

How was the strategy and brand developed?

The Waitaki Story and Identity and our Transformation programme is the foundation on which this strategy and branding work has been built.

All work on the strategy and brand has been done in-house by Council's Communications and Engagement Team with feedback from elected members and the wider Council team.

We also used community feedback gathered during Community Conversations, the Annual Residents Survey and other consultations, alongside stakeholder engagement as part of the Waitaki Story Project.

Why is a strategy needed?

- Right now, our communication can be messy and confusing. We use too many different styles channels and messages, which can make us look disorganised.
- Some people see Council as distant or untrustworthy.
- We're dealing with challenges like misinformation, community frustration, and barriers that make it hard for people to get involved or understand what we do.
- We have limited resources and need to use them wisely.

What will the new strategy do?

- Set a clear, consistent way for all parts of Council to communicate and engage.
- Ensure information is simple, relevant, accessible, and easy to find.
- Empower all Council staff and elected members to be effective communicators.

- Reduce information overload and communicate in a targeted, measurable way.
- Strengthen internal communication so staff and elected members are informed and aligned.
- Move us from just reacting to issues to being more planned, open, and inclusive.
- Help staff connect better with our communities using new tools and a practical approach.
- Make it easier for people to have their say – and for us to show we've listened.
- Celebrate and amplify the identity and stories of Waitaki.

Key Initiatives (Selected Examples)

- Council brand refresh aligned to the "Waitaki Story."
- New Communications Toolkit for staff and elected members including plain Language guidelines and accessible content formats.
- Improved website content and user experience.
- Audience mapping and streamlined communication channels.
- Education campaign: "What we do and why."
- Develop a Community Engagement Framework and embed engagement into project lifecycles.
- Strengthen use of digital tools.
- Improve internal communication and cross-team collaboration.

Timeline

- Council adoption of Communications and Engagement Strategy – July 2025
- Phased Implementation of initiatives begins August 2025
- Phased roll-out of new logo and facility brands begins (as things are replaced) – September 2025.

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Option 1 – Council adopts the new Communications and Engagement Strategy and endorses the new Waitaki District Council logo which is the first step in our transformed brand identity. **(Recommended).**

Option 2 – Council does not adopt the new Communications and Engagement Strategy or endorse the new Waitaki District Council logo as suitable. Requiring further work to be completed.

Option 3 – Status quo – Don't adopt the strategy and maintain the current logo.

ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION

Adopting the Communications and Engagement Strategy presents a great opportunity to build trust and strengthen relationships between Council and the wider Waitaki community, at a time when it is needed more than ever to build Council's relationship with our community. It provides a clear, consistent framework for how we share information, listen to feedback, and involve people in decision-making.

By addressing current issues - such as inconsistent branding, mixed messages, and barriers to participation - the Strategy helps position Council as more open, approachable, and responsive. It also supports better internal alignment and makes smarter use of limited resources. Adopting the Strategy and new brand is a proactive step toward more meaningful, inclusive, and effective

community engagement. It also aligns with the transformed Council ambitions, including but not limited to:

- enabling local ideas and democracy for all within our District;
- being sought-after as a partner by the community.
- being viewed as a part of the community, not just the government system; and
- our entire community view Council as helpful, want to interact, engage and are proud of their Council.

1.

CONCLUSION

As soon as Council adopts the new strategy, we can get cracking implementing key initiatives that start to build a clear, unified approach to how we communicate, listen, and engage – to grow trust, and improve transparency. Once the new logo is endorsed, we can begin a staged roll-out of this visible sign of our transformed Council and our commitment to meaningful change.

DRAFT Communications & Engagement Strategy 2025-28

Waitaki District Council

www.waitaki.govt.nz

t. 03 433 0300 e. service@waitaki.govt.nz

20 Thames Street, Private Bag 50058, Oamaru 9444



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

Contents

Introduction	2
Transforming how we communicate and engage.....	2
Vision	3
What will this strategy do?	4
Where does it fit?.....	4
Who is it for?	5
What will this strategy <i>not</i> do?	5
What is communications and engagement?	6
Why is it important to communicate and engage well?.....	6
Who are we talking to and engaging with?.....	6
What are our channels?	7
Current state – where are we now?	8
Challenges and barriers to effective communication and engagement	8
Future state – where do we want to be?	9
Communications strategy	10
Communication Principles	10
Communications strategic objectives and initiatives.....	10
Engagement Strategy	22
Engagement Principles	22
What influence do community views have?	23
Engagement process.....	24
Engagement strategic objectives and initiatives.....	25
Appendices.....	31
Appendix 1: IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum	31
Appendix 2: Initiatives matrix	33

Introduction

When everyone has the right information, we can make better decisions together.

In a district as diverse as Waitaki, effective communication and authentic community engagement are not just nice-to-haves – they are essential. We need to make sure people know what's going on, feel included, understand the value of giving feedback, and are enabled to have a say – so that the decisions Council make reflect what matters to our communities.

As a council, funded by and here to serve our community, it's an important part of being accountable, that we communicate well with our community on what we are doing for and with them and on their behalf.

There are times when we inform or educate about important topics, times when we consult and gather feedback, and times when we collaborate to find solutions with our community. The key to success is making sure everyone's on the same page about when and how our community can get involved in what we deliver.

This Communications and Engagement Strategy sets out our commitment to growing meaningful connections across the whole of our district. It provides direction for how we communicate and **send information out**, and how we listen and **collect information in**, to help us to deliver on the Outcomes in Council's Strategic Framework: Strong Communities, Prosperous District, Quality Services and Valued Environment.

This strategy sets out a road map to creating a consistent approach to communicating and engaging across all Council functions. It's about establishing coordinated and collaborative channels, that empower both Council and community to strengthen relationships and make important decisions together.

Transforming how we communicate and engage

Changing the way we Waitaki

Council's new way of working (our Operating Model) aims to enable local ideas and democracy for all.

We want people to see us as helpful, trustworthy, collaborative and good at listening – delivering what's needed, when it's needed. We want our community to be proud of us and feel comfortable working with us. We want to be seen as part of the community, not separate from it.

We're aiming to work as one team, using clear processes and good practices that make a real difference and help both our people and our district thrive.

We're working to bring together local community input and expert advice to help us make smart decisions that lead to long-term, joined-up solutions for residents and ratepayers. These decisions support our big goals and how we measure our performance as an organisation (our Performance Management Framework).

So what's new?

A lot! As part of our recent Transformation programme, one of the key change in Council's organisational design is the creation of the Strategic Communications and Engagement Team. Communication, education and engagement functions that were previously scattered across all of Council facilities and departments have been pulled together into one team.

With this new focus, there's never been a better time to refresh the way we talk, listen and work with our community.

Our Vision for Communications and Engagement

The vision for our transformed Council is '***a leading, innovative council delivering the best for our communities***' and one of the key ways to achieve this is through collaboration and partnership.

We are all 'Team Waitaki' wanting the best for our future. We are united in the same goal. Residents, businesses, Council staff and elected members all want the same thing. We all want Waitaki to thrive, now and in the future. We may have different ideas on how to make that happen, but that's not going to stop us working together to get things done.

How? We can only do this through effective, collaborative communication and engagement.

Our vision for communicating and engaging:

"Working together with our community as one team, to make a better Waitaki for everyone"

We will be open, honest, clear and inclusive in how we talk *and* listen so that our communities are empowered with the right information, feel part of what Council delivers, and we build a stronger future together.

What will this strategy do?

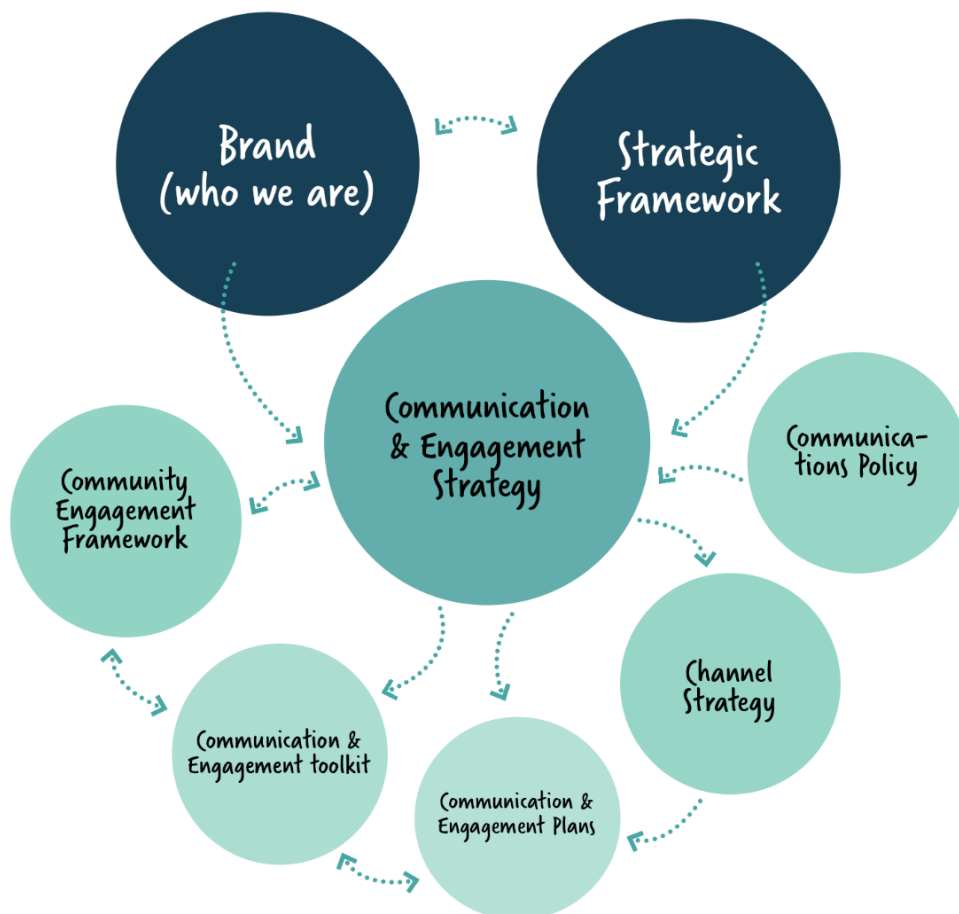
At its heart, this strategy is about enabling us to strengthen the way we build trust, share and hear information and community intel, and work collaboratively with our communities.

We aim to move beyond reactive messaging and actions, toward a more deliberate, inclusive and transparent approach that reflects our strategic outcomes, who we are as a district and where we want to go.

This strategy brings a cohesion to the framework, tools and other guiding documents and keeps us connected to Council's strategic outcomes and Organisational Performance Management Framework.

It identifies the challenges and barriers we currently face and proposes initiatives to address these and move towards bringing the vision of this strategy to life.

Where does it fit?



Who is it for?

Everybody! All interactions that our elected members and staff have with members of the public and with each other are communications from Council.

The way we answer the phone, our email sign-offs, the way our invoices are worded, how we contact a customer about their application or infringement, how we're quoted in the media, elected members having a chat with their constituents – these are all communications from Council and need to reflect our new ways of working.

This strategy and initiatives can be used by:

- **The Strategic Communications & Engagement Team:** to prioritise focus areas, design and implement meaningful communication and engagement processes.
- **Public-facing customer service and customer experience teams**, (including locality, facilities and enforcement staff): to ensure frontline interactions reflect council communication goals, provide accurate, aligned messaging when dealing with public queries.
- **General staff:** to understand how to communicate with the public, stakeholders and partners within the strategy's framework, promote internal collaboration and consistent information sharing.
- **Elected members:** as a resource to help communicate effectively with residents, support transparency and democratic participation, align their public messaging with Council priorities and tone.
- **External Partners** (e.g., contractors, consultants): to align their messaging and engagement practices with council standards and coordinate effectively in joint projects or initiatives.

In short, this strategy acts as a shared playbook to make sure everyone connected to Council communicates clearly, consistently, and inclusively, strengthening public trust and participation.

Our residents, visitors and stakeholders, have roles within Council communications too.

What will this strategy *not* do?

This strategy is *not* about:

- **Creating a corporate culture:** A communications strategy or a campaign is not going to change fundamental cultural or structural issues, but it can be used to reinforce our values and increase understanding. While this strategy defines the direction and focus of our communications and engagement, our organisational culture is the environment in which this strategy lives or dies.
- **Creating a brand identity and corporate narrative:** Though this is one of the key initiatives we're proposing. We must really know who we are, as a district and as a Council before we can communicate with authenticity. Defining our 'Brand Pillars' and key themes around Council's priority areas will help shape, connect and focus our communications.
- **Creating a communications plan or campaign:** We're not defining our key messages here or making a plan for what to communicate about and when.
- **Promoting how great we are:** We aren't chasing the 'likes' and positive feedback or just broadcasting Council news. We want to build our good name, but putting a PR spin on everything won't increase public confidence. We need to be honest and open and genuinely committed to collaboration to build a baseline of trust between Council and community.

What is communications and engagement?

While there's a lot of overlap, for the purposes of this strategy we have separated 'communications', which is generally more about giving and receiving information, and 'engagement' which is more about relationship building and collaboration with our communities as we work together to find solutions.

Why is it important to communicate and engage well?

Communicating and engaging well is important because it's how we build trust, understanding, and a sense of shared purpose between Council and the people of Waitaki.

When we communicate clearly and honestly, and when we listen to and involve our communities, we create better decisions, stronger relationships, and more successful outcomes for everyone.

Good communication helps people understand what's happening, why it matters, and how they can be part of it. And when we engage well, we hear from a wider range of voices – not just the loudest or most connected – which means our work reflects the real needs and hopes of the whole district.

It also helps prevent misunderstandings, reduces frustration, and shows our community that we're here to serve *with* them in partnership, not just *for* them.

In short: when we communicate and engage well, we strengthen our communities and help Waitaki thrive.

Who are we talking to and engaging with?

To communicate and engage meaningfully, we first need to understand who we're trying to reach.

Our communities are not all the same — they're made up of different people with different needs, interests, experiences and ways of connecting. That's why identifying and understanding our audiences is critical to the success of this strategy.

When we know who we're talking to, we can choose the right messages, the right channels, the right tone and the right time. We can recognise what matters to different groups and tailor our approach so that people feel seen, listened to, respected and motivated to take part. We can spot who might be left out and take steps to include them. Without this understanding, we risk being too general, irrelevant, or unintentionally excluding those who most need to be involved.

Defining our community and stakeholders

When we refer to our *community*, we mean those individuals or groups of people that live, work or spend their time in the Waitaki district.

When we talk about our *stakeholders*, we are referring to groups or individuals with a specific stake in the outcome of a decision, or impact of a project.

Communities:

- **Communities of place:** Many of our projects aim to improve places. Often the most interested and impacted communities are those that live, work or play around these projects, or that hold a particular connection to a place because of its historical or cultural significance.
- **Communities of interest:** Communities of interest organise around an issue or activity. These include different business sectors, professions, advocacy and industry groups and non-profits. Communities of interest may form advocacy groups and networks that Council can tap into.

- **Communities of identity:** These communities define themselves. They may gather around cultural and religious beliefs, language or shared experiences. (It's important to remember that there is diversity within these communities).
- **Communities of need:** These may be people facing food insecurity, housing stress or economic hardship. They may have difficulty accessing services, including digital information channels. These are people who need Council to work in a way that understands and addresses their vulnerability, so they can participate in daily life and our decision-making processes.
- **Communities of the future:** These are important communities to consider in our decision-making as they are usually the ones who will have to live with our decisions the longest. Their perspectives are often difficult to consider.

The need for Community Intel

To work collaboratively with our communities to deliver quality services and have a strong community, prosperous district and valued environment, we need to base decision-making on more than assumptions – we need diverse **community intel**. Our transformed operating model has been built in a way that clearly demonstrates the need to hear community views.

Community intel is the knowledge we gather to inform decision-making and shape our communication and engagement. It includes things like community preferences, concerns, trusted messengers, barriers to engagement, and the ways people already connect with each other. It may include both formal data and lived experience, as well as local insights and on-the-ground relationships.

This isn't about creating complex databases or profiling individuals. It's about capturing and using what we already know – and what our teams, elected members, and community partners know – to communicate in a meaningful way and engage more effectively and efficiently. Building a shared picture of our audience helps us align efforts across Council, avoid duplication, and meet people where they are, not where we expect them to be.

What are our channels?

How we reach our community.

We have a variety of channels we can use to share information and connect with our community. These include radio and print media, digital tools like our website, email newsletters, and social media – not just on our main Council pages, but also through the pages of our facilities and local community pages.

People are part of the network.

Our people are also key communication channels. Elected members chatting with residents, staff helping someone online, in-person or over the phone, even someone mentioning a Council project at a BBQ – these all shape how people understand and feel about Council. Community leaders, local influencers, and everyday residents play a big role in sharing information and shaping conversations.

Different people, different needs.

Not everyone uses the same channels or connects in the same way. Some prefer Facebook, others want a face-to-face chat, a letter in the mail, or a visit to a community meeting. We need to think about accessibility and inclusion when we plan our communications – making sure everyone has a fair chance to access important information and get their questions answered so they can give us informed feedback in return.

Current state – where are we now?

Our Communications approach tends towards the reactive, tactical/short term with a lack of connection back to Strategic Outcomes.

Our messaging can be disjointed with a lack of cohesive storytelling. There is minimal review and evaluation of our completed communication and engagement activity and we don't "close the loop" with our community effectively. We face regular external, and internal, criticism for either not communicating enough or communicating too much irrelevant information.

Challenges and barriers to effective communication and engagement

Ultimately, we want the information we send out to reach all sectors of our community and for all community members to have access to feedback opportunities. But there are challenges to reaching and engaging productively with all the communities and people in our district. These include:

- **Channels:** Multiple, fractured channel preferences.
- **Fatigue:** Engagement fatigue and information overload.
- **Relevance:** Lack of interest or connection to topic/outcome and general apathy.
- **Isolation:** Distance and physical isolation of outlying/rural communities from town centre and services.
- **Accessibility:** digital (internet/technology), transport, socio economic, language, cognitive & physical.
- **Disempowerment:** under-represented and minority groups can feel disconnected from processes.
- **Time:** Everyone's busy! Competing priorities of time commitments.
- **Influence:** Level of influence of certain stakeholder groups and individuals. Or the minority may make a stronger case during the process and the view of the majority is rejected.
- **Motivation:** to complain and disagree is greater than motivation to express support – People who are content are less likely to participate.
- **Distrust:** in government authorities and public services.
- **Misinformation:** Spread and influence of misinformation is rising.
- **Outrage:** Community outrage on issues can derail meaningful engagement.
- **Budget:** Insufficient communications and engagement budget and resources for increasing scope and reach.

Future state – where do we want to be?

We have informed and engaged communities representing the diversity of our district.

We build knowledge of our decisions,, services, facilities, events and activities by ensuring our community has access to clear, timely and transparent information. We're a Council that creates genuine opportunities for involvement in decision-making and helps our community understand what we are doing and why.

Communications strategy

We communicate with our communities not just to inform them, but to support the building of community capacity and resilience by increasing their knowledge on the issues affecting them in their daily lives.

We know the benefits that effective communications have for building trust in our community. We are committed to the process of sharing information.

Communication Principles

- 1. We're clear and straightforward**
We use plain language that people can understand – no jargon, no waffle. Our messages get to the point and are easy to follow.
- 2. We're honest and transparent**
We tell the truth, even when it's tough. We're open about challenges, trade-offs, and decisions. We welcome public scrutiny.
- 3. We make it relevant**
We connect the dots – explaining how Council decisions and the services we provide affect people's daily lives, homes, whānau, and communities.
- 4. We listen and respond**
Good communication is two-way. We listen to what people are telling us and adapt our messaging if something's unclear or missing the mark.
- 5. We're timely and consistent**
We communicate at the right time – early enough to make a difference, and often enough to build trust. Our messages are consistent across teams and channels. We speak with a unified voice.
- 6. We use the right channels**
We choose the best way to reach people and respect that different groups prefer different ways to connect.
- 7. We respect and reflect our community**
We treat our audience with compassion, empathy and dignity and respect different points of view. Our tone and visuals reflect the people we serve. We celebrate local voices, cultures, and stories.
- 8. We're accessible to all**
We identify barriers and work to make sure everyone can access our information – including people with different languages, abilities, and digital access.

Communications objectives and initiatives

Our objectives are designed to address the barriers and challenges to effective communication that we identified.

Our objectives are:

- C1: **To empower our networks and optimise our channels.**
- C2: **To make our information inclusive and accessible by default.**
- C3: **To really know who we are and be proud of it.**

- C4: **To build trust and awareness of the value of what we do.**
- C5: **To broaden our reach but in a targeted way.**
- C6: **To grow good communication from the inside out.**

Key initiatives

While the following tables go into further detail, we've identified some key focus areas for Waitaki District Council communications for the next 3 years:

1. **Council brand refresh and Council 'Story':** Design and align a transformed Council corporate identity system to fit within the 'Waitaki Story' district brand. Create an easy-to-follow style guide with templates and content guidelines to support a consistent brand voice. Align facility and services branding and signage to make the depth and breadth of Council services more visible and obvious. Define Council's 'Brand Pillars' (related to our community outcomes) with key themes and stories for each pillar to connect communications across everything we do.
2. **Communications Toolkit:** Create a practical toolkit of guidelines, templates and regular key message 'bulletins' to empower staff and elected members to communicate in a way that increases accessibility of information, and trust in Council.
3. **Website content audit and user-experience improvements:** As part of Council's digital transformation, we will improve the functionality and accessibility of this portal to all our information and online services.
4. **Audience mapping and channel strategy:** Collect and analyse data to understand our audiences and how they prefer to access information and engage with us. Review all Council communication channels – like social media, websites, print materials, signs, and ads – to streamline and improve them. Set up better ways to measure how well each channel is working. Make our Locality teams and partners part of our channels.
5. **'What we do' education programme:** Create and implement a plan focused on community education on 'what we do and why we do it' highlighting our new ways of working as a transformed Council. Weave in Council's 'Brand Pillars' to create consistent stories and key messages about our services. A planned and targeted communications campaign to help our community become better informed about Council services and decisions and encourage an 'education before enforcement' approach.
6. **Embed cultural competency:** Staff are supported to build cultural awareness into their communications and interactions with training, guidelines, templates and expertise. Communications are inclusive by default and reflect and respect the diversity of our district.

To empower our networks and optimise our channels.

"We're all on the Communications Team!"

Where we are now: Communications flow from Council is currently passive and one-way. Responsibility for all communications from Council is perceived to rest with a small Communications Team. Our people (staff, elected members and our community) aren't actively empowered to be part of an interactive communications network.

Where we want to be: Council staff, elected members and the Waitaki community all have a strong understanding of their role in Council communications, are equipped with easy to find, accurate information, empowered with the right tools, and inspired to help spread the word.

Current State	▶ Key strategies/ initiatives	▶ Future state	Priority (year)
A lack of embedded understanding of the value of Communications across Council, and the role all staff play in Communications.	▶ 'Internal 'communicators' education campaign for all front-facing staff and content writers. Equip staff with key messages and a Communications Toolkit. Update communications guidelines in staff induction materials.	All Council staff have a strong idea of their role and responsibilities in Council communications and are empowered to become part of our communications network.	1
Elected members' reach and influence in local networks are not used to full advantage to pass on key messaging and encourage engagement.	▶ Elected Members are supported to identify and use their networks as communication channels. Weekly (Monday) schedule of Key Messages and 'hot topics' circulated to EMs. Communications guidelines in EM induction materials.	▶ EMs are equipped with timely, relevant key messages to use if they choose. EMs are clear on how they can use their networks help with communications. EMs feel more supported and connected to the community.	1
Residents generally have a passive relationship to Council Comms, where they wait to receive information through their preferred channels and don't disperse it further.	▶ Key stakeholders and community channels are identified and nurtured as communication ambassadors.	▶ Community is empowered and inspired to proactively gather a balance of information to gain a deeper understanding of Council and enable active citizenship.	2

Current State	▶	Key strategies/ initiatives	▶	Future state	Priority (year)
<p>Website content is text heavy and inconsistent in structure and style. making for an often frustrating user-experience.</p> <p>Website content can be out-of-date and no longer accurate.</p>	▶	<p>Roll out PHASE 2 of Council's website project: Content audit and optimisation:</p> <p>Implement the redesign of Council's website structure with a user focus. New consistent and logical site tree and page structure designed and agreed and applied. All unnecessary content eliminated.</p> <p>Website page 'owners' are identified and kept up to date through staff changes. Role is agreed with managers. Schedule of review date for content agreed – reminders are automated.</p> <p>Communications Toolkit including 'Writing for our website' manual developed for website editors and training provided.</p> <p>Communications Team sign-off on website content.</p>	▶	<p>Easy, logical access to accurate information at the customer's time-of-need, empowering proactive self-service.</p> <p>A well-maintained website and online services alleviate demand on customer service and allows for quicker responses to issues, resulting in greater customer satisfaction.</p>	2

To ensure our information is inclusive, easy to access and understand

"We speak your language"

Where we are now: Our Communications do not reflect the diversity of our district. English is the only language we use to communicate in. Information can be hard to find and is often dense and jargony creating barriers to understanding and participation.

Where we want to be: Council is seen as friendly and approachable. Our community is equipped with relevant useful information.

Current State	▶	Key strategies/ initiatives	▶	Future state	Priority (year)
Online content is not optimised for accessibility. A lot of our information is inaccessible to people with literacy issues, cognitive or visual impairments, different language backgrounds, and those who just prefer not to read.	▶	Use AI to produce 'Easy read' versions of all our key documents. Adopt a Council 'Plain Language' policy with guidelines for staff. Ensure website is optimised for accessibility for screen readers and language translators. Create a template for producing quick videos with voiceovers for key information. Explore options for ESL and translated versions of documents.	▶	Council information is accessible to all when they need and want it.	1
Legislative speak, and corporate jargon create barriers and distance between the community and Council, decreasing trust.	▶	Our Communications Toolkit will include guides to 'Plain Language' and 'Voice & Tone'. Staff will be encouraged to apply this guidance to all communications. Phased content audit and replacement of existing collateral alongside roll-out of new Council brand.	▶	We inform informally. We are more human. We are less bureaucrat. Our communications are accessible and relatable to a wider audience.	1

To really know who we are and be proud of it

"We have many stories but speak with one voice"

Where we are now: Our communications and publications can be inconsistent, disjointed and set us apart from our community.

Where we want to be: We are Waitaki. We're united under a district brand. Our Council brand is strong and authentic, reflecting the place we live and the diversity of the communities who live here. Our community knows that we include, support and celebrate them.

Current State	▶	Key strategies/ initiatives	▶	Future state	Priority (year)
Lack of a strong District identity and story to unify Waitaki and build district pride.	▶	'Waitaki Story' project rolled out with community and stakeholder collaboration.		A vibrant, unifying cohesive brand reflects our unique character, instils a sense of community pride, builds our reputation, and supports the attraction of investment and people to the district. Brand architecture including entry, township and wayfinding signage is connected and cohesive.	1
Outdated and inconsistent Council brand, imagery, voice and tone, results in Council's 'personality' seeming haphazard, disjointed – reducing community trust. There's no relationship between district identity, Council and facility sub-brands.	▶	Council Rebrand aligned to the 'Waitaki Story' district brand -includes finding Council's unique 'voice', and corporate narrative. Develop and enforce easy to follow brand guidelines internally. Refresh and optimise Council's Digital Asset Management system (Webdam) to allow collaborative access to a repository of approved high-quality imagery and brand collateral for Council staff, community and businesses.	▶	Council's brand, voice and imagery resonates with staff and community. We have a brand we are proud of, that's more than a just a logo and how we look – it's woven into everything we do and the way we interact with our customers Council brand architecture is connected and cohesive. Staff are empowered with tools to help them communicate with one voice and stay on-brand. Community & Businesses have access to imagery to support district promotion.	1

Current State	▶	Key strategies/ initiatives	▶	Future state	Priority (year)
<p>We have a haphazard approach to telling local stories and featuring Council out in the community.</p> <p>Our content tends to be 'Oamaru-centric' and our rural communities are under-represented.</p> <p>Our publications and communications don't reflect the true cultural diversity of our communities so can seem irrelevant to them.</p>	▶	<p>Identify local, interconnected stories through the 'Waitaki Stories' project and where Council fits in.</p> <p>With help from the Locality Team, develop and roll out a scheduled campaign of local stories, with a Council focus with community input.</p> <p>Actively reflect the diversity of our community in our communications and publications.</p>	▶	<p>The diversity of our community is reflected and celebrated in our communications and publications.</p> <p>Council's reach and channels are used to amplify local stories and the good work being done in our community.</p> <p>The relationship between Council and the community is supportive and strong.</p>	1

To build trust and awareness of the value of what we do

"Our community understands the value of Council"

Where we are now: Awareness of all the services we provide is patchy and limited. Some residents question the value of services they don't personally use. There's a lack of a cohesive approach to telling our stories across Council services.

Where we want to be: We have a targeted, aligned approach to educate and build knowledge around everything we do, to ensure the best usage of Council services by our community. Our community trusts us to look after their wellbeing and provide value for rates.

Current State	►	Key strategies/ initiatives	►	Future state	Priority (year)
<p>Community has limited knowledge of Council services.</p> <p>Some Council facilities and services are underutilised or underappreciated.</p> <p>Lack of trust from some community sectors that Council is providing value for money.</p>	►	<p>Identify key themes aligned to community outcomes and our new ways of working as a transformed Council.</p> <p>Use key themes for developing and imbedding an internal process for a co-ordinated and proactive approach to informing the community of Council's role and the value of what we do.</p> <p>Implement an education campaign to build awareness and exposure to Council facilities, services and projects.</p>	►	<p>Increased community awareness, use and appreciation of Council services and how they impact community outcomes.</p> <p>Council has an embedded process that makes sure all relevant projects are effectively communicated to the wider community.</p> <p>Community sees the Council providing value for money.</p>	1

To broaden our reach but in a targeted way

"Less is more"

Where we are now: Information overload. We have a multitude of communications channels with a lot of random content being pushed out in a scattergun way with little way of knowing if we're reaching the right people.

Where we want to be: Responsive, and strategic communications. More effort is made to target audiences and prioritise 'need to know' and 'nice to know' and 'don't want to know'. Regular analysis and reporting allow us to see what works, learn and adapt our approach.

Current State	►	Key strategies/ initiatives	►	Future state	Priority (year)
Information overload. Too much irrelevant content means that information that is actually important to a target audience can easily get lost.	►	Channel audit and strategy with channel preferences for our audiences identified. One WDC stakeholder master list with contact details and channel preferences tagged and filterable. Develop process for keeping this up to date.	►	We know how to reach the right people at the right time with the right message. One centralised stakeholder and community database accessible internally and currency maintained.	1
There is no way for comms to send out locally targeted information other than community Facebook pages and emergency e-texts. SNAP SEND SOLVE is one-way only – Customers can report issues but we can't respond, send information out and close the loop.	►	Consider two-way reporting and communications App/tool (Antenno?) so customers can subscribe to get geotargeted alerts about things in their area relevant to their needs and interests. Develop processes to use the new Locality model as a channel to reach our rural areas – (Area Leads, Locality Officers, Capital Contract inspectors and Community Boards)	►	Customers have control over the types of information they receive. We have the means to get targeted priority information out quickly. People receive information that is more relevant to their lives.	2

Current State	►	Key strategies/ initiatives	►	Future state	Priority (year)
<p>Too many Council communications channels requiring lots of resource to manage.</p> <p>We have limited understanding of how effective each channel is and who's accessing our content.</p> <p>Repetitive messaging across multiple channels creates unnecessary noise.</p>	►	<p>Channel audit and channel strategy developed to identify best value channels and best practice content for these channels.</p> <p>Publishing tool implemented.</p> <p>Boosted campaign to encourage residents to follow us on official Council channels.</p> <p>Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the effectiveness of channels and campaigns.</p>	►	We know which channels to use to reach which audiences in the best way.	1
<p>Inconsistent budget allocation to communications – 'nice to have' information often has more resources for promotion than 'need to know' information.</p>	►	<p>Make priority communications budgets an integral part of project management.</p>	►	<p>Important information is boosted with the best chance of reaching the people who need to know.</p>	2

To grow good communication from the inside out

"We all start with a shared message"

Where we are now: Information overload! Staff spend wasted hours trying to find information or sifting through a barrage of information. Staff and Elected members often hear Council news from external sources first.

Where we want to be: Council staff are informed, aligned, and engaged, working together for Waitaki.

Current State	►	Key strategies/ initiatives	►	Future state	Priority (year)
Too many internal channels used inconsistently means fragmented communication, which can lead to confusion, low morale, and inefficiency.	►	Develop an internal communication strategy, processes and guidelines.	►	Open and transparent communication fosters trust, boosts motivation, and staff feel valued. Staff have a shared understanding of mission, vision, values, and strategic priorities so they can work toward common objectives effectively. Staff are actively part of our communications network.	1

Engagement Strategy

Our goal is to create a collaborative, trusting relationship with our community, where people can give informed, meaningful feedback that helps Council make better decisions.

To succeed, Council needs to build stronger relationships with our community and stakeholders, and make engagement easy and genuine.

A consistent and authentic approach to engagement works hand in hand with communications to make sure the community gets the right information at the right time in the right way.

We want to help people gain a deeper understanding of the issues so they can share informed feedback. We want to make sure Elected Members, Council Staff and the community are aligned on when and where community feedback can be used. And we want to "close the loop" by showing how community feedback has made an impact.

This strategy outlines how we'll bring together experts, stakeholders, and communities to support open communication and embed consistent, meaningful engagement across all areas of Council work.

Community Engagement Principles

1. **We engage with purpose**

We are clear about the purpose, objective and scope of engaging with our community. When there is an opportunity for our community to have meaningful input into the decision being made, we will strive to involve the right people, at the right time, in the right way.

2. **We're transparent and honest**

We'll tell people how their feedback will be used – and what decisions have already been made. We're upfront about limitations - what's open to change and what isn't. We'll share information in a way that's easy to understand.

3. **We listen and respect**

We don't just talk – we listen. We value community members' time, knowledge, experience, and contributions. Every voice matters. We'll treat people's views with respect, and we'll listen even when feedback is tough. We acknowledge and work with cultural, historical, and social context.

4. **We engage early and often**

We'll involve the community as early as we can – not just when decisions are nearly made. And we'll keep in touch through each step of the journey.

5. **We close the loop**

We let people know what happened with their input. We share the outcomes of engagement – what we decided and why – even if the decision didn't change.

6. **We build trust over time**

We're in this for the long haul. Trust takes time – so we aim to show up consistently, listen well, and keep our word. We'll build relationships with community groups and residents based on honesty and shared goals.

7. **We include everyone**

We aim to hear from all parts of our diverse community. We'll tailor our approach to local and cultural needs. We'll use different formats and channels in ways that are inclusive and accessible to make it easier for people to take part.

8. We empower our people

Where appropriate, we support partnerships, co-design or shared decision-making and enable communities to influence decisions that affect them.

What influence do community views have?

In planning consultation and engagement activities, it's important that we're clear what the purpose is, and what can and cannot be influenced by the community.

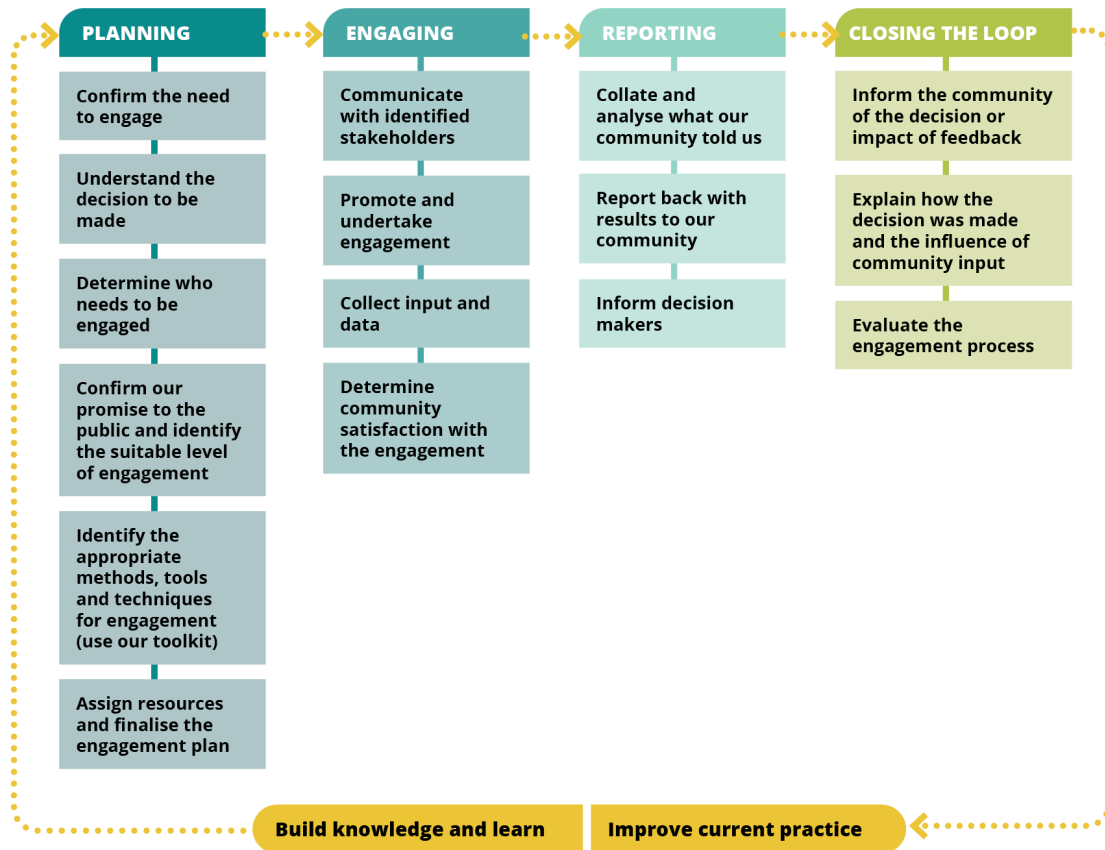
We'll do this by clearly outlining what's in, and out, of scope and make it clear to the community how their input will inform our decision-making. We'll also implement and embed a framework for "closing the loop" with our community and communicating to them where their feedback has had an impact on what was decided and what we're going to do about it.

Council decision making criteria

Community input is just one part of the things Council has to consider when making decisions.



Engagement process



Engagement objectives and initiatives

Our objectives are designed to address the barriers and challenges to effective engagement that we identified.

Our objectives are:

- **E1: To engage meaningfully with clear purpose**
- **E2: To enable inclusive participation**
- **E3: To be at the heart of our community**

Key initiatives

While the following tables go into further detail, we've identified some key focus areas for Waitaki District Council engagement for the next 3 years:

1. **Community Engagement Framework:** Design a Community Engagement policy, framework and toolkit to ensure Council and Community have a shared understanding of how to engage and when community input will be used in decision making. Invest in growing in-house facilitation and cultural skills to ensure engagement is authentic and right for our communities. This will embed a consistent approach to engagement in all that we do and allow us to work towards best practice engagement and stronger relationships.
2. **Community and Stakeholder mapping:** Undertake a research and analysis project to understand the demographics of our community and how different sectors prefer to engage (and any barriers to engagement) and identify initiatives for enabling inclusive, accessible engagement that represents the diversity of our district.
3. **Embed community engagement into project management:** Ensure Community and stakeholder engagement is embedded in project lifecycles and adequate time and resource is applied to enable engagement that furthers our connection to community, and they feel involved in what Council delivers.
4. **Optimise Council's online engagement:** Ensure our digital engagement hub, EHQ, is resourced with trained operators to make use of its full potential for engagement, automation, data analysis and closing the feedback loop so that we're working towards accessible, affordable and efficient ways of engaging for both Council and community

To engage meaningfully with clear purpose.

"A culture of collaboration where communities can help shape the future"

Where we are now: There's often the perception that we're engaging for the sake of engaging, resulting in some community disillusionment with the process. Council has no consistent approach for using public feedback for process improvement, or decision making.

Where we want to be: Community and Council have a shared understanding of how and when community input will be used in decision making. Community feedback and engagement is embedded in Council's project management and business improvement framework. The community know that they have a valued voice that's listened to as part of the council decision making and understand that while this doesn't mean that they'll always get their way, they have been heard and considered.

Current State	▶	Key strategies/ initiatives	▶	Future state	Priority (year)
Engagement fatigue, i.e. asking too frequently or too much from community members.	▶	Develop process to identify priority engagement. Shared Engagement Calendar is developed and maintained (intranet). Align engagement activities to get feedback on multiple topics where possible.	▶	Engagement streamlined and targeted as much as possible to the communities affected by the decision.	1
Engagement is sometimes too little, too late, after decisions have been made or a project is underway.	▶	Embed community engagement in Council's Project Management Framework. Include a Communications and Engagement leader representative at the table at Executive Team and planning meetings to provide strategic advice and advocate for the community voice.	▶	Community and stakeholder engagement is considered early in the project and planning lifecycle where it can have the most impact.	1

Current State	►	Key strategies/ initiatives	►	Future state	Priority (year)
<p>Engagement can be seen as a 'box ticking' exercise, with no clear path how input is going to be used.</p> <p>While we get regular feedback from the community, we have no consistent approach for using this feedback for process improvement or weighting it for decision making.</p> <p>We are sometimes guilty of pre-selling a solution too hard: This 'marketing' approach can annoy people so much that they resist and undermine the process.</p>	►	<p>Develop a tool to identify the scope and influence of engagement at the outset.</p> <p>Identify where customer research and community feedback can play a critical role and how it will be used.</p> <p>Embed our engagement principles to every engagement opportunity. Even if we have a preferred option – come to each engagement open to discussion and being challenged on the solutions we're recommending.</p> <p>Develop a process to consistently close the feedback loop and let people know the results of the engagement and how their input was used.</p>	►	<p>Council embraces community feedback and intel and utilises this information to its fullest extent in strategic thinking and decision making.</p> <p>Council has an embedded process to collect and respond to customer satisfaction and other feedback that translates it into business process improvement.</p> <p>The community knows how their feedback has influenced what we do.</p>	2

Current State	▶	Key strategies/ initiatives	▶	Future state	Priority (year)
<p>Disillusionment and unrealistic expectations: Community members can become disillusioned if engagement processes do not lead to actions that reflect their opinion or wishes.</p> <p>No consistent, agreed way of setting up surveys, analysing engagement data and compiling information into reports that support decision making.</p>	▶	<p>Develop and agree on Council decision making criteria. Define a process to provide clarity on what level of influence community feedback has on Council's decisions and actions.</p> <p>Develop visibility and public education around this process.</p> <p>Embed the necessary facilitation and cultural competency skills in the Strategic Communications and Engagement team to ensure a consistent and authentic approach to engagement can be delivered across all of Council.</p> <p>Develop clear processes, protocols and prompts for data collection and analysis supported by AI tools.</p>	▶	<p>Council has an agreed set of criteria to guide how decisions are made, identifying the key matters for consideration and what weight community views will be given.</p> <p>Community and Council are clear and aligned on when and how public feedback will influence Council's decisions and actions.</p> <p>We are delivering communications and engaging in an inclusive way that works for all our communities</p> <p>Elected members and staff receive consistent, useful engagement reports that enable good decision making</p>	1-2
<p>Community engagement can be a surface level request for feedback.</p> <p>There is limited opportunity for community to participate in collaborative problem solving or partner with us to implement their ideas.</p>	▶	<p>Develop strategies and a toolkit for creating deeper and consistent engagement opportunities like citizens panels and working groups.</p> <p>Identify opportunities where community can be involved in the actual decision making and help workshop solutions they can action themselves.</p>	▶	<p>We offer opportunities to participate in the engagement process more fully.</p> <p>Community has a deeper understanding and ownership of our decisions.</p> <p>Our communities are inspired to partner with us to implement agreed decisions and projects.</p>	2

To enable inclusive participation

"Everyone has a voice"

Where we are now: Many minority groups and community sectors never engage with us, meaning we're not using community views in an equitable way.

Where we want to be: The diversity of our district is represented in the people engaging with us.

Current State	▶	Key strategies/ initiatives	▶	Future state	Priority (year)
The people participating are not representative of the demographics of our district – we're often missing entire communities.		Undertake stakeholder/ community mapping/ research to inform inclusive initiatives for engaging under-represented community sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people • Families with children • Older people • Māori • Pasifika • Migrants/ newcomers • People with disabilities • Remote/ rural 		We know who we're talking to and how to reach them. We engage with people on their own terms. The diversity of our district is represented in the people engaging with us.	1-2
Level of influence or 'noise' of some stakeholder groups/individuals mean our resources are often disproportionately focussed on a small, unrepresentative portion of our population.	▶	Online optimisation and other initiatives are developed to drive better representation of the diversity of our District. Use our hyper-engaged groups – if	▶	Council resources are focused more equitably, and a wider diversity of individuals and communities are heard and responded to. People who are super interested in giving the	2
Community outrage and hostility on certain issues can derail engagement and discourage other community sectors from participating.	▶	Create safe, culturally sensitive and positive spaces for engagement, online and in person.	▶	All our communities feel comfortable and supported to positively engage with us.	2-3

To be at the heart of our community

"We're all in this together"

Where we are now: Council has little visibility at community events or spaces. We expect people to come to a time and place time convenient to us to engage. Our engagement activities are perceived as all take and no give.

Where we want to be: Council is visible and present. People trust and appreciate us making an effort to get out there and engage with them.

Current State	▶	Key strategies/ initiatives	▶	Future state (outcomes)	Priority (year)
Low visibility of Council at community events. We expect the community to come to us instead of coming to them – where they feel comfortable.	▶	Develop branded display collateral. Identify community event/ gathering opportunities. Identify contacts for community channels (Stakeholder mapping) - i.e. newsletters, community leaders and influencers. Utilise our networks (eg. Stronger Waitaki) to bring engagement and communication opportunities to a wider and more diverse audiences.	▶	Council is a visible, consistent part of the Community.	1-2
Engaging with us feels like hard work for communities already under pressure.	▶	Combine engagement events with Council project works out on location, in affected communities. Identify opportunities where Council staff and elected members roll up their sleeves and give their own free time to volunteer on community projects out around the district as part of engagement.	▶	Community engagement events aren't just about asking things of our community – they're about giving back. We use Council-run and community events to run meaningful, enjoyable activities as ways to engage and share information.	3

Appendices

Appendix 1: IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

We've adapted the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum as a framework for how we can approach the level of communication and engagement we undertake.

Every project or scenario is different and requires scoping and planning to reflect its unique context and constraints.

PURPOSE:	INFORM	EDUCATE	PROMOTE	CONSULT	COLLABORATE
Our Goal	To provide accurate information on our decisions, services and activities in a timely, manner.	To provide an understanding of what we do, to enable informed decisions and behaviour change.	To proactively promote Council outcomes, decisions, opportunities and commitments.	To gather the community's insights and opinions on issues and opportunities, to be considered in decision-making.	To partner and collaborate with our community to achieve positive outcomes in decision-making, by having an in-depth understanding of community impacts.
Our Promise	We will keep our community informed on things that will impact their lives.	We will help our community to understand Council's roles and responsibilities and how they can help us to help them.	We will let our community know about what we achieve for them and how it improves their lives.	We will explore options by listening and acknowledging community feedback and being clear about why we have made our decisions.	We will work with our community to ensure their concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in decision-making by providing the information and tools for them to meaningfully participate.
Role of our Community	To keep in touch and seek out information on items of interest.	To proactively gather a balance of information to inform good decision-making.	To gain a deeper understanding of Council to enable active citizenship.	To contribute ideas and feedback based on their experiences and interests.	To participate in the engagement process by sharing ideas, concerns and aspirations and collaborating with us to implement agreed decisions.

<i>PURPOSE:</i>	INFORM	EDUCATE	PROMOTE	CONSULT	COLLABORATE
Evaluation	Participation numbers. Distribution numbers. Number of distribution methods used. Uptake in Council services/facility attendance, compliance. Surveys and feedback: participants report increased knowledge, participants report that information is clear and easy to understand, participants report a change in behaviour to improve community outcomes.			Participation numbers. Participants report that they felt listened to. Participants report that the information available was sufficient to provide considered feedback. Participants understand why a decision was made.	Representative participation across stakeholder groups. Participants report understanding how their input has impacted the outcome. Participants have sufficient understanding of engagement scope and context to provide in-depth feedback.
Example tools	Factsheets, website, social media posts, webinars, videos, media releases, advertising, drop-ins, displays, newsletters, text, alerts.			Public forums, surveys, social media comments, polls.	Workshops, citizen panels, advisory committees, participatory decision making.
IAP2 reference	<i>Inform</i>			<i>Consult, Collaborate</i>	<i>Involve, Collaborate, Empower</i>

Appendix 2: Initiatives matrix

Initiative	Meets objective/s	Address current state challenge	Achieves future state	When	Who
Council brand refresh + 'Waitaki Story' project implementation	C3, C4	Lack of strong identity; inconsistent voice + imagery	A cohesive brand that reflects community identity + builds trust	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, Branding Consultants, Customer Experience/ Services
Communications Toolkit (guidelines, templates, key messages)	C1, C2, C6	Lack of internal communication consistency; no shared messaging	Staff + elected members equipped to communicate consistently + inclusively	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, People & Capability (induction materials), Customer Experience
Website content audit + user experience improvements	C1, C2	Outdated, hard to find website content	User-focused, accessible, accurate online info	Year 2	Digital Services,, Web Editors, Strategic Comms & Engagement Team
Audience mapping + channel strategy	E2, C1, C5	Scattergun comms; info overload	Targeted, effective comms using right channels	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, Community & Economic Development, Facilities, Digital Services
'What we do' education programme	C4	Community unaware of Council services + value	Increased community awareness + trust in Council services	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, All departments
Internal Comms Strategy + Internal communicators campaign	C1, C6	Staff unaware of their comms role and receiving patchy communication.	Staff empowered as part of comms network	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team , People & Capability, Digital Services, SMT
Communications embedded into Project design	C2, C4	Information about initiatives and major works comes out too late or not at all.	Communication is embedded from the start of a project and our communities are well informed about the work Council does.	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, Project management, all departments

Initiative	Meets objective/s	Address current state challenge	Achieves future state	When	Who
Elected member key messages support	C1, C6	EM networks underused for comms	EMs empowered with messaging + support	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, SMT
Two-way localised reporting tool (e.g. Antenna app)	C5	No geotargeted comms options – everyone receives everything.	Ability to send targeted alerts; improved locally relevant info delivery,	Year 3	Digital Services, Strategic Comms & Engagement Team
Plain Language + easy-read content rollout	C2	Dense, jargon-heavy content; inaccessible info	Accessible, inclusive comms for all audiences	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, All content writers
Community Engagement Framework + Toolkit incl. data analysis process	E1	Inconsistent use of feedback; disillusionment with engagement	Community feedback meaningfully used + loop closed	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, Project Managers, Digital Services
Shared Engagement Calendar	E1	Engagement fatigue; uncoordinated engagements	Coordinated, streamlined engagements	Year 1	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, Community Development
Stakeholder + community mapping	E2, C1 C5	Under-representation in engagement	Better representation of district diversity	Year 2	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, Community Development, Locality Team, Digital Services.
Digital engagement hub optimisation (EHQ)	E2	Limited reach of online engagement tools	Affordable, efficient, accessible engagement online	Year 2	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, Digital Services
Council visibility at community events	E3	Low visibility at community spaces	Council seen as present, approachable	Year ? (suggest Year 1-2)	Strategic Comms & Engagement Team, Locality Team
Staff volunteer participation at community events	E3	Engagement perceived as all take + no give	Engagement gives back to community + builds relationships	Year 3	Strategic Comms Team, Community Development, All departments, Locality Team

Communications & Engagement Strategy

Initiative:

Council Brand Refresh

1

The Problem...



Would you trust this organisation to look after a district? Would you 'bank' with us?

The state of our brand

- **Messy**, disjointed, inconsistent. Too many logos in too many different styles!
- **No visual connection between Council brand and our facilities and the services we provide.** Many in our community have no idea Council is behind a lot of things they value and enjoy.
- The literal Victorian architecture flavour of Council's brand sets us purely in 'Ōamaru' and our colonial heritage. It doesn't resonate with the diversity of our district.
- It's been over 12 years since we've updated our brand. **Our brand guidelines are tired, dated and no longer fit for purpose.**

Why refresh Council's brand now?

- A rebrand is a chance to update the Council logo so it fits better with our district's shared identity and the Waitaki Story. Work already done developing the district brand means we can refresh the Council brand in-house as at no extra cost.
- Council **transformation** is a perfect time to rethink our brand values and how we express them. A new logo signals a fresh start for our newly transformed Council and shows the public that the Council is serious about improving how it connects with people.
- It's time to become truly one team - Team Waitaki!

Benefits of a strong brand

Community Outcomes

- A consistent, modern identity gives confidence that we are a professional organisation that can provide consistent **Quality Services**.
- We can help build **Strong Communities** by creating a fresh, cohesive brand identity and story that better reflects the culture and diversity of Waitaki's communities.
- It supports a **Prosperous District** by increasing trust in Council from the people we recruit, do business with, and serve.
- Bringing the Waitaki Story to life through Council's brand instills pride of place across generations for a **Valued Environment**.

What is a brand?

A stamp or mark that says:

This is ours.

This is us.

We value this.



**What's the
danger of
not having
a brand?**



Someone
steals your
cows



Without a strong brand we lose:

Credit: Our community don't know that we're delivering a bunch of great things. We're not getting credit for the services we provide because it's hard to see the connection to Council.

Recognition: A strong brand makes it easier for residents to recognise official communications and engage with council initiatives, events, and services.

Credibility: If our brand is a mess - it looks like our services are a mess. When services are delivered under a trusted brand, it gives confidence that they are high-quality and reliable, even when challenges arise.

Consistency: Without a solid brand foundation our communications lack cohesion, leading to confusion about what we do and stand for.

Strategic clarity: A strong brand will help unify departments under our shared mission and vision, improving internal alignment and make staff feel part of something meaningful.



10 | Waitaki District Council Brand Development



We are Waitaki.
We are one team.
We are team Waitaki.



12 Waitaki District Council Brand Development



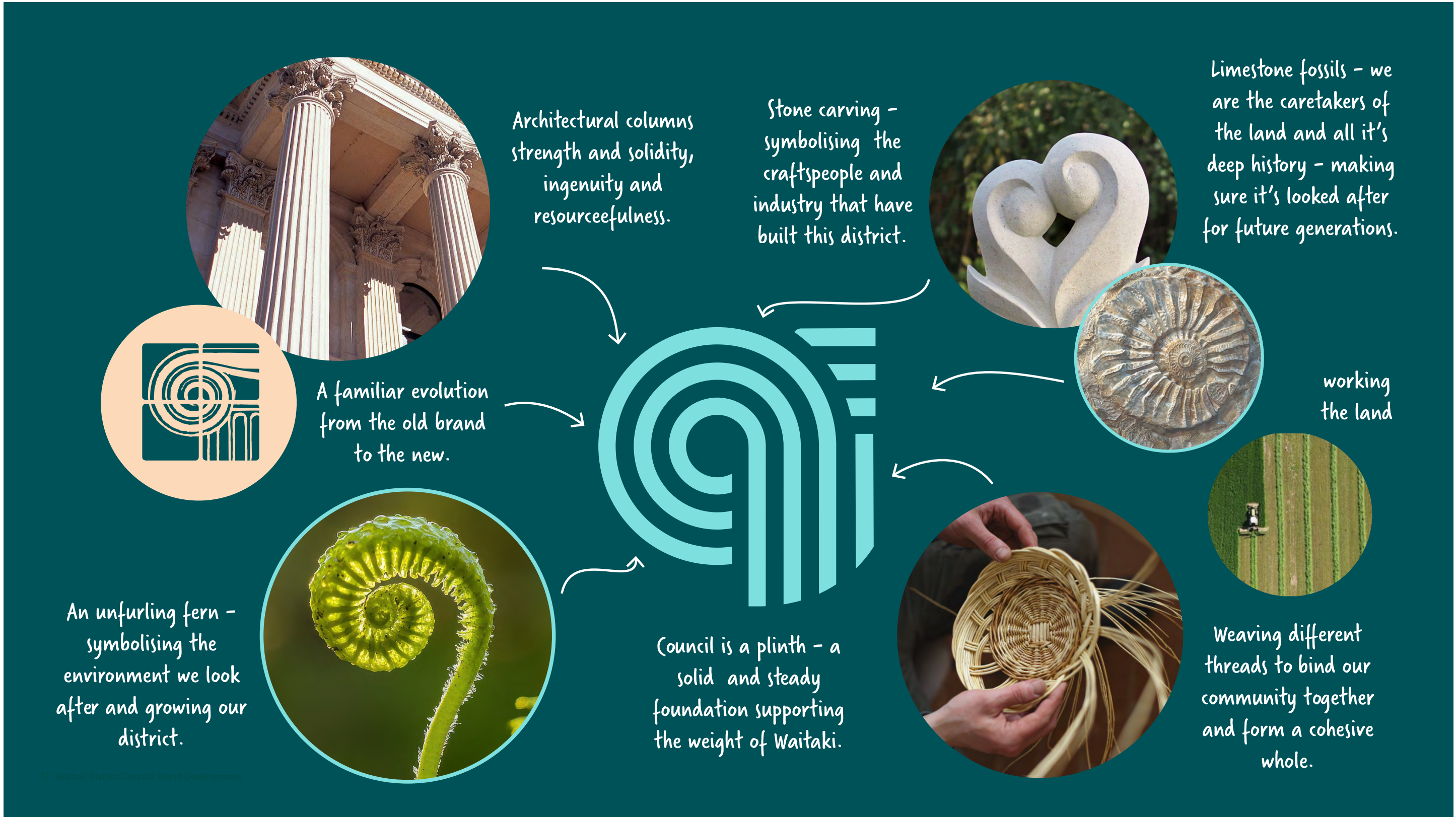
13 Waitaki District Council Brand Development



14 Waitaki District Council Brand Development







Please note:

The following designs and brand elements are draft concepts only.

They show how the visual language of the Council and district logo can be applied to other facilities and services to create consistency and meaning.

We are proposing the adoption of the Council logo first, then a phased approach to refining and rolling out other brand elements in consultation with staff and other stakeholders.



DRAFT concepts only



DRAFT concepts only



DRAFT concepts only









DRAFT concepts only



DRAFT concepts only



DRAFT concepts only









DRAFT concepts only



DRAFT concepts only



OAMARU
OPERA
HOUSE

DRAFT concepts only









DRAFT concepts only



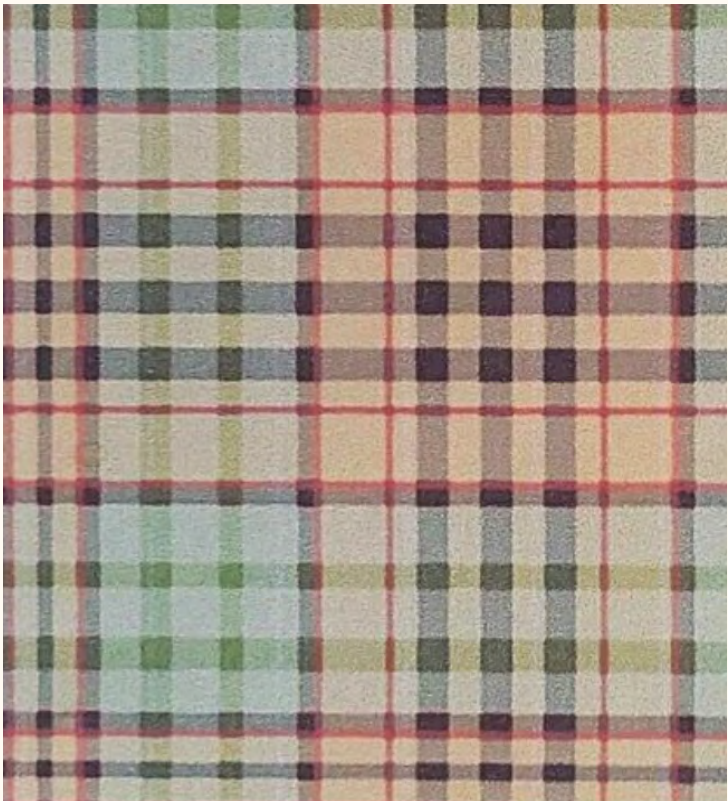
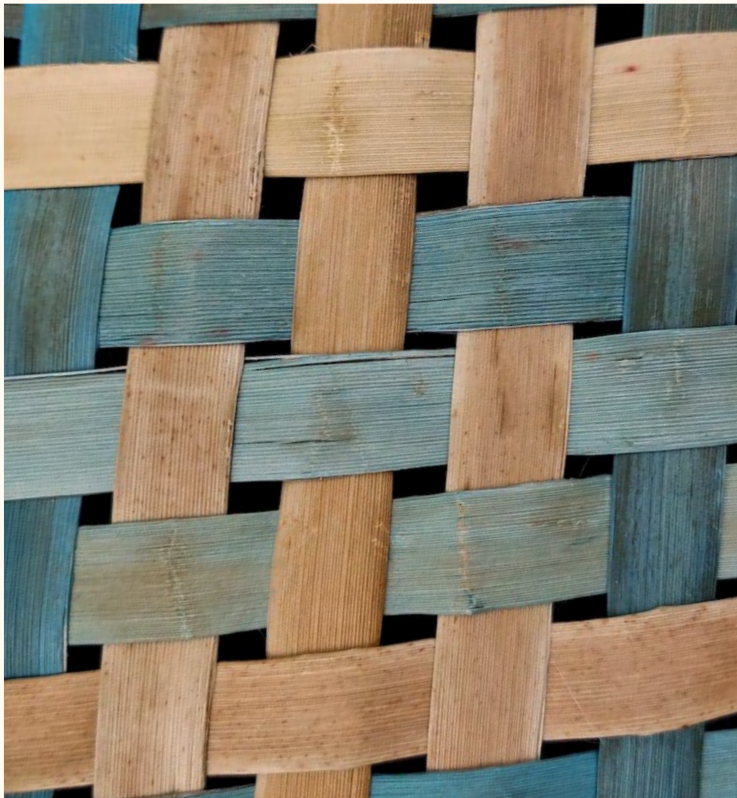
DRAFT concepts only



DRAFT concepts only



Weaving our brands together







DRAFT concepts only

1989



2001



2013



2025



6.2 WAITAKI DOG CONTROL BYLAW

Author: Andrew Bardsley, Regulatory & Compliance Manager

Authoriser: Roger Cook, Director Natural and Built Environment

Attachments:

1. Dogs on Lead Trail Feedback REDACTED Attachment 1 [↓](#) 
2. Feedback from Businesses on Dog Control Bylaw Attachment 2 [↓](#) 
3. WDC Dog Control Bylaw 2024 Attachment 3 [↓](#) 
4. WDC Dog Control Policy 2024 Attachment 4 [↓](#) 

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. That Council permanently adds to the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 the following changes:
 - a) Dogs on-lead Thames Street & Thames Highway, Ōamaru
 - b) Dogs on-lead from sunrise to sunset & prohibited from sunset to sunrise Harbour Street, Ōamaru
- and**
2. That Council approves minor wording changes to the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024

DECISION OBJECTIVE

This paper seeks a decision of Council to adopt into the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 the 6-month trial measures allowing dogs on-lead in the Ōamaru CBD, Harbour Street and Ōamaru North CBD areas.

SUMMARY

At the 17 December 2024 Council meeting it was resolved to adopt the reviewed Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024. A further motion was passed requesting trial measures allowing dogs on lead in the Ōamaru CBD, Harbour Street and Ōamaru North CBD areas, for a period of 6 months. Officers were then to report back to Council the results of the trial. This was a departure away from dogs traditionally being prohibited from these areas.

For the first 6 months of 2025 officers have monitored dog owner behaviour in the trial areas and have received 2 dog related complaints. During June 2025 officers engaged directly with 47 businesses within the trial areas and informal public feedback was also sought through council's 'Let's Talk' community engagement forum between 24 February 2025 and 1 July 2025 which received 204 responses. From the feedback received it is evident that the majority of submitters are in favour of the changes (refer **Attachment 1**).

Whilst implementing the Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 and the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 officers have identified amendments to the stated language which would help resolve some areas of confusion within the documents. These are also recommended to be amended.

DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS

Governance Decision-Making:	Approve amendments to the Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 and the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024
Operational Decision-Making:	Carry out implementation of the adopted Dog Control Policy and Bylaw, focusing on community safety and responsible dog ownership within the Waitaki district
Communications	<p>Media Releases – contributed to by officers and Elected Members</p> <p>Media/public enquiries regarding governance decision-making topics above can be addressed by governance</p> <p>Media/public enquiries regarding operational decision-making topics above can be addressed by officers</p>

SUMMARY OF DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA

	No/Moderate/Key		No/Moderate/Key
Policy/Plan	Key	Environmental Considerations	Moderate
Legal	Key	Cultural Considerations	No
Significance	Moderate	Social Considerations	Moderate
Financial Criteria	No	Economic Considerations	No
Community Views	Key	Community Board Views	Moderate
Consultation	Key	Publicity and Communication	Key

BACKGROUND

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires councils to adopt a policy on dogs and for that policy to be reviewed every 10 years. Waitaki District Council's most recent review was conducted in 2024. During this process it was identified that some members of our community were in favour of a relaxing of the prohibition of dogs from the Ōamaru CBD, Ōamaru North CBD and Harbour Street.

Officers recommended that council adopt a 6 month trial of dogs being allowed on-lead within the Ōamaru CBD, Ōamaru North CBD and Harbour Street. This recommendation was adopted, and we are now in a position to feedback to council the results of this trial.

Responses from the 'Let's Talk' community engagement platform were as follows (refer **Attachment 1**):

1. *Do you agree with the changes to dogs on-lead in Harbour Street?*
1. Of the 202 respondents, 78.21% were in favour with 17.32% against and 4.45% unsure.
- 2.
2. *Do you agree with the changes to dogs on-lead in Thames Street?*
3. Of the 203 respondents, 78.32% were in favour with 17.73% against and 3.94% unsure.
- 4.
3. *Do you agree with the changes to dogs on-lead at the North End Shops?*
5. Of the 202 respondents, 78.21% were in favour with 15.84% against and 5.94% unsure.
- 6.

7. Mr Henry Alsom submitted feedback on behalf of the Ōamaru Blue Penguin Colony. The submission focused on the trial to allow dogs on-lead within Harbour Street during daylight hours and raised concerns about the impact on blue penguins nesting and moving in and around the area. They strongly oppose dogs being allowed on-lead in the area.

8.

9. Waitaki Interiors, a business in Thames Street made a complaint in relation to dogs being allowed in Thames Street. A dog urinated on their display stand resulting in stock being soiled and disposed of.

10.

11. Feedback from businesses within the trial areas were as follows (refer **Attachment 2**):

1. 14 Harbour Street area businesses were approached with 1 negative comment around dogs coming into shops. 13 were positive or neutral, mentioning owners were cleaning up after their dogs and they had noticed no issues.
2. 21 Thames Street CBD area businesses provided the following responses. 5 businesses were not in favour of the changes, mentioning an increase in dog urine. The other businesses felt it was a positive change or were neutral.
3. 12 Thames Highway CBD area businesses provided the following responses. All 12 businesses were positive about the changes with no issues identified.

Based on the feedback received by officers it is recommended that council permanently adopts the changes allowing dogs on-lead within the Ōamaru CBD, Ōamaru North CBD and Harbour Street areas.

During the implementation of the reviewed Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 and the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 officers have identified some minor issues relating to wording. Feedback in reference to sportsgrounds where dogs are prohibited from 'all marked pitches', is confusing and instead we would recommend using dogs are prohibited from 'marked sports ground. A minor change is also requested to page 14 of the Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and also page 11 of the Dog Control Policy 2024. The reference to 'Schedule 3 (1g)' is incorrect and should read 'Schedule 3 (1h).'

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Option 1 – That Council permanently revises prohibited areas in the Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 and the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 and approves revisions to wording to improve understanding of the document. **(Recommended)**

Option 2 – That Council does not make changes to the restricted areas of the Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 and the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024. Council does approve revisions to working to improve understanding of the document.

Option 3 – Council makes no changes to the Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 and the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024.

ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION

Option 1 is preferred due to the feedback received from the public and businesses, which was significantly in favour of permanently adopting the changes to Thames St, Thames Highway and Harbour Street. Officers have only received 2 complaints in relation to dog behaviour in the trial areas. One was a dog being walked off lead and the second was a dog urinating on a shop front display. From a compliance perspective officers have been impressed with the trial and the positive attitude towards dogs in the trial areas.

CONCLUSION

Adopting the recommended changes will assist in attracting more visitors to the CBD and tourist areas. Previous feedback received by Council was that Ōamaru was not dog friendly and that some visitors were dissuaded from staying in Ōamaru due to our dog policy prohibiting dogs from the CBD and Harbour Street.

The 6 month trial along with feedback from the community and businesses has been positive and almost no issues with the changes in policy have been identified.

ADDITIONAL DECISION-MAKING CONSIDERATIONS

Waitaki District Council Strategic Framework

Outcomes

Community Outcomes

Prosperous District

- Attractive to new opportunities
- Supporting local businesses
- Fostering a diverse and resilient economy

Strong Communities

- Enabling safe, healthy communities
- Connected, inclusive communities
- Promoting a greater voice for Waitaki
- Celebrating our community identity

Quality Services

- Robust core infrastructure and services
- Community facilities and services we are proud of

Valued Environment

- Protecting our diverse landscapes and water bodies
- Meeting environmental and climate change challenges

Policy and Plan Considerations

As proposed, the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy fulfils the objectives of the Dog Control Act 1996 including:

- Minimising danger, distress, and nuisance to the community
- Avoiding the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults
- Enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation of dogs
- Recognising the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners

The Policy also defines Waitaki's direction on dog management and control.

The Dog Control Bylaw fulfils the objectives of the Dog Control Act, supports the outcomes and policies identified in the Dog Control Policy, and provides the primary enforcement mechanism for dog management and control in the district.

Community Views

The consultation period provided members of the community with the opportunity to show their support or raise concerns about the trial changes. Direct engagement with businesses provided targeted feedback on how the trial has affected their business either positively or adversely. It also

provided the community with an opportunity to work with Council to identify the best solutions for the management and control of dogs, and as a way for Council to test new ideas.

Financial Considerations

The Dog Control Bylaw and Policy will provide a focus for the management and control of dogs and their owners in the Waitaki district. The Policy will assist in Council decision-making and in setting levels of service which drive budgets.

Legal Considerations

It is a legal requirement under the Dog Control Act to have a Dog Control Policy and Bylaw for the Waitaki district.

Environmental Considerations

There are no specific environmental considerations resulting from the development of the Policy or Bylaw.

Publicity and Community Considerations

The community has played an important part in formulating the 2024 Bylaw and Policy. Changes as a result of this trial will be publicised throughout the district and a copy of the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024, once adopted by Council, will be made available on the Council website.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

31 May 2022 - 01 July 2025

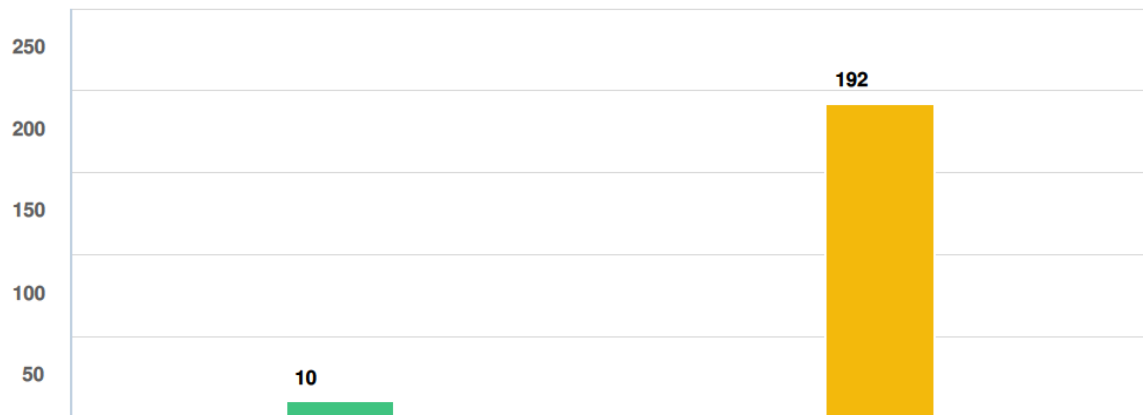
PROJECT NAME:

Let's talk dogs



Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Q4 Are you a business owner in the trial areas?

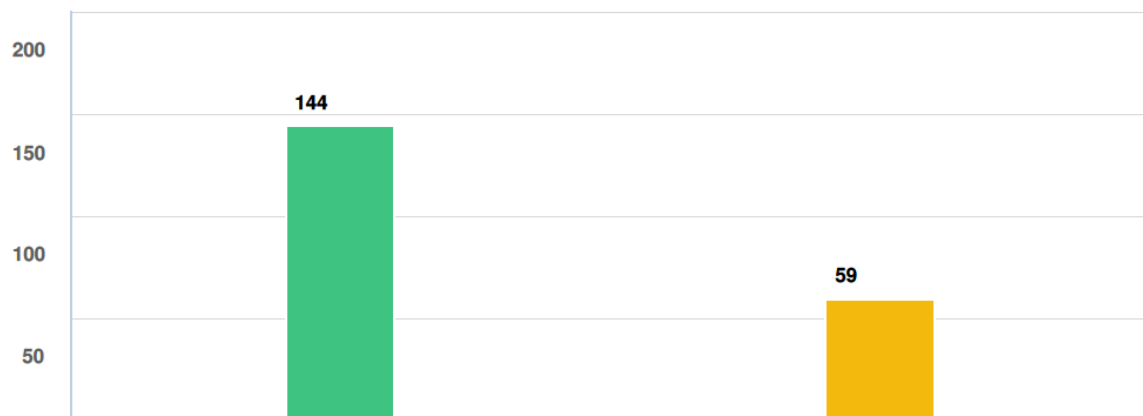


Question options

● Yes ● No

Optional question (202 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q5 Do you own a Dog in Waitaki?



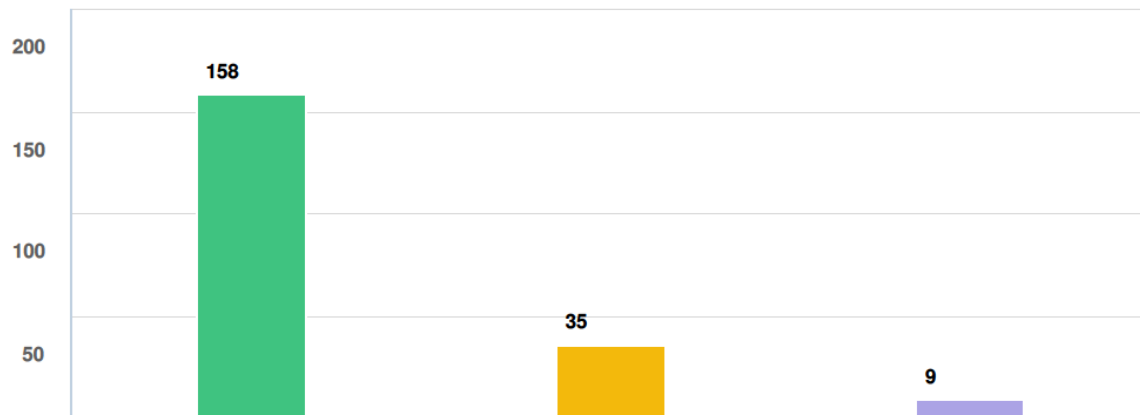
Question options

● Yes ● No

Optional question (203 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Q6 Do you agree with the changes to dogs on-lead in Harbour Street?

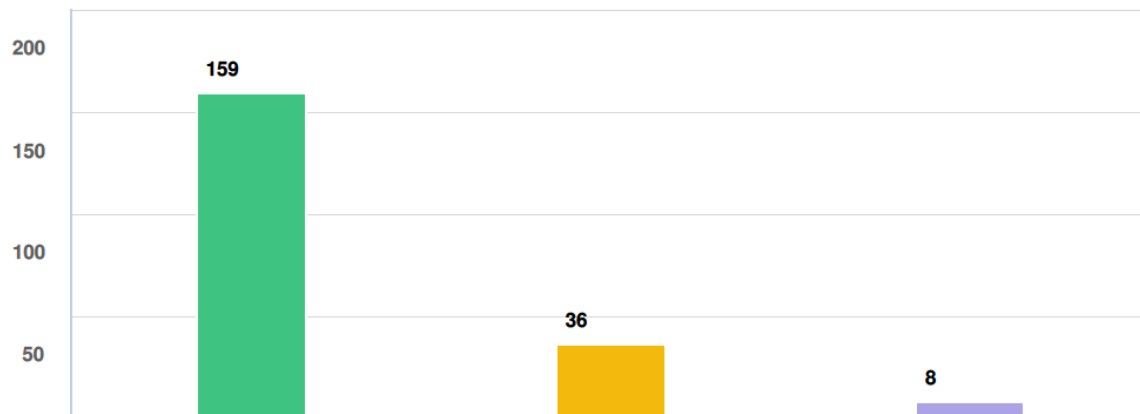


Question options

● Yes ● No ● Unsure

Optional question (202 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q7 Do you agree with the changes to dogs on-lead in Thames Street?



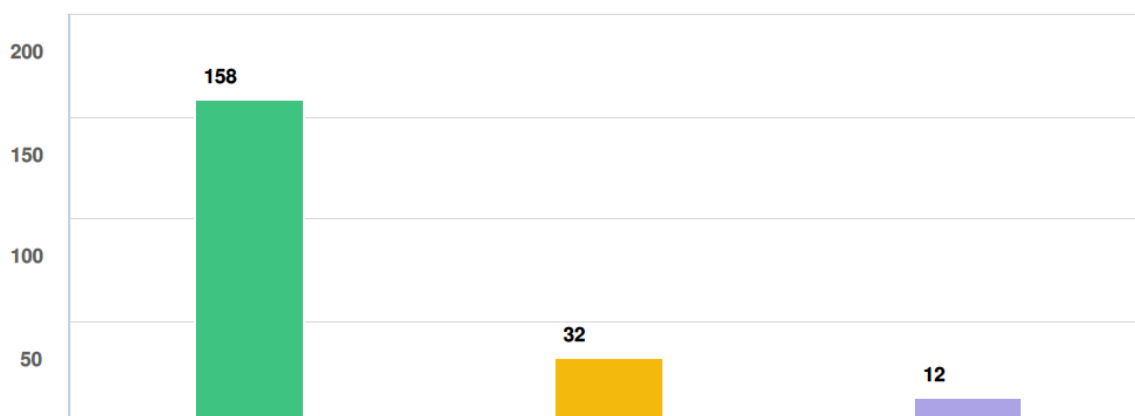
Question options

● Yes ● No ● Unsure

Optional question (203 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Q8 Do you agree with the changes to dogs on-lead at the North End Shops?



Question options

● Yes ● No ● Unsure

Optional question (202 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q9 Could you tell us why you think that?

Willow

2/24/2025 05:12 PM

Time to give some flexibility to dog owners/carers as to where they can access, ie Mitre 10 and Bunnings have made the step, why not Waitaki District Council?

Kathleen

2/24/2025 05:21 PM

I think it is a good idea to allow dogs with responsible owners walk their dogs in the business area. It allows owners to shop at the businesses thereby increasing income.

Landylass

2/24/2025 05:25 PM

Rules are made for responsible dog owners. Im not really a dog fan but dont have a problem with well socialised dogs in town.

Doggy Tails

2/24/2025 05:33 PM

My dog is family like to take him with me where ever possible

Artful Dodger

2/24/2025 05:47 PM

I love taking my dog wherever I go. I'm at the age where I can't walk into town to do chores/shopping and then go home and take my dog out again for a walk. If everybody picked up after their dog there wouldn't be such a problem.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

VRalph

2/24/2025 06:06 PM

Well behaved dogs are always a pleasure to see and interact with.

Austingurl

2/24/2025 06:08 PM

It gives good dog owners a chance to have their family member with them. Most dog owners who would want to take their dogs to town are GOOD dog owners

Chaz true

2/24/2025 06:22 PM

I think that as long as you have them on a lead and pick up the dog poo it is good

Dawn

2/24/2025 06:51 PM

I like that it opens up more areas to walk your dog, and you no longer have to avoid certain streets to get from A to B. There's also the opportunity to include a coffee/lunch or shopping to your walks. There was already a lot of dog owners that walked in these areas so the new bylaw won't change for some people.

AJ

2/24/2025 09:39 PM

Urine and lunging dogs, dogs on tables.

Mcfee

2/24/2025 09:46 PM

A trial is needed to see if it will become a successful law or not. It's allowing choices for all.

anna010

2/24/2025 11:17 PM

My dog is well behaved on lead and it's more convenient to cross to where we need to go with less restrictions.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 08:16 AM

I have not personally observed any problems during the trial period

Anonymous

2/25/2025 08:18 AM

It is lovely to have the freedom to walk your dog up the street, especially as we both getting old and often 1 walk a day is enough.

Waitaki District

2/25/2025 08:48 AM

Harbour Street - This is a relatively high traffic area with many visitors, particularly asian. Asians generally, from my experience, afraid of dogs. We need not alinate our visitors Thames Street - This is a relatively high traffic area with many visitors, particularly asian. Asians generally, from my experience, afraid of dogs. We need not alinate our visitors North End Shops - This area is a low traffic area. Most foot traffic is children coming and going to school. Dog walkers are not normally out at these times.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

2/25/2025 08:57 AM

Dogs need to be socialized not only with others dogs but also with people, this happens best when they are able to interact

Anonymous

2/25/2025 09:43 AM

I think it's nice that people can take their dogs out with them

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:00 AM

Not everyone is comfortable with dogs on the main road, including my son who is now hesitant of being around these areas due to the dogs

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:13 AM

Well-controlled dogs should be allowed in main shopping areas, particularly since most of the footpaths in these areas aren't used greatly and are wide.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:30 AM

I appreciate having more options of cafes that I can sit outside with my dog, otherwise there is only Scott's.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:32 AM

Forgot to add - I also think it is safer for dogs to be allowed on the pavement in town as it makes it less likely that they'll be left in hot cars while people run errands.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:39 AM

A lot more people especially travelers, are traveling with their dogs. Being able to have them put and about with the owner causes less stress and anxiety to the dog.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:46 AM

Dogs should not be in areas where there are children, people in general and where food is sold. Not everyone likes dogs. Seems there is nowhere on the streets where there aren't dogs allowed!

Anonymous

2/25/2025 11:04 AM

It stops confusion on where you can take a dog. Especially for tourists. It also benefits the dogs when they allowed out with their families socially

Anonymous

2/25/2025 02:42 PM

I feel Oamaru does need to be more dog friendly and dogs should be allowed in more areas, provided owners pick up any mess from them.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 03:49 PM

Leave it is now. Love taking dog to cafes on main street. Dogs and owners all seem to behave.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

2/25/2025 05:19 PM

It'll bring alot more customers and people into the main streets

Anonymous

2/25/2025 05:32 PM

Dogs are a big part of people's lives and people want to be able to take them for walks. It was ridiculous that you weren't allowed a dog on lead in the precinct. Much needed change.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 06:27 PM

I have been in the main street shopping area when several people have been walking there with their dogs on leads and it has not caused any problems at all.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 07:06 PM

well socialized dogs (and owners) add to the social diversity of Oamaru. I have found most people, visitors included like seeing my own dog out on a walk.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 07:11 PM

Dog owners are generally irresponsible, since the trial, dogs are running free in playgrounds, the harbour and on restricted parks.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 07:58 PM

Oamaru was very behind the times compared to overseas

Anonymous

2/25/2025 09:00 PM

It's great having dogs around, makes it nicer for dog owners and they don't cause any harm!

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:39 PM

I am a regular visitor to Oamaru and I have many friends who love the area with dogs. But so many of them (and I) don't spend much time and/or money in the central part of town because we were not allowed our dogs out on the street. Since the trial started I have been in Oamaru multiple times and gave encouraged others to follow suit which they have done. Previously most avoided Oamaru because of the no dogs in town policy.

Anonymous

2/26/2025 09:09 AM

As person that has been bitten i am cautious of all dogs. I dont think I should have to navigate dogs or my fear while trying to go about basic shopping in our main/only shopping area

Anonymous

2/26/2025 10:29 AM

You need to adopt t waste bins specifically for dog poo. Timaru dog park has some which can be totally closed. This stops any smell and

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

	<p>flies etc. They are shaped like sitting dogs so their function is obvious. I suggest that there are 10 placed on the main street and harbour area. They will keep the shopkeepers and tourists happy as there will be no odour. You also need to place dog poo bags along the Main Street so there is no excuse to leave dog mess on the pavement. Need to increase the fines for leaving dog mess. Need to have dedicated dog tie up areas with water bowls so owners can shop,go to the library You also need a public education response on issues like do not approach a dog when the owner is not there, ask before you pay a dog, don't let children interfere with dogs, when is a growl a warning from a dog, what to do if a dog jumps up,how do you tell if a wag is friendly or a warning, etc etc. I suggest that it is important to run sessions to teach schoolchildren preferably at primary schools. It should reduce fear aggression in dogs.</p>
<p>Anonymous 2/26/2025 12:18 PM</p>	<p>Since the trial we have been having a problem with dogs urinating on the walls at the front of our shop. This has been steadily getting worse and today a dog used our scarf stand which sits by our front door as the toilet. Unfortunately we didn't see it, but we have had to dispose of 2 scarves and clean our stand. They have also used our open sign several times in the last month, which means this is happening during working hours. The front walls of our shop constantly have new spray marks in the morning when we open. We are sick of it and don't think its fair, why can't they just take a squatting dog onto the curb? Damaging stock was the last straw.</p>
<p>Anonymous 2/26/2025 03:43 PM</p>	<p>We shouldn't allow the 2% of irresponsible dog owners dictate rules for the other 98%. If dogs create problems impound them and/or fine their owners.</p>
<p>Anonymous 2/26/2025 08:48 PM</p>	<p>have lived in other towns that are more dog friendly</p>
<p>Anonymous 2/26/2025 08:50 PM</p>	<p>I would ask the question as to why in the past dogs were banned in the first place?</p>
<p>Anonymous 2/27/2025 11:57 AM</p>	<p>These dogs are urinating outside our workplaces, on the shops and signs</p>
<p>Anonymous 2/28/2025 12:50 PM</p>	<p>It's good to at last be a dog friendly town along with most other towns in New Zealand. It's also good for traveller's who own pets to give good feedback about our town being dog friendly. Positive feedback is what our town wants to attract.</p>

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

2/28/2025 04:04 PM

If dogs are on leads and are under control and owners pick up their faeces and do not let them urinate in these areas then they should be allowed.

Anonymous

2/28/2025 05:02 PM

I remember sidestepping dog droppings frequently before they were not allowed on the street.

Anonymous

2/28/2025 05:43 PM

Dogs are social creatures who learn social skills by being out with their owners. Having restrictions around where you can walk just because you have your dog with you is hard!

Anonymous

2/28/2025 05:50 PM

Because its great to take the dog for a walk if you want to where there are shops to look at. Somewhere different for the dog and on weekends when its raining its great to be mostly undercover while still taking the dog for enrichment

Anonymous

2/28/2025 06:45 PM

Excellent idea as long as you have responsible dog owners who clean up any mishaps

Anonymous

2/28/2025 07:01 PM

I see no reason not to allow a dog on a lead on the streets

Anonymous

3/01/2025 08:33 AM

Many people dont like or can feel threatened by dogs even when on a lead as it doesn't stop them lurching. People with dogs who go into a shop and leave the dog tied up at the door puts me off going in in case it comes at me and I know others who think the same. There is a vehicle often parked by the Opera .house with little dogs left in it for hours at a time and just watch passing walkers when they lurch up at the windows and yelp as you can see people sometimes feel threatened and they are enclosed. Pictures from the street trial even showed dogs sitting on the tables which shows some dog owners have no care with where their dog goes.

Anonymous

3/01/2025 03:01 PM

As a store owner we have had to be constantly disinfecting our signs because of dogs urinating on them. We have had to also wash the front of the store more because of the above as well. Dog owners are also not picking up there dog poo and we have had to remove some so it didn't get trampled through our store.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

3/01/2025 05:02 PM

Dogs r confronting to some children and elderly.even on a lead.

Anonymous

3/02/2025 01:17 PM

Dogs are awesome, encourage people to walk the street making it seem more lively, they may be inclined to visit a local coffee shop or other place of business

Anonymous

3/02/2025 08:17 AM

Most dogs in the area are well cared for and registered, and behave well on the streets. And owners generally do take rtesponsibility for picking up waste - I know we do. It feels odd to have to take a detour to walk the dog around the CBD area. Any dogs which don't behave well tend to stick out and would be easy to deal with on an individual basis.

Anonymous

3/03/2025 01:05 PM

I have seen dogs on leads either urinating or marking their territory at shop entrances and other places along the street. The dog owners don't bother to attempt to clean it, not even pouring some water over the soiled area. Some shop owners are losing products when the urine splashes on merchandise that is on the pavement, and they are forced to put these items in the bin. It is and will become a very smelly and unhygienic space

Anonymous

3/03/2025 01:14 PM

Dogs pee all the way up the street, on shop signs, shop frontages and sometimes on shop merchandise. Owners would have to have stopped for the dog if it was on a lead, so they must be aware of the issue. They don't bother to wash down the area with water, and it smells and is unhygienic, plus it's unfair to the shops that are affected by this.

Anonymous

3/03/2025 03:47 PM

I think some people will still find ways to abuse the situation. I also think that all dogs on leads in public places should have a muzzle on. Nothing expensive or fancy but a simple muzzle to stop biting.

Anonymous

3/03/2025 09:49 PM

I am a dog owner and I take my dog everywhere with me, to work, to the beach, walking and visiting people and outside of Waitaki shopping. No problems at all. Even coffee shops.

Anonymous

3/03/2025 09:52 PM

Love my dog and so does everyone

Anonymous

I think,sometimes people need to travel through these areas to others

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

3/04/2025 12:07 PM

and provided their dogs are properly restrained and maybe for some muzzled it could be beneficial to shop owners business, through window shopping etc. Owner's should be aware of their pets toileting habits also.

Anonymous

3/04/2025 05:32 PM

Why not? Dogs make a place feel more friendly and people interact more with people with dogs. It makes Oamaru less isolating and people more communicative. It livens up the CBD and encourages people to use the outdoor cafes and window shop. I would be much more likely to go into a cafe or shop that is dog friendly like the one with the water for dogs outside.

Anonymous

3/04/2025 08:15 PM

I thought it would be ok if dog owners were responsible for their animals however the amount of pee on the Main Street particularly on the shop frontages is disgusting

Bookie

3/04/2025 09:30 PM

I haven't experienced interactions with dogs/dog owners at the North End shops at this point, so I can't comment.

Anonymous

3/21/2025 04:06 PM

sadly dog owners appear to be unable to pick up and carry what their dogs often leave behind. as the harbour playground area is used by families with small children, who often sit on the ground or fall on the ground and we have any number of dogs urinating and defacating in that area. I don't think it's acceptable. the markets on sunday have some huge dogs - often so many dogs barking and at times growling that it makes it uncomfortable to wander around. the dogs aren't always on leads and I don't feel it is up the individual ratepayers in Oamaru to have to remind them that they are allowed this privilege but must be on leads. Surely council staff should be patrolly these areas to ensure that dog owners are aware of the necessary 'on lead at all times' policy.

Anonymous

4/05/2025 04:04 PM

Some dog owners are irresponsible and will not pick up 'doggydos'. If a member of public sees a dog pooing on the street (while being walked by an irresponsible dog owner), they maybe putting themselves at risk if they are brave enough to approach the dog owner. Dog poo will be trapped on shoes and subsequently tramped into shops...disgusting.

Anonymous

4/10/2025 01:11 PM

The majority of dog owners are responsible and have their dogs under control in public. It has been nice to see dogs in the CBD and heritage areas.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

4/17/2025 12:40 PM

Dogs are just a nuisance, jump up on you - lack of owner control - pee (stink & hygiene) and poo everywhere - only some owners pick it up - they also pee against car tyres etc and the car owner has to clean up. all round - disgusting...

Anonymous

5/01/2025 12:14 PM

Yes

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:08 AM

Dogs bring happiness & well behaved under control dogs should be allowed in most places. My dogs go everywhere with me & I have them under control at all times. I am aware that not everybody likes dogs & I am respectful of that

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:08 AM

As a non dog owner and a person that has been bitten I am cautious of all dogs. I will not approach any dog and will not enter any shop that a dog is tied up outside if the way is not perfectly clear. How ever if dogs are under proper control and enforcement followed up on when not i don't see a problem.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:10 AM

I like having dogs in town, people can go to the local cafes with there dogs and sit outside. Makes it easier to walk through town without having to go the long way around.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:16 AM

It is very helpful to be able to walk with your dog in these areas especially when weather isn't good. Always pick up after my dog & always have her on a leash.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:23 AM

Dogs on lead with good owners should be welcome everywhere

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:23 AM

It has been great to have my dog finally to get used to lots of people, traffic, crossing the road, sitting quietly at cafes etc. Dogs need this.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:39 AM

I love being able to take my dogs with me

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:44 AM

Harbour street should still be no dogs, the smell when dogs pee on oamaru stone walls lingers and it will eventually make the street disgusting, take them round if you want to go to the Harbour not

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

through the historic street where it should be closed to vehicles and set up for public to linger like the thames street area was

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:55 AM

I love dogs and I'm of a certain age. I struggle to do two walks in a day and don't like taking my car to town during the day, and it is lovely to sit outside a cafe with a coffee with your dog and just talk to people.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:58 AM

It is so good to be able to take your dog with you.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 11:11 AM

I think dogs on leads should be allowed as long as they stay on leads

Anonymous

5/05/2025 11:17 AM

I enjoy walking down Thames street with my 4 and 2year old but am often weary now with dogs there and not knowing how they'll react to kids. I've experienced a number of dogs lunging and pulling on leads and some quite aggressive looking dogs walking down the street so its making for a not so enjoyable walk with kids

Anonymous

5/05/2025 11:28 AM

As a responsible dog owner. It is great to have some freedom to walk the dogs and grab a coffee, meeting with friends down at the Harbour and other new areas.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 11:44 AM

So long as they are on a lead I think it should be allowed

Anonymous

5/05/2025 12:02 PM

All the dogs I've seen have been on a lead and well behaved, it allows both owners and dogs to go more places together

Anonymous

5/05/2025 12:16 PM

It works well in other districts. People expect to be able to take their dogs with them everywhere and it will stop People leaving them in hot cars.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 12:20 PM

It enabled me and my family to be more active and go into town more. I could get the job done of taking the dog for a walk and do some bonus shopping at the same time.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 12:23 PM

A simple answer Why not? It was proved that dogs and responsible owners could mix with the normal people in town.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/05/2025 12:26 PM

I think it's a great idea and have no problem with it as long as the owners pick up the dog poo

Anonymous

5/05/2025 12:48 PM

Harbour St is too congested, and when ever we have been down at the farmers market there are always dog lunging at eachother catching their owners off guard, not a safe space for younger kids to wonder anymore as they get bowled over and hurt. Business areas yes and a lot of people are just walking through the area past the shops.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 01:07 PM

Not all dogs are the same. We do have a Golden Retriever and being such a big dog and considering other people who may be afraid or not confident around dogs, I would never entertain taking him in such areas. He loves all people and is gentle, social with other dogs. Would that stop him from wanting a poo or pee up the main street. I doubt not. I have seen a child walking there dog in Thames St, it had its poo and I had to remind the adult with them... pick it up.. Its a no from me on the current legislation around the dogs being aloud in these areas.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 01:09 PM

I appreciate being able to take my dog in these areas. It also means I can have a coffee sitting outside a cafe with my dog. My dog is a St John Therapy pet and we visit the local hospital on a weekly basis. Usually I can get a car park near the hospital, but if not, it means I can park on Thames St. and walk from there.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 01:17 PM

Although not currently a dog owner (until 24/5/25!!) I have had a dog for 15years and would have liked to been able to walk him at nights up and down the north end as their is plenty of lights and it is safer. I havenot heard any bad comments in person or on social media about dogs during the trial period. I look forward to walking my new dog down the main street once we are able to (vaccinated etc).

Anonymous

5/05/2025 02:11 PM

Because it is nice to be able to walk your dog under the shops when raining or if you want to look at the shops while walking your dog. Its also good to have somewhere different to go for walks

Anonymous

5/05/2025 02:27 PM

It's great for the dogs and dog owners

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/05/2025 02:52 PM

I think dogs are a welcome aspect of urban and modern life. They improve mental wellbeing and when suitable controls/support for dog owners are in place most dogs are better behaved than children

Anonymous

5/05/2025 03:10 PM

Irresponsible dog owners are going to walk where they want and leave mess anyway. Bylaws preventing dogs on streets only punishes the responsible dog owners. Also it can be difficult navigating town with a dog when you have to avoid large areas.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 03:50 PM

It gives us a option for walking in wet and windy weather and I also get to window shop

Anonymous

5/05/2025 04:46 PM

I believe having well behaved dogs in the main streets, actually makes the town a lot more friendly, especially for visitors.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 05:00 PM

Dogs are usually an extension to a family and allowing dogs to be walked in town allows a family to go out together, explore town, visit shops. I have found reason to go for a walk through town, just to go for a walk, with my dog, which I would have avoided had dogs not been allowed.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 05:01 PM

I am a responsible dog owner my dog is always on her lead always clean up any droppings and it's great to be able to take her more places more dog friendly areas we're needed

Anonymous

5/05/2025 05:40 PM

I have seen plenty of dogs on leads in all these areas since the trial began, and ALL of them have been extremely well behaved and friendly and well in control by their owners.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 06:26 PM

Like the interaction with people when walking dog. Don't agree with North End as too much traffic.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 06:29 PM

The dogs are peeing on the footpath and on shop signs and doorways

Anonymous

5/05/2025 06:35 PM

As a responsible owner I enjoy being able to take my dog along when I go shopping, as well as going to a cafe. It encourages me to use the shops in the areas. I get many people stopping me asking me about my dog, so it brings joy to them as well.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/05/2025 06:37 PM

More options to walk our dog, especially around the harbour/precinct area

Anonymous

5/05/2025 06:38 PM

Feels more family friendly, anxiety dogs and companions are included. Otherwise we leave animals at home and their noise/barking can disturb neighbours.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 06:53 PM

Because it's really handy. Less dogs are kept in hot cars because they can take them and sit outside at coffee shops

Anonymous

5/05/2025 07:32 PM

I have seen a lot of very well behaved dogs and even visitors to town seems to enjoy the interaction

Anonymous

5/05/2025 09:44 PM

I love being able to take my dog for a walk and not have to think about where the boundary is or if I am allowed there.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 09:47 PM

It's been successful from what I can see, no downsides. Lovely to see dogs at the outside seating at cafes and walking in these new areas

Anonymous

5/05/2025 09:48 PM

I have liked seeing dogs around these areas and I believe Oamaru should be more dog friendly in these areas. It has been nice to watch the parade, come support local businesses with my dog.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:13 PM

It is so nice to be able to have a coffee in Harbour Street (and Thames St), when we are out walking our dog.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:39 PM

North end is small and quiet where as in town it's busy and often there are children and toddlers walking with parents, some of which are scared of dogs. Not all owners have their dogs under control even on a lead. It's not nice to sit for a coffee and have a dog yapping at another table outside or even taking a shit while your having a coffee.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 06:55 AM

Having been threatened by a dog when much younger the fear of dogs doesn't go away so if I see a dog I will cross the street or in the current instance go into premises until it passes. Many people fear them no matter the size and some out there are quite large and aggressive. Also seen owners not clean up after them and many a

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

time see doggie dirt on Thames St by shops which is quite disgusting, often in the morning.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 07:02 AM

I had a dog and work in Thames Street, it was great to be able to walk my dog to my place of work.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 12:27 PM

There really is no reason not to allow dogs on leads, led by responsible owners, to venture into town.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 01:26 PM

I have a fear of Dogs and feel very unsafe around them, I am tending not to go into town since the trial began. I purchase online now.. I do not go for my weekly coffees with my friends. It is quite isolating. I also have a grandson who is scared of dogs and this concerns me also. Please end this trial.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 02:56 PM

Having had a dog on a long lead wrap itself around my legs at the farmers market and the lack of apology from the owner. Honestly just leave your dogs at home.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 03:35 PM

I see no problem with allowing dogs in area but must be on leads all times, it saves them being left in cars and when hot it is not good to do this. I love to take my dog for regular walks.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 04:22 PM

I do not think dogs should be allowed in shopping areas.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 04:25 PM

Great to see dogs and owners able to enjoy our streets. Brings more joy to these areas and lovely for dogs to be able to enjoy time outside cafes

Anonymous

5/06/2025 04:28 PM

Dogs are family and often out with us...

Anonymous

5/06/2025 04:34 PM

Dog ownership, dog friendly cafes and bars are all becoming more popular

Anonymous

5/06/2025 04:54 PM

Dogs should be allowed to be walked anywhere

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:12 PM

Some people have such a fear of dogs, even if they are on-lead.
People should be able to feel safe accessing shopping areas without having to worry if there are dogs around.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:15 PM

If dogs and their responsible owners are able to go places, they learn to BE in those places. Also it's good for bars and cafes (as long as the dogs are well mannered) as owners will take their dogs for a walk and spend money on food and bev where otherwise they wouldn't be in the vicinity

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:24 PM

I've discovered that not all dog owners are respectful of other people and other dogs. There are a lot of very entitled dogs owners out there in the waitaki district who don't seem to care about how there actions and their dogs actions impact on others It's the total lack of respect from many dog owners that I am against dogs being allowed in those areas

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:33 PM

Great for another spot to walk the dog!

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:36 PM

We've had no issues (as a business owner) and it's great to see dogs about.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:41 PM

Dogs need to be welcomed in our community rather than bullied under control by Council Regulatory Managers.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:41 PM

Freedom to walk in more areas.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:43 PM

Because dogs on lead allows greater use of areas to a wider range of people and the problem only occurs where there is a bad dog owner rather than an issue of dogs or no dogs. Dogs on a leash under control of their owner do not cause issues. If a dog manages to cause an issue, they are most likely not on a lead or their owner has poor or no control and needs to be penalised if they decide to bring their dog into the "restricted" area.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:54 PM

Don't mind them passing through, not so keen on them sitting in at/outside cafes etc. There's so many in wanaka, for example, it makes it hard to use the space.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/06/2025 05:59 PM

I picked up a couple of poops off the pavement last week from outside our gallery . Maybe humans need training There are penguins nesting behind many of the seats where people sit with their dogs

Anonymous

5/06/2025 06:07 PM

All owners and dogs I've encountered since the trial have been responsible and I've enjoyed walking my dog in these areas

Anonymous

5/06/2025 06:08 PM

It's great to be able to socialise our dogs in these areas and makes it easier to get around when walking through town, not having to avoid certain areas when the dog is with me

Anonymous

5/06/2025 06:14 PM

Support having dogs on a lead in these areas. Increases foot traffic for businesses and dogs bring health and wellbeing benefits.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 06:19 PM

Dogs are very much part of the tapestry of North Otago and Oamaru: be they farm dogs or pets. By allowing them and their owners/handlers/carers into these areas is shows a level of maturity and growth of thinking from the WDC. I know there are always bad owners/handlers, but having dogs on a lead will give control by the handlers/carers. Often, dog bad behaviour happens because parents/carers don't educate their children that strange dogs should not be approached/patted/or touched. Education your children parents ! Other cities/towns around the world allow dogs in "people" areas = time for some grown-up action WDC.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 06:23 PM

Due to how common it is to have dogs on leads in other towns, it is difficult for domestic tourists to not be caught out if they are travelling with dogs. And so they have to not stop, or risk leaving a dog in a vehicle with windows down.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 06:28 PM

It is great as a dog owner to be able to bring our dog along with us. It is awesome to be able to sit outside at hospitality places with our dog.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 07:01 PM

Being able to walk dogs & do a couple of errands at the shops on Thames & Harbour Streets is great. Also walking with dogs under the verandas when it is raining is a bonus.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 07:06 PM

I've been out more, run in to more people (with and without dogs). This is great for community

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/06/2025 07:31 PM

Because the majority of dogs are well behaved and socialized, and it's great having them out and about

Anonymous

5/06/2025 08:00 PM

The best way to socialise our pet dogs is to ... Socialise them. That means giving them the opportunity to be with us where we are, which also allows us to demonstrated to non dog owners (eg kids) how to behave around dogs too. Personally, it's a challenge taking our dog for the walks he needs when we are theoretically not allowed to walk them through the shopping area (North End) - it's not like Oamaru has a lot of alternative routes, being a skinny ribbon towards the north. Also, to be fair, all the change around eg Harbour st is doing is legitimizing what dog owners already do in that area. As a recent-past business owner in Harbour st (no longer as of March), it was lovely seeing families out walking their dogs in the area. I never noticed any excrement etc in the area, so presume most people tidied up after their dogs as expected. Lovely to see Oamaru finally at least trying to become a bit more dog friendly, now we are into our 3rd dog. It was not a very friendly town for our first two!

Anonymous

5/06/2025 08:25 PM

It's great to allow dogs with their people in these areas. Visitors to town often werent aware of the previous bylaw so there was often confusion. It's a positive change to allow dogs on leads in these areas, feels more accessible for all.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 08:34 PM

If the dog is friendly and the owner is in control of them why should they not be allowed there

Anonymous

5/06/2025 08:56 PM

I think most people have their dogs on a leash and also clean up any mess left. Dogs are very much part of families and there's nothing better than seeing a well behaved dog out and about.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 09:02 PM

I think there is a place for dogs to be with their owners.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 09:55 PM

Dogs (especially sheep dogs) are the backbone of our country. First shipments of frozen meat were sent from Otago.. loyal, hardworking dogs would've rounded up those sheep & lambs for export. Guard dogs are necessary given greater rates of crime in Oamaru. Dogs are wonderful company for the lonely in the area and kids benefit from having dogs in their lives. Dogs bond closely to their caregivers and fret when not by their side.. excluding them from

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

certain areas is counterproductive to the well being of dogs and their owners.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 10:30 PM

Because dogs socialised in the community are better dogs. Though they must be on a lead but given the roads then any sensible owner would use a lead. It also saves driving when you can walk though the area with your dogs

Anonymous

5/06/2025 10:45 PM

I love dogs

Anonymous

5/06/2025 11:03 PM

Dogs are family members and if on leads are under control

Anonymous

5/06/2025 11:04 PM

It's nice that people can take dogs out, makes the town more attractive to visitors as well

Anonymous

5/07/2025 05:29 AM

Dogs are part of your family and enjoy being being out and about. If you dog is socialised and friendly, I don't see why it would be a problem. It can make some people's day to give a pat to a dog

Anonymous

5/07/2025 06:45 AM

Everyone deserves to take their fluffy friends with them so long as they clean up after them and are responsible. I feel safer with mine and also helps with my medical conditions and mental health but not officially a "support dog". Doc already ban so many amazing walks that you could take them on, why also on the main streets? Other cities/towns allow them everywhere- why not oamaru?

Anonymous

5/07/2025 07:49 AM

Great idea, means people can get out and walk their dogs in more places now

Anonymous

5/07/2025 08:26 AM

I like the ability to be able to walk my dog through these areas should I wish to. I don't very often, but on the odd time, it is good to have the freedom to. I also think it is important that visitors to our town are able to do this. We want people to walk through our shopping area and spend, if they have a dog they won't do this and will pass through.

Anonymous

5/07/2025 09:17 AM

Think it is a great idea for the public who own dogs and want to go for a walk down town to be able to take their pet with them and not have to leave them at home where if they are not used to being on their

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

own they could get very stressed and cause unwanted barking and upset any neighbors

Anonymous

5/07/2025 09:19 AM

I live the South end of tow, so cant commenton North End. I like no restrictions on where I walk because often I would have to alter a more direct route to accommodate bylaws. Overseas dogs are allowed far more freedoms, so I think walking on leash in public areas is sensible.

Anonymous

5/07/2025 09:29 AM

I would never take my dog anywhere without her being on a lead. Along with the ever present poo bag. If you own a dog and walk it on the streets you must be in control of it at all times.

Anonymous

5/07/2025 11:11 AM

I don't think we need to take our dogs anywhere. The reason for the north end is because it's so dark around the back streets at night.

Anonymous

5/07/2025 01:26 PM

We've had no problems at all, just happy dog owners.

Anonymous

5/07/2025 04:32 PM

Dogs better than people

Anonymous

5/07/2025 07:52 PM

Thse are companion animals for a large part. Limiting them, limits their person.

Anonymous

5/07/2025 07:57 PM

Current rules re dogs not permitted in town are out if date and are in line with Oamaru's reputation of old thinking and the anything new or progressive being stifled by council

Anonymous

5/07/2025 08:31 PM

Too many times ,I and others have to change shopping plans because of not being able to take our dogs.

Anonymous

5/08/2025 11:13 AM

I love seeing people walking their dogs, and I also like the idea that I can take my dog to more places. However, I did come across a large pile of dog poo on the footpath on the corner where the St Johns shop is. It is really disappointing that Council has opened this area up in good faith, only to have people abuse the privilege by not picking up after their dogs. If this is going to the actions of some dog owners then I would rather have no dogs on Thames Street.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/08/2025 01:55 PM

I believe enabling dogs to walk on lead with their loving owners in these areas adds a new positive dimension to Oamaru. It will put smiles on people's faces and in doing so improves the general wellbeing of our community and also increases business activity. It's simply a wonderful move.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 11:45 AM

For the Thames and Harbour Streets people walking dogs brings a new layer of vibrancy and accessibility. It is nice to sit outside one of the cafes with a coffee after a morning walk with the dog down the wharf. The walk to the Gardens is also easier with access via Thames street and a nicer shaded safe walk.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 12:08 PM

Whether you're a local or a tourist visiting town and you are a responsible dog owner, it is a pleasure to be able to take your dog, walk around or sit outside at a cafe instead of leaving it in a car.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 12:11 PM

For responsible owners, dogs are part of a family. Owners want them with them when they visit town instead of left at home.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 12:14 PM

I visit Oamaru from Omarama. I love it now that I can take the dog out of the car, walk to a cafe, sit outside with my dog and have a coffee.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 03:07 PM

Most dogs have careful, responsible owners, and are well trained and socialised. Any dogs which aren't can be easily identified and dealt with. It feels more natural to see dogs out and about in town, and I can only hope that a dog-friendly cafe will pop up somewhere.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 03:14 PM

Dogs should be kept out of these areas unless they are guide dogs.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 04:24 PM

I don't see a problem with it, why not? People have been bringing dogs on lead onto these areas anyway, as if you're from out of town you would have no idea that you couldn't.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 04:41 PM

Because I have had visitors to Oamaru who wish to explore our township, but in the past, we're shocked to find out, there well behaved dog, with responsible owners, limited them from certain streets and roads. Most of my visitors are well traveled in NZ, and we're quite frankly put off our town. I also had to point out to a couple walking their dog on a lead, that they were likely to incur a fine, if they proceeded up Thames street. Once again visitors to our town

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

shocked and turned off Oamaru

Anonymous

5/09/2025 08:32 PM

Too many times I have come across dog excrement on the footpaths & popular areas like Holmes Wharf access way and promenade along the friendly bay harbour. And smelt dog urine stench where I parked in town by lagonda once, yuk! Another issue is when pet owners loosen the lead and don't contain their dog to themselves. In Harbour Street on several seperate occassions, Ive had dogs bark sharply at me have had dogs fighting aggressively whilst on lead with their owners. And there's a few men in these areas who run them while on their bike.

Anonymous

5/10/2025 05:07 PM

Because I have found no issue with walking my dog or other dogs in these areas. It makes a change from having to zig zag around town, to avoid the previous dog restriction areas. And it makes much more sense for people with dogs to be in areas with cafes and shops.

Anonymous

5/11/2025 10:43 AM

It's a more normal societal and social connection for both people and dogs.

Anonymous

5/13/2025 09:42 AM

I like dogs but I find it distressing and distracting hearing them whining while being tied up outside a store while the owner is inside. (This happened yesterday while I was browsing at Bookarama). There are plenty of other places that are more suited to dogs than in shopping areas.

Anonymous

5/13/2025 12:42 PM

Whilst I have owned dogs most of my life (plus a variety of other animals) I do understand that there are people who are afraid of or nervous around dogs especially badly behaved dogs. Not all dog owners respect other peoples' feelings and fears. Not all dog owners understand the need for a dog to be obedient - regardless of the dog's size and breed. And not all dog owners are reliable at cleaning up after their dogs.

Anonymous

5/14/2025 12:14 PM

A dog is usually a really important companion and family member and having a dog contributes positively to well being. It can be difficult for people to engage in the community if dogs are excluded. It is important of course that all dogs are well controlled to ensure the safety of the community.

Anonymous

Two reasons. Sometimes I am without a car and need to walk

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

5/21/2025 07:45 PM

somewhere with my dog. These areas are commonly on the shortest routes. There is no reason not to have a well behaved leashed dog walk in these areas. Second, sitting at outdoor cafe seating with my well behaved dog in Harbour Street, as I did last week, or in Thames Street, which I would also enjoy, is in my experience a positive addition to the street dynamics for all 3 affected parties - i.e. dog, myself, and passers by.

Anonymous

6/05/2025 09:50 AM

Dogs on leads should be allowed everywhere.

Anonymous

6/05/2025 09:01 PM

Oamaru is backward for dogs. Most places allow dogs to go with their owner for a walk to Town and have a coffee etc, its part of owning a dog, having them with you and at the same time giving both of you exercise. I might like to get taken into Town and then choose to walk home.

Anonymous

6/11/2025 02:15 PM

Please see Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony submission regarding Waitaki Dog Control By-law 2024 under CRM111723

Optional question (184 response(s), 19 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q10 | Any other comments?

Willow

2/24/2025 05:12 PM

Whilst I realise not every dog owner/carer is totally responsible, for example, not everyone collects their dog droppings, it is time to bring some measured reasoning to where dogs are allowed to be, on a lead of course.

Landylass

2/24/2025 05:25 PM

There seem to be quite a few roaming dogs around Oamaru that rules dont seem to apply to.

Doggy Tails

2/24/2025 05:33 PM

Liking Oamaru getting more dog friendly.

Austingurl

2/24/2025 06:08 PM

There needs to be a massive crack down on off lead dogs. These dogs and owners are the ones that will see the on lead trial scrapped because of the nay sayers this town has and they way they zero in on the one bad egg in the box. Take dogs off people they are repeat offenders, bar them from owning dogs, fine the shit out of them!

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Dawn

2/24/2025 06:51 PM

As long as all dog owners pick up their dog poo and don't walk aggressive dogs in these more public areas, I think its a good move. Perhaps a poo bag dispenser in those areas might be good.

Mcfee

2/24/2025 09:46 PM

Responsible dog owners help to show dogs and people can live work and play together. On lead is bring responsible considering the safety of others and giving choices for those who live dogs, and those who don't

Anonymous

2/25/2025 08:18 AM

Hopefully this will stay in place.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 09:43 AM

I have not noticed any dog poop on the footpaths, I think people are being responsible

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:39 AM

It's lovely to greet all the dogs and get lots of pats in. Great way to socialize puppies. As long as people have nice dogs, and clean up after them, we can all enjoy them

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:46 AM

I have come across some quite large dogs on leash in Thames St. Owners and dogs alike can be rather scary. I would avoid a cafe where a large dog with its owner outside. Dogs are not people and should not be treated on a similar basis.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 11:04 AM

In most parts of nz, you can go sit at a Cafe with your dog, or you can walk freely with them, good to see oamaru is finally catching up

Anonymous

2/25/2025 02:42 PM

Fines are in excess. Being fined for not having a lead in off lead areas far too expensive. Fines also far too excessive for other "minor" issues. I feel Council should be more concerned about aggressive dogs attacking humans and other dogs.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 03:49 PM

There are always going to be people that don't follow rules eg picking up after dogs and letting them off leads like before this change. More enforcement needed so not ruined for everyone.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 05:32 PM

There should be more stations to tie up a dog outside shops, possibly water bowls.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

2/25/2025 06:27 PM

I would definitely not take my male German Shepherd walking down the main shopping area in Oamaru. He is 60 kg and not a great lover of any other dogs, so I will keep him away from that area. He has got a black face and sometimes people/children are frightened of him, so another reason to keep him away from town.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 07:06 PM

I do think those that don't follow the rules, ie picking up after their pets or those animals that are not "public friendly" should be taken to task quickly, as these situations are the ones locals moan about and get the most attention. That tars the rest of us with the same brush.

Anonymous

2/25/2025 10:39 PM

I and many others hope you continue the trial and at the end of this reach the decision to keep Oamaru a dog friendly place for those of us who want to spend time in this fabulous place.

Anonymous

2/26/2025 09:09 AM

Dogs need to be on leads in ALL public areas and not left unattended even if tired up outside shops right by entrance ways. If I have to deal with a dog at shop entrance I just will not go in.

Anonymous

2/26/2025 10:29 AM

You need to design your surveys better. Yes / No may be may be easy to collate but does not elicit full responses. The Question 10 "any other comments" space is too limited.

Anonymous

2/26/2025 12:18 PM

Happy to send you pictures of the mess.

Anonymous

2/26/2025 03:43 PM

There is a Facebook group called Motorhoming with Pets in NZ. It has 16,000 members and growing. Oamaru has a poor reputation amongst its followers and is avoided by many dog-owning Motorhomers and Caravanners. We need all the tourists we can get.

Anonymous

2/26/2025 08:48 PM

Lets us be known as a dog friendly attractive town to stay , visit and live in. help create responsible dog ownership with strict consequences for those that neglect to keep dogs on lead in public places.

Anonymous

2/26/2025 08:50 PM

Dogs and food are not a good mix. Sunday market is one place all dogs should be banned from, in the stall area. I would include in this all businesses that sell food.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

2/28/2025 12:50 PM

Hope this continues.

Anonymous

2/28/2025 04:04 PM

N/A

Anonymous

2/28/2025 05:02 PM

There are dog owners and there are thoughtful dog owners. Look after your dog by walking, yes, look after other people by picking up the droppings, yes. BUT there are dog owners who don't actually care about picking up excrement, and will walk away, no-one challenges them, and if they are seen, who remembers what they look like?

Anonymous

2/28/2025 06:45 PM

Have this policy permanently

Anonymous

2/28/2025 07:01 PM

Hooray

Anonymous

3/01/2025 08:33 AM

Overall if a dog is at a door of a shop I dont go near it. We have adequate dog parks and walking areas so keep our retail areas clear please.

Anonymous

3/01/2025 03:01 PM

I don't agree with dogs in the CBD.

Anonymous

3/03/2025 08:17 AM

It would be good to have more options for dog training sessions in Oamaru. This would help any dog owners to train their dog on appropriate behaviour around others, and to clean up after their dog.

Anonymous

3/03/2025 01:05 PM

The dog pee is nasty, smelly, and unhygienic. It's not fair on retailers having to throw new merchandise in the bin (thereby losing much-needed sales and affecting their business), because some thoughtless dog owners don't clean up after their animals (that have urinated at their shop front)

Anonymous

3/03/2025 01:14 PM

From a purely hygienic perspective, this should not be happening. The sidewalk is covered, meaning that the areas affected don't even wash down in the rain. Over time, and not very long, the stench from dog pee could be enough to put customers off going into shops affected by this, threatening their business. It's a violation of the

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

business rights of all business owners.

Anonymous

3/03/2025 03:47 PM

Thanks for this opportunity

Anonymous

3/03/2025 09:49 PM

I feel Oamaru needs to allow dog lovers and owners which is most people to take there dogs down the streets OF OAMARU.

Anonymous

3/04/2025 12:07 PM

Perhaps some of the more menacing breeds should be muzzled even if they haven't a bad record, while they are in these areas.

Bookie

3/04/2025 09:30 PM

Just that dog fouling continues to be a problem on the Cape Wanbrow tracks. There were ongoing problems with "jumpy" and growly dogs for a long time, - especially dogs jumping up on walkers, I was even bitten once, - but that seems to have improved recently, fingers crossed.

Anonymous

4/17/2025 12:40 PM

There should be tighter dog control in general - dogs are often also a nuisance in residential areas - once again owners lack of control

Anonymous

5/01/2025 12:14 PM

No

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:23 AM

More signage and patrolling is needed to remind owners of their obligations

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:55 AM

If it goes back to what it was before, I don't really care. You can't please everybody all of the time and I'm more easily pleased than most .

Anonymous

5/05/2025 10:58 AM

I am a firm believer in dogs being on leads at all times. And owners should clean up after their pets always.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 11:28 AM

We pick up after our dogs when they poop, I wish other dog owners would do the same!

Anonymous

5/05/2025 11:44 AM

Tight control of keeping our sidewalks free from dog poo is needed

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/05/2025 01:07 PM

We are lucky to have the facilities we have and the freedom to walk our dogs in plenty of spaces, however it is not appreciated by everybody going by the amount of dog faeces that is not picked up. Not sure how to fix that.....

Anonymous

5/05/2025 01:09 PM

It's good that there are plenty of rubbish tins around so no excuse for dog owners not to pick up after their pets. A thought, maybe there could be a couple of areas around town that can hold "poop" bags.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 01:17 PM

As you have probably heard before, its the owners that need educating and not the dogs. I still pick up dog poop from outside our property (all sizes) on a regular basis. Just laziness on the part of the owner

Anonymous

5/05/2025 02:27 PM

You can go to many places in nz with your dog, oamaru has been well behind the times.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 02:52 PM

I think it would be worthwhile looking at other cities such as Wellington and how they have dog friendly central areas. There is an expectation and 99% of people follow it without trouble. It is also 2025, the majority of households have dogs or love dogs

Anonymous

5/05/2025 04:46 PM

I do get annoyed that there are some locals still walking dogs unleashed near friendly bay. Spoiling it for everyone else. I enjoy the interaction with overseas visitors, they love having photos taken with my border collie, plus can educate children how to interact with dogs in a safe way, (not like the cuddles with huskies) Are there any checks being done re carrying poo bags.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 05:00 PM

Anything to promote more foot traffic in town is to be encouraged !

Anonymous

5/05/2025 05:40 PM

I don't take our German Shepherd on lead in any of these places unless there are not many people around. He is a big boy weighing 60 KGs and quite a lot of people are wary of him, cos of his size. He is a big gentle giant, but I don't want to take any risks where he feels threatened or a person feels threatened by him.

Anonymous

5/05/2025 06:26 PM

Work at cafe in area and people have loved being able to sit outside with their dogs. Have noticed that numerous people have stopped to

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

talk to customers when sitting with their dogs. Good feel good vibes.

Anonymous

No

5/05/2025 06:37 PM

Anonymous

May I suggest signage be better around on leads etc

5/05/2025 07:32 PM

Anonymous

Haven't seen more dog poo, or badly behaved dog. All I have met in this area have been well behaved and enjoying the change.

5/05/2025 09:47 PM

Anonymous

There are lots of places for dogs to be without being I'm the main town centre or Harbour street. It would be nice to have those areas dog free for those who aren't comfortable around dogs of any size.

5/05/2025 10:39 PM

Anonymous

Dogs lift legs and urinate in doorways, they are off putting for elderly and young children who can be scared of them. They should be walked in Designated areas.

5/06/2025 04:22 PM

Anonymous

Waitaki is so behind the times in the dog department.. Nice to see they are becoming more open minded. Next a dog park for small dogs would be amazing.

5/06/2025 04:28 PM

Anonymous

Just hope responsible dog owners pick up after their dogs.

5/06/2025 05:41 PM

Anonymous

Consider the ability to report poor owners with investigation resulting in higher dog registration fees. Dogs need to be leashed and registered and any dog not registered should be able to be reported.

5/06/2025 05:43 PM

Anonymous

Needs to be zero tolerance to any antisocial behaviour, off lead, etc. I.e. Fines

5/06/2025 05:54 PM

Anonymous

Would love this to continue

5/06/2025 06:07 PM

Anonymous

No

5/06/2025 06:19 PM

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/06/2025 06:23 PM

Ensuring the bylaw allows dogs on leads means loose dogs are far more obvious, and action can be taken promptly. The only issue to my mind is how restrictive the hours are, which is very obvious as this time of year.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 06:28 PM

Dog owners do need to be responsible about bringing dogs along on a lead to places in Oamaru. They must pick up after themselves and make sure their dogs are suitable to actually be out in public!

Anonymous

5/06/2025 07:06 PM

Keep up the hard work and you'll win the whiners over!

Anonymous

5/06/2025 08:00 PM

Thanks for reviewing these rules

Anonymous

5/06/2025 08:25 PM

We also want dogs to be allowed on leads near playgrounds - before that wasn't allowed. Dogs are family and while supervising kids at playgrounds it is tricky to manage kids and dogs in separate areas. We haven't encountered any issues at all with people picking up after their dogs since the recent change.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 09:02 PM

I think there should be a restriction on the length of the lead that the dog is on. It gets very dangerous when biking and there are dogs with lengthy leads.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 09:55 PM

Allow dogs on leads in all areas of the town and surrounds. Our dogs dwell at times in Christchurch... no restrictions there!

Anonymous

5/06/2025 10:30 PM

I have seen too many dogs not only leads near the penguin colony. Bigger signs may be needed

Anonymous

5/06/2025 10:45 PM

Can we also put some humans on leads.

Anonymous

5/06/2025 11:03 PM

Brings a great vibe to the town

Anonymous

5/06/2025 11:04 PM

No

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/07/2025 03:51 AM

Owners walking dogs should be able to show that they have poo bgs on them at all times. No bag, no walk. FINE for not being able to show they have a method to pick up poo.

Anonymous

5/07/2025 08:26 AM

I am from the UK, there there are multiple dog poo bins for people to dispose of their dog waste. I feel this would be beneficial to see brought in around our district. I pick up my dog poo and have a special bag for it, but alot of people don't and so carry it. I would love there to be more designated bins to be able to dispose of whilst out walking, this would hopefully help with people picking up after their dogs.

Anonymous

5/07/2025 09:19 AM

An increase in bins to dispose of droppings in some areas maybe, recycle bags burn through fast.

Anonymous

5/07/2025 11:11 AM

No

Anonymous

5/07/2025 07:57 PM

Allowing dogs in town is way overdue. Why are we messing around with a survey, just change the rules

Anonymous

5/07/2025 08:31 PM

I know a lot of people from through out N.Z that never stopped to shop or take in the sights of Oamaru because they had dogs and did not feel welcome, those very same people have since spent time and money in Oamaru.

Anonymous

5/08/2025 01:55 PM

This is a clear example of Oamaru's council's positive, pro-active approach to governance. It great for the future of Oamaru, thank you very much.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 11:45 AM

A lot if business operators seem to support it with lots if water bowls available outside cafes/ shops. I have not seen any evidence of people not picking up after their dogs. Walking in a public space like streets dog owners are under observation and hopefully always do the right thing.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 12:08 PM

I am a dog lover and frequently disappointed in the restrictions placed on where dogs are allowed. There are no bad dogs, only bad owners. If only we had the freedoms of Europe where dogs are seen everywhere with apparently no detrimental effects on the population.

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

5/09/2025 12:11 PM

Responsible owners keep pets on leads, in control and ensure excrement is removed.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 12:14 PM

Irresponsible owners need to be prosecuted severely but restrictions should not penalize the better owners.

Anonymous

5/09/2025 08:32 PM

I see no purpose to animals being in amongst Pedestrians, in business areas when there is literally no evidence they increase revenue or cause spending, I do not see the point of the high risk to people and the dogs. Only thing that increased on the Waitaki district, relating to Dogs, were attacks, roaming and incidences that required Animal Control. I don't dislike dogs, I dislike the assumptions the owners make that the public should accommodate their dogs in public and not the other way around. Pets have their place and its NOT in the Northend shopping center, Thames Street CBD, nor Harbour Street.

Anonymous

5/10/2025 05:07 PM

Maybe more signage in town regarding pickup of dog poo and bags provided by bins, like other council's have done, costs coming out of dog registration.

Anonymous

5/11/2025 10:43 AM

People MUST take responsibility in cleaning up. Reducing Confusion - The WDC could greatly assist by supporting and encouraging Business owners to display signage of whether dogs are permitted in store, make options available to order coffees etc while remaining outside with their dogs, such as apps, and improvements with tie up places etc

Anonymous

5/13/2025 09:42 AM

Please consider the wishes of those who want their shopping experiences to be enjoyable, not stressful. Thank you.

Anonymous

5/13/2025 12:42 PM

I see no reason for dogs to be in the CBD as there are far more appropriate places to exercise dogs. In saying that, I have no objection to guide dogs for visually impaired people being in the CBD or even in shops etc.

Anonymous

6/05/2025 09:50 AM

Why is there a second consultation on this subject when the last survey was so resoundingly pro-dogs on leads within the CBD?

Dogs On Lead Trial - Feedback Survey : Survey Report for 31 May 2022 to 01 July 2025

Anonymous

I think it is very beneficial for shops to allow dogs into the area.

6/05/2025 09:01 PM

Optional question (93 response(s), 110 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

General Feedback



Submitted on	26 February 2025, 11:09AM
Receipt number	FB214
Related form version	11

What type of feedback is this?

Complaint

Your feedback

Please provide as many details as possible, such as department, names, date and time.

A dog has urinated on our scarf stand just outside our store, Waitaki Interiors, 29 Thames St, while we were open. Unfortunately the staff did not see who it was. We have had to dispose of 2 items of stock worth \$70.00. There has been an increase in markings on our sign and at the corner of our shop since the dog trial. Photo's attached. We also heard a dog defecated in Housekeepers Design and didn't notify staff or pick it up and another customer walked through it. Something is very wrong at the moment with this dog trial.

Attach a supporting document

[Dog pee on sign.jpg](#)
[Dog pee on scarf stand.jpg](#)

Do you wish to be contacted by the Council?

Yes - please provide your preferred contact details if you wish to be contacted

Your contact details

Your name	Sherry Howard
Organisation (if applicable)	Waitaki Interiors
Preferred contact method	Email
Email address	[REDACTED]

Ōamaru Blue Penguin Colony

**Waitaki Dog
Control By-law
2024 submission**





Scope

This submission acts as the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony's (OBPC) formal comment on the proposed dog by-law changes issued by Waitaki District Council on 17 December 2024. While the 2024 dog by-law has been actioned, a 6-month trial is currently ongoing. This document outlines the OBPC stance on the by-law, specifically, changes made to the Harbour St area, where dogs are now allowed to be present during sunrise and sunset, while on-lead.

The OBPC considers this zone not only a site of significance for little penguins, but also a site of heightened risk for little penguin dog attacks, due to the habitat type and increased exposure to threats, compared to other little penguin breeding areas around the harbour. We see that the risk of attack remains high, even if dogs are on lead, due to the ability of dogs to lunge quickly and the potential inattention of dog owners while their dogs are sniffing.

Little penguins are a protected species, classified as 'At risk – declining' by the Department of Conservation. Therefore, the OBPC does not support the changes made to the dog by-law granting access to dogs in this zone, as it poses undue risk to penguins inhabiting this space. OBPC is not opposed to any other changes presented in Waitaki Dog Control By-law 2024.

Site overview

Under the current dog by-law trial, dogs may now be walked on lead, between sunrise and sunset in the Harbour St area (Fig. 1.). This site, among others in the wider Oamaru Harbour zone represents a key area of little penguin breeding habitat. Birds inhabiting this zone are subject to disturbance from vehicles and people during the early hours of the morning and in the evenings. Among those birds with accessible burrows, there is additional disturbance from unregulated tourism during daylight hours. OBPC surveys estimate 9 penguin burrow entrances into the buildings of Harbour St (Fig. 2.). There are believed to be >30 penguins living under and around the buildings of Harbour St. These nesting sites range from complete underfloor access, where penguins will nest far under these buildings; short tunnels, in which nests are built within a couple of feet from the entrance; and wooden nesting boxes. In addition, Harbour St has nooks under drains, behind steps or under equipment and furniture, which little penguins are known to occasionally loiter under during daylight hours. This contrasts the wider harbour area, in which most little penguins inhabit rock burrows, are under buildings without surrounding equipment and furniture, or are behind fenced areas, and remain well hidden during daylight hours, even if leaving their breeding burrow.

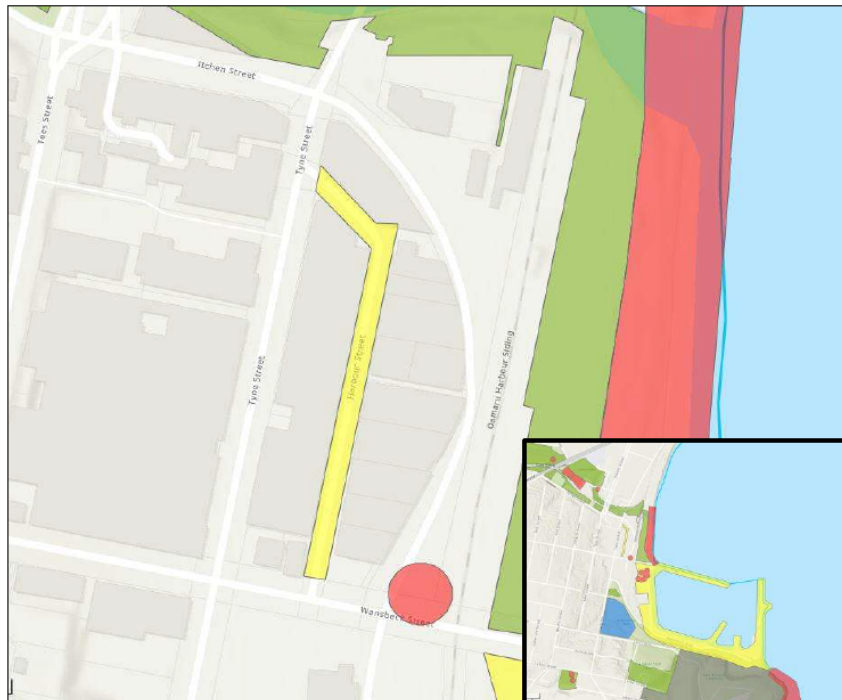


Fig 1. Current Harbour Street dog by-law zone (yellow zone). Inset: Wider Oamaru Harbour area.

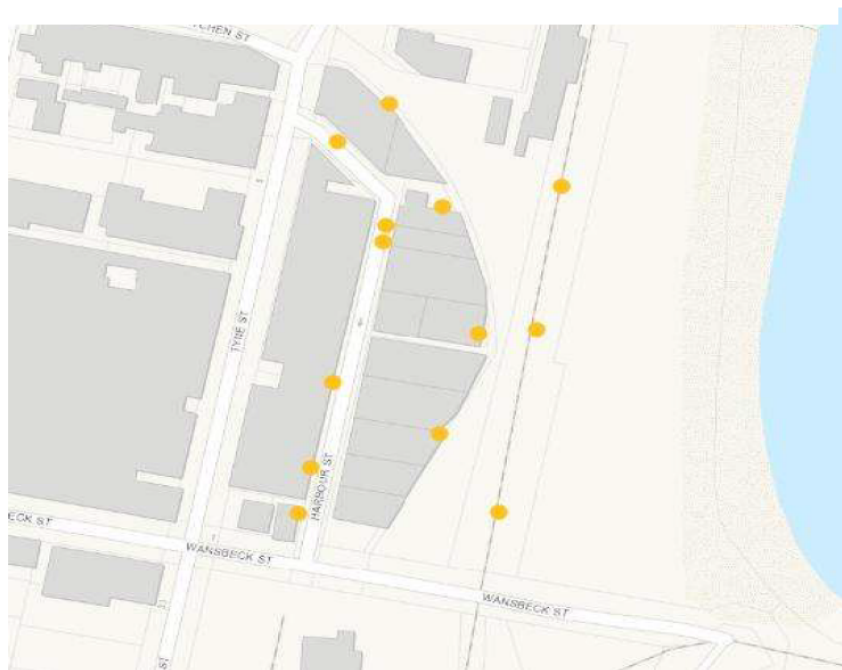


Fig. 2. Known locations of little penguin burrows in and around Harbour St.



Little penguin annual cycle

Little penguins nesting in this zone will return to their burrows year-round. However, the frequency of nest attendance and the likelihood of penguins being found in exposed locations during daylight hours will vary throughout the year.

Times of year when little penguins are at an increased risk of dog attack are during the breeding season and moulting season.

Breeding season – little penguins typically begin laying eggs in July, and heightened breeding activities will continue through until December. Breeding involves periods of incubation and chick rearing. Chick rearing is divided into the guard stage, in which adults remain in the nest with young chicks, and the post-guard stage, in which chicks are unguarded. Chicks typically reach fledgling age at 8 weeks. From 4 – 5 weeks, chicks will emerge from burrows in the evening to wait and then beg of parents to feed them. This often results in chicks returning to other burrows or to other dark locations.

Moulting season – between January and April little penguins complete their annual moult, during which they replace their feathers with a new set. Penguins do not forage at sea during this period and remain on land for the 2–3-week duration. Little penguins are known to often select locations different from their breeding burrow to complete the moult. Often in locations that are poorly hidden.



Risk zones

While most little penguins are nesting within deep burrows under the buildings of Harbour St, there are significant risk areas where little penguins are known to rest, that are accessible to people and dogs (Fig. 3.). Noting that these sites are accessible to a dog being walked even when on a lead. During the breeding season, as chicks emerge from their burrows in the evening, they may inadvertently choose shelter under these objects for the following day. OBPC has frequently received reports of little penguins under these objects during daylight hours. Often these birds require removal and translocation to safer zones, or to the OBPC rehabilitation facility. Incidences of these uplifts are exacerbated in years of poor breeding success, as hungry chicks will also begin to explore further from their burrows.

In addition, during the moult, little penguins may poorly select these sites to moult under, putting them at extreme risk of dog attack.



Fig. 3. Structures and objects that are deemed to have a high likelihood of a little penguin being found under at some point in the breeding season, during daylight hours.



2024 little penguin Harbour St sightings

During the 2024 breeding season, four little penguins were uplifted into OBPC care, following reports from the public (Fig. 4.). These penguins were all uplifted during daylight hours and were in locations accessible to people and dogs. The condition of these penguins varied from healthy, to underweight, to having severe injury (Fig. 5.). This represents only penguins that the OBPC is made aware of, and anecdotal reports from staff working at Harbour St businesses suggests that sightings of little penguins during daylight hours are not uncommon during the breeding season.

Comments relating to the 2024 breeding and moulting seasons include:

"I see people with dogs off-lead, and they sniff out the holes"

"I often see little babies out under the seat in the morning"

- Joanne Rose, Whitestone City

"You can see penguins from the other side of the road, people gather around taking photos ... a little Jack Russell could easily reach in"

- Martin Horspool, Buggy Robot

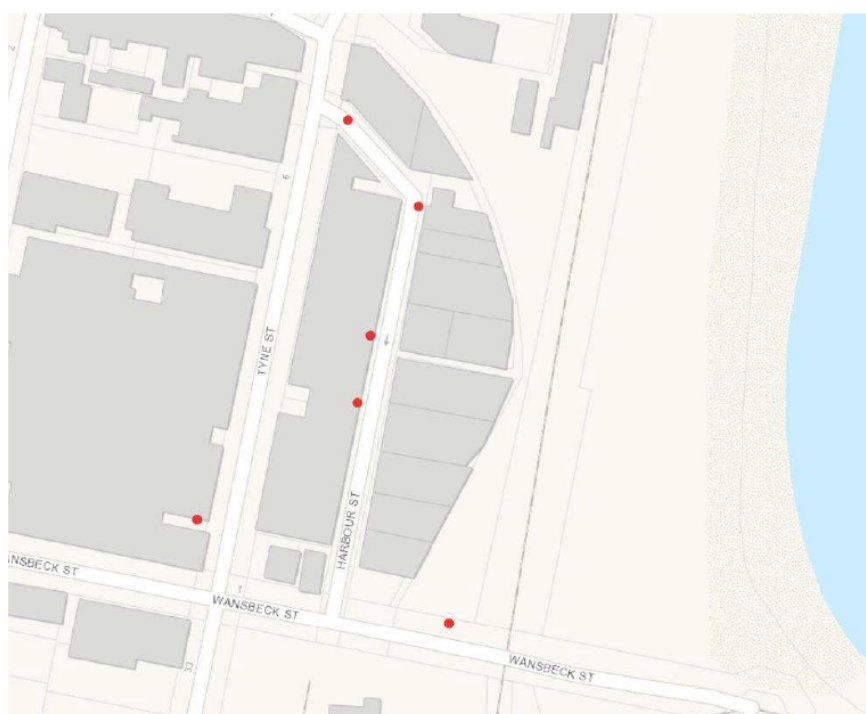


Fig 4. Victorian Precinct locations where little penguins were uplifted by OBPC staff during the 2024 breeding season.

6



Fig 5. Example of a little penguin chick requiring uplift by OBPC staff. Note blood splatters at access point to the shelter and penguin having lost its left leg.



Summary

- Little penguins are a protected species, classified as 'At Risk – Declining' by the Department of Conservation.
- The Victorian precinct and Harbour Street has a high density of little penguins inhabiting the space
- This zone includes habitat types that little penguins will use, but will be poorly hidden and completely accessible to dogs in the area, even while on-lead.
- Little penguins have been reported exposed during daylight hours in this zone, often requiring intervention from the OBPC.
- This risk is exacerbated during the breeding season, when chicks leave their natal burrow, and during moult, when adult penguins are often poorly hidden.
- Granting dog access to this zone places undue risk on the penguins inhabiting this space.
- Dogs that are being walked on a lead can lunge at penguins that are present in accessible sites on the footpath or immediately beside the road.
- The OBPC opposes dogs being granted access to this site.

Signed: Henry Elsom
Team Leader – Environmental
Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony

Site:	For or Against	Notes:
OPD	For	They enjoy seeing the dogs going by and getting a pat when they can, no downsides.
Graves Saddlery	For	Clients feel more comfortable taking their dogs from the car to the shop, otherwise has not noticed any difference.
Oscars	For	Enjoying it very much.
Temptations	Against	Cleaning dog poo from out the front. Does not see the need for people to have their dogs in town, why give them the chance to mess up.
BNZ	For	Love it! They have had more dogs in the branch which they welcome. Would love the scheme to continue moving forward. A few staff mentioned they like it because they can take their dog when they walk when its darker, this makes them feel much safer.
Fat Sallys	For	No difference to them, don't really care.
Dollarama	Neutral	Have barely noticed, not worried either way.
Soul Surf and Skate	For	Not bothered, so far they believe people are being very respectful and cleaning up after themselves.
Spark	Neutral	Like seeing more dogs, don't really care so long as street stays clean.
MorComm Systems	Against	Dogs do not need to be in town, they have seen many instances where people are not in control of their dogs, especially when they are using the long/extending leads. To many things on the streets already, don't need dogs too. Noticed poo on Wear St.
Brydone	Neutral	Not really noticed, not affected either way.
Preen	For	No difference noticed, no issues either.
Neat Feet	Against	Stressful for the dogs, not fun for them. Does not like the fact that there are dogs at the farmers market now. Noted more barking now, specially from parked cars.
Farmers	For	No issues, happy to see the dogs and welcome some in as well.
Martyns Cycles	Neutral	Bit more barking, not noticed any poop so people are being respectful. Few more people trying to bring their dogs instore, but not really bothered by that.
Ballyntines	For	A little worried about the issues that will arise from the urine on the streets, is it their job to clean it? Love seeing more dogs. Aside from the concerns around the pee they have not noticed any poop.
Waitaki Interiors	Against	Dogs have been peeing on their outside stock, they have had to write some scarves off. They have been peeing repeatedly on the sign as well, this has allways been an issue overnight but has gotten much worse now. Pictures on phone to show how there has been enough pee to cause pooling/stains on the pavement outside the shop.
Taste café	For	Have noticed some wees on the sidewalk, otherwise think it's a good thing. More people bring their dogs with them (to sit outside) and no they don't have to tell people they aren't allowed their dogs.
Roost café	For	Good, as long as the dogs really are leashed. They have had more dogs in their our back seating which they enjoy. They mention that people often walked their dogs past anyway before it was legal.
Short Black café	For	Happy to see more dogs, even happier if they get to pat them. No negatives to note, they have not seen any poo on the streets.
Last Post	Neutral	No issues, had not even noticed that they were allowed on the street now. No wee on their signs or anything like that so not worried.
		Harbour Street Area
Boho Jo	For	Didn't know this was going on, thinks owners must be respectful as he has not noticed any mess.

Rose's General Store	For	They have been letting dogs into the store because they sell pet treats as well, they prefer this because in the past couples would leave one person outside holding the dog, now they both come in and often spend more. Loved seeing people dressing up their dogs on heritage week.
Criterion	For	Its great, people sit outside with their dogs now.
Steampunk HQ	For	Happy to have dogs around, they let them go through the museum on lead as well, they have noticed a wee increase in throughput as well.
Woolstore Complex	For	All for it, no complaints.
Casa Mia Espresso	Neutral	Had not noticed anything different.
Harbour St Bakery	For	All for it, they leave water outside for the dogs. Have noticed owners cleaning up after their dogs. So long as the dogs are on lead they are happy.
The Victorian Wardrobe	For	No objections, very happy to have the dogs about, they have even let some come into the store as well.
Crafted	Neutral	Happy for dogs on the street, but does not like dogs in shops.
Collective Café	For	Very positive, more people are bringing their dogs, and sitting outside with them.
Housekeepers Design	Against	They are not happy, people think because they can have their dog on the street that they are allowed to walk in with them. Having trouble keeping dogs out, have even had one dog defecate in the building. Also note that they have seen dog poop on the pavement near the rowing club.
TOTE	Neutral	Have not noticed any difference at all.
William Bee	Neutral	People try walking in with their dogs. They don't want big dogs in the shop, but allow the odd toy dog.
Star and Garter	For	Happy to have the dogs around, have people bringing their dogs and sitting outside, they are sometimes allowing dogs to walk through to rear seating as well. They take water out to the dogs.
		Oamaru North Shopping Area
Style 358	For	Noticed dogs have been well behaved and on leads, no messes, all for it.
Arthurs Antiques	For	Love it, happy to let people bring their dogs into the store on lead as well.
Simpsons Flooring Xtra	For	Didn't notice any difference, people have always walked their dogs around here.
Frasers Supermarket	For	Haven't noticed anymore dogs than usual, not even sitting out the front of the shop. Happy if the changes goes ahead.
Big G's Takeaway	For	Didn't know about the trial, has only been in business around 6 months. No issues with the dogs, or messes.
Colin Clyne Motorcycles	For	No real difference before or during the trial, happy to note no mess on the streets.
Delectables	For	Don't really see dogs at their end of the street, have not noticed any difference.
Mackenzie Coffee Co	Neutral	Noticed more dog walkers in the mornings, no mess.
Oamaru Eyecare	Neutral	Have not noticed anything.
Razors Edge	For	No issues, didn't know anything was going on.
Unichem Northend Pharmacy	For	Have not had any issues.
NZ Post Northend	For	People have always walked there dogs on this street anyway, have not noticed any difference in traffic. Suggest having some tie stations for the dogs if the change goes ahead.

Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024



www.waitaki.govt.nz

t. 03 433 0300 e. service@waitaki.govt.nz

20 Thames Street, Private Bag 50058, Oamaru 9444



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KĀUNIHĀRA A ROHE O WAITAKI

Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024

Published by

Waitaki District Council
Private Bag 50058
Oamaru 9444
New Zealand

Proposed Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024	
Policy Owner	Andrew Bardsley
Policy Contact	Policy Lead
Version	1
Date adopted	17 December 2024
Date of next review	By December 2034

Contents

1. TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT	3
2. KEEPING OF DOGS	4
2.1 Registration and Micro-chipping	4
2.2 Control of Dogs	4
2.3 Dog welfare	4
2.4 Removal of Faeces	4
2.5 Minimum Standards for Accommodation of Dogs	5
2.6 Dogs kept at a minimum distance from Boundary	5
2.7 Bitch in Season to be confined	5
2.8 Diseased Dogs	5
2.9 Neutering of Dangerous and Menacing Dogs	6
2.10 Dogs becoming a nuisance or injurious to Health	6
3. DOG ACCESS RESTRICTIONS IN PUBLIC PLACES	7
3.1 General controls	7
4. CLASSIFICATION OF DOG OWNERS AND THEIR DOGS	8
4.1 Selected Owner status	8
4.2 Probationary Dog Owners	9
4.3 Disqualified Dog Owners	10
4.4 Dangerous Dogs	10
4.5 Menacing and Prohibited dogs	11
4.6 Disability Assist Dogs and Dogs Belonging to Specified Agencies	11
4.7 Working Dogs	12
5. OFFENCES	13
SCHEDULE 1: Lead-only dog areas and sportsgrounds	14
SCHEDULE 2: Designated off-lead dog exercise areas	19
SCHEDULE 3: Prohibited dog areas	22
SCHEDULE 4: Interpretation	28

1. TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

This bylaw is made pursuant to the powers contained in the Local Government Act 2002 and the Dog Control Act 1996 (including its amendments) for the purposes of promoting public safety and the effective regulation of dogs within the Waitaki District.

1.1 This Bylaw is to be known as the “Waitaki District Dog Control Bylaw” for Waitaki District Council (referred to as *Council*) and comes into force on Monday 3 March 2025.

1.2 This Bylaw applies to the Waitaki District. Nothing in this Bylaw shall derogate from the Dog Control Act 1996 (now referred to as the *Act*) or its amendments.

1.3 This Bylaw is made under the;

- (a) Local Government Act 2002;
- (b) Dog Control Act 1996; and
- (c) Sections 29 and 64 of the Health Act 1956.

1.4 The Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024 repeals all previous bylaws relating to dog management and control in the Waitaki District, and in the event of conflict between the provisions of any former bylaw and the provisions of this bylaw, the provisions of this bylaw will prevail.

2. KEEPING OF DOGS

2.1 Registration and Micro-chipping

- 2.1.1 All dogs must be registered with Council after they are three months of age, and dog owners must ensure the ongoing annual registration of their dog/s as required under section 36 of the Act.
- 2.1.2 Dogs are required to be micro-chipped in the following circumstances:
- (a) All dogs first registered on or after 1 July 2006 (except working dogs as defined in section 36A (2A) of the Act which are exempt).
 - (b) All dogs classified as dangerous or menacing dogs within two months from the date of classification.
 - (c) All dogs impounded and released by the local authority for the second time.
 - (d) Unregistered dogs that are impounded and released.
- 2.1.3 The owner must provide verification that the dog has been micro-chipped at the time of first registration.

2.2 Control of Dogs

- 2.2.1 The owner of a **Dangerous or Menacing** dog shall ensure that the dog does not enter or remain in any public place unless the dog is muzzled and kept under **continuous control** on a lead or chain.
- 2.2.2 Dog owners must ensure at all times that their dog is under **effective control**, and when their dog is on their property, it is either under the **effective control** of a person or is confined to ensure that it cannot freely leave the property.
- 2.2.3 Dog owners must fully comply with their obligations under:
- (a) The Act; and
 - (b) The Waitaki District Dog Control Policy.

2.3 Dog welfare

- 2.3.1 No person, being the owner or person in possession of any dog will, without reasonable excuse, neglect that dog so that it suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain, suffering or distress.

2.4 Removal of Faeces

- 2.4.1 The owner or any person in possession of a dog that defecates in a public place or private way or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner shall immediately remove or cause to be removed the faeces left by the dog.
- 2.4.2 The owner or any person in possession of a dog must carry a suitable receptacle to accommodate dog faeces at all times when in public places.

- 2.4.3 Where a public litter bin or similar receptacle is used to dispose of the faeces, they must be suitably wrapped or contained to prevent such receptacle from being fouled.

2.5 Minimum Standards for Accommodation of Dogs

- 2.5.1 Every dog owner must provide suitable housing or kennelling for their dog/s which:
- (a) is weatherproof, dry, clean and gives the dog adequate space, warmth and shade; and
 - (b) is situated in a position that does not cause a nuisance to any person.
- 2.5.2 Selected Owners only may apply for a permit to accommodate **more than three (3) dogs** (excluding NZKC registered breeders or any approved property used for the business of dog boarding kennels) over the age of three months on an urban Residential zoned property as defined in the Waitaki District Plan, or a lifestyle property with equal to or less than a 2,500m² site.
- 2.5.3 A permit will be required to accommodate **more than three (3) dogs** over the age of three months on an urban Residential zoned property as defined in the Waitaki District Plan, or a lifestyle property with equal to or less than a 2,500m² site.
- 2.5.4 A permit will allow the maximum number of dogs permitted to be five (5).
- 2.5.5 All existing dog owners with **more than three dogs** who currently hold Selected Owner status, and who reside on an urban Residential zoned property as defined in the Waitaki District Plan, or a lifestyle property, with equal to or less than a 2,500m² site will be granted an existing rights status (and will not need to apply for a permit) until such time as they wish to register new dogs to the property, or when one or more of the Selected Owner status criteria have not been met.

2.6 Dogs kept at a minimum distance from Boundary

Should any nuisance condition arise from a dog being housed, confined, or restrained on any private premises within three metres of the boundary of the premises the owner may, by formal notice be required to relocate the dog at a distance not less than three metres from any boundary.

2.7 Bitch in Season to be confined

The owner of any bitch must keep the dog confined or under continuous control on a leash but adequately exercised while such dog is in season.

2.8 Diseased Dogs

Every dog owner must ensure that any dog known to be infected with a contagious disease is contained on his or her land or premises in such a manner that it cannot freely leave the land or premises other than when being transported to a registered veterinary clinic for treatment.

2.9 Neutering of Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

- 2.9.1 Every dog classified by Council as Dangerous under Section 31 of the Act, or any dog so classified as Dangerous which is transferring to the Waitaki District is required to be neutered within one month of the transfer. The owner of any such dog must produce a certificate to Council if the requirements of section 32(c) and (d) of the Act applied.
- 2.9.2 All dogs over the age of three months and classified as Menacing are required to be neutered within one month of classification in accordance with section 33E of the Act.

2.10 Dogs becoming a nuisance or injurious to Health

- 2.10.1 The owner of any dog and the owner or the occupier of any premises on which any dog or dogs are kept shall take adequate precautions to prevent the dog or dogs from becoming a nuisance.
- 2.10.2 If in the opinion of an Animal Management Officer or his/her agent, the keeping of any dog or dogs on a premises is, or is likely to become, a nuisance or injurious or hazardous to health, property or safety, the Animal Control Officer may, by notice in writing, require the Owner or Occupier of the premises, within the time specified in such notice (not being less than two weeks), to do all or any of the following:
- i. To reduce the number of dogs kept on the premises;
 - ii. To alter, reconstruct or otherwise improve the accommodation for dogs;
 - iii. To require such dogs to be tied up or otherwise confined;
 - iv. To take other precautions as may be considered necessary.

3. DOG ACCESS RESTRICTIONS IN PUBLIC PLACES

3.1 General controls

- 3.1.1 Subject to the exceptions described in clauses 3.1.2 and 3.1.4, no Owner or Responsible Person of any dog shall cause or permit the dog to be in any Prohibited dog area, declared by resolution of Council and as indicated in Schedule 3 of this Bylaw.
- 3.1.2 A dog **on a lead** and under **continuous control** may pass through a Prohibited dog area on any thoroughfare passing through the Prohibited dog area and where no other reasonable route exists to the dog owner's destination. Passage through a Prohibited dog area in such circumstances must be via the shortest available route.
- 3.1.3 Within a Designated off-lead dog exercise area, including those areas declared by resolution of Council and listed in Schedule 2 of this Bylaw, the Owner or Responsible Person of a dog shall ensure that the dog is under **effective control** at all times.
- 3.1.4 The following dogs are exempt from the prohibitions identified in Schedule 1 of this Bylaw:
- a) Disability assist dogs being used for that purpose or accompanying a person genuinely engaged in the dog's training.
 - b) Any dogs belonging to a "specified agency" pursuant to section 2 of the Act e.g. Police dogs and being used in the course of the specified agency's work.
 - c) Dogs being used by Security guards in the course of employment.
 - d) Dogs securely confined in or on a vehicle.

4. CLASSIFICATION OF DOG OWNERS AND THEIR DOGS

4.1 Selected Owner status

4.1.1 Dog owners who meet the following criteria may apply to Council to have “**Selected Owner**” status:

- (a) No dog owned by them in the last three years has:
 - (i) Been impounded, chased, or returned home by a Council Animal control officer, or
 - (ii) Been the subject of any bona-fide complaint.
- (b) The dog owner has not been issued with formal warnings, infringement notices or been prosecuted for offences against the Act in the last three years by the Council or any other Territorial Authority.
- (c) The owner has been a registered dog owner who has resided within the Waitaki District for at least one year. An exemption to this may be made for dogs transferring from another district where written evidence has been provided from the relevant local authority that this status or similar was held previously.
- (d) The dog/s is not classified as Dangerous.
- (e) The dog/s is not classified as Menacing as a result of any observed or reported behaviour of the dog.
- (f) The owner’s property is suitably fenced and gated to ensure dogs are confined within the property.
- (g) The owner’s section size is appropriate for the number and size of the dog/s.
- (h) All dog(s) owned or kept by the owner have been registered, kept, and controlled in accordance with the Act and the current Council Dog Control Bylaw.
- (i) All dog registration fees have been paid for the past three years by due date, being 1 July.
- (j) The dog/s is micro-chipped (excluding working dogs).
- (k) Any information regarding the purchase of, death, sale, or transfer of dogs to and from the applicant's property, including movement of any pups born on the premises, shall continue to be notified in writing to the Council within one month.
- (l) Any change of residential address shall be notified in writing to the Council within 14 days.

(m) The applicant understands that any breach of the Selected Owner status conditions may result in cancellation of their privileges. The owner may appeal such a decision to Council within 7 days.

(n) The applicant can demonstrate an understanding of the current Waitaki District Dog Control Bylaw, including the need for all dogs to be on-lead in public areas unless in a specified off-lead area.

4.1.2 All applications for selected owner status will require a site assessment by a Council Animal Management Officer.

Council Animal Management Officers reserve the right to make a property inspection when re-assessing any application for permit.

NOTE: Dog owners holding selected owner status, may be selected at random, or if deemed necessary on a case by case basis, may be required to be audited against the selected owner criteria, once within a three year period.

The following classifications are those defined under the Act. Any classification pursuant to the Act will apply to the dog, or dog owner, regardless of their location in New Zealand.

4.2 Probationary Dog Owners

4.2.1 A dog owner may be classified as a 'probationary' owner if that person;

(a) incurs more than three infringement offences within two years; or

(b) is, or has been, convicted of any offence (not including an infringement notice) relating to dog treatment and control under the Act, the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the Conservation Act 1987 or the National Parks Act 1980; or

(c) Council Animal Control officers have determined that the owner has ill-treated their dog/s.

4.2.2 A 'probationary' classification applies for two years from the date of the offence, unless terminated earlier as allowed for in the Act.

4.2.3 While classified as 'probationary' a dog owner that person;

(a) may not become the registered owner of a dog (unless the person was the registered owner of the dog on the date of the offence, or the date of the third infringement offence in respect of which the classification was made);

(b) must dispose of any unregistered dog in his/her care in a manner that does not constitute an offence under any Enactment within two weeks;

(c) will be charged a 50% surcharge on all dog control fees payable during the classification period. Such fees are calculated on a pro-rata basis for any period

outside a full registration year. If the surcharge is not paid within one month, the dog shall cease to be registered;

(d) may be required to attend a dog education programme.

4.3 Disqualified Dog Owners

4.3.1 Pursuant to the Act the Council may disqualify any probationary dog owner from owning any dog if that owner commits any offence in terms of the Act.

4.3.2 Disqualification may apply for up to five years after the offence has taken place.

4.3.3 A disqualified owner;

(a) may not be in possession of a dog for the period of disqualification; and

(b) must dispose of every dog that he or she owns within two weeks of any conviction under the Act.

4.3.4 Disposal of a dog must be in accordance with the Act and not to any person living at the same address as the disqualified owner.

4.4 Dangerous Dogs

4.4.1 The Council may declare any dog Dangerous if:

(a) the owner has been convicted of an attack offence under section 57(2) of the Act; or

(b) the Council has sworn evidence that the dog has shown aggressive behaviour on one or more occasions; or

(c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the animal has threatened the safety of any person or animal; or

(d) the owner admits the dog is a threat to the safety of any person, animal or stock.

4.4.2 A dog classified as Dangerous must be:

(a) muzzled when in public; and

(b) neutered or spayed within one month of classification; and

(c) kept in a fenced area that is separated from the access to any dwelling house.

4.4.3 Dangerous dogs must not be sold or given away without the Council's prior approval.

- 4.4.4 Any dog classified as Dangerous after 1 December 2003 must be micro chipped.

4.5 Menacing and Prohibited dogs

- 4.5.1 The Council may classify any dog as 'Menacing' under section 33A-F of the Act if:

(a) a dog is considered to pose a threat to any person or livestock; and

(b) a dog has not been classified as dangerous; and/or

(c) Council has reasonable grounds to believe that a dog belongs, or is bred, wholly or predominately from one of the five breeds listed in the Act as Menacing.

- 4.5.2 A dog classified as Menacing must;

(a) be muzzled in a public place; and

(b) be implanted with a microchip within two months after classification.

- 4.5.3 The following type and/or breed of dog are classified as Menacing dogs under Schedule 4 of the Act:

(a) American Pit Bull Terrier (breed)

(b) Dogo Argentino (type)

(c) Brazilian Fila (type)

(d) Japanese Tosa (type)

(e) Perro de Presa Canario (type).

- 4.5.4 The Council requires any dog classified as menacing to be neutered within one month's notification as per the requirements of section 33E of the Act.

- 4.5.5 It is unlawful to import any of the dogs listed in section 4.5.3 of this Bylaw.

4.6 Disability Assist Dogs and Dogs Belonging to Specified Agencies

- 4.6.1 Notwithstanding anything in this Bylaw, any Disability Assist Dog accompanying and assisting a person with a disability, or any person genuinely engaged in the dog's training may enter and remain:

(a) in any Premises registered under regulations made pursuant to section 120 of the Health Act 1956; or

(b) in any Public Place: subject to compliance with any reasonable condition imposed by the Occupier or person having control of the Premises or Public Place, as the case may be.

- 4.6.2 Notwithstanding anything in this Bylaw, the following dogs may enter and remain in any public place:

- a) Any dogs belonging to a “specified agency” pursuant to section 2 of the Act e.g. Police dogs and being used in the course of the specified agency’s work.
- b) Dogs being used by Security guards in the course of employment.
- c) Dogs securely confined in or on a vehicle.

4.7 Working Dogs

Working Dogs are defined in the Act (see Schedule 4 for interpretation). In the Waitaki district, working dogs must be kept solely or principally for the purposes in the ‘working dog’ definition, which does not include farm pets (which is also defined).

5. OFFENCES

5.1 Every person commits an offence under this part of the Bylaw who fails, refuses or neglects to do anything required to be done, or does anything prohibited by this Bylaw, and is liable to:

- (a) the penalty provisions of Section 242 of the Local Government Act 2002; or
- (b) any other penalty pursuant to the Act on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000; or
- (c) be served with an infringement notice pursuant to Section 66 of the Act.

The Waitaki District Dog Control Bylaw 2024 was made by the Waitaki District Council at a meeting of the Council held on 17 December 2024.

The Common Seal of the Waitaki District Council was affixed in the presence of:


Mayor


Chief Executive



SCHEDULE 1: Lead-only dog areas

1. All public access areas of the Waitaki District should be treated as on-lead only areas, except those areas identified as off-lead exercise areas in schedule 2 and prohibited areas in schedule 3.
2. Dogs are required to be **on-lead** and kept under **continuous control** at all times in all Council reserves (including cemeteries) not listed as Designated off-lead dog exercise areas or Prohibited dog areas in Schedules 2 and 3.
3. Dogs are required to be kept **on-lead** and under **continuous control at all times** in the following public places namely:
 - a) All public streets.
 - b) All grazed Council reserve areas.
 - c) Alps to Ocean cycle trail (A2O) from Saleyards Road to Cormacks Kia Ora Road, Oamaru.
 - d) Beach Road beach from North Otago Golf course to Thousand Acre Road.
4. Dogs are required to be kept **on-lead** and **under continuous control** by the person having possession of the dog, so as not to allow the dog to wander into pedestrian traffic, or to cause a nuisance to any person in the following public places namely:
 - a) Within the commercial areas of central Oamaru namely Thames Street, Severn Street (between the intersection with Usk Street through to the southern boundary of Takaro Park).
 - b) Between Farnham Street and Clare Street at the North-end shopping area of Oamaru,
5. In the locations identified in clauses (3a) and (3b) of Schedule 1:
 - a) The person in control of the dog must not leave it tethered and unattended for more than 10 minutes.

Note: Dogs may be tethered by securely fastening a lead in such a way as to ensure the dog does not wander into pedestrian traffic and to minimise nuisance to others.

6. Dogs are required to be kept **on-lead** and under **continuous control** in the following Council sportsgrounds as shown in maps pages 16 and 17:
 - a) Centennial Park.
 - b) Weston Park.
 - c) King George Park
 - d) Awamoa Park West
 - e) Mill Domain, Kurow Domain:

See Schedule 3 (1g) for further conditions on physically marked pitches.

7. Providing that a dog/s is kept **on-lead** and under **continuous control**, the following areas are provided for as **lead-only areas**:

a) **Between the hours of sunrise and sunset** the Oamaru Harbour coastal area (between and inclusive of Holmes Wharf and the commercial Oamaru Penguin Colony) subject to meeting the following condition:

- (i) The person in control of the dog must not leave it tethered and unattended for more than 10 minutes.

b) Harbour Street, Oamaru; subject to meeting the following condition:

- (i) The person in control of the dog must not leave it tethered and unattended for more than 10 minutes.

As shown in map page 18.

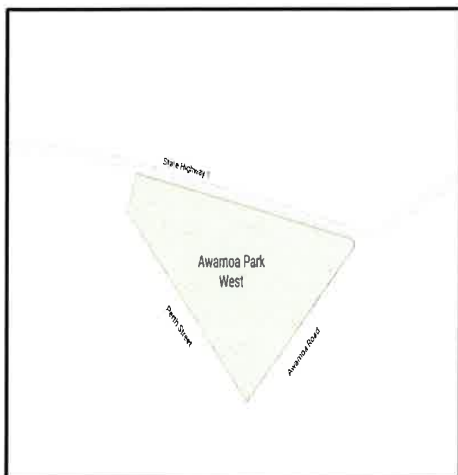
Note: *Dogs may be tethered by securely fastening a lead in such a way as to ensure the dog does not wander into pedestrian traffic and to minimise nuisance to others.*

8. Every dog shall be kept **on-lead and under continuous control** when it is likely to injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife (excluding working dogs that are under the control of their owner, and/or being taken by their owner to or from the place where the dog is to be or has been employed as a working dog).

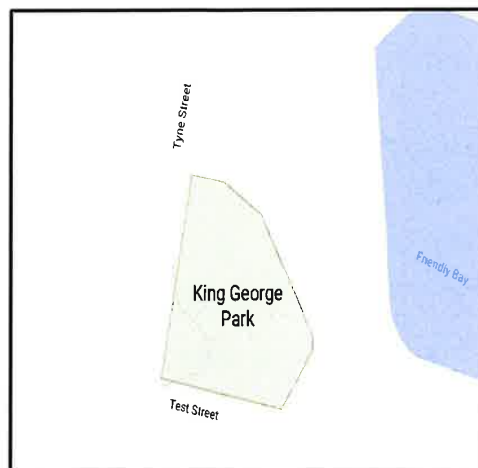
Note: *All maps shown within this Bylaw are provided as a guide. For a detailed description of dog related access to an area, please visit the Waitaki District Council interactive Dog Bylaw map: www.waitaki.govt.nz – search 'Maps' – 'online interactive maps' – drop down box 'Dog Control Bylaw'*

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: WDC Council Sportsgrounds (1)

Dogs are required to be kept **on-lead** and under **continuous control** in the following Council sportsgrounds. Dogs are **not** permitted on marked pitches.



Awamoa Park West, Oamaru



King George Park, Oamaru



Weston Park, Weston

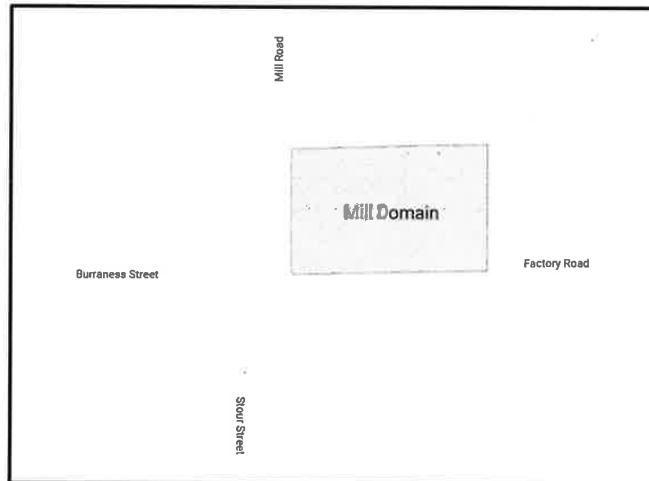


Centennial Park, Oamaru

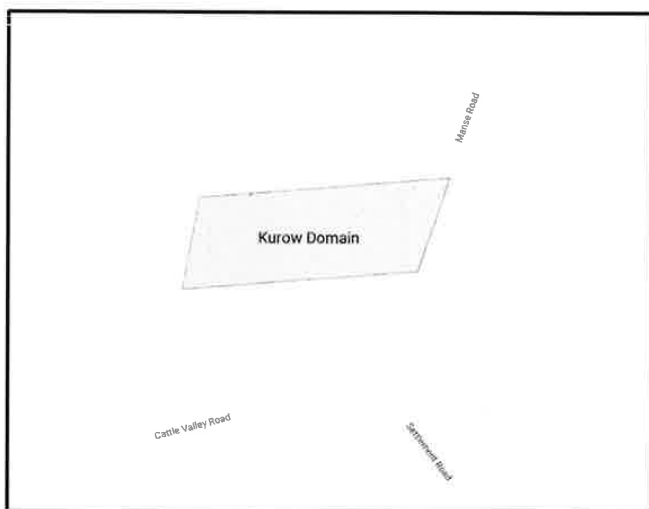
**This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed.
Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.**

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: WDC Council Sportsgrounds (2)

Dogs are required to be kept **on-lead** and under **continuous control** in the following Council sportsgrounds. Dogs are **not** permitted on marked pitches.



Mill Domain, Palmerston



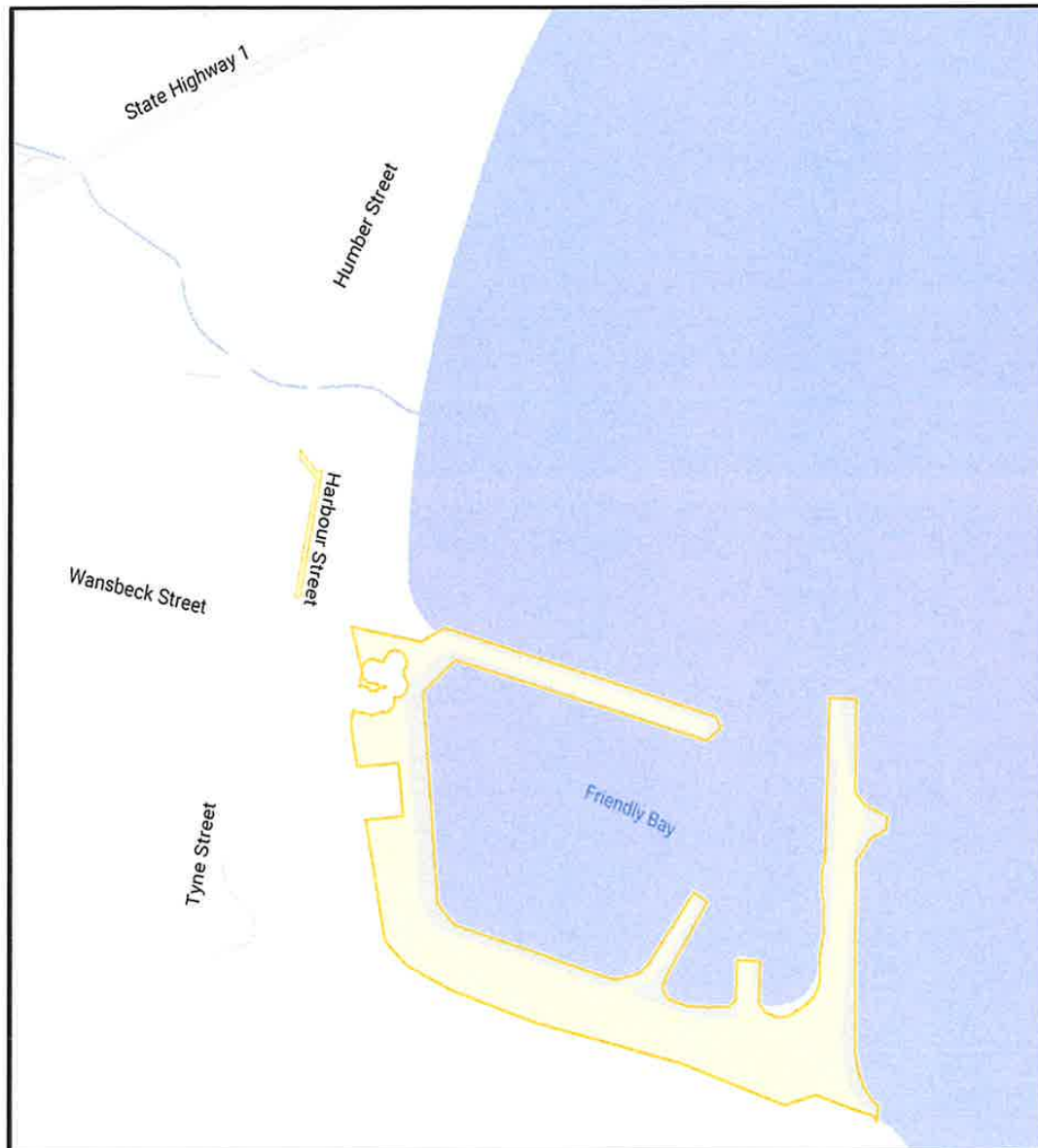
Kurow Domain, Kurow

This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed. Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: Oamaru Harbour Coastal Area Including Harbour Street

The areas marked in yellow below are subject to the following:

Dogs are required to be **on-lead between the hours of Sunrise to Sunset, from Sunset to Sunrise dogs are prohibited** from these areas.



Harbour Coastal Area & Harbour Street, Oamaru

This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed. Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.

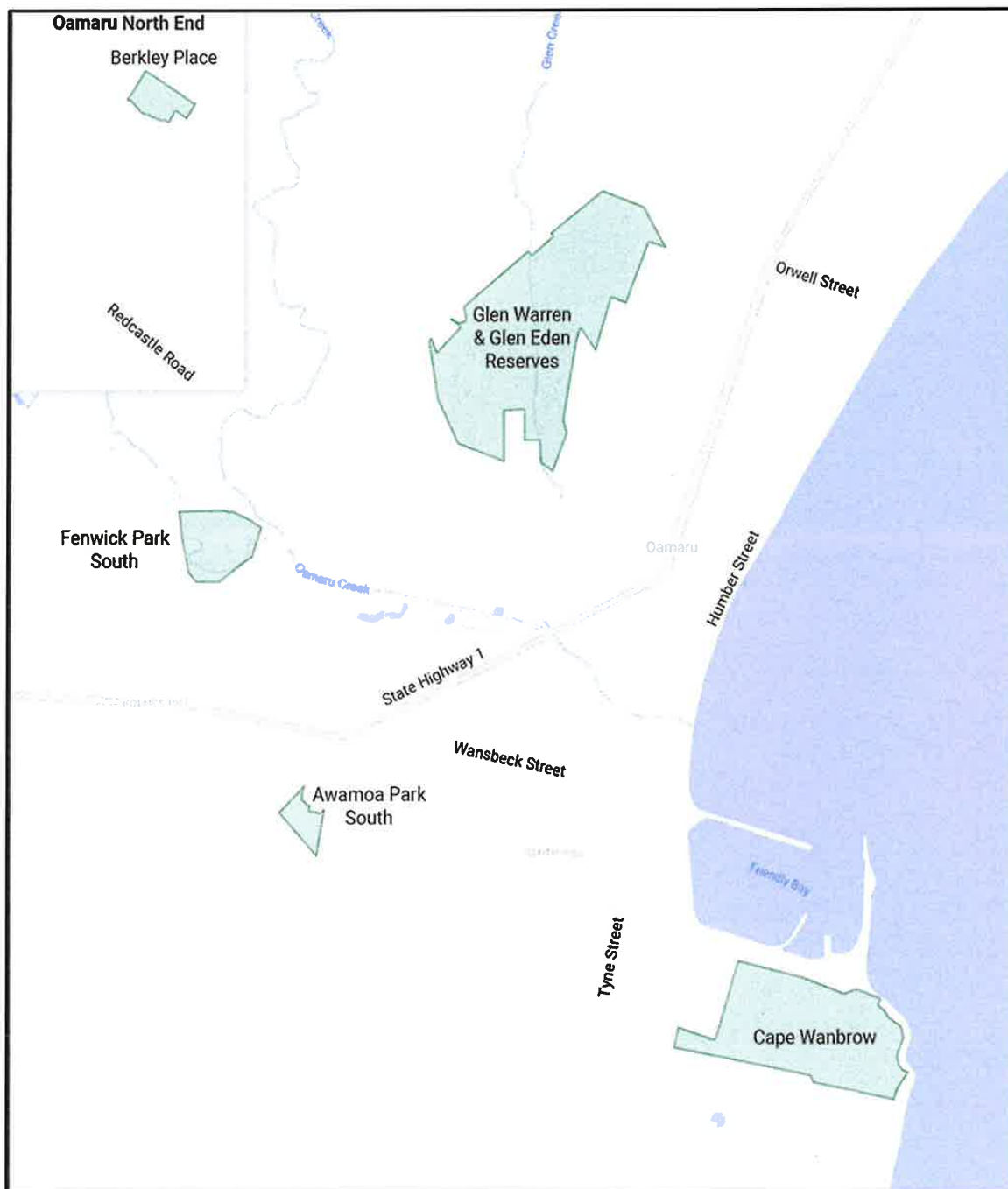
SCHEDULE 2: Designated off-lead dog exercise areas

1. Providing that a dog/s is kept under **effective control**, the following areas are provided for as **designated off-lead dog exercise areas at all times** (excluding within 10 metres from children's playground equipment where dogs are prohibited):

OAMARU:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Berkeley Place Park• Fenwick Park South• Awamoa Park East• Cape Wanbrow• Glen Eden Reserve* (restricted access during lambing season)• Glen Warren Reserve* (restricted access during lambing season)
KUROW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kurow Railway Reserve
OTEMATATA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sefton Place Reserve
OMARAMA:	Omarama Recreation Reserve (eastern end).

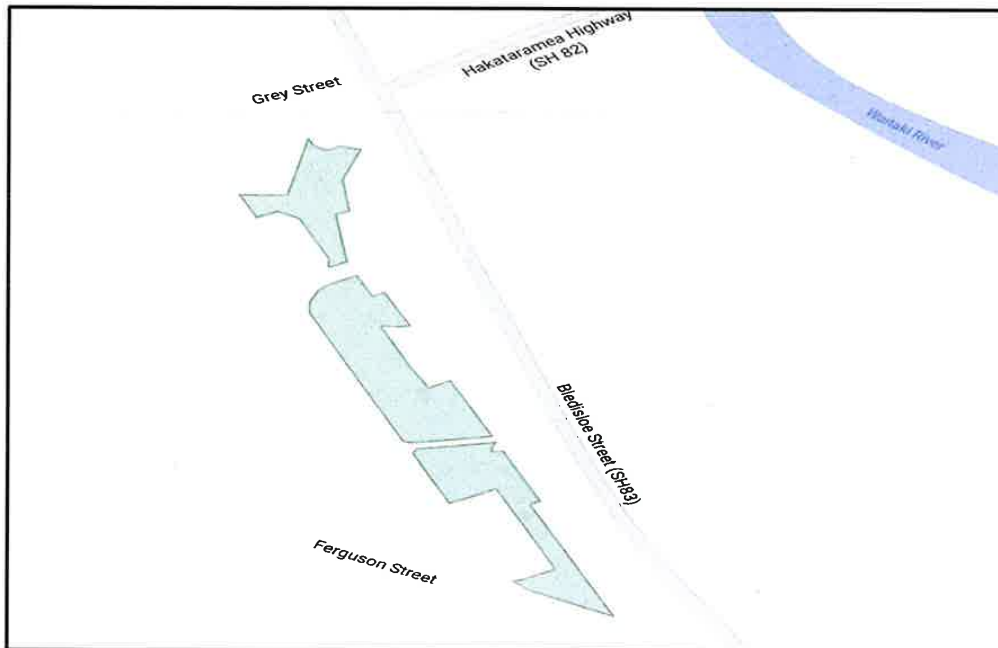
Note: All maps shown within this Bylaw are provided as a guide. For a detailed description of dog related access to an area, please visit the Waitaki District Council interactive Dog Bylaw map: www.waitaki.govt.nz – search 'Maps' – 'online interactive maps' – drop down box 'Dog Control Bylaw'

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: Designated off-lead dog exercise areas

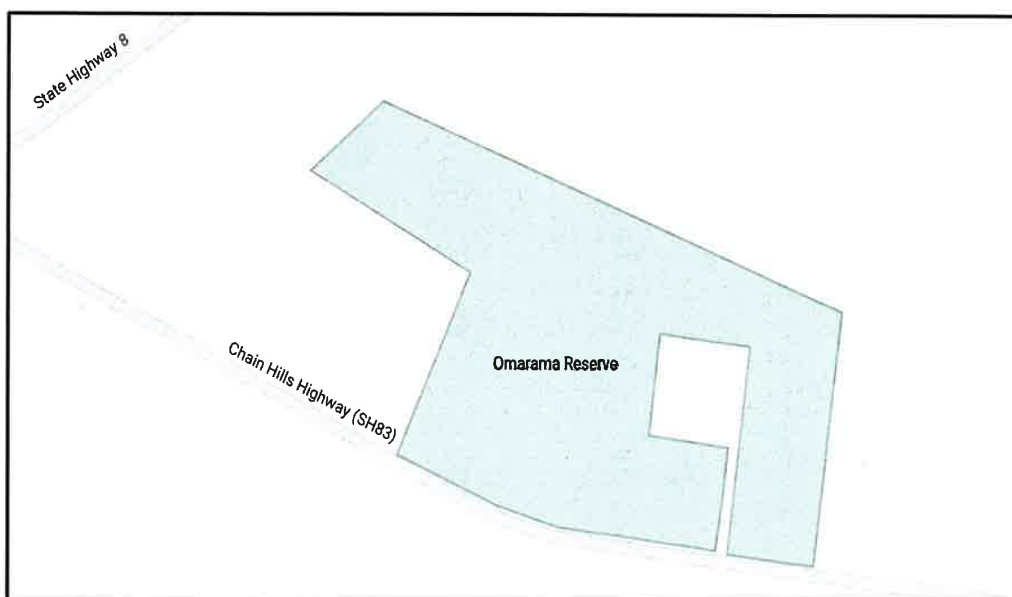


**This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed.
Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.**

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: Designated off-lead dog exercise areas



Railway Reserve, Kurow



Omarama Reserve SH 83

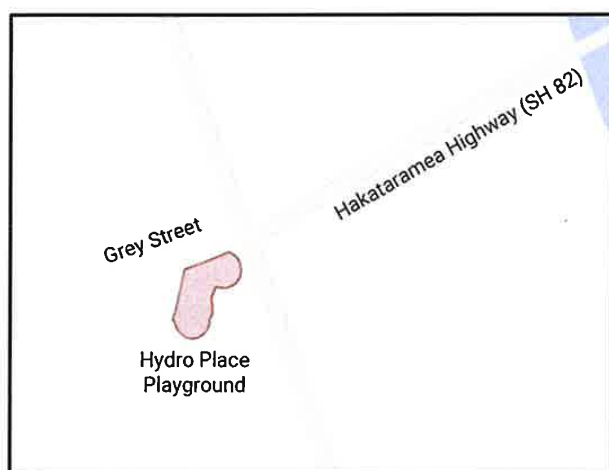
**This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed.
Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.**

SCHEDULE 3: Prohibited dog areas

1. No dogs are allowed to remain in any Prohibited dog area namely:
 - a. All childrens playgrounds within the Waitaki District.
 - b. Oamaru coastal area between Harbourside Gardens and Holmes Wharf.
 - c. Oamaru coastal area between the commercial Oamaru Penguin Colony and Bushy Beach.
 - d. Moeraki coastal area between Okahau Point and Katiki Point.
 - e. Shag Point coastal area.
 - f. Kakanui Esplanade Reserve coastal area.
 - g. Kakanui river mouth. From the south end of Cobblestone Road to the mouth of the river.
 - h. All marked pitches on the Council sportsgrounds of Centennial Park, Weston Park, King George Park, Awamoa Park West, Mill Domain, and Kurow Domain.
 - i. Within 10 metres of children's play equipment on Council managed reserves, except whilst passing by on a lead and under **continuous control**.
 - j. Within 10 metres of any identified protected wildlife colony throughout the District.
 - k. Oamaru Water Treatment Reservoir between Reservoir Road and Ardgowan Road.
 - l. **Between the hours of sunset and sunrise**, Oamaru Harbour coastal area between Holmes Wharf and the commercial Oamaru Penguin Colony and Harbour Street.
 - m. In all relevant public reserves during the lambing season.

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: Prohibited Areas

Dogs are prohibited from the following areas.

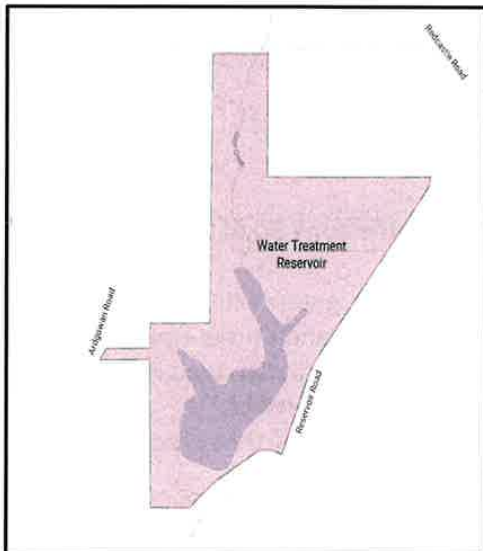


Hydro Place Playground, Kurow

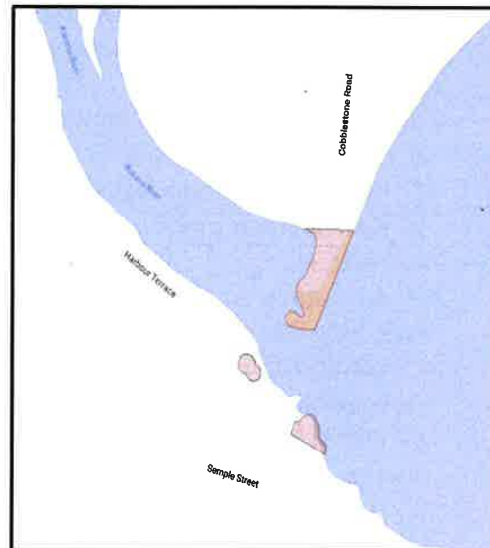
**This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed.
Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.**

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: Prohibited Areas

Dogs are prohibited from the following areas.



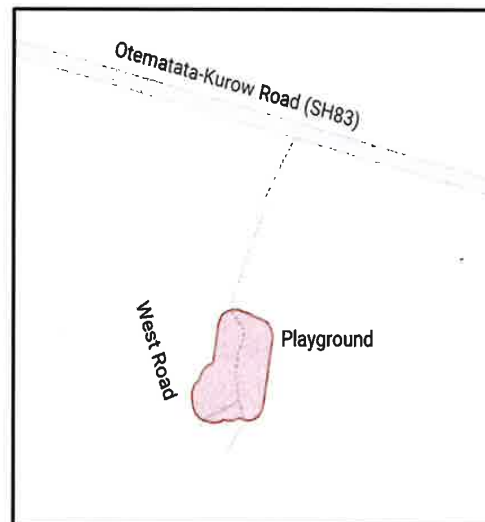
**Oamaru Water Treatment Reservoir
Between Ardgowan Rd and Reservoir Rd**



Kakanui River Mouth, Kakanui



Omarama Playground, Omarama

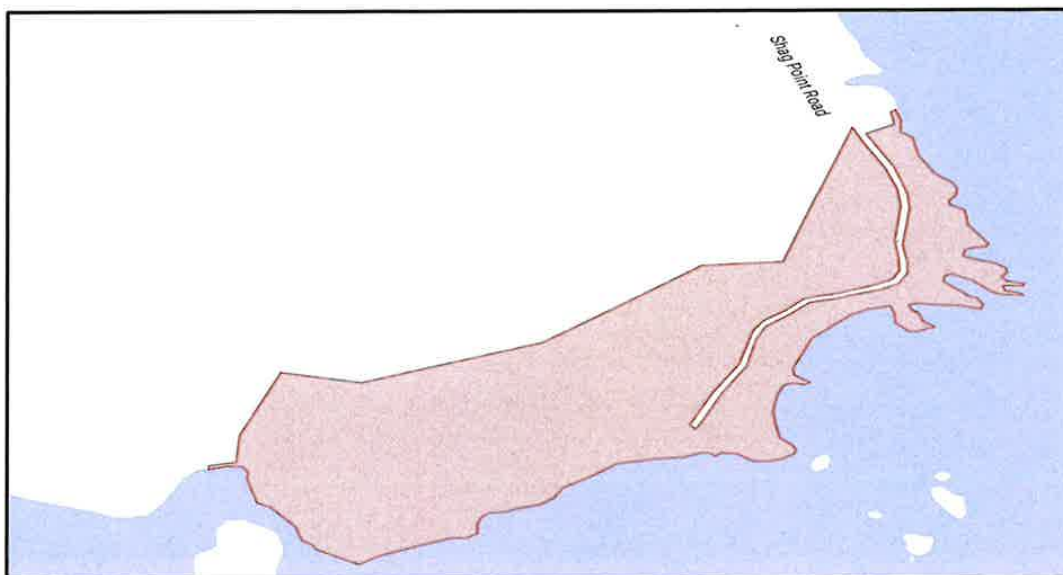


Otematata Playground, Otematata

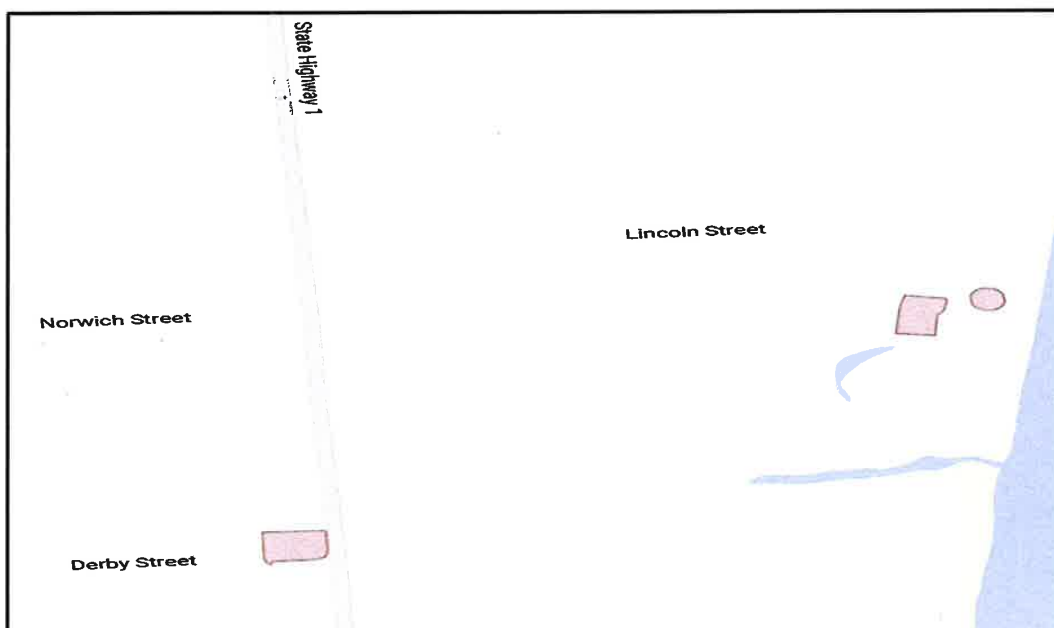
**This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed.
Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.**

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: Prohibited Areas

Dogs are prohibited from the following areas.



Shag Point Rd (Southeast End), Shag Point

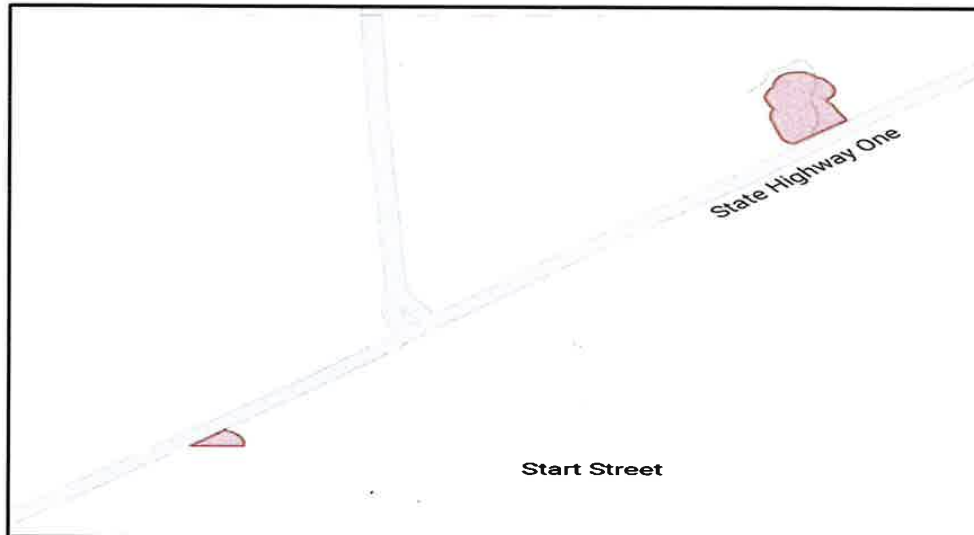


Hampden Bowling Club, Hampden & Hampden Beach Playground, Hampden

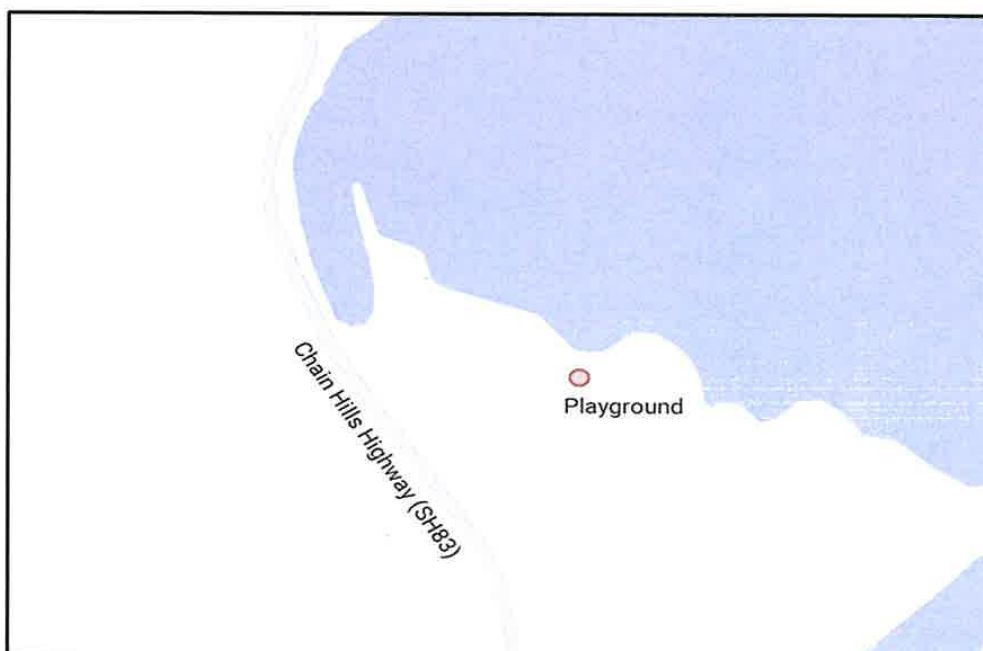
**This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed.
Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.**

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: Prohibited Areas

Dogs are prohibited from the following areas.



Palmerston Playgrounds, Palmerston

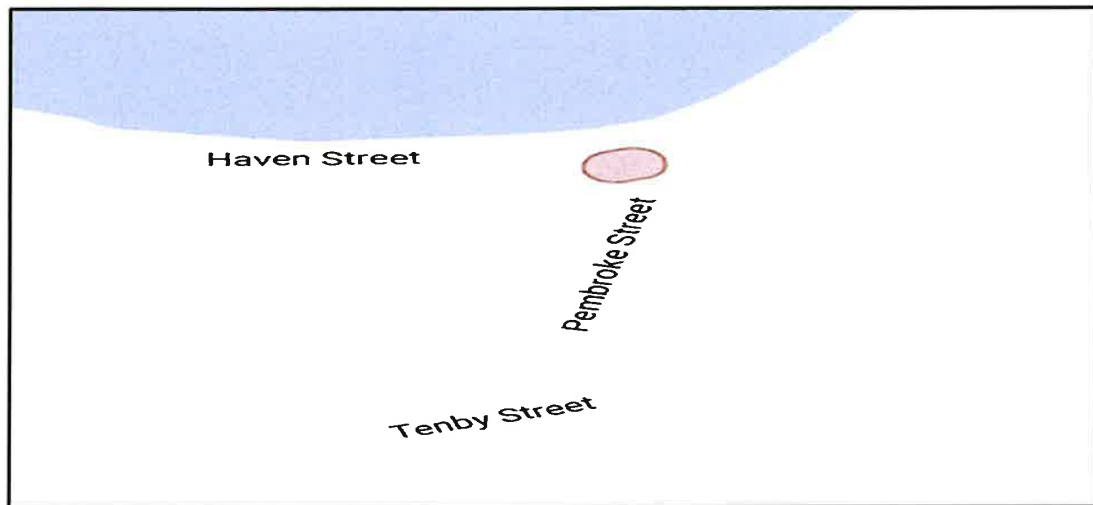


Boat Harbour Playground SH 83 Otematata - Omarama

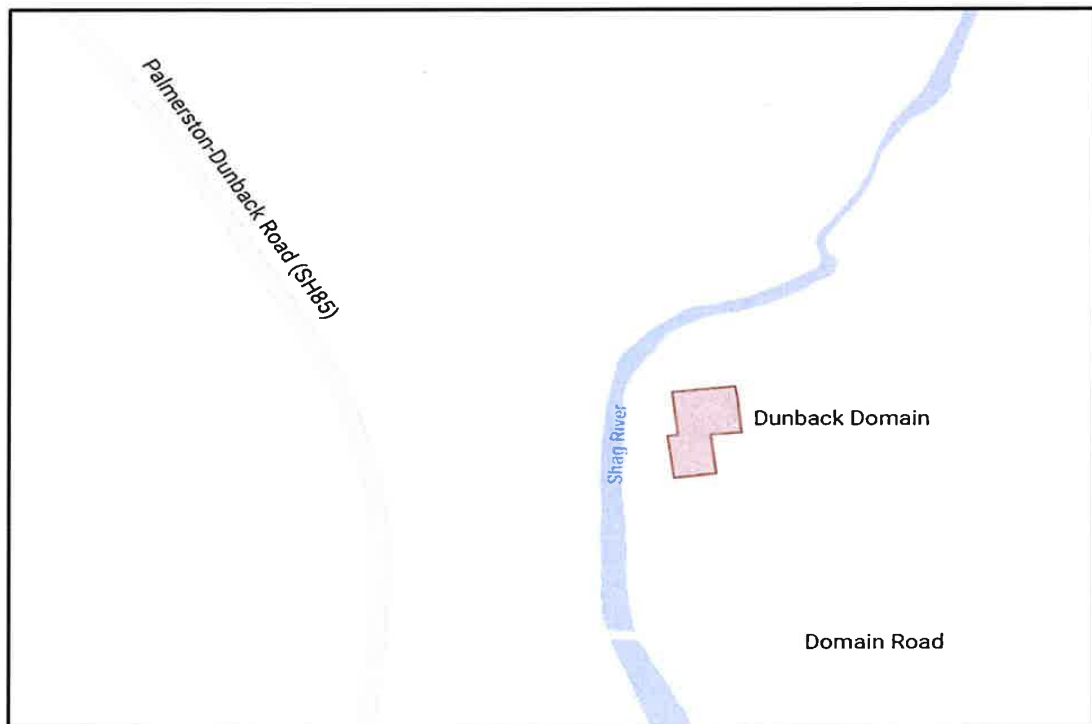
**This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed.
Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.**

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: Prohibited Areas

Dogs are prohibited from the following areas.



Moeraki Centenary Park Playground, Moeraki

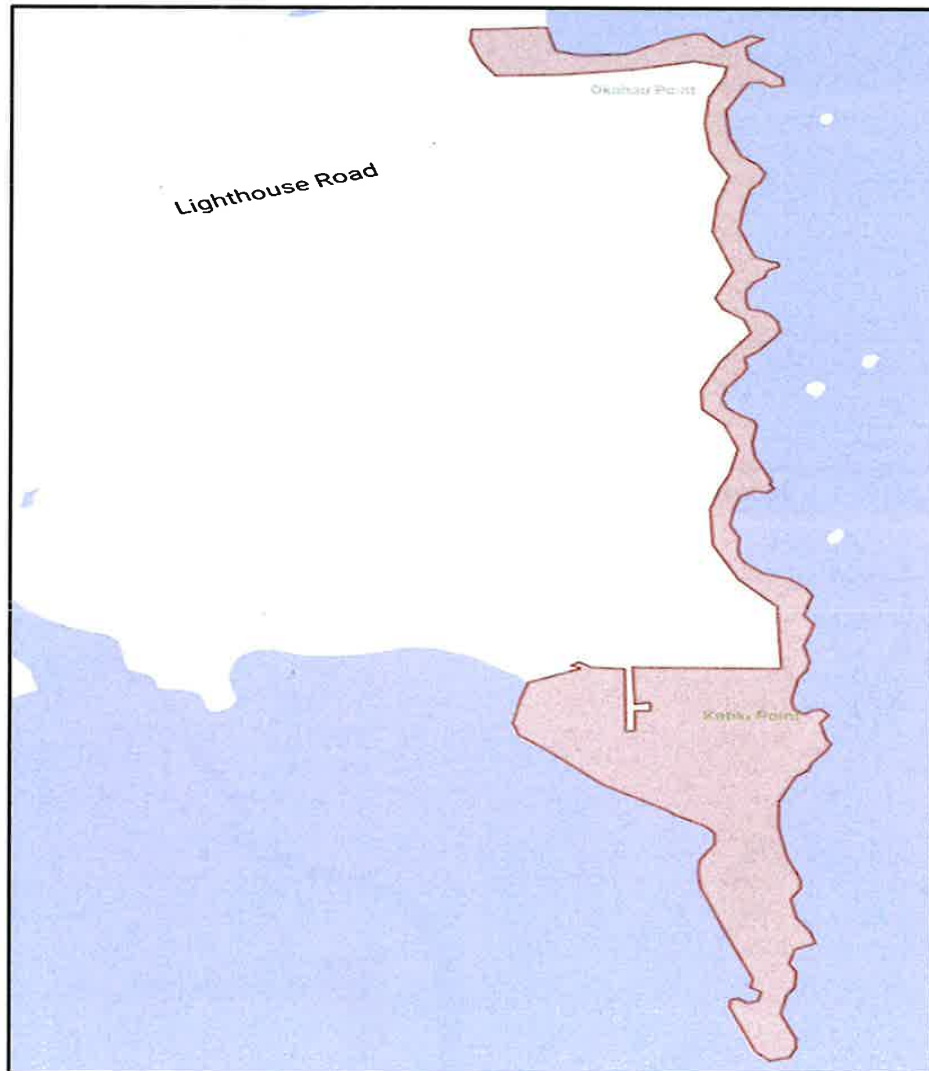


Dunback Domain, Dunback

**This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed.
Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.**

Dog Control Bylaw 2024: Prohibited Areas

Dogs are prohibited from the following areas.



Okahau Point to Katiki Point, Moeraki

This information is made available in good faith, but its accuracy is not guaranteed. Waitaki District Council accepts no liability for any error.

Note: All maps shown within this Bylaw are provided as a guide. For a detailed description of dog related access to an area, please visit the Waitaki District Council interactive Dog Bylaw map: www.waitaki.govt.nz – search 'Maps' – 'online interactive maps' – drop down box 'Dog Control Bylaw'

SCHEDULE 4: Interpretation

Act means the Dog Control Act 1996.

Animal Control officer has the same meaning as 'Dog Control Officer' as appointed under section 11 of the Act and includes a warranted officer exercising powers under section 17 of the Act.

Continuous control means that the dog is kept under control by means of a lead which is secured or held by a person capable of restraining the dog so that the dog cannot break loose.

Council means the Waitaki District Council.

Disability Assist Dog means a dog certified by one of the following organisations as being a dog trained to assist (or as being a dog in training to assist) a person with a disability:

- (a) Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand
- (b) Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust
- (c) New Zealand Epilepsy Assist Dogs Trust
- (d) Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind
- (e) Top Dog Companion Trust
- (f) An organisation specified in an Order in Council made under section 78D of the Act.

District means the area administered by the Waitaki District Council.

Designated off-lead dog exercise area means any area set out in Schedule 2 of this Bylaw as an off-lead exercise area for dogs and their owners.

Effective control means that the dog is not causing a nuisance or danger and that the person in charge of the dog is able to obtain an immediate and desired response from the dog by use of a lead, voice commands, hand signals, whistles or other effective means.

Farm pet dog means a dog kept on a rural property of 4 hectares in size or greater for the purpose of a pet, and not for solely or principally for the purposes of a working dog (see working dog definition).

Infringement notice means an offence specified in Schedule 1 of the Act.

Lead means an adequate restraint capable of restraining a dog.

Menacing dog means a dog which poses a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife because of any observed or reported behaviour of the dog or any characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type; or which is specified as menacing by breed in Schedule 4 of the Act.

Nuisance means excessive barking or any activity or behaviour that results in inconvenience or annoyance to any member of the community, domestic animals, or any other wildlife.

Neutered dog means a dog that has been sprayed or castrated and does not include a dog that has been vasectomised.

Owner means every person who:

- (a) Owns a dog; or
- (b) Has possession of the dog, whether the dog is at large or in confinement, otherwise than for a period not exceeding 72 hours for the purpose of preventing the dog causing injury, damage, or distress, or for the sole purpose of restoring a lost dog to its owner; or
- (c) Is the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years who;
 - (i) Is the owner of the dog pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this definition, and
 - (ii) Is a member of the parent or guardian's household living with and dependent on the parent or guardian;—

But does not include any person who has seized or taken custody of the dog under the Dog Control Act 1996 or the Animal Welfare Act 1999 or the National Parks Act 1980 or the Conservation Act 1987 or any regulation made under any of those Acts.

Public Place

- (a) Means a place that, at any material time, is open to or is being used by the public, whether free or on payment of a charge, and whether any owner or occupier of the place is lawfully entitled to exclude or eject any person from that place; and
- (b) Includes any aircraft, hovercraft, ship or ferry or other vessel, train, or vehicle carrying or available to carry passengers for reward:
- (c) A public place does not include a private vehicle.

Prohibited dog area means a public place within the District where a dog is prohibited either generally or at specified times.

Reasonable excuse means a valid reason for doing or not doing something, based on good judgment and fairness.

Reserve means any land set aside for public purpose under the management or control of Council that is subject to the Reserves Act 1977.

Responsible person refer to clause (b) under the definition of "Owner."

Rushing dog means any dog in a public place that

- (a) rushes at, or startles, any person or animal in a manner that causes—
 - (i) any person to be killed, injured, or endangered; or
 - (ii) any property to be damaged or endangered; or
- (b) rushes at any vehicle in a manner that causes, or is likely to cause, an accident.

Stock means

- (a) any live horse, cattle, sheep, swine, alpaca, llama, bison, donkey, hinny, mule, or water buffalo that is not in a wild state;
- (b) any deer, goat, tahr, rabbit, possum, or other animal that is kept within a fence or enclosure for domestic or farming purposes.

Suitable Receptacle means a plastic bag, a paper bag or any acceptable container.

Tethered means securely fastening a lead in such a way as to ensure the dog is not allowed to wander into pedestrian traffic, or to cause a nuisance to any person.

Under effective control means the owner or person in charge of a dog is aware of where the dog is and what it is doing, and that the dog is responsive to commands and is not creating a nuisance.

Urban Area means an area which is either within or adjacent to the built-up area of a town, village or settlement.

Working dog as defined in the Dog Control Act 1996, Sec 2

- (a) any disability assist dog:
- (b) any dog—
 - (i) kept by the Police or any constable, the New Zealand Customs Service, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Fisheries, or the Ministry of Defence, or any officer or employee of any such department of State solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Police or the department of State or that constable, officer, or employee; or
 - (ii) kept solely or principally for the purposes of herding or driving stock; or
 - (iii) kept by the Department of Conservation or any officer or employee of that department solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, duties, and powers of that department; or
 - (iv) kept solely or principally for the purposes of destroying pests or pest agents under any pest management plan under the Biosecurity Act 1993; or
 - (v) kept by the Department of Corrections or any officer or employee of that department solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, duties, and powers of that department; or
 - (vi) kept by the Aviation Security Service established under section 72B(2)(ca) of the Civil Aviation Act 1990, or any officer or employee of that service solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, duties, and powers of that service; or
 - (vii) certified for use by the Director of Civil Defence Emergency Management for the purposes of carrying out the functions, duties, and powers conferred by the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002; or
 - (viii) owned by a property guard as defined in section 9 of the Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010 or a property guard employee as defined in section 17 of that Act, and kept solely or principally for the purpose of doing the things specified in section 9(1)(a) to (c) of that Act; or

- (ix) declared by resolution of the territorial authority to be a working dog for the purposes of this Act, or any dog of a class so declared by the authority, being a dog owned by any class of persons specified in the resolution and kept solely or principally for the purposes specified in the resolution.

In the Waitaki District, working dogs must be kept solely or principally for the purposes set out above, and this definition does not include a farm pet dog.

Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024



www.waitaki.govt.nz

t. 03 433 0300 e. service@waitaki.govt.nz

20 Thames Street, Private Bag 50058, Oamaru 9444



Waitaki
DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI

Proposed Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024	
Policy Owner	Andrew Bardsley
Policy Contact	Policy Lead
Version	1
Date adopted	17 December 2024
Date of next review	By December 2034

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. DOG MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL ISSUES	4
2.1 Registration, micro-chipping and the payment of fees	4
2.2 Responsible dog ownership.....	5
2.3 Failure of dog owners to meet their dogs physical and psychological needs	5
2.4 Uncontrolled dogs - threatened or actual dog attacks.....	5
2.5 Dogs defecating in public places.....	6
2.6 Provision of recreational opportunities for dogs and dog owners.....	6
2.7 Public awareness of dogs.....	6
2.8 Provision of satisfactory dog control services	7
2.9 Reporting on dog control policy and practices.....	7
3. CLASSIFICATION OF DOG OWNERS AND THEIR DOGS	8
3.1 Selected Owner status	8
3.2 Working Dogs	9
4. DOG MANAGEMENT & CONTROL OUTCOMES AND GENERAL POLICIES.....	10
4.1 Outcomes	10
Table 1: KEY OUTCOMES FOR DOG MANAGEMENT & CONTROL IN THE WAITAKI DISTRICT	10
4.2 General Policy.....	10
4.2.1 Dog access provisions in public places	10
4.2.2 Dog owner responsibilities.....	14
4.2.3 Dog management and control.....	15
4.2.4 Dog awareness and education.....	18
5. FEES OR PROPOSED FEES	19
5.1 Registration Fees	19
5.2 Differential Fees	19
5.3 Impounding Fees.....	19
5.4 Part Year Fees and transferring from another District	19
5.5 Other Fees	20
6. INFRINGEMENT NOTICES	20
7. MONITORING.....	21
Schedule 1: Interpretation.....	22

1. INTRODUCTION

The Waitaki District is welcoming of dogs. The Waitaki District Council (now referred to as *Council*) recognises that dogs can provide companionship for their owners, provide recreational opportunities for their owners to take their dogs for a walk or run, and may help to enhance social wellbeing as dog owners can interact with others while exercising their dogs. However, these benefits come with responsibilities.

Council has a statutory obligation under the Dog Control Act 1996 (now referred to as the *Act*) (and its amendments in 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, and 2009 and 2012) to adopt a dog control policy, and to adopt a bylaw to give effect to this policy. In adopting a policy under section 10 of the Dog Control Act, the Council must have regard to:

- The need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally; and
- The need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults; and
- The importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and
- The exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

The Act defines a number of mandatory components to be addressed through a dog control policy. Council is also given discretion around how they best deal locally with some dog issues.

Education and the provision of information about dogs and their requirements is seen as a method to address dog control problems before they occur. Council aims to encourage people to comply with regulatory requirements initially through education and working with people, rather than by taking a strictly enforcement approach, but will consider each situation case by case, particularly where injury to people or animals occurs. It is important dog owners are aware of what is required of them and how they should address dog control problems as they arise.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Outline how the Council addresses requirements set out in the Act
- Outline regulatory controls and methods to allow for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs to people, other animals or protected wildlife
- Encourage and facilitate good dog behaviour and good dog ownership through education

The management and control of dogs contributes to the following Community outcome as identified in Council's Long-Term Plan:

- Strong communities: Enabling safe, healthy communities and connected, inclusive communities
- Valued environment: Protecting our diverse landscapes and water bodies.

The Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 is broken into six sections (excluding the Introduction section):

Section Two identifies the key dog management issues, and the principles of dog management and control employed by Council.

Section Three outlines the classification of dog owners and their dogs.

Section Four identifies the outcomes for dog management and control in the Waitaki District, and the policy which gives effect to the outcomes.

Section Five outlines the fee or proposed fee structure for dog management and control.

Section Six outlines the process for applying infringement notices for dog management and control.

Section Seven outlines the monitoring framework to enable a means for determining the effectiveness of the policy, and to allow continuous improvements to Council's dog management practices across the Waitaki District.

While this Policy outlines district-wide outcomes and policies, Council has ensured that the different characteristics of each population centre are catered for.

The Waitaki Dog Control Policy 2024 is given effect through the Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw 2024.

2. DOG MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL ISSUES

Dog management and control issues relevant to the Waitaki District are summarised in sections 2.1.-2.9 below. A statement is also included around Council's philosophy towards the management of each issue.

2.1 Registration, micro-chipping and the payment of fees

- 2.1.1 It is the responsibility of dog owners to register their dog/s. It is also the responsibility of dog owners to microchip their dogs – working dogs are exempt from this requirement. Council is committed to working towards a

100% target for the registration and micro-chipping of dogs across the District.

- 2.1.2 Under the Act, Council sets fees and charges to cover costs associated with dog control. Council sets fees through the Annual Plan process. Differential fees apply for different classes of dogs or owners. Fee differences are used to recognise a high level of responsible ownership and to act as an incentive for all dog owners to attain a high standard of care and control of their dogs.

2.2 Responsible dog ownership

Council recognises that most dog owners are responsible and, as a result, the interaction between dogs, stock, animals and the public is generally positive. Many dog owners in the Waitaki District have a "Selected Owner" status. This status recognises that the owners of non-working dogs are taking appropriate steps to ensure care and safety of their dogs. Despite this, Council would like to encourage a higher percentage of dog owners to obtain this status (excluding the owners of working dogs). By obtaining this status, dog owners have demonstrated that they are committed to being responsible dog owners and will receive a reduction in their annual registration fees.

2.3 Failure of dog owners to meet their dogs physical and psychological needs

- 2.3.1 Dog owners have a responsibility under the Act to meet the physical and psychological needs of their dogs. Intervention by enforcement officers, including entry to properties, may be required where a dog's needs are not being met e.g. when a dog is suspected of being without food, water and/or shelter.
- 2.3.2 Council has the ability through the Act to limit the number of dogs per property. The main issues with having unrestricted numbers of dogs on one property include implications for the welfare of the dogs, and more chance of dogs becoming a nuisance. Council has introduced controls on the number of dogs allowed as of right on residential properties, or lifestyle properties with equal to or less than a 2,500m² site. The intention of this policy is to reinforce the responsible dog owner ethic, and to reduce the potential for nuisance or conflict arising from ownership of multiple dogs in more built-up areas.
- 2.3.3 Council is also committed to providing education initiatives to dog owners to increase the awareness of being a responsible dog owner. This is further discussed in section 2.7.

2.4 Uncontrolled dogs - threatened or actual dog attacks

- 2.4.1 The public is entitled to feel safe and secure in the presence of dogs. Damage to property and livestock by uncontrolled dogs can incur significant costs and inconvenience to members of the community. Dogs attacking and causing a

threat to public safety, livestock and wildlife can cause injury, damage and/or distress. Wandering dogs cause the community to feel unsafe and increase the potential for dog related harm. Under the Act, dog owners therefore have a responsibility to ensure their dogs are under effective control at all times.

- 2.4.2 Council believes that conflicts arising from dog ownership can be resolved and managed in a way that protects the community, prevents cruelty to animals and balances the diverse interests of the community.
- 2.4.3 Council is committed to meeting its obligations under the Act to minimise threats to the community from dogs. Council provides animal management services to resolve any such conflicts.

2.5 Dogs defecating in public places

Dogs fouling in public places is unsightly, a nuisance, and poses a health risk. Dog owners have a responsibility under the Act to immediately remove their dog's faeces from public or private land. A suitable means of removing dog faeces must therefore be carried at all times.

2.6 Provision of recreational opportunities for dogs and dog owners

- 2.6.1 Council recognises that dogs need the ability to exercise unrestrained and within a social setting. Off-leash exercise areas and dog parks are provided for this purpose.
- 2.6.2 Some beaches may also be used to exercise dogs, providing that dog owners are conscious of coastal wildlife which may be present.
- 2.6.3 A network of public walking tracks and reserves enables dogs to be walked on-lead and provide linkages to different areas.
- 2.6.4 Dog owners are encouraged to act responsibly, evaluate the situation and then take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dogs do not cause a nuisance in these public areas.

2.7 Public awareness of dogs

- 2.7.1 The provision of signage across the district to indicate restricted areas for dogs and their owners has traditionally been patchy and inconsistent. Council is committed to making this provision more consistent and easily understood.
- 2.7.2 Council is committed to implementing education and awareness initiatives.

2.8 Provision of satisfactory dog control services

2.8.1 Council is committed to providing quality pound facilities and dog control services, including outside of normal business hours.

2.8.2 Retention and attraction of animal management officers with suitable skills and experience is a priority for delivering these services.

2.9 Reporting on dog control policy and practices

2.9.1 The Act requires annual reporting on Council's dog control policies and practices and that the report is publicly notified in each financial year.

2.9.2 Council is committed to meeting its obligations under the Act. A monitoring section is included in this Policy (see section 7).

3. CLASSIFICATION OF DOG OWNERS AND THEIR DOGS

3.1 Selected Owner status

3.1.1 Dog owners who meet the following criteria may apply to Council to have **"Selected Owner"** status:

- (a) No dog owned by them in the last three years has:
 - (i) Been impounded, chased, or returned home by a Council Animal control officer, or
 - (ii) Been the subject of any bona-fide complaint.
- (b) The dog owner has not been issued with formal warnings, infringement notices or been prosecuted for offences against the Act in the last three years by the Council or any other Territorial Authority.
- (c) The owner has been a registered dog owner who has resided within the Waitaki District for at least one year. An exemption to this may be made for dogs transferring from another district where written evidence has been provided from the relevant local authority that this status or similar was held previously.
- (d) The dog/s is not classified as Dangerous.
- (e) The dog/s is not classified as Menacing as a result of any observed or reported behaviour of the dog.
- (f) The owner's property is suitably fenced and gated to ensure dogs are confined within the property.
- (g) The owner's section size is appropriate for the number and size of the dog/s.
- (h) All dog(s) owned or kept by the owner have been registered, kept, and controlled in accordance with the Act and the current Council Dog Control Bylaw.
- (i) All dog registration fees have been paid for the past three years by due date, being 1 July.
- (j) The dog/s is micro-chipped (excluding working dogs).
- (k) Any information regarding the purchase of, death, sale, or transfer of dogs to and from the applicant's property, including movement of any pups born on the premises, shall continue to be notified in writing to the Council within one month.
- (l) Any change of residential address shall be notified in writing to the Council within 14 days.

(m) The applicant understands that any breach of the Selected Owner status conditions, Waitaki District Dog Control Bylaw or Dog Control Act 1996 may result in cancellation of their privileges under this Policy. The owner may appeal such a decision to Council within 7 days.

(n) The applicant can demonstrate an understanding of the current Waitaki District Dog Control Bylaw, including the need for all dogs to be on-lead in public areas unless in a specified off-lead area.

3.1.2 All applications for selected owner status will require a site assessment by a Council Animal Management Officer.

3.1.3 Council Animal Management Officers reserve the right to make a property inspection when re-assessing any application for permit.

NOTE: *Dog owners holding selected owner status, may be selected at random, or if deemed necessary on a case by case basis, may be required to be audited against the selected owner criteria, once within a three year period.*

3.2 Working Dogs

Working Dogs are defined in the Act (see Schedule 1 of this Policy for interpretation). In the Waitaki district, working dogs must be kept solely or principally for the purposes in the 'working dog' definition, which does not include farm pets (which is also defined).

4. DOG MANAGEMENT & CONTROL OUTCOMES AND GENERAL POLICIES

4.1 Outcomes

Outcomes have been identified to address the management issues identified in section 2 of this Policy. The purpose of outcomes is to identify the desired end-results of effective dog management and control across the District.

Table 1 identifies the key outcomes for dog management and control in the Waitaki District.

- **There is responsible ownership of dogs across the District including compliance with dog owner obligations under the Dog Control Act.**
- **Opportunities are provided for dogs and their owners to exercise and recreate in public places.**
- **Conflicts between the general public, dogs, stock and animals and dog owners are minimised.**
- **Potential or actual danger, distress, intimidation and nuisance caused by dogs in the community are minimised.**
- **Council meets its statutory obligations for dog control and management under the Act.**

4.2 General Policy

Policies ensure that dogs are managed and controlled in a consistent manner across the district.

4.2.1 Dog access provisions in public places

4.2.1.1 Lead-only areas

1. Dogs are required to be **on-lead** and kept under **continuous control** at all times in all Council reserves (including cemeteries) not listed as Designated off-lead dog exercise areas or Prohibited dog areas.
2. Dogs are required to be kept **on-lead** and under **continuous control at all times** in the following public places namely:
 - a) All public streets.
 - b) All grazed Council reserve areas.

- c) Alps to Ocean cycle trail (A2O) from Saleyards Road to Cormacks Kia Ora Road, Oamaru.
 - d) Beach Road beach from North Otago Golf course to Thousand Acre Road.
3. Dogs are required to be kept **on-lead** and **under continuous control** by the person having possession of the dog, so as not to allow the dog to wander into pedestrian traffic, or to cause a nuisance to any person in the following public places namely:
- a) Within the commercial areas of central Oamaru namely Thames Street, Severn Street (between the intersection with Usk Street through to the southern boundary of Takaro Park).
 - b) Between Farnham Street and Clare Street at the North-end shopping area of Oamaru,
4. In the locations identified in clauses 3a and 3b of Schedule 1:
- a) The person in control of the dog must not leave it tethered and unattended for more than 10 minutes.

Note: Dogs may be tethered by securely fastening a lead in such a way as to ensure the dog does not wander into pedestrian traffic and to minimise nuisance to others.

5. Dogs are required to be kept **on-lead** and under **continuous control** in the following Council sportsgrounds (see Schedule 3 (1g) for further conditions on physically marked pitches):
- a) Centennial Park.
 - b) Weston Park.
 - c) King George Park
 - d) Awamoa Park West
 - e) Mill Domain, Kurow Domain:
6. Providing that a dog/s is kept **on-lead** and under **continuous control**, the following areas are provided for as **lead-only areas**:
- a) **Between the hours of sunrise and sunset** the Oamaru Harbour coastal area (between and inclusive of Holmes Wharf and the commercial Oamaru Penguin Colony) subject to meeting the following condition:
 - (i) The person in control of the dog must not leave it tethered and unattended for more than 10 minutes.
 - b) Harbour Street, Oamaru; subject to meeting the following condition:
 - (i) The person in control of the dog must not leave it tethered and unattended for more than 10 minutes.

Note: Dogs may be tethered by securely fastening a lead in such a way as to ensure the dog does not wander into pedestrian traffic and to minimise nuisance to others.

7. Every dog shall be kept **on-lead and under continuous control** when it is likely to injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife (excluding working dogs that are under the control of their owner, and/or being taken by their owner to or from the place where the dog is to be or has been employed as a working dog).

4.2.1.2 Designated off-lead dog exercise areas

1. Providing that a dog/s is kept under **effective control**, the following areas are provided for as **designated off-lead dog exercise areas at all times**:
 - a) Berkeley Place Park, Oamaru
 - b) Fenwick Park South, Oamaru
 - c) Awamoa Park East, Oamaru
 - d) Cape Wanbrow, Oamaru
 - e) Glen Eden Reserve, Oamaru *(restricted access during lambing season)
 - f) Glen Warren Reserve* Oamaru (restricted access during lambing season)
 - g) Kurow Railway Reserve
 - h) Sefton Place Reserve, Otematata.
 - i) Omarama Recreation Reserve (eastern end).
2. Dog owners must carry a lead for their dogs at all times while in public places.

4.2.1.3 Prohibited areas

1. The following are Prohibited dog areas:
 - a) Oamaru coastal area between Harbourside Gardens and Holmes Wharf.
 - b) Oamaru coastal area between the commercial Oamaru Penguin Colony and Bushy Beach.
 - c) Moeraki coastal area between Okahau Point and Katiki Point.
 - d) Shag Point coastal area.
 - e) Kakanui Esplanade Reserve coastal area.
 - f) Kakanui river mouth. From the south end of Cobblestone Road to the mouth of the river.
 - g) All marked pitches on the Council sportsgrounds of Centennial Park, Weston Park, King George Park, Awamoa Park West, Mill Domain, Kurow Domain.
 - h) Within 10 metres of children's play equipment on Council managed reserves, except whilst passing by on a lead and under **continuous control**.
 - i) Within 10 metres of any identified protected wildlife colony throughout the District.
 - j) Oamaru Water Treatment Reservoir between Reservoir Road and Ardgowan Road.
 - k) **Between the hours of sunset and sunrise**, Oamaru Harbour coastal area between Holmes Wharf and the commercial Oamaru Penguin Colony and Harbour Street.
 - l) In all relevant public reserves during the lambing season.

2. A dog **on a lead** and under **continuous control** may pass through a Prohibited dog area on any thoroughfare passing through the Prohibited dog area and where no other reasonable route exists to the dog owner's destination. Passage through a Prohibited dog area in such circumstances must be via the shortest available route.
3. The following dogs are exempt from the prohibitions identified in section 4.2.1.3 Schedule 1 of this Policy :
 - a) Disability assist dogs being used for that purpose or accompanying a person genuinely engaged in the dog's training.
 - b) Any dogs belonging to a "specified agency" pursuant to section 2 of the Act e.g. Police dogs and being used in the course of the specified agency's work.
 - c) Dogs being used by Security guards in the course of employment.
 - d) Dogs securely confined in or on a vehicle.

4.2.1.4 Temporary designations

1. In addition to the identified Lead-only and Designated off-lead dog exercise areas in sections 4.2.1.1 and 4.2.1.2 of this Policy, Council may from time to time by resolution declare any public place not already a Prohibited dog area to be a Prohibited dog area for a specified time period.
2. Council will give public notice of its intention to declare any area to be a temporary Prohibited dog area or to suspend a Prohibited dog area.
3. Appropriate signage will be posted in the area identifying changes to Prohibited dog areas, and prior notice published in a local newspaper or through a relevant social media channel.

4.2.2 Dog owner responsibilities

4.2.2.1 Multiple dog ownership

1. Selected Owners only may apply for a permit to accommodate **more than three (3) dogs** (excluding NZKC registered breeders or any approved property used for the business of dog boarding kennels) over the age of three months on an urban Residential zoned as defined in the Waitaki District Plan, or a lifestyle property with equal to or less than a 2,500m² site.
2. A permit will be required to accommodate more than three (3) working dogs over the age of three months on an urban Residential property as defined in the Waitaki District Plan, or a lifestyle property with equal to or less than a 2,500m² site.
3. A permit will allow the maximum number of dogs permitted to be five (5).
4. All existing dog owners with more than the maximum of five (5) dogs who currently hold Selected Owner status, and who reside on an urban Residential property as defined in the Waitaki District Plan, or a lifestyle property with equal to or less than a 2,500m² site will be granted an existing rights status (and will not need to apply for a permit) until such time as there is a need to register new dogs to the property, and/or when one or more of the Selected Owner status criteria in section 3.1 of this Policy have not been met.
5. This policy shall not apply to rural properties where working dogs are kept solely or principally for the purposes of herding or driving stock, as defined in sec 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

4.2.2.2 Requirement to Neuter Dangerous and Menacing Dogs

1. Every dog classified by Council as **Dangerous** under Section 31 of the Act must be neutered within one month of the classification in accordance with section 32 of the Act.
2. Every dog which is classified as Dangerous which is transferring to the Waitaki District is required to be neutered within 1 month of the transfer. The owner of any such dog must produce a certificate to the Council as if the requirements of Section 32(c) and (d) of the Act applied.
3. All dogs over the age of three months and **classified as Menacing must be neutered** within one month of the classification in accordance with section 33E of the Act.

4.2.3 Dog management and control

4.2.3.1 Abatement of Nuisance

1. If in the opinion of any Animal Management Officer, the keeping of any dog or dogs on a premises is, or is likely to become, a nuisance or injurious or hazardous to health, property or safety, the Animal Management Officer may, by notice in writing, require the Owner or Occupier of the premises, within the time specified in such notice to do all or any of the following:
 - a) Reduce the number of dogs kept on the premises
 - b) Alter, reconstruct or otherwise improve the accommodation for dogs
 - c) Require such dogs to be tied up or otherwise confined
 - d) Take other such precautions as may be considered necessary.

4.2.3.2 Barking dogs

1. As far as is practicable in the circumstances, where it is found that the loud and persistent barking or howling of any dog is causing a nuisance or may cause a nuisance, Animal Management Officers will provide guidance to the dog owner on methods to resolve the issue. This does not limit the provisions of Sections 55 and 56 of the Act concerning barking dogs.
2. In any case where a complaint is made about the loud and persistent barking and howling of any dog, Animal Management Officers will investigate the complaint. This may include requiring the complainant to keep and maintain records of the nature and times of the barking or howling, and to provide audio recordings to assist the investigation.

4.2.3.3 Uncontrolled dogs

1. Uncontrolled dogs have potential to cause nuisance, distress or damage to any person or property. The provisions of section 52 of the Act apply to the control of dogs generally.
2. If a dog is found at large in any public place or in any private way without the consent of the owner or occupier, the provisions of section 52 also apply.

4.2.3.4 Dogs at large on Rural properties

Council recognises the importance of safeguarding livestock from diseases carried by canines and Officers will take appropriate enforcement action in relation to any dog that is found wandering on any property in a Rural zone as defined in the Waitaki District Plan or lifestyle properties 1 hectare or greater), whether livestock are present or not.

4.2.3.5 Dogs Attacking Persons or Animals

1. The Council will investigate all reported dog attacks on people and animals.
2. In cases where prosecution for an attack is being considered by the Council, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to seize and to retain the dog involved under section 71 of the Act, if the dog is considered a threat to public safety.

Release and Re-homing of Impounded dogs

1. The Council aims to return all dogs to their owners when fees and charges have been paid unless the dog is to be retained under any provision of the Act.
2. The suitability of unclaimed dogs for rehoming will be assessed and if suitable, will be advertised under the Council's adoption scheme. The suitability of prospective new owners will also be assessed, and this may involve checks of the property where the dog is to be kept, or any other checks considered appropriate by the Council and Animal Management Officers.
3. Dogs which are suitable for adoption may be released to a prospective new owner for a period determined by the Council and Animal Management Officers.
4. Where a dog is claimed by its owner, the dog will not be released from the Pound until all fees and charges have been paid in full. Note: Part-payments of impounding fees and charges will not be accepted.
5. Prior to the release of the dog, the person claiming the dog must satisfy an Animal Management Officer that they are the rightful owner of the dog or have been duly authorised by the owner to act in that capacity.

6. A dog is considered to have been claimed when all fees and charges have been paid and the dog has been collected by its owner or person authorised by the owner.
7. Where a dog is successfully adopted by a new owner, the new owner is not required to pay standard impounding fees and charges, but the adoption fee must be paid. Note: Adoption fees which include the applicable registration fees are subject to change through annual fees and charges review and will be set in accordance with Section 37 of the Act.
8. Council will not re-home any dog classified as Dangerous or Menacing as a result of any observed or reported behaviour of the dog, or any dog considered by Council Animal Control staff to be a risk to public safety. Dogs which have been classified as menacing by breed, if assessed as suitable for rehoming, will be transferred to organisations with the necessary skills and experience to rehabilitate or prepare the dog for rehoming.
9. No dogs will be released to an organisation for research purposes.

4.2.3.6 Enforcement Protocol

1. Council Animal Management officers will use discretion when deciding on an enforcement response to an offence against the Act or Bylaw, and may consider the following:
 - a) Injury or distress to a person or animal.
 - b) A health issue e.g. non removal of dog faeces.
 - c) Verbal abuse or intimidation by the person in possession of the dog.
 - d) A refusal to provide the details of the dog or the personal details of the person having possession of the dog.
2. As Council's preferred initial dog control approach is focused on education, a verbal or written warning may be issued in place of an infringement, at the discretion of the Animal Management Officer. Where records disclose a verbal or written warning for similar noncompliance has previously been issued to a dog owner, the offence may be dealt with by way of an infringement notice.
3. In cases where a dog owner is found to be "keeping an unregistered dog" not previously registered with the Council, the dog owner will receive a 'Notice to Register' the dog concerned within two weeks of the date of the notice. This shall not apply in the following circumstances:
 - a) Where any owner has failed to register a dog for the current year and the immediate past year, and
 - b) Where a person has been issued with an infringement notice for non-registration in the previous year.

4. In the case of 4.2.3.6.(3) the registration fee payable will not be calculated on a pro-rate basis.

4.2.3.7 Prosecution

1. Where an offence is considered to be serious and sufficient evidence exists, Council will consider prosecuting an offender. This includes, but is not restricted to, situations where a dog has:
 - a) Caused significant damage or injury to any person or animal
 - b) Caused significant damage to property
 - c) Caused severe distress
 - d) Caused danger, distress, or nuisance to any person or the community
 - e) Breach of the bylaw on a number of occasions.
2. In all cases, the decision to prosecute is made by the suitably delegated officer/s.

4.2.4 Dog awareness and education

1. Council will from time to time undertake education programmes which promote responsible dog ownership and other information related to ownership, management and control of dogs.
2. Council may recognise and promote privately operated dog education and/or training courses and act as a referral agent to dog owners for these courses.

4.2.4.1 Signage

Council will provide consistent signage across the District to ensure that dog owners and the general public clearly understand Council's expectations for dog management and control.

4.2.4.2 Public Education

1. Council acknowledges the importance and benefit of education for dog owners and the wider community as a method of minimising dog-related issues and encouraging dog owners to understand their responsibilities and be responsible owners.
2. Council will identify opportunities to inform dog owners and others of responsible dog ownership and will provide this through various resources.
3. In any case where a dog owner is found not to be acting responsibly or is contravening the Act or Bylaws, this is treated as an opportunity to educate the person. Note: This does not limit any enforcement decisions which may also apply.

5 FEES OR PROPOSED FEES

5.1 Registration Fees

5.1.1 The owner of any dog will be charged a registration fee payable to the Council on or before 1 July each year.

5.1.2 A late fee will apply if payment is made after August 1 in any year.

5.2 Differential Fees

5.2.1 Differential fees will apply for different classes of dogs or owners. Differential fees will be used to recognise a high level of responsible ownership and to act as an incentive for all dog owners to attain a high standard of care and control of their dogs e.g. Selected owner status.

5.2.2 The following ratio will apply for fees relating to dog management and control:

Non-working dogs	100%
Neutered non-working dogs	80%
Selected Owner	40%
Working dog	30%
Farm pet	30%
Dangerous dogs	Base fee plus 50%
Probationary dog owner	Base fee plus 50%

5.3 Impounding Fees

5.3.1 A fee for impounding of dogs and associated costs will be set by the Council. Impounding fees may be set at different rates for registered versus non-registered dogs and may be graduated according to the number of impounding offences against the same dog.

5.3.2 No dog will be released from the pound without payment being made in full.

5.4 Part Year Fees and transferring from another District

Registration fees for dogs that are three months of age shall be calculated on a pro rata basis. For the first time registration of a dog on its three-month birthday, only the

balance of the year will be due. If a dog owner relocates to the Waitaki District, the owner can exchange the registration tag from the previous district for a Waitaki District tag, free of charge.

5.5 Other Fees

- 5.5.1 Fees will be charged for the destruction of dogs and for the issue of replacement registration tags. Other fees related to the costs of dog control may also be payable as determined by Council resolution.
- 5.5.2 A nominated amount from each dog registration, as determined by Council resolution, will contribute to a fund for desexing dogs in the Waitaki District, if there is an identified need, such as financial hardship. This fee shall not apply to Working Dog or farm Pet categories.

6. INFRINGEMENT NOTICES

- 6.1 Animal control officers may issue an infringement notice in accordance with the Act.
- 6.2 Unpaid fines issued under subsection 6.1 may be recovered through the Courts as provided for in the Summary Proceedings Act 1957.
- 6.3 Infringement notices and associated fines will only be waived in exceptional circumstances as determined by the WDC Appeals Process.

7. MONITORING

- 7.1 Council is required under the Act to report annually on dog management and control practices. Council is required to review its Dog Control Policy at least every 10 years, and/or when there is a review of the Dog Control Bylaw. Ongoing monitoring of policy and practices help Council to:
- a) Adapt to changing circumstances;
 - b) Ensure policy remains relevant for the community, managers and decision makers (Council);
 - c) Provide accountability to the community;
 - d) Provide a means for determining how well the policy is working in practice; and
 - e) Allow for continuous improvement of Council's dog management practices across the District.
- 7.2 Council will report annually on its dog management and control practices. A copy of all relevant reporting will be publicly notified by Council annually, and a copy submitted to the Secretary for Local Government.
- 7.3 Council will review its dog control policy at least every 10 years, and/or when a review of the corresponding Waitaki Dog Control Bylaw has been initiated. Matters which may trigger a review of policy within these timeframes may include:
- a) The identification of new management issues or problems that are not addressed in this policy but for which additional policy is required;
 - b) Changes in national policy including new or amended laws, regulations or other actions which may render the policy inoperable or illegal;
 - c) Other policy changes made by Waitaki District Council that affect dog control management and practices.
- 7.4 The following methods will be considered when reviewing and measuring the effectiveness of this policy:
- a) The degree to which the outcomes of this policy have been met;
 - b) An assessment of annual reports on dog control and management;
 - c) Feedback from user satisfaction surveys (undertaken at least 5 yearly);
 - d) Analysis of annual statistics on dog control management and practices undertaken by Council;
 - e) Feedback from complaints received; and/or
 - f) Feedback from daily operational experience (contractors and staff).

Schedule 1: Interpretation

Act means the Dog Control Act 1996.

Animal Management Officer has the same meaning as 'Dog Control Officer' as appointed under section 11 of the Act and includes a warranted officer exercising powers under section 17 of the Act.

Continuous control means that the dog is kept under control by means of a lead which is secured or held by a person capable of restraining the dog so that the dog cannot break loose.

Council means the Waitaki District Council.

Disability Assist Dog means a dog certified by one of the following organisations as being a dog trained to assist (or as being a dog in training to assist) a person with a disability:

- (a) Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand
- (b) Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust
- (c) New Zealand Epilepsy Assist Dogs Trust
- (d) Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind
- (e) Top Dog Companion Trust
- (f) An organisation specified in an Order in Council made under section 78D of the Act.

District means the area administered by the Waitaki District Council.

Designated off-lead dog exercise area means any area set out in section 4.2.1.2 of this Policy as an off-lead exercise area for dogs and their owners.

Effective control means that the dog is not causing a nuisance or danger and that the person in charge of the dog is able to obtain an immediate and desired response from the dog by use of a lead, voice commands, hand signals, whistles or other effective means.

Farm pet dog means a dog kept on a rural property of 4 hectares in size or greater for the purpose of a pet, and not for solely or principally for the purposes of a working dog (see working dog definition).

Infringement notice means an offence specified in Schedule 1 of the Act.

Lead means an adequate restraint capable of restraining a dog.

Menacing dog means a dog which poses a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife because of any observed or reported behaviour

of the dog or any characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type; or which is specified as menacing by breed in Schedule 4 of the Act.

Nuisance means excessive barking or any activity or behaviour that results in inconvenience or annoyance to any member of the community, domestic animals, or any other wildlife.

Neutered dog means a dog that has been spayed or castrated and does not include a dog that has been vasectomised.

Owner means every person who:

- (a) Owns a dog; or
- (b) Has possession of the dog, whether the dog is at large or in confinement, otherwise than for a period not exceeding 72 hours for the purpose of preventing the dog causing injury, damage, or distress, or for the sole purpose of restoring a lost dog to its owner; or
- (c) Is the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years who;
 - (i) Is the owner of the dog pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this definition, and
 - (ii) Is a member of the parent or guardian's household living with and dependent on the parent or guardian;—
- (d) But does not include any person who has seized or taken custody of the dog under the Dog Control Act 1996 or the Animal Welfare Act 1999 or the National Parks Act 1980 or the Conservation Act 1987 or any regulation made under any of those Acts.

Public Place

- (a) Means a place that, at any material time, is open to or is being used by the public, whether free or on payment of a charge, and whether any owner or occupier of the place is lawfully entitled to exclude or eject any person from that place; and
- (b) Includes any aircraft, hovercraft, ship or ferry or other vessel, train, or vehicle carrying or available to carry passengers for reward.
- (c) A public place does not include a private vehicle.

Prohibited dog area means a public place within the District where a dog is prohibited either generally or at specified times.

Reserve means any land set aside for public purpose under the management or control of Council that is subject to the Reserves Act 1977.

Responsible person refer to clause (b) under the definition of "Owner."

Rushing dog means any dog in a public place that

- (a) Rushes at, or startles, any person or animal in a manner that causes—
 - (i) Any person to be killed, injured, or endangered; or
 - (ii) Any property to be damaged or endangered; or

(b) Rushes at any vehicle in a manner that causes, or is likely to cause, an accident.

Stock means

- (a) Any live horse, cattle, sheep, swine, alpaca, llama, bison, donkey, hinny, mule, or water buffalo that is not in a wild state
- (b) Any deer, goat, Tahr, rabbit, possum, or other animal that is kept within a fence or enclosure for domestic or farming purposes.

Suitable Receptacle means a plastic bag, a paper bag or any acceptable container.

Under effective control means the owner or person in charge of a dog is aware of where the dog is and what it is doing, and that the dog is responsive to commands and is not creating a nuisance.

Urban Area means an area which is either within or adjacent to the built-up area of a town, village or settlement.

Working dog as defined in the Dog Control Act 1996, Sec 2

- (a) Any disability assist dog;
- (b) Any dog—
 - (i) Kept by the Police or any constable, the New Zealand Customs Service, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Fisheries, or the Ministry of Defence, or any officer or employee of any such department of State solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Police or the department of State or that constable, officer, or employee; or
 - (ii) Kept solely or principally for the purposes of herding or driving stock; or
 - (iii) Kept by the Department of Conservation or any officer or employee of that department solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, duties, and powers of that department; or
 - (iv) Kept solely or principally for the purposes of destroying pests or pest agents under any pest management plan under the Biosecurity Act 1993; or
 - (v) Kept by the Department of Corrections or any officer or employee of that department solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, duties, and powers of that department; or
 - (vi) Kept by the Aviation Security Service established under section 72B(2)(ca) of the Civil Aviation Act 1990, or any officer or employee of that service solely or principally for the purposes of carrying out the functions, duties, and powers of that service; or
 - (vii) Certified for use by the Director of Civil Defence Emergency Management for the purposes of carrying out the functions, duties, and powers conferred by the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002; or
 - (viii) Owned by a property guard as defined in section 9 of the Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010 or a property guard employee as defined in section 17 of that Act, and kept solely or principally for the purpose of doing the things specified in section 9(1)(a) to (c) of that Act; or
 - (ix) Declared by resolution of the territorial authority to be a working dog for the purposes of this Act, or any dog of a class so declared by the authority, being a dog owned by any class of persons specified in the resolution and kept solely or principally for the purposes specified in the resolution.

In the Waitaki district, working dogs must be kept solely or principally for the purposes set out above, and this definition does not include a farm pet dog.

6.3 COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF AGREEMENT WITH CORRIEDALE WATER MANAGEMENT LIMITED FOR OPERATION OF CORRIEDALE WATER SUPPLIES

Author: Margaret Mitchell, Policy Planner Assets

Authoriser: Joshua Rendell, on behalf of Roger Cook, Director Natural and Built Environment

Attachments: 1. WDC CWML Agreement for operation of Corriedale Water Supplies
 

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to sign the new agreement for operational management of the Corriedale water supplies by Corriedale Water Management Limited, on behalf of Council.

DECISION OBJECTIVE

To establish a formal agreement between Waitaki District Council (WDC) and Corriedale Water Management Limited (CWML) that clearly outlines the requirements for CWML's ongoing operational management of the Corriedale water supplies.

SUMMARY

Officers engaged Anderson Lloyd to draft a new agreement with CWML for operational management of the Corriedale water supplies by Corriedale Water Management Limited. The new agreement clearly sets out the shared responsibility WDC and CWML have in ensuring Corriedale consumers have safe drinking water.

Representatives from CWML have been consulted with and are comfortable with the new agreement and officers are now seeking delegation from Council for the Chief Executive to sign the agreement on behalf of Council so that the agreement can commence.

DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS

Governance Decision-Making:	Endorsement of, and providing delegation to sign, the new agreement with Corriedale Water Management Limited for the operational management of the Corriedale Water Supplies.
Operational Decision-Making:	Chief Executive signs the agreement on behalf of Council, which will allow the agreement to commence.
Communications	Media Releases – contributed to by officers and the Governance Team Media/public enquiries regarding governance decision-making topics above can be addressed by governance Media/public enquiries regarding operational decision-making topics above can be addressed by officers

SUMMARY OF DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA

	No/Moderate/Key		No/Moderate/Key
Policy/Plan	No	Environmental Considerations	No
Legal	Key	Cultural Considerations	No
Significance	No	Social Considerations	No
Financial Criteria	No	Economic Considerations	No
Community Views	No	Community Board Views	No
Consultation	No	Publicity and Communication	No

BACKGROUND

Corriedale Water Management Limited (CWML) took over the operational management of four Council owned water supplies on 1 July 2014. The four supplies are:

- Tokarahi/Livingstone – 573 consumers (Waitaki District Council's 4th largest water supply)
- Awamoko – 399 consumers
- Kauru Hill – 197 consumers
- Windsor – 137 consumers

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by WDC and CWML which detailed the roles and responsibilities of each party. The MoU was for an initial period of 2 years and was subsequently extended by a further 1 year, followed by a further 5 years.

The MoU expired in 2022 and no agreement has been in place since.

Officers engaged Anderson Lloyd to draft a new agreement with CWML for the operational management of the Corriedale water supplies. The agreement clearly sets out the shared responsibility WDC and CWML have in ensuring Corriedale consumers have safe drinking water. The agreement details specific reporting requirements in order for Council to meet its audit responsibilities.

The draft agreement was presented to the Governance Team at a briefing in March 2025.

CWML reviewed the agreement and officers met with representatives from CWML to discuss the draft agreement in May.

Following the meeting with CWML and subsequent changes to the agreement, it was sent to Anderson Lloyd for final legal review.

Representatives from CWML have indicated their intention to sign the agreement and officers are now seeking delegation from Council for the Chief Executive to sign the agreement on behalf of Council so that the agreement can commence.

The agreement will expire on 30 June 2030 to provide some certainty regarding the operation of the Corriedale water supplies in the medium term.

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Option 1 –The Chief Executive is not given delegation to sign the agreement

This option would mean that CWML would continue to manage the Corriedale water supplies without an agreement in place or operational management would return to Council.

This option is not recommended because CWML is working hard to meet legislative requirements and it would be a significant undertaking for Council to resume management of these supplies at short notice.

Further, continuing without an agreement introduces risk for Council, CWML and the community.

Option 2 – Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to sign the agreement for the operation of the Corriedale water supplies, on behalf of Council (Recommended)

ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION

Under option 2 Council would delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the agreement for the operational management of the Corriedale water supplies by CWML, on behalf of Council.

Officers and CWML have worked hard to reach a point where both parties are comfortable with the agreement.

Once the agreement has been signed by both parties it can commence immediately. This would mean that the Corriedale drinking water supplies would be operated by CWML under a formal agreement with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for both parties.

This is the preferred option because it better manages any risk to Council and CWML.

CONCLUSION

The agreement has been through a thorough development process, written by Anderson Lloyd, and reviewed by officers, the Governance Team and CWML.

The agreement is robust and clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities of both parties to ensure that the Corriedale drinking water supplies are delivering safe drinking water to the communities.

Therefore option 2 is the recommended option because it provides the best outcome for all parties.

ADDITIONAL DECISION-MAKING CONSIDERATIONS

Waitaki District Council Strategic Framework

Outcomes

Community Outcomes

Prosperous District

- Attractive to new opportunities
- Supporting local businesses
- Fostering a diverse and resilient economy

Strong Communities

- Enabling safe, healthy communities
- Connected, inclusive communities
- Promoting a greater voice for Waitaki
- Celebrating our community identity

Quality Services

- Robust core infrastructure and services
- Community facilities and services we are proud of

Valued Environment

- Protecting our diverse landscapes and water bodies
- Meeting environmental and climate change challenges



Agreement for operation and management of Corriedale Supplies

Waitaki District Council

Corriedale Water Management Limited

**anderson
lloyd.**

2/10

Date:

Parties

- (1) Waitaki District Council (**Council**)
- (2) Corriedale Water Management Limited (**Corriedale**)

Background

In 2014 Corriedale and Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) providing for Corriedale to assume responsibility of the management and operation of the Corriedale Supplies.

- A. The parties now wish to enter into a formal agreement for Corriedale to manage and operate the Corriedale Supplies on Council's behalf.
- B. This Agreement sets out the roles and responsibilities of each party, including under the Water Services Act 2021 (**WSA**).

Agreement

1. Definitions

- 1.1 **Agreement** means this agreement
- 1.2 **Commencement Date** means **XX**
- 1.3 **Corriedale Consumers** means persons that consume water from the Corriedale Supplies.
- 1.4 **Corriedale Supplies** means the Awamoko, Kauru Hill, Tokarahi, and Windsor water supplies.
- 1.5 **Corriedale Water Rates** means the rates struck by Council for water supplied by the Corriedale Supplies.
- 1.6 **Drinking Water Supplier** has the meaning in section 8 of the WSA.
- 1.7 **Owner** has the meaning in section 12 of the WSA.
- 1.8 **Working Day** means any calendar day, between the hours of 8am-5pm, except for Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays.

Waitaki District Council and Corriedale Water Management Limited Agreement for the operation of the Corriedale water supplies (v1)

June 2025

3/10

2. Roles and Responsibilities of the Parties

2.1 The parties agree that from the Commencement Date:

- (a) Council will continue to have legal responsibility for the Corriedale Supplies as the Owner of the Corriedale Supplies and Drinking Water Supplier under the WSA.
- (b) Corriedale will be responsible for the operation and management of the Corriedale Supplies, and will also have legal responsibility as a Drinking Water Supplier under the WSA.

3. Operation and management of the Corriedale Supplies

3.1 General

As the entity responsible for operation and management of the Corriedale Supplies, Corriedale will:

- (a) Ensure that relevant personnel are suitably qualified to carry out all tasks in relation to the operation and management of the Corriedale Supplies;
- (b) Accept, assess and decide on applications for water or changes to allocation or point of supply and advise the appropriate Council staff unit of any changes to supply;
- (c) Enter into, and manage any agreements with external contractors and/or suppliers for the maintenance and repair of the Corriedale Supplies.

3.2 Customer requests:

- (a) Corriedale shall record details of all requests for information and complaints from Corriedale Consumers;
- (b) Corriedale shall categorise customer requests for rectification of faults based on whether they are urgent or routine.
 - i. Urgent requests are those where a customer has no water, low pressure, a tank not filling, dirty water, or a significant leak. These requests must be responded to, where practicable, within a median response time of one (1) hour (an operator is onsite) and resolved within a median response time of 24 hours.
 - ii. Routine requests are those where the fault is minor and not impacting the customer's supply (for example a small leak). These requests must be responded to, where practicable, within a median response time of two (2) Working Days (an operator is onsite) and resolved within a median response time of five (5) Working Days
- (c) Corriedale shall record sufficient information for all customer requests for rectification of faults to enable Council to report achievements against:
 - i. Measures three and four of the mandatory non-financial performance measures set by the Department of Internal Affairs. The measures and guidance information on how to calculate the achievement can be found at: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Resource-material-Our-Policy-Advice-Areas-Local-Government-Policy#performance-measures>.
 - ii. Measures DR1 – DR4 of the Taumata Arowai Network Environmental Performance Measures. The measures and guidance information on how to calculate the achievement can be found at: [Network environmental performance measures | Taumata Arowai](#)

Waitaki District Council and Corriedale Water Management Limited Agreement for the operation of the Corriedale water supplies (v1)

June 2025

4/10

- iii. This information shall be provided to Council quarterly in an agreed Microsoft excel template.

3.3 Asset Lifecycle Management:

- (a) Corriedale shall conduct all physical works required to maintain the Corriedale Supplies including repair, replacement and upgrade, in accordance with industry best practice.
- (b) Corriedale shall record the following asset and cost information for all physical works completed on the Corriedale Supplies, including repairs, replacements and upgrades;
 - i. The length, depth and location of the repair, replacement or upgrade (sufficient to allow Council's GIS records to be updated);
 - ii. The existing and new asset material and diameter;
 - iii. For point of supply issues; the size of the restrictor, the pressure and flow before and after the repair, replacement or upgrade, the size of the consumers storage tank and if there is an appropriate overflow
 - iv. The labour, material, and travel costs associated with the repair, replacement or upgrade;
 - v. This information shall be provided to Council monthly in an agreed Microsoft excel template.

3.4 Policies and Processes

Council shall:

- (a) Obtain suitable permissions and authorities to access private land for Corriedale employees, volunteers, contractors and suppliers for the purpose of constructing, inspecting, altering, renewing, repairing, or cleaning water supply infrastructure.

Corriedale shall:

- (a) Ensure "reasonable notice" is provided prior to entering private land in accordance with Section 181 of the Local Government Act 2002
- (b) Develop, regularly review and update as appropriate, Health and Safety policies, procedures and processes; and ensure that such policies, procedures and processes are followed by all employees, members of the public, visitors to sites, contractors and volunteers;
- (c) Establish policies, processes and procedures to ensure the transparent and auditable management of financial matters in relation to the Corriedale supplies, including procurement of and payments to external contractors, and internal financial controls such as prevention of misuse of funds;
- (d) Establish policies and processes for managing any tampering, damage to, or theft from the Corriedale Supplies. These need to align with the Waitaki Water Supply Bylaw 2022.
- (e) Hold suitable insurance for all obligations under this Agreement. This includes but is not limited to Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

Waitaki District Council and Corriedale Water Management Limited Agreement for the operation of the Corriedale water supplies (v1)

June 2025

5/10

4. Corriedale's obligations under the WSA

Corriedale will be responsible for the operation and management of the Corriedale Supplies and as such has shared legal responsibility as a Drinking Water Supplier under the WSA.

- 4.1 Corriedale will fulfil the duties of a Drinking Water Supplier under the WSA, including but not limited to:
- (a) Ensuring the drinking water in the Corriedale Supplies is safe in accordance with section 21 of the WSA; and
 - (b) Ensuring that the drinking water supplied by the Corriedale Supplies complies with the drinking water standards in accordance with section 22 of the WSA; and
 - (c) Registering, and renewing the registration of, the Corriedale Supplies in accordance with sections 23, 54, 55, and 56 of the WSA; and
 - (d) Ensuring that a sufficient quantity of water is available at each point of supply in accordance with section 25 of the WSA, and
 - (e) Ensuring that supply arrangements protect against the risk of backflow, in accordance with section 27 of the WSA and Council's Backflow Prevention Policy 2021; and
 - (f) Fulfilling all notification duties of the Drinking Water Supplier under the WSA, including those set out in sections 35 and 38 of the WSA; and
 - (g) Keeping and maintaining records in relation to the operation of the water supply, results of any water monitoring, and compliance with statutory requirements in accordance with section 37 of the WSA; and
 - (h) Establishing and maintaining a consumer complaints process and dealing with all complaints in accordance with the consumer complaints process, as required by section 38 of the WSA; and
 - (i) Preparing and implementing source water risk management plans in accordance with section 43 of the WSA; and
 - (j) Reporting the results of source water monitoring to Taumata Arowai in accordance with section 44 of the WSA, and
 - (k) Informing Council of any known risks or hazards to source water quality in accordance with section 45 of the WSA; and
 - (l) Preparing drinking water safety plans in relation to the Corriedale Supplies that fulfils the requirements of section 31 of the WSA; and
 - (m) Operate the Supplies in accordance with the drinking water safety plans; and
 - (n) Complying with any instructions or directions made by compliance officers in accordance with any provisions within subpart 2 of part 3 of the WSA; and
 - (o) Complying with any record keeping requirements set by Taumata Arowai in relation to environmental performance measures and targets in accordance with section 146 of the WSA; and
 - (p) Paying any infringement fees incurred for infringement offences, as defined in section 149 of the WSA; and

Waitaki District Council and Corriedale Water Management Limited Agreement for the operation of the Corriedale water supplies (v1)

June 2025

6/10

- (q) Complying with all regulations made under section 200 of the WSA, including the Water Services (Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand) Regulations 2022; and
- (r) If a drinking water emergency is declared by Taumata Arowai, informing all affected consumers about the emergency and any related exemptions from requirements of the WSA in accordance with sections 59 and 63 of the WSA.

5. Council's obligations under the WSA

Council will continue to have shared legal responsibility for the Corriedale Supplies as the Owner and Drinking Water Supplier under the WSA.

5.1 Council will:

- (a) Ensure that Corriedale is authorised to operate the supply in accordance with any relevant regulations, as required by section 68 of the WSA; and
- (b) Carry out sampling to ensure the drinking water supplied by the Corriedale Supplies complies with the drinking water standards in accordance with section 22 of the WSA; and
- (c) Carry out sampling of source water and report results to Corriedale in accordance with section 44 of the WSA; and
- (d) Ensure that all water sampling personnel hold the prescribed skills, qualifications, or experience required in accordance with section 70 of the WSA; and
- (e) Use accredited laboratories to analyse water in accordance with section 73 of the WSA; and
- (f) Contribute to Corriedale's development and implementation of drinking water safety plans and source water risk management plans, where required, in accordance with section 43 of the WSA; and
- (g) Lodge the drinking water safety plans with Taumata Arowai in accordance with section 30 of the WSA; and
- (h) If a drinking water emergency is declared by Taumata Arowai, support Corriedale to inform all affected consumers about the emergency and any related exemptions from requirements of the WSA in accordance with sections 59 and 63 of the WSA.

6. Reporting

6.1 Corriedale shall submit a quarterly report to Council detailing;

- (a) Compliance status of the Corriedale Supplies with the Drinking Water Standards;
- (b) Corriedale's performance against the mandatory Non-Financial Performance Measures;
- (c) Any health and safety issues, incidents, or near-misses;
- (d) Minutes of meetings held;
- (e) Any significant complaints;
- (f) Details of current and proposed projects (including funding source, procurement methodology, contractor engagement, and contractor performance);

Waitaki District Council and Corriedale Water Management Limited Agreement for the operation of the Corriedale water supplies (v1)

June 2025

7/10

- (g) Details of new connections and approved changes to allocation;
- (h) Responses provided to Corriedale Consumers in relation to water quantity and quality issues; and
- (i) Financial matters to support Council's obligations for financial reporting and long-term planning, specifically;
 - i. Cashflow forecasting; and
 - ii. Details on major cashflows; and
 - iii. Operational spend versus operational budgets.

7. Operational and Capital funding

7.1 Council shall:

- (a) Provide Corriedale the opportunity to submit proposed operational and capital budgets for consideration as part of Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan processes
- (b) Strike and collect Corriedale Water Rates from Corriedale Consumers based on operational and capital budgets approved by Council.
- (c) Fund the operational and capital expenditure on the Corriedale supplies from the Corriedale Water Rates
- (d) Provide Corriedale a quarterly report detailing income, expenditure and remaining account balances for each water supply.

7.2 Corriedale shall:

- (a) Seek approval from the Council officer with the appropriate financial delegation for any proposed operational or un-budgeted capital expenditure over \$50,000 prior to proceeding with the procurement.
- (b) Submit an invoice to Council each month for work completed the month prior. A breakdown of the work shall accompany the invoice. Council will review and process the payment by the 20th of the month in which the invoice was submitted.

8. Non-compliance with Statutory requirements

- 8.1 In the event of non-compliance with the WSA, Corriedale will inform Council of the nature of the non-compliance within a reasonable timeframe.
- 8.2 If the non-compliance is "significant" - being a situation where Taumata Arowai has been required to intervene and/or take enforcement action., Corriedale will inform Council immediately of the nature of the non-compliance.
- 8.3 If a non-compliance is significant or ongoing, Council will:
 - (a) Require Corriedale to provide Council with a plan for achieving compliance within a timeframe agreed between Council and Corriedale;
 - (b) Terminate this Agreement and assume responsibility for the operation and management of the Corriedale Supplies should the plan not be implemented within the agreed timeframe.

Waitaki District Council and Corriedale Water Management Limited Agreement for the operation of the Corriedale water supplies (v1)

June 2025

8/10

9. Dispute resolution

- 9.1 If a party has any dispute with the other party in connection with this Agreement:
 - (a) That party will promptly give full written particulars of the dispute to the other; and
 - (b) The parties will promptly meet together and in good faith try to resolve the dispute.
- 9.2 If the dispute is not resolved within 14 days of written particulars being given (or any longer period agreed to by the parties) the dispute will be referred to mediation.
- 9.3 A party must use the mediation procedure to resolve a dispute before commencing arbitration or legal proceedings.
- 9.4 The mediation procedure is:
 - (a) The parties will appoint a mediator and if they fail to agree the mediator will be appointed by the president of the New Zealand Law Society or the president's nominee;
 - (b) The parties must co-operate with the mediator in an effort to resolve the dispute;
 - (c) If the dispute is settled, the parties must sign a copy of the terms of the settlement;
 - (d) If the dispute is not resolved within 14 days after the mediator has been appointed, or within any extended time that the parties agree to in writing, the mediation must cease; and
 - (e) Each party must pay a half share of the costs of the mediation (including the mediator's fee, travel costs, venue hire and refreshments).
- 9.5 Either party may commence arbitration proceedings when mediation ceases under clause 9.4(d).
- 9.6 If the dispute is referred to arbitration:
 - (a) The arbitration will be conducted by one arbitrator appointed by the parties; and
 - (b) If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator within 14 days the appointment will be made by the president of the New Zealand Law Society or the president's nominee.

10. Termination

- 10.1 Should Corriedale wish to cease operating and managing the Corriedale Supplies, Corriedale may terminate this Agreement by giving at least three months' notice to the Council or a term agreed between the two parties.
- 10.2 On termination of this agreement:
 - (a) Corriedale will cease to operate and manage the Corriedale Supplies;
 - (b) Council must pay to Corriedale all outstanding amounts owing to Corriedale in relation to this Agreement; and
 - (c) Corriedale must provide to Council all records relating to the operation of the Corriedale Supplies, upon request.
- 10.3 Clause 9 continues to apply after termination of this agreement.

Waitaki District Council and Corriedale Water Management Limited Agreement for the operation of the Corriedale water supplies (v1)

June 2025

9/10

11. General

- 11.1 Each party to this Agreement shall do all things and execute all documents reasonably necessary or desirable to give full effect to the intent of this Agreement.
- 11.2 This Agreement records the entire arrangement between the parties relating to the matters dealt with in this Agreement and supersedes all previous arrangements, whether written, oral, or both, relating to such matters.
- 11.3 If any provision of this Agreement is or becomes invalid or unenforceable, that provision will be deemed deleted from this Agreement and such invalidity or unenforceability will not affect the other provisions of this Agreement, all of which will remain in full force and effect to the extent permitted by law, subject to any modifications made necessary by the deletion of the invalid or unenforceable provisions.
- 11.4 No variation or amendment to this Agreement is effective unless it is in writing and signed by all parties.
- 11.5 No party to this Agreement may transfer or assign any of its liabilities or rights under this Agreement to any other person without the other parties' prior written consent. A change in the Owner's effective ownership or control will be deemed to be an assignment for the purpose of this clause.
- 11.6 This Agreement may be executed in counterparts (which may include electronic copies) which, read together, will constitute one Agreement.

12. Commencement

- 12.1 This agreement commences on the date at which it is signed by both parties.

13. Expiry

This agreement expires on 30 June 2030 subject to any requirements regarding contract length specified in the Local Government (Water Services) Bill once enacted.

Execution

Signed by **X** in the presence of:

Signature of witness

Name of witness

Occupation

Address

Waitaki District Council and Corriedale Water Management Limited Agreement for the operation of the Corriedale water supplies (v1)

June 2025

10/10

Signed by **X** in the presence of:

Signature of witness

Name of witness

Occupation

Address

Signed for the **Waitaki District Council** by its
Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority
in the presence of:

Alex Parmley, Chief Executive Officer

Signature of witness

Name of witness

Occupation

Address

6.4 RATIFICATION OF COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON THE MATTER OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (SMALL STAND-ALONE DWELLINGS) AMENDMENT BILL

Author: Brent Cunningham, Building Services Manager

Authoriser: Joshua Rendall on behalf of Roger Cook, Director Natural and Built Environment

Attachments: 1. WDC-Submission on Small Stand-Alone Dwellings Amendment Bill
 

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Formally ratifies Waitaki District Council's submission on Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill.

DECISION OBJECTIVE

To retrospectively ratify Waitaki District Council's (WDC's) submission on Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill as submitted to the Committee Secretariat, Transport and Infrastructure Committee on 23 June 2025.

SUMMARY

The Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill aims to provide a mechanism to reduce the regulatory time and cost associated with the construction of small stand-alone dwellings (commonly referred to as granny flats) being built. It allows for granny flats to be constructed without a building consent and for Licensed Building Practitioners to self-certify works on granny flats.

Public submission on the Bill opened on 6 June 2025 and closed on 23 June 2025. A draft submission was circulated to the Mayor for approval and signing prior to submission. The final submission is attached to this report.

Waitaki District Council (WDC) did not support the Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill in its current form. Officers believe the Bill poses significant risks to building safety, public confidence and the ability of councils to effectively manage their responsibilities. Shifting regulatory oversight from Councils to homeowners and Licensed Building Practitioners without adequate safeguards, enforcement tools, or consumer protections creates long-term risks whilst increasing confusion around roles and responsibilities.

Concerns regarding limited liability protections for Councils, delayed collection of Development Contributions, vague definitions were raised within the submission. It was also noted that the Bill lacked adequate controls for high-risk sites and failed to address the cumulative impact of multiple building exemptions. The misalignment with the proposed National Environmental Standard for minor residential units added further complexity for applicants and Councils.

In its submission, WDC endorsed Taituarā's submission which highlighted many of these same concerns and offered practical solutions to improve the Bill.

DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS

Governance Decision-Making:

Formally ratify Waitaki District Council's submission on the Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill

Operational Decision-Making:	No further action is required by Council officers
Communications	Media Releases – contributed to by officers and Elected Members Media/public enquiries regarding operational decision-making topics above can be addressed by officers

SUMMARY OF DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA

	No/Moderate/Key		No/Moderate/Key
Policy/Plan	No	Environmental Considerations	Moderate
Legal	Moderate	Cultural Considerations	No
Significance	No	Social Considerations	Moderate
Financial Criteria	Moderate	Economic Considerations	No
Community Views	No	Community Board Views	No
Consultation	Key	Publicity and Communication	No

BACKGROUND

Under New Zealand’s Building Act 2004, **Schedule 1** lists specific types of building work that are exempt from the requirement to obtain a building consent. These exemptions generally apply to low-risk or minor works—such as small sheds, fences, or decks—where the potential for harm to people or property is minimal. The purpose of these exemptions is to reduce compliance costs and simplify the building process for straightforward projects.

The **Small Stand-Alone Dwellings Amendment Bill** builds on this framework by proposing a new exemption category under **Schedule 1A**, which would allow certain small, detached dwellings (up to 70m²) to be built without a building consent, provided they meet specific criteria and are constructed by or under the supervision of a Licensed Building Practitioner. This proposal stems from the current Government’s coalition agreement, which includes a commitment to reduce regulatory barriers to housing supply. While the intent is to streamline the process and support more affordable housing options, it has raised significant concerns from councils about the potential risks to public safety, regulatory consistency, and long-term compliance.

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Option 1 – Formally ratify Council’s submission on the Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill. **(Recommended)**

Option 2 – Do not formally ratify Council’s submission on the Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill.

ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION

A draft submission was circulated to the Mayor for approval and signing as submissions on the Bill were limited to 17 days (6 June -23 June).

The submission was sent to Transport and Infrastructure Committee on 23 June 2025 to meet the submission timeframes. Therefore, Option 1 is the only viable option.

CONCLUSION

The Waitaki District Council submission reflects strong concerns about the risks and operational impacts posed by the Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill in

its current form. The submission highlights key areas where the Bill undermines building quality, weakens accountability, and places undue burden on councils without sufficient protections or clarity.

By endorsing the Taituarā submission and providing targeted recommendations, WDC seeks to ensure that any legislative changes maintain public safety, uphold regulatory integrity, and protect the roles and responsibilities of territorial authorities. Ratification of this submission supports our commitment to responsible governance and the long-term wellbeing of our communities.

ADDITIONAL DECISION-MAKING CONSIDERATIONS

Waitaki District Council Strategic Framework

Outcomes

Community Outcomes

Prosperous District

- Attractive to new opportunities
- Supporting local businesses
- Fostering a diverse and resilient economy

Strong Communities

- Enabling safe, healthy communities
- Connected, inclusive communities
- Promoting a greater voice for Waitaki
- Celebrating our community identity

Quality Services

- Robust core infrastructure and services
- Community facilities and services we are proud of

Valued Environment

- Protecting our diverse landscapes and water bodies
- Meeting environmental and climate change challenges

Community Views

The submission was made to a public consultation process on an Amendment Bill. The general public also had an opportunity to submit in this process.

Financial Considerations

Within the Draft Amendment Bill as written, there is the potential for development contributions to go unpaid for the additional exempt dwelling connection. This would result in additional strain being placed on Council's Infrastructure without corresponding income stream to cover the cost of growth projects to cater for development related consumption.

Legal Considerations

The Draft Amendment Bill as written will likely increase compliance and follow up work for Council due to complex exemption criteria that the public will not understand or chose to ignore.

Environmental Considerations

There is a risk that buildings are constructed that do not comply with the building code and are unsafe, not durable and do not contribute to the health and wellbeing of the occupants.

23 June 2025



Committee Secretariat – Transport and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON
ti@parliament.govt.nz

Phone +64 3 433 0300

Web www.waitaki.govt.nz

Office 20 Thames Street
Private Bag 50058
Oamaru 9444
Waitaki District
New Zealand

To the Transport and Infrastructure Committee

Waitaki District Council submission in the matter of the Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill

Waitaki District Council (WDC) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill.

Background

The Waitaki district has a population of ~24,300 (2024) and covers a large land area (7,152 km²) reaching inland from the Waitaki River mouth, up the Waitaki River Valley, through Ōhau to the top of the Ahuriri River Valley, extending south to Ōamaru, and down the east coast beyond Palmerston to Flag Swamp. The Waitaki district is the only Council in the South Island working with two regional Councils - Environment Canterbury and Otago Regional Council.

Summary

In its current form, the Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill is fundamentally flawed. While it seeks to streamline housing delivery and reduce compliance burdens for low-risk dwellings, it does so by removing essential checks and balances that are critical to ensuring safe, durable, and code-compliant buildings. This approach significantly underestimates the complexity and long-term implications of enabling construction without a consent process.

The Bill effectively shifts responsibility for building performance and compliance away from regulated, accountable bodies (such as councils and building consent authorities) and places it entirely in the hands of homeowners and Licensed Building Practitioners (LBPs), without establishing meaningful oversight, enforcement tools, or consumer protections. This transfer of risk is not accompanied by adequate safeguards to ensure accountability, quality, or transparency in the construction process.

As a small-medium sized Territorial Authority (TA) we echo and strongly support the recommendations in the Taituarā submission, particularly those that safeguard the operational, legal, and infrastructure-related roles of territorial authorities.

Key WDC recommendation themes

- Expand liability protection for all TA involvement, not just advice
- Front-load financial contributions at PIM stage rather than completion
- Define technical terms clearly in legislation or regulations
- Maintain realistic processing timeframes and robust completion processes
- Strengthen site risk criteria and limit cumulative exemptions
- Align with other regulatory frameworks and educate the public on changed roles

Key submission points

Insufficient Liability Protection for Territorial Authorities

The current drafting of Clause 22 (new section 392A) provides limited civil immunity for territorial authorities, applying only to advice provided under section 35A. This falls short of the protection needed for the broader range of functions that TAs will be involved in—such as issuing Project Information Memorandums (PIMs), processing infrastructure connections, or managing incomplete documentation. In practice, TAs will inevitably be approached by property owners, purchasers, or affected neighbours when problems arise, regardless of the limited legislative role. Small to medium TAs do not have the legal resourcing to manage potential legal challenges resulting from activities over which they have no regulatory oversight or control.

Recommendation:

1. Amend Clause 22 to extend full civil liability protection to TAs and their officers for all aspects of involvement with non-consented small stand-alone dwellings, not limited to advice under section 35A, provided they are acting in good faith.

Development and Financial Contributions Payable Too Late in the Process

The Bill currently provides that development contributions (DCs) or financial contributions (FCs) are only payable upon completion of the dwelling. This approach introduces a significant risk that homeowners may delay declaring a project complete to avoid payment. Without the usual triggers like a Code Compliance Certificate, TAs have no visibility into whether or when construction has concluded. For councils, which must manage infrastructure cost recovery within constrained budgets, such ambiguity makes financial forecasting and compliance enforcement extremely difficult. Moreover, any delays in payment directly impact the funding of core services such as water, roading, and stormwater management.

Recommendation:

2. Amend Clause 12 so that DCs or FCs are invoiced and payable within twenty working days of the issuing of a PIM. This aligns with current best practice in some councils and ensures timely infrastructure funding.

Lack of Clarity Around Key Terms and Technical Definitions

The Bill references several critical terms—such as “simple design,” “net floor area,” and setback requirements—that are not defined in the Act or regulations. “Simple design” is particularly ambiguous, with no guidance on what is excluded (e.g., multi-level

elements, structural complexity). “Net floor area” lacks a standardised method of calculation, and the phrase “at least 2 metres away” is vague regarding where the measurement is taken from. These gaps will create inconsistency across councils, confusion for applicants, and legal uncertainty when disputes arise. TAs will bear a disproportionate burden in interpreting these terms without clear statutory backing or national guidance.

Recommendation:

3. Include explicit definitions for “simple design,” “net floor area,” and setback measurements in either the primary legislation or supporting regulations to reduce interpretation variability and mitigate risk.

Unjustified Compression of the PIM Timeframe

Clause 8 proposes reducing the statutory timeframe for issuing PIMs for small stand-alone dwellings from twenty working days to ten. This is problematic because these PIMs involve more complex assessments—such as development contributions, natural hazard mapping, and bylaw compliance—than standard residential projects. Imposing a shorter processing window will require councils to reprioritise workstreams, potentially delaying other projects. For medium-sized TAs with limited processing capacity, this change could cause backlogs, staff strain, and reduce the quality of regulatory review, undermining both efficiency and public confidence.

Recommendation:

4. Remove Clause 8 and retain the standard 20-working-day timeframe for all PIMs, ensuring a consistent and realistic processing standard across project types.

Completion Process is Vague and Lacks Enforcement Mechanisms

The Bill outlines a self-declared completion process in which the owner is responsible for providing documentation within twenty working days of completing building work. However, the Bill does not define “completion,” nor does it require an independent verification or inspection. TAs have no way of confirming whether a dwelling has been completed or abandoned, and there are no sanctions for non-compliance beyond a minor penalty. This places councils in a position where records may be incomplete, infrastructure payments may go uncollected, and potentially unsafe buildings may be occupied without oversight. For medium-sized councils, tracking these developments without formal closure processes is both administratively costly and legally risky.

Recommendations:

5. Amend Clause 15 to prohibit occupation until the required documentation is submitted. Shift the responsibility for submitting completion records to the Licensed Building Practitioner and require a prescribed form to confirm compliance.
6. Additionally, include a mandatory notice requirement if the owner decides not to proceed with the project.

Exemption Criteria Do Not Sufficiently Manage Building Site Risk

Currently, the only site-related exclusion from the exemption is if the land is subject to natural hazards. However, other key risk factors—such as unstable ground, high wind exposure, steep slopes, or complex engineering requirements—are not considered. Medium-sized TAs, which may oversee a broad range of terrain types, are particularly concerned that exempting dwellings from consent in technically demanding environments could result in unsafe, non-durable housing and reputational damage. This also echoes the systemic issues that led to previous building crises, including the leaky homes era.

Recommendation:

7. Expand Schedule 1A to exclude sites with challenging ground conditions, steep slopes, extra high or SED wind and snow zones, or dwellings requiring complex engineering unless supervised by a Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng). Set minimum and maximum eaves dimensions in line with weather-tightness best practice.

No Control Over Cumulative Impact of Combined Exemptions

The Bill does not address how multiple building exemptions—such as those already allowed under Schedule 1 (e.g., carports, verandas, decks)—can be combined with a small stand-alone dwelling. In effect, this allows the scale and impact of development to grow well beyond what was originally intended for an exempt dwelling. This risks overdevelopment, non-compliance with district plan rules, and unregulated intensification. For medium-sized TAs, managing such unmonitored intensification creates a burden on planning controls and increases the likelihood of conflict with neighbours and infrastructure capacity.

Recommendation:

8. Clarify in the Bill whether Schedule 1A exemptions can be used in conjunction with other Schedule 1 provisions. If permitted, require disclosure of all proposed exempt works at the PIM stage, and restrict their combination based on cumulative area, location, or complexity.

Lack of Alignment with the National Environmental Standard (NES) for Minor Residential Units

The Bill uses terminology and thresholds that do not align with the proposed NES for “Granny Flats” (minor residential units), which is currently undergoing consultation. Discrepancies include how floor area is calculated, how many units are allowed per site, and the relationship between primary and secondary dwellings. These inconsistencies will create confusion for both applicants and enforcement officers and risk undermining the planning system. For medium-sized TAs, this divergence complicates coordination between planning and building teams, especially in high-growth areas with increasing housing diversity.

Recommendation:

9. Ensure that the definitions and scope of small stand-alone dwellings in this Bill mirror those in the NES, including the one-unit-per-site rule, maximum floor area definitions, and required association with a principal dwelling.

Public Confusion Over the Role of TAs

Despite the Bill's intent to reduce the TA's involvement in the process, TAs will continue to be seen by the public as the first port of call when problems arise. This includes complaints about building quality, disputes over compliance, and requests for documentation in future property transactions. For medium-sized councils that are more directly engaged with their communities, this mismatch in expectations could erode public trust and place staff in a difficult position of having to "explain away" their limited role repeatedly. The confusion is particularly problematic for future purchasers, insurance providers, or real estate professionals seeking assurances on dwelling safety or legality.

Recommendation:

10. The Government should launch a comprehensive public education campaign to clarify the limited role of TAs under the new regime. This should include plain language materials for homeowners, builders, and real estate professionals explaining the responsibilities of Licensed Building Practitioners and the limits of council involvement.

WDC requests that the Select Committee addresses and/or carefully considers the matters raised within this submission.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Building and Construction (Small Stand-Alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill.

WDC does not wish to appear before the Transport and Infrastructure Committee to speak to its submission.

Yours sincerely



Mayor Gary Kircher
Mayor for Waitaki

Person for Contact: Brent Cunningham, Building Services Manager Waitaki District Council.

6.5 EXEMPT COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANSATIONS FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

Author: Amanda Nicholls, Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: Paul Hope, Director Support Services

Attachments: 1. Request from Omarama Airfield Ltd [↓](#) 

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Resolves to exempt the following entities from the Local Government Act 2002 requirements that relate to Council-Controlled Organisations:
 - a) Omarama Airfield Limited
 - b) Waitaki District Health Services Limited
 - c) Waitaki District Health Services Trust

DECISION OBJECTIVE

To grant an exemption by resolution of the Council, in line with section 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, that Omarama Airfield Limited, Waitaki District Health Services Limited, and Waitaki District Health Services Trust are no longer legislatively bound by the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 that relate to Council-Controlled Organisations.

SUMMARY

Council has received a request from the Board of Omarama Airfield Limited (OAL), to consider exempting the company from the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requirements. It is appropriate to consider exempting Waitaki District Health Services Limited (WDHSL) and Waitaki District Health Services Trust (WDHST), at the same time.

Providing the exemption would mean that the entities are no longer Council-Controlled Organisations (CCO) as defined by the LGA. Therefore, the CCO requirements set out in the LGA would no longer be applicable to the entities. This includes the legal requirements to prepare a Statement of Intent (SOI), an annual report, and to be audited.

This paper discusses the nature and scope of the activities provided by these entities, the consequences of providing an exemption including all costs and benefits, alternative reporting requirements that the Council could consider, and steps through the alternative legislative requirements as they relate to these entities.

Officers recommend exempting all three entities. The Council could still require the same level of reporting from each of the entities; it would just not be legislatively required. There are no additional costs to Council or the individual entities in exempting them. There will be benefits, largely in terms of savings in audit costs and the time and cost involved in completing any other reporting obligations that are no longer legally required from the entities.

An exemption must be granted by resolution of Council and be renewed every three years thereafter. An exemption can be revoked at any time.

DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS

Governance Decision-Making:

Resolution must be made by Council, to exempt a CCO from the LGA requirements.

	It will need to be renewed every three years thereafter. Council can revoke the resolution at any time.
Operational Decision-Making:	Council, as the shareholder of each of the entities, can request alternative reporting requirements at any time.
Communications	Media Releases – contributed to by officers and Elected Members Media/public enquiries regarding governance decision-making topics above can be addressed by governance Media/public enquiries regarding operational decision-making topics above can be addressed by officers

SUMMARY OF DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA

	No/Moderate/Key		No/Moderate/Key
Policy/Plan	No	Environmental Considerations	No
Legal	Key	Cultural Considerations	No
Significance	No	Social Considerations	No
Financial Criteria	No	Economic Considerations	No
Community Views	No	Community Board Views	No
Consultation	No	Publicity and Communication	No

BACKGROUND

Council has received a request from the Board of Omarama Airfield Limited (OAL), to consider exempting the company from the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requirements. It is appropriate to consider exempting Waitaki District Health Services Limited (WDHSL) and Waitaki District Health Services Trust (WDHST), at the same time.

Nature and scope of the entities:

- Omarama Airfield Limited (OAL)
 - 50% held joint venture with Omarama Soaring Centre Inc.
 - Formed in 1993 to develop and operate the Omarama Airfield. Council's primary objective for continued ownership is to maintain public access to the transport and recreational facilities of the airfield whilst encouraging the gliding activities which use the world class soaring environment of the Omarama area.
 - Small entity with revenue of less than \$100k p.a. and forecast to be loss making in FY26.
 - Does not provide a dividend to Council.
- Waitaki District Health Services Limited (WDHSL)
 - 100% held subsidiary.
 - Previously operated Oamaru Hospital until 1 July 2024. Now holds the hospital and related buildings which it receives lease income on.
 - Small entity with rental income of \$1.1m p.a. and a profit of circa \$400k.

- Does not provide a dividend to Council.
- Waitaki District Health Services Trust (WDHST)
 - 100% held subsidiary of WDHS Ltd
 - Exists to receive, hold, and provide funds for the charitable purpose of providing health services within the Waitaki District.
 - Small entity with limited income in recent years. Simply holds cash balances that earn interest.

Consequences of CCO exemption from the LGA:

If Council resolves to exempt the entities from the Local Government Act 2002 requirements, then the entities will not be legally obliged to comply with the sections listed below. However, as a shareholder of the entities, Council may choose to require any alternative obligations of their subsidiaries and joint venture.

The Local Government Act 2002 requirements that relate to Council Controlled Organisations are:

- Section 64 - Prepare and adopt a Statement of Intent
- Section 64A - Provide any additional plans required by the shareholder
- Section 64B - Act in accordance with the Statement of Expectations prepared by the shareholder
- Section 65 – Enable the Council to undertake performance monitoring
- Section 66 - Provide half-yearly or quarterly reports
- Section 67-68 - Prepare and adopt an annual report
- Section 69 - Annual report must include an auditor's report on the financial statements and performance information
- Section 70 - The Office of the Auditor-General is the auditor
- Section 71 - Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and Ombudsmen Act 1975 applies

Reasons to exempt a CCO from the LGA:

The Board of OAL has requested that Council exempt the entity from the LGA requirements, for the sole purpose of reducing their operating (audit) costs. The Board of WDHS and WDHST would appreciate the reduced reporting requirements, especially as they are looking to wind up the entity(s) shortly in line with Council's resolution last year.

All three entities would financially benefit from not being audited. It is a time-consuming administrative burden each year, and the annual audit costs are out of proportion to the income the entities receive. OAL's audit fee is \$17k in 2025. The WDHS group audit fee is \$96k in 2025 including disbursements and GST. The significant reduction in operating costs for these entities would be highly beneficial in the current financial climate, and the funds could be better used elsewhere.

Furthermore, WDHS did not have a Statement of Intent in place in the prior year and does not have one in place for the 2026 year currently. This breach of legislation is highlighted in their annual report each year. Also, WDHS and WDHST are currently managed internally by Council staff and are in the process of being wound up.

There are no costs or benefits to Council directly, in exempting the entities.

Alternative Council reporting requirements

All entities are comfortable providing any alternative reporting that the Council desires, including a Statement of Intent and annual report, if the Council so wishes. The Board of OAL, confirmed that all reporting arrangements could stay in place, with the exception of an annual audit requirement.

They have suggested that an audit or some form of external review could still take place every couple of years and/or use a less costly alternative to the Office of the Auditor-General's appointed auditor.

Annual financial statements will always need to be provided to Council for consolidation into the Council group annual report. None of the entities are considered "material" in terms of the Council group audit. Therefore, this decision would not impact on Council's annual reporting or audit requirements.

All entities will need to prepare audited financial statement for the 30 June 2025 year that has just finished. If this resolution is granted, they will not require an audit next year.

Alternative legislative reporting requirements

In terms of preparing an audited annual report, the exemption would mean that the entities are no longer CCOs as defined by the LGA. Therefore, the requirements of sections 67 to 70 (above) would no longer be legally enforceable.

As OAL and WDHSL are companies, the Companies Act 1993 would become the key legislation relevant to them. Consideration has been given to the Companies Act 1993 requirements around preparing financial statements and an audit as noted below:

- Section 201 – Financial statements must be prepared
- Section 202 – Group financial statements must be prepared
- Section 206 – Application of audit requirement
- Section 207 - Financial statements must be audited

As noted in Section 200 and 207 of the Companies Act 1993, the sections above do not apply to all companies. The sections would only be legally required if the entities meet the definition of a 'large company', or a 'company that is a public entity'.

A 'large company' is interpreted in the Companies Act 1993 as a company that is large under section 45 of the Financial Reporting Act 2013. Defined as:

45 Meaning of large

- (1) For the purposes of an enactment that refers to this section, an entity (other than an overseas company or a subsidiary of an overseas company) is **large** in respect of an accounting period if at least 1 of the following paragraphs applies:
 - (a) as at the balance date of each of the 2 preceding accounting periods, the total assets of the entity and its subsidiaries (if any) exceed \$66 million;
 - (b) in each of the 2 preceding accounting periods, the total revenue of the entity and its subsidiaries (if any) exceeds \$33 million.

OAL and WDHSL do not meet this definition of a 'large company'.

Audit New Zealand has confirmed that if Council exempts the entities from the LGA requirements then they are no longer deemed to be 'public entities'. It is only the fact that they are currently CCOs under the LGA, that they are captured as 'public entities' under the Public Audit Act and Companies Office Act requirements.

Therefore, the only legal requirements that would remain for any of the entities to prepare audited financial statements would then come from their key founding documents (Constitution, Trust Deed).

If the Council exempted them from the LGA, then, if necessary, these documents could be amended regarding any financial reporting or audit requirements. For example, WDHST's Trust Deed already states "the trust shall keep true and fair accounts of all money received and expended", and "as soon as practicable after the end of every financial year" have the accounts "reviewed by an accountant".

LGA CCO exemption process

In terms of the process to exempt an organisation from the LGA, section 7(3) to 7(7) below applies. Each of these points are considered within this report.

7 Exempted organisations

- (1) The Governor-General may, by Order in Council made on the recommendation of the Minister, exempt an organisation for the purposes of [section 6\(4\)\(i\)](#).
- (2) The Minister may make a recommendation only if—
 - (a) the organisation is subject to monitoring and reporting requirements under an enactment; and
 - (b) in the Minister's opinion, the organisation's accountability under that enactment is of a similar nature and effect to that required of a council-controlled organisation under this Act.
- (3) A local authority may, after having taken account of the matters specified in subsection (5), exempt a small organisation that is not a council-controlled trading organisation, for the purposes of [section 6\(4\)\(i\)](#).
- (4) An exemption must be granted by resolution of the local authority.
- (5) The matters are—
 - (a) the nature and scope of the activities provided by the organisation; and
 - (b) the costs and benefits, if an exemption is granted, to the local authority, the council-controlled organisation, and the community.
- (6) A local authority must review an exemption it has granted—
 - (a) within 3 years after it is granted; and
 - (b) after the first review, not more than 3 years following the last review under this section.
- (7) A local authority may, at any time, revoke an exemption it has granted.
- (8) An order under this section is secondary legislation (*see* [Part 3](#) of the Legislation Act 2019 for publication requirements).

Note: Section 6(4)(i) outlines the meaning of a CCO. Each of the entities are CCO's and are not Council Controlled Trading Organisations.

An exemption must be granted by resolution of Council and be renewed every three years thereafter. An exemption can be revoked at any time.

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Option 1 – Exempt OAL, WDHSL and WDHST from the Local Government Act 2002 requirements that relate to Council-Controlled Organisations and require the entities to provide annual financial and performance reporting to Council as its shareholder. **[PREFERRED OPTION]**

Option 2 – As above for option 1, but only for one or two of the entities listed, not all three

Option 3 – As above for option 1, but suggest alternative reporting requirements

ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION

Option 1, exempt each of OAL, WDHSL and WDHST from the Local Government Act 2002 requirements that relate to Council-Controlled Organisations and require the entities to provide annual financial and performance reporting to Council as its shareholder, would allow each of the entities to save time and money in completing the annual audit requirement and other reporting obligations.

As shareholder, Council could require any further reporting it so wishes, therefore, it could still achieve the same benefits it receives now. It could still require the entities to have their annual reports reviewed by an auditor or independent reviewer annually or less regularly, but as it would not be captured by the LGA requirements, the auditor/reviewer would not need to be appointed by the Office of the Auditor-General so would come at a much lower cost.

This resolution would need to be reviewed every three years, and Council can revoke the resolution at any time it wishes.

CONCLUSION

Providing the exemption would mean that OAL, WDHSL and WDHST are no longer Council-Controlled Organisations (CCO) as defined by the LGA. Therefore, the CCO requirements set out in the LGA would no longer be applicable to the entities. This includes the legal requirements to prepare a Statement of Intent (SOI), an annual report, and to be audited.

As shareholder, the Council could still require the same level of reporting from each of the entities; it would just not be legislatively required. There are no additional costs to Council or the individual entities in exempting them. There will be benefits, largely in terms of saving time and money in completing the annual audit requirement and other reporting obligations that are no longer legislatively required from the entities.

ADDITIONAL DECISION-MAKING CONSIDERATIONS

Waitaki District Council Strategic Framework

Outcomes

Community Outcomes

Prosperous District

- Attractive to new opportunities
- Supporting local businesses
- Fostering a diverse and resilient economy

Strong Communities

- Enabling safe, healthy communities
- Connected, inclusive communities
- Promoting a greater voice for Waitaki
- Celebrating our community identity

Quality Services

- Robust core infrastructure and services
- Community facilities and services we are proud of

Valued Environment

- Protecting our diverse landscapes and water bodies
- Meeting environmental and climate change challenges

Legal Considerations

Resolution must be made by Council, to exempt a CCO from the LGA requirements.

It will need to be renewed every three years thereafter. Council can revoke the resolution at any time.

Amanda Nicholls

From: Clive Geddes <clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 10:49 am
To: Amanda Nicholls
Cc: Terry Jones; Richard Subtil; Simon Williamson
Subject: Re: Omarama Airfield Ltd - CCO status



Morning Amanda,

Thanks for this background. Some time ago the board considered a shareholding change but decided that having a more complex structure was not worth the benefit of lower audit fees.

Our understanding of the current status of the company is :

1. Omarama Airfield Limited (OAL) is defined as a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) by LGA 2002 because the Council hold 50% of the shares.
2. As a CCO it is required to be audited by the Office of Auditor General (OAG) or their agent.
3. OAG have appointed Nexia Christchurch as their agent and have agreed with them, without consulting us, audit fees of \$14,455 for 2024 and \$16,732 for 2025.
4. We made a case to OAG that these fees and the audit requirements were excessive for such a small CCO but they did not agree.
5. OAL is not able to change auditor.

From LGA 2002 we understand that :

1. Using the provisions of Section 7 Exempted organisations (Pg 35) WDC can resolve that OAL is not a CCO because it is not a Council Controlled Trading Organisation.
2. Having done that WDC can require a reporting regime and OAL have suggested that with the exception of audit that would remain as currently in place.
3. In addition OAL have suggested that an audit be undertaken every two or three years.
4. WDC have the ability to revoke the exemption at any time.

We would appreciate council considering the exemption of OAL from its CCO status to enable the company to re allocate the significant audit fees to more productive areas of expenditure. Happy to meet, on line, or in person if that is useful in progressing this request.

Regards
Clive Geddes

Omarama Airfield Limited
clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz
+64 27 229 4860
Skype : clivegeddes

On 29/05/2025, at 1:54 PM, Amanda Nicholls <anicholls@waitaki.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Clive

Council could resolve to exempt OAL from the Local Government Act. This would mean that OAL would not need to complete the reporting requirements for CCOs as set out in the Local Government Act.

However, as it is a public entity, it will still need to prepare an annual report and require some form of audit.

I understood that OAL is no longer audited by a firm appointed by the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG)? Previously, it was audited by Audit NZ and as such there were additional audit procedures / it was audited in line with the OAGs standards. But now, it can be audited by any auditor, not necessarily one appointed by the OAG? Do they complete the additional OAG audit requirements?

If the auditor doesn't need to be appointed by the OAG, then is it possible that you could find a cheaper auditor? Is there anything the company can do to reduce the current audit cost?

I just worry that exempting it may not achieve the purpose to reduce audit fees.

The other option to consider is the Council shareholding... if the ownership structure was reduced so that Council holds less than 50% of the voting rights and Council does not have the right to appoint 50% or more of the voting rights, then it wouldn't be classified as a CCO nor be a public entity. This is probably a bit left-field and I am not sure if anyone at OAL or WDC has the appetite for this, but it is a way to reduce your reporting requirements, specifically the audit cost.

Cheers
Amanda

Amanda Nicholls
Chief Financial Officer

Waitaki District Council
+64 3 433 0300 | anicholls@waitaki.govt.nz
20 Thames Street | Private Bag 50058
Ōamaru 9444 | New Zealand
www.waitaki.govt.nz



The information transmitted, including attachments, is intended only for the person(s) or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error please contact the sender and destroy any copies of this information.

From: Clive Geddes <clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 1:29 pm
To: Amanda Nicholls <anicholls@waitaki.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Omarama Airfield Ltd - CCO status

Afternoon Amanda,
An update on this would be appreciated

Thanks and regards
Clive

Omarama Airfield Limited
clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz
+64 27 229 4860
Skype : clivegeddes

Begin forwarded message:

From: Clive Geddes <clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz>
Subject: Omarama Airfield Ltd - CCO status
Date: 19 May 2025 at 2:30:16 PM NZST
To: Amanda Nicholls <anicholls@waitaki.govt.nz>

Afternoon Amanda,
Some time ago we asked if council could use the LGA 2002 Sec 7 Exempted organisation (Pg35) provisions to exempt Omarama Airfield Limited from its CCO status so that the extremely onerous (\$16K this year) audit cost could be avoided. The current reporting requirements would be retained with a lighter audit regime.
The advice from Gary Kircher is as follows:

Feedback from officers is that under the current legislation, the system you already have is the lowest extent to what the legislation allows. The only way to get the cost lower, would be to find an acceptable firm or person with audit accreditation, to carry out the audit on a full- or part-pro bono basis. Do you or the other directors know of someone suitable who could be approached?

In a following telecon Gary suggested you would be the appropriate person to discuss this matter with.

I would like to discuss this matter with you and would appreciate a call from you whenever it is convenient for you to do so.
Thanks and regards
Clive

Omarama Airfield Limited
clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz
+64 27 229 4860
Skype : clivegeddes

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by **Mimecast Ltd.**, an innovator in Software as a Service (SaaS) for business. Providing a **safer** and **more useful** place for your human generated data. Specializing in; Security, archiving and compliance. To find out more [Click Here](#).

6.6 RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE WITH WAITAKI DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES LTD AS A CCO UNTIL A COMPLAINT IS RESOLVED

Author: Simon Neale, Waitaki District Health Services Ltd Independent Chair

Authoriser: Paul Hope, Director Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Resolves to extend the timeframes of the resolution to wind up Waitaki District Health Services Ltd by 30 June 2025 and continue with WDHSL as a stripped-out council controlled organisation until the outstanding complaint is resolved with the Health and Disability Commissioner.

DECISION OBJECTIVE

For Council to formally endorse the recommendation above.

SUMMARY

In a previous resolution the Council resolved to wind up WDHSL by 30 June 2005.

Since that resolution was passed WDHSL have received a complaint from the Health and Disability Commissioner regarding the treatment of a patient in 2023. This impacts the ability for WDHSL to wind up while a complaint is live.

At the WDHSL Board meeting on June 19th external Legal Counsel recommended that Council retain WDHSL as an entity until the complaint is resolved. However, to simplify the accounting treatment and governance of WDHSL's property management obligations, it was advised to reduce WDHSL's asset book and management function, along with everything associated with it, to the bare minimum.

BACKGROUND

With WDHSL effectively being solely a property management company since Te Whatu Ora took over operation of the hospital in 2024, there is little benefit and significant cost in retaining it as a CCO. Winding up WDHSL and gifting the assets to WDC while retaining profits separately in some form of charitable trust or committee was previously approved by the council.

However, since that resolution WDHSL have received a complaint from the Health and Disability Commissioner regarding the treatment of a patient in 2023. This impacts the ability of WDHSL to wind up while a complaint is live.

While we could still attempt to do this, as part of winding up a CCO public notification must be given and a period of 20 business days allowed for opposing appeals to be lodged. WDHSL have received external legal advice that with a live H&DC complaint against it, it is highly likely that such an appeal would be lodged, and the dissolution denied.

At the June 19th WDHSL Board meeting, external legal advisors recommended WDC retain WDHSL as an entity until the complaint is resolved. However, to simplify the accounting treatment and governance of WDHSL's property management obligations, it was advised to reduce WDHSL's asset book and management function, along with everything associated with it, to the bare minimum until the H&DC complaint was resolved.

In principle the board collectively endorsed the recommendation and agreed to present it to WDC as the Shareholder at its July 29th Council meeting.

At the same WDHSL June 19th Board meeting the Chair also recommended Sarah Eglington (external legal Counsel) draft communication to the Health and Disability Commissioner to test whether there is any ability to continue winding up WDHSL while the complaint remained live due to WDHSL being a significantly different business than it was in 2023. It also now has no ability to implement any operational or policy recommendations that may be issued as a result of the complaint. It was agreed by all Board members for Sarah to draft the letter.

Should this request be successful WDHSL would come back to the Council seeking resolution to dissolve WDHSL as practically as possible (as per the original June 2025 resolution).

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Option 1 – continue with WDHSL as a stripped out CCO until the matter is resolved with the H&D Commissioner (preferred)

Option 2 – continue with WDHSL as it is currently structured as a CCO until the matter is resolved with the H&D Commissioner

Option 3 – wind up WDHSL as soon as possible after original 30 June 2005 deadline

ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION

Option 1 is the preferred option as it the most cost and resource effective solution until the H&DC complaint is settled. Option 2 would continue to incur unnecessary cost and oversight for WDC and also make consolidated accounting at the end of the financial year more complicated than needed. Option 3 as discussed above is unlikely to be allowed due to the public notification requirement as part of a CCO dissolution.

CONCLUSION

Request that Council resolve to extend the timeframes of their last resolution (to wind up WDHS by 30 June 2025) and approve to continue with WDHSL as a stripped out CCO until the matter is resolved with the H&D Commissioner.

7 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
8.1 - Asset Sales - LTP 2025/34	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
8.2 - Recommendations from the Development Contributions Subcommittee PE	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
8.3 - Public Excluded minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

8 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION

9 RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resumes in open meeting and decisions made in public excluded session are confirmed and made public as and when required and considered.

10 RELEASE OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED INFORMATION

11 MEETING CLOSE