



# Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

*TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI*

**I hereby give notice that the  
Roothing Sub-Committee Meeting  
will be held on:**

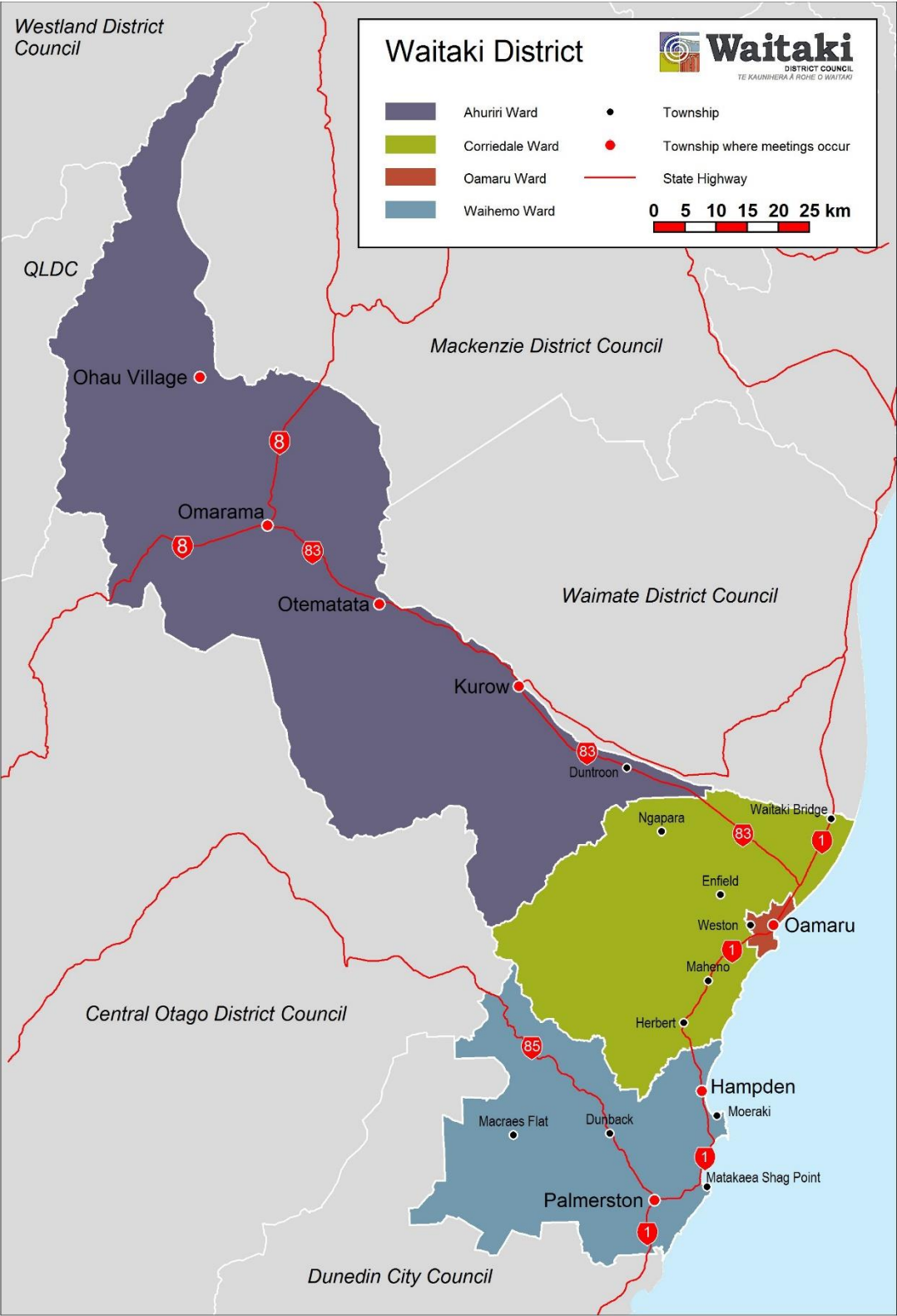
**Date:** Tuesday, 11 February 2025  
**Time:** 9:00 am  
**Location:** Council Chamber, Third Floor  
Waitaki District Council Headquarters  
20 Thames Street, Oamaru

## Agenda

### **Roothing Sub-Committee Meeting**

**11 February 2025**

**Alex Parmley  
Chief Executive**





**Agenda Items**

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- 1      APOLOGIES**
- 2      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **3 DECISION REPORTS**

#### **3.1 LOWER THAMES STREET TRIAL**

**Author:** Cyndi Christensen, Placemaking Lead

**Authoriser:** Alex Parmley, Chief Executive

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Roading Sub-Committee recommends:

That Council:

1. Approves the Thames Street Trial Road for February and March 2025.
2. Note that the project will be managed by Councill Officers in terms of Council's delegations

#### **DECISION OBJECTIVE**

Approval of the Thames St Trial road layout, including traffic management designed by JR Civil, traffic management consultant to run for 6 weeks. The trial will be evaluated to determine future opportunities for Thames Street.

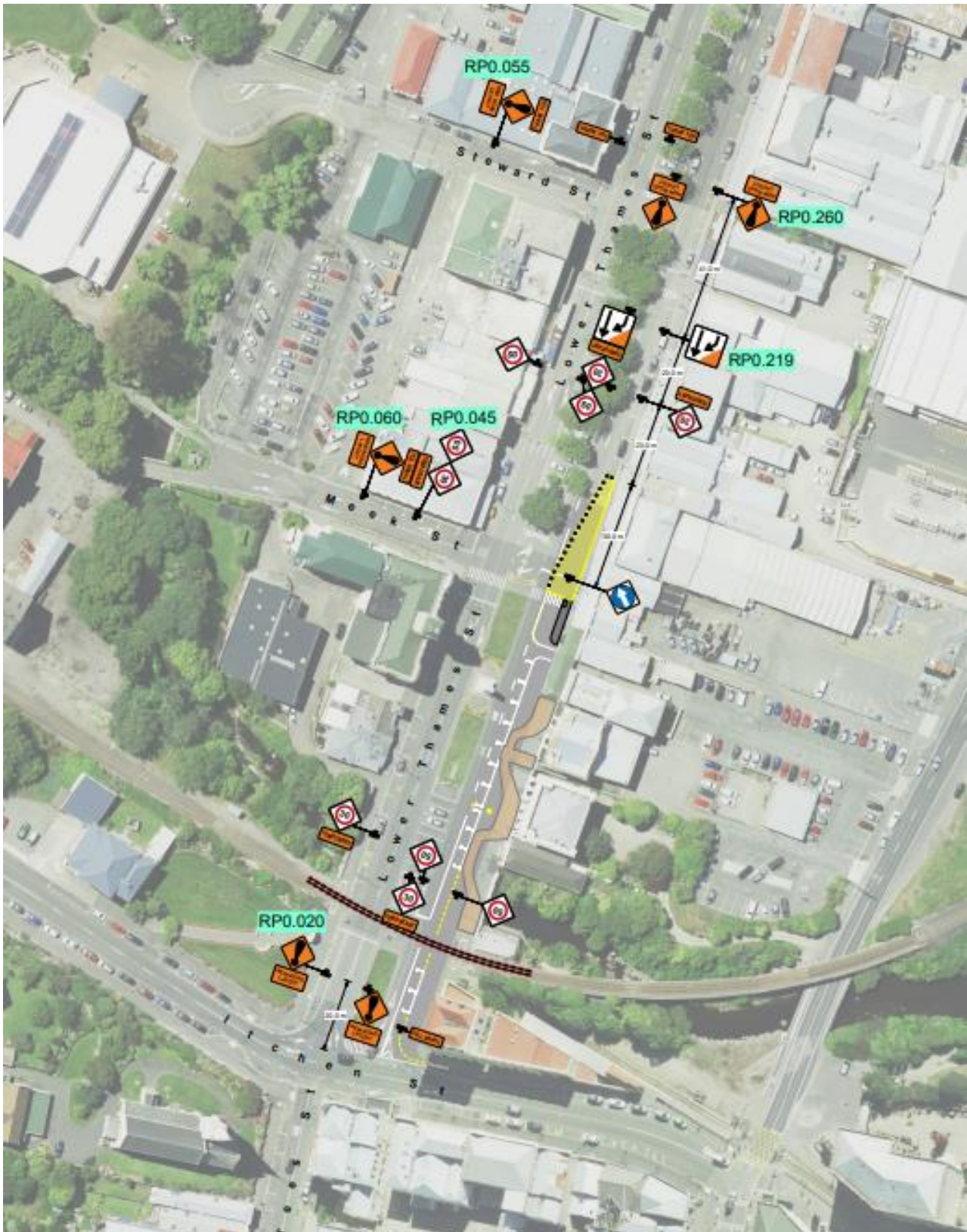
#### **SUMMARY**

The Thames Street Trial will focus on trialling a new road layout. It will repurpose one traffic lane for community use while retaining the existing parking and traffic movements. The footpath will be extended to optimise space for people as an adaptive community space on Thames Street. The emphasis for the project site will be on how space can be repurposed for community and business use, without negative effect to the operational efficiency of Thames St. This will revitalise the area attracting community and visitors and will provide opportunities for economic growth.

The pilot will run for 6 weeks, with continual monitoring to gather learnings from the community. Evaluation of feedback and analysis of data will assist in identification of next steps.

If the trial is successful, the matter will come back to the Council for a decision on whether permanent stopping should be progressed. This would involve formal consultation with the community in accordance with the Local Government Act.





Lower Thames St Road Layout Trial – JR Civil Traffic Management Solutions

Vehicle counts have been identified as 5,500 having vehicles travelling on Thames St each day (total of both directions). Managing traffic flow and pedestrian safety are a key priority. Street marking and traffic management will provide safety for pedestrians and vehicles. Equally important is to not negatively impact the Thames Street businesses.

## DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS

Governance Decision-Making:	Approval of Thames Street trial
Operational Decision-Making:	Implementation of the revised traffic layout and adjustments where required throughout the trial
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	No
Legal	Moderate	Cultural Considerations	Moderate
Significance	No	Social Considerations	Key
Financial Criteria	Moderate	Economic Considerations	Key
Community Views	Key	Community Board Views	Key
Consultation	Key	Publicity and Communication	Key

## BACKGROUND

The Uplifting Waitaki: Hāpaitia te Waitaki Economic Development strategy was adopted by Council in September 2022. Developing Ōamaru's Central Business District (CBD) is a key desired outcome identified to support a thriving downtown augmented by additional business and residential tenants. Central Ōamaru Masterplan adopted by Council in September 2024, highlights Thames Street Regeneration Pilot as a catalyst project. This trial is a smaller scale intervention to improve amenity and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

Since the 1980's, this space has been considered as a possible site to trial a change of the two-lane road layout. This trial assessed four sites along Thames Street between Itchen Street and Coquet Street as possible streetscaping pilot concepts to determine suitability.

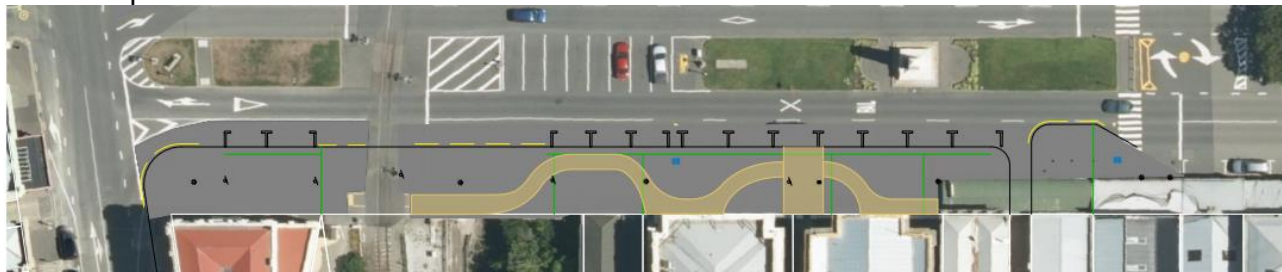
The revitalisation of Ōamaru CBD provides an opportunity to trial different ways of using our main street to attract more people to live, work and play. The community-led project team has envisioned a portion of Thames Street vehicle space (road) as a social space. The trial will showcase a layout and temporary infrastructure that will bring a sense of community and place to dwell for all our locals and visitors. Repurposing these spaces should be perceived as assets that benefit to businesses as well as support the wellbeing of the community.

The location for this trial is lower Thames Street. The trial will run for 6 weeks from Mid-February until the end of March 2025. It includes an extension of footpaths from Taste Café to the Thames Street intersection with Itchen Street. Public seating, astroturf, and timber planters will define the space while providing a separation from vehicle traffic. Scheduled activities will be used to attract



people to use this space. The trial will invite people visiting the site to provide feedback of their experience.

The main project site lies from Itchen St to Meek St, with partner businesses from Taste Café, Forrester Gallery, Victoria Lounge and The Vault. This plan view shows the road layout. One lane will remain open to maintain traffic movements. This trial will identify whether the single lane successfully enables traffic movement and maintaining sufficient parking while developing opportunities for multiple-use spaces. The project team have gathered design ideas that will activate the new spaces.



The people friendly spaces have been co-designed with those businesses in the trial area. Over the last six months the project team have worked on the collected design concepts to activate this part of Thames Street. The community will have opportunity to have input on the space and uses of the space throughout the trial period.

Design elements include:

- Planter boxes
- Seating
- Play elements
- Surface materials

## **SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**Option 1** – Agree to endorse Thames Street Trial Road layout as designed by JR Civil

**Option 2** – Agree to endorse with amendments to Thames Street Trial Road layout as designed by JR Civil

**Option 3** – Decline Thames Street Trial as presented.

## **ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION**

The Thames Street Trial road layout has been evaluated by JR Civil, traffic management consultant. The proposed layout balances safety requirements for all users. It provides minimal impacts for street parking while offering more amenities in the public space with minimal impact on street parking. Safety is the priority for all the users of the space. Continual monitoring of the site will ensure the ability to pivot to ensure continued safety due to effects of inattention or distraction of users in the space.

The trial presents an opportunity to activate the space and bring community and visitors to Lower Thames Street. Increased footfall will benefit retail businesses as people spend more time in the area.

## **CONCLUSION**

This space will allow the community to experience what a people-friendly street feels like and understand how it benefits the CBD and provide real-time feedback on the space while in the space.

## **ADDITIONAL DECISION-MAKING CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Waitaki District Council Strategic Framework**

An objective key result (OKR) in delivering a prosperous district is to develop and enable a thriving district economy, characterised by sustained and inclusive growth.

### **Outcomes**

Revitalising the Ōamaru CBD for the community good (people), and businesses is an outcome of the Central Ōamaru Masterplan. Trialling changes to Lower Thames Street is one of the catalyst projects from the masterplan.

Key messaging for the trial will include:

- Support changing face of retail and how people use the spaces and streets
- Increased desire to be in public spaces in CBD
- Better CBD amenities in public realm
- People spaces that are used and are adaptable
- Equitable access and accessibility
- Improvements for all pedestrians, enhances connectivity
- Place for community to dwell, spend time, meet people, enable the enjoyment of the architecture along Thames Street.
- Be considerate of heritage
- No reduction in overall car parks
- The ability to park, drive or walk will not be restricted, only altered

In previous years activities such as the annual tree trimming and installing the Christmas tree, have restricted the traffic lanes on Thames St. These activities have not created major disruption to everyday movements of cars and people in the CBD. This trial will expand on this to show how the community can grow without loss of what we hold as important.

### **Community Outcomes**

The project team's desired outcomes include an increase in people using the CBD area and increasing their dwell times in the CBD area. This catalyst project targets increasing people in shops and cafes and may lead to a business confidence that reduces vacant retail spaces.

### **Policy and Plan Considerations**

Uplifting Waitaki: Hāpaitia te Waitaki Economic Development strategy  
Central Ōamaru Masterplan

### **Community Views**

This is a community-led partnership with Council involving Signiant engagement with community and businesses.

### **Financial Considerations**

Budget \$60K from Better of Funding for Ōamaru CBD

### **Publicity and Community Considerations**

Community-led revitalisation projects designed by the community for the community to enhance and renew physical aspects of the CBD that attract more people, businesses and development. Build on the sense of pride within the community.

Central Ōamaru Masterplan catalyst projects, trials and pilots. New ways of working with the community and learning from the pilots and trials to ensure best options for long term changes.

Key messaging for the trial will include:

- Support changing face of retail and how people use the spaces and streets, enhance existing amenities and offers improvements for all pedestrians, enhances connectivity
- People spaces that are used and are adaptable with equitable access and accessibility
- Be considerate of heritage
- No reduction in overall car parks with the ability to park, drive or walk will not be restricted, only altered

#### **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

**4      MEETING CLOSE**