



# Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

*TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI*

**I hereby give notice that the  
Ahuriri Community Board Meeting  
will be held on:**

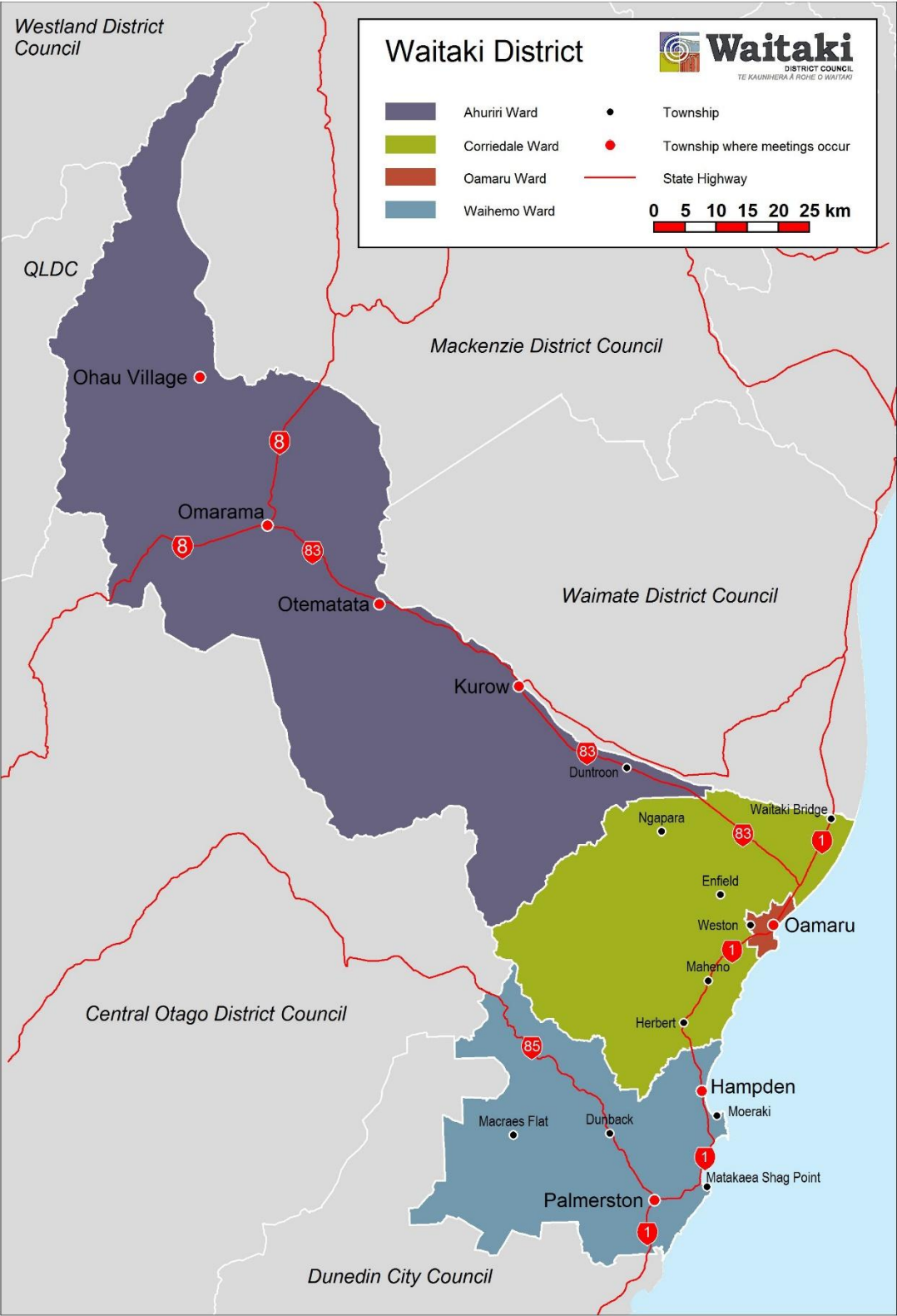
**Date: Tuesday, 1 July 2025**  
**Time: 2:00 pm**  
**Location: Duntroon Community Hall, Duntroon**

## **Agenda**

### **Ahuriri Community Board Meeting**

### **1 July 2025**

**Alex Parmley**  
**Chief Executive**





## 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 Ahuriri Community Board Meeting held on 12 May 2025 .....	6
1	Apologies .....	7
2	Declarations of Interest .....	7
3	Public Forum.....	7
5	Decision Reports .....	11
	5.1 Ohau Planting Plan .....	11
	5.2 Paddy's Flat Maintenance .....	28
6	Memorandum Reports.....	32
	6.1 Financial Report to Ahuriri Community Board (July 2025) .....	32
	6.2 Member Reports .....	37
	6.3 Building Consents issued in the Ahuriri Ward during April and May 2025.....	38
	6.4 Council Information Report - Links to Council Meeting Agenda Papers.....	40
7	Meeting Close .....	80



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

**4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**4.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE AHURIRI COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2025**

**Author:** Arlene Goss, Governance Services Lead

**Authoriser:**

**Attachments:** 1. Public minutes of the Ahuriri Community Board Meeting held on 12 May 2025

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the the Ahuriri Community Board confirms the Public minutes of the Ahuriri Community Board Meeting held on 12 May 2025, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CONFIRMED MINUTES**

**OF THE AHURIRI COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD IN THE OMARAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE, 35 CHAIN HILLS HIGHWAY, OMARAMA  
ON MONDAY, 12 MAY 2025 AT 2:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Member Alan Pont, Member Mike King, Member Calum Reid, Member Steve Dalley, Member Karen Turner

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Gary Kircher  
Paul Hope ( Support Service)  
Shannon Barlow (Executive Assistant; minute-taker)

**IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:**

Melanie Jones (Community & Economic Development Manager)  
Sonia Martinez (Strategic Communications & Engagement Manager)

**MEETING OPEN**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 2:00PM and welcomed everyone present.

**1 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED ACB 2025/008**

Moved: Member Calum Reid  
Seconded: Member Alan Pont

That the apology received from Cr Brent Cowles be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 PUBLIC FORUM**

Michelle Kitchen, Chairperson of the Ōmārama Residents' Association, along with Lindsay Purvis and Maurice Cowie, spoke to the Board about the allocation of Better Off funding for the resealing of the Ōmārama Community Hall carpark. The current state of the carpark does not meet the community's needs. The Ōmārama Residents' Association has discussed this with the Chair, Calum Reid, Board Member Mike King and Director, Support Services, Paul Hope. There has been two quotes received. The Association has allocated funds to the project, and the remaining funds required will meet the Better Off funding criteria and can be completed within the timeline.

The Board Chair inquired about the next steps for getting the project signed off. Community & Economic Development Manager, Melanie Jones, advised that the Council is very supportive of this opportunity, considering it a good use of the remaining Better Off funds. She noted that further internal discussions are necessary. It was confirmed that the project can be signed off within two months' time and that the Better Off funds do not expire at the end of June. Melanie Jones will confirm this information to the Community Board through an email.

**4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**4.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE AHURIRI COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2025**

**RESOLVED ACB 2025/009**

Moved: Member Steve Dalley

Seconded: Member Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board confirms the Public minutes of the Ahuriri Community Board Meeting held on 10 March 2025, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CARRIED**

**5 MEMORANDUM REPORTS**

**5.1 BUILDING CONSENTS ISSUED IN THE AHURIRI WARD DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2025**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board members with a list of building consents issued in the Ahuriri Ward during February and March 2025.

The decision on the report change has not yet been made. An email will be sent to the Board requesting feedback on their requirements and preferences for future reporting.

**RESOLVED ACB 2025/010**

Moved: Mr Alan Pont

Seconded: Mrs Karen Turner

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

**5.2 COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS AND WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to convey reports from the Ahuriri Community Board Members and the Ahuriri Ward Councillor for the information of communities throughout the Waihemo Ward.

The Board members acknowledged their reports as read.

**RESOLVED ACB 2025/011**

Moved: Mr Mike King

Seconded: Mr Steve Dalley

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

### **5.3 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to share the Chairperson's report with Board members and the public.

Discussed Paddies Flat Flooding with an Officer and provided an ECAN report on required mediation. Has engaged in a productive discussion with Director, Community Engagement & Experience, Lisa Baillie and the Locality Team and the Board members were given a process for contacting Council officers. Represented the Board at the Kurow and Ōmārama ANZAC Day services, and attended the Duntroon service and two smaller services in the Waitaki Valley. All services were well attended.

#### **RESOLVED ACB 2025/012**

Moved: Mr Calum Reid

Seconded: Mr Mike King

That the Ahuriri Community board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

### **5.4 COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT - LINKS TO COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PAPERS**

The purpose of this report is to provide links to final agenda papers and any related attachments for recent Council Meetings and events, along with the Chief Executive's summary of discussions at Council Meetings (where available), for the information of Community Board members and their Ward communities.

#### Update from Mayor Kircher

Attended the presentation by Warren Ulesele and Paul Barker outlined the series of reforms that will significantly reshape local government's landscape in New Zealand. The Long-Term Plan (LTP) is currently out for consultation. The LTP will be agreed upon and finalised at the Council meeting on 27 May, with adoption and rate setting scheduled for late June. The District Plan was notified in March, and submissions are due to close Friday, the 16 May. There have been some issues with the mapping technology, but these are currently being addressed. The Water Services Delivery Plan must be submitted by September. The Mayor outlined four options, with the preferred being the Southern group with a joint Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO).

#### **RESOLVED ACB 2025/013**

Moved: Mr Steve Dalley

Seconded: Mr Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

### **5.5 FINANCIAL REPORT TO AHURIRI COMMUNITY BOARD (MARCH 2025)**

Director, Support Services, Paul Hope spoke to the report. Advised the standardised water schemes are in progress. For Bushy Creek, acceptable solutions are still expected. The Ohau project has been completed, marking a positive step, with the budget for next year brought forward to this year to facilitate progress. Work on other schemes and drinking water is progressing, although at a slower pace. All funds are in positive balances, including those for the halls.

Regarding financial delegations, a workshop is proposed for one of the next two meetings to discuss this matter. The Chair will send an email to Paul Hope to organise. It was confirmed that if an item is in the report, the Board has control over it.

**RESOLVED ACB 2025/014**

Moved: Mr Mike King

Seconded: Mr Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

**5.6 WAITAKI GATEWAY AND TOWNSHIP SIGNAGE**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of new Waitaki Gateway and Township signage. Seek community board feedback on designs and next steps.

Strategic Communications & Engagement Manager, Sonia Martinez updated the Community Board on the new district logo, presenting two options. Due to NZTA requirements, the design options are limited. The project is budget-conscious, focusing on durable, like-for-like replacements and natural materials. The designs will be posted on the "Let's Talk" page for community feedback, at this stage Corten steel is the favourable material option. It was noted that additional signage is needed from the Waimate into Kurow location. Members were asked to suggest local contacts for quotes. Questions were raised about adding farewell messages on the back of the signs. The Mayor suggested an interim solution for consistency. Further project details will be provided to the Community Board. The Chair expressed gratitude to Melanie Jones and Sonia Martinez for their presentation. The Board was in favour of the work completed thus far.

Resolved ACB 2025/15

Moved: Mr Mike King

Seconded: Mr Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

The Chair expressed his appreciation to Mayor Gary Kircher for his long-term service to the community and for his ongoing support to the Community Board over the years.

**6 MEETING CLOSE**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.27PM.




TO BE CONFIRMED at the Ahuriri Community Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 1 July 2025.

.....CHAIRPERSON



## **5 DECISION REPORTS**

### **5.1 OHAU PLANTING PLAN**

**Author:** Lindsay Hyde, Recreation Specialist  
**Authoriser:** Roger Cook, Director Natural and Built Environment  
**Attachments:** 1. Ohau Landscape Survey [↓](#)   
2. Ohau Forms Survey Summary [↓](#)   
3. Ohau Reserve Planting Responses [↓](#) 

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Ahuriri Community Board:

1. Carries over the balance of the money available for planting to occur in the 2025/2026 financial year.
2. Agrees for officers to work with the community on a plan that will help achieve the objectives of the development plan.

#### **DECISION OBJECTIVE**

To provide the Ōhau Community with forward funding to assist them with landscaping in the Ōhau area which will support existing plans.

#### **SUMMARY**

Discussions with the community have identified some priority areas for planting to occur. Due to the financial year ending, we have an amount of money still able to be used. By working with the community, we can start to get some actual planting occurring over the next financial year. This will assist with implementing the communities desire because of earlier agreements.

#### **DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS**

Governance Decision-Making:	The Ahuriri Community Board confirms that funding will be available for the 2025 / 2026 financial year for planting work to occur.
Operational Decision-Making:	Officers work with the local community to plan and implement the planting projects ahead.
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**

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

## **BACKGROUND**

On the 2 December 2024, the Ahuriri Community Board approved the spending \$10,000 for Ōhau Reserve planting.

An invitation was sent out to the Ōhau community through the community channels we had available to attend a public meeting on the 22 February 2025. The purpose of this was to discuss initiatives with the local community, covering the reserves that are under Waitaki District Council control.

A survey (see attachment) was also available for people to complete and submit. At the request of the Lake Ōhau Alpine Village Ratepayers and Residents Association (LOAVRRA), the survey was extended to 14 April 2025.

Twenty-two surveys were received, with comments suggesting that as result of the survey multiple responses could have been received from some members of the community.

Attached is a wordcloud summary as well as the redacted detail from the survey.

Some of the items mentioned within the survey results are deemed maintenance so we should determine a priority level within current budgets prior to undertaking this type of work.

## **SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**Option 1** – Work with the community and utilise the carried over funds for the 2025/2026 financial year (**Recommended**)

**Option 2** – Ask officers for further information to be presented at a future meeting.

**Option 3** – Decline the recommendation.

## **ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION**

Option 1 is the preferred option as we need to work with the community to determine the scale of what can be achieved in the year ahead. Due to the large-scale nature of the planting involved then we need to get an agreed staged approach to planting that will see the desires of the community being realised.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Ōhau community has an Ōhau Village Recreation Reserves Development Plan that has been consulted on in the past which identifies which plants will be used in reserve plantings. This species selection was reviewed after the October 2020 fires which destroyed much of the village.

The community has indicated that they value both Ōhau A Reserve and McKinnon reserves in terms of planting priorities.

Input from the community is still required to identify the staged approach that can occur. The use of volunteers has been suggested so we need to get a plan in place so that good results can be achieved.

## **ADDITIONAL DECISION-MAKING CONSIDERATIONS**

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

#### **Outcomes**

##### **Community Outcomes**

###### **Prosperous District**

- 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**

- 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**

Whilst we may not have been able to get all the community involved, the survey results do show that our two largest reserves in the area are equally important. It isn't clear which area we should start on first, but we will be able to finalise this with the community.

##### **Financial Considerations**

Money has been set aside from the Ahuriri Reserves Improvement budget for the current financial year to undertake planting in Ōhau. We will be able to order some plant protectors.



## Ōhau Reserve Planting

Discussion with the Ōhau Community over reserve priorities:

1. What are the outcomes or key elements that you would like to see achieved in relation to reserve planting for the years ahead?

2. What Reserve should we prioritise first?

- ☐ McKinnon Reserve
- ☐ Ohau Reserve
- ☐ Ohau & Huxley Drive traffic islands
- ☐ Other

3. Are there any other improvements we should consider for the reserves in Ōhau?

4. Are you happy to be part of a volunteer team that assists with planting out of the reserves.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

5. What are the key values that are important for the reserves in Ōhau

- ☐ Planting native trees and shrubs
- ☐ Enhancing wildlife habitat
- ☐ Using eco-sourced Plants
- ☐ Using volunteer support from within the community
- ☐ Having vegetation that provides shade
- ☐ Improved pest control management
- ☐ Other

6. Are there any other comments you wish to make?

7. If submitting this form in hard copy, please supply your name and preferred contact details

---

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.



22 responses submitted

What are the outcomes or key elements that you would like to see achieved in relation to reserve planting for the years ahead?

A word cloud visualization of responses to the question 'What are the outcomes or key elements that you would like to see achieved in relation to reserve planting for the years ahead?'. The word 'Reserve' is the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'village', 'planting in the reserve', 'McKinnon Reserve natural reserves', 'areas of the reserve', 'native plants', 'use of the reserves', 'main reserve', 'plan for the reserves', 'road side reserve', 'plant species', 'fire', 'changes to reserves', 'Ohau Reserve', 'Weed control', 'reserve areas', 'reserve grass', 'lupin from a reserve', and 'reserve along the path'.

Reserve

reserve along the path lupin from a reserve reserve areas  
changes to reserves Ohau Reserve Weed control reserve grass  
plant species fire village planting in the reserve  
road side reserve native plants McKinnon Reserve natural reserves  
plan for the reserves use of the reserves areas of the reserve  
main reserve

Wordcloud

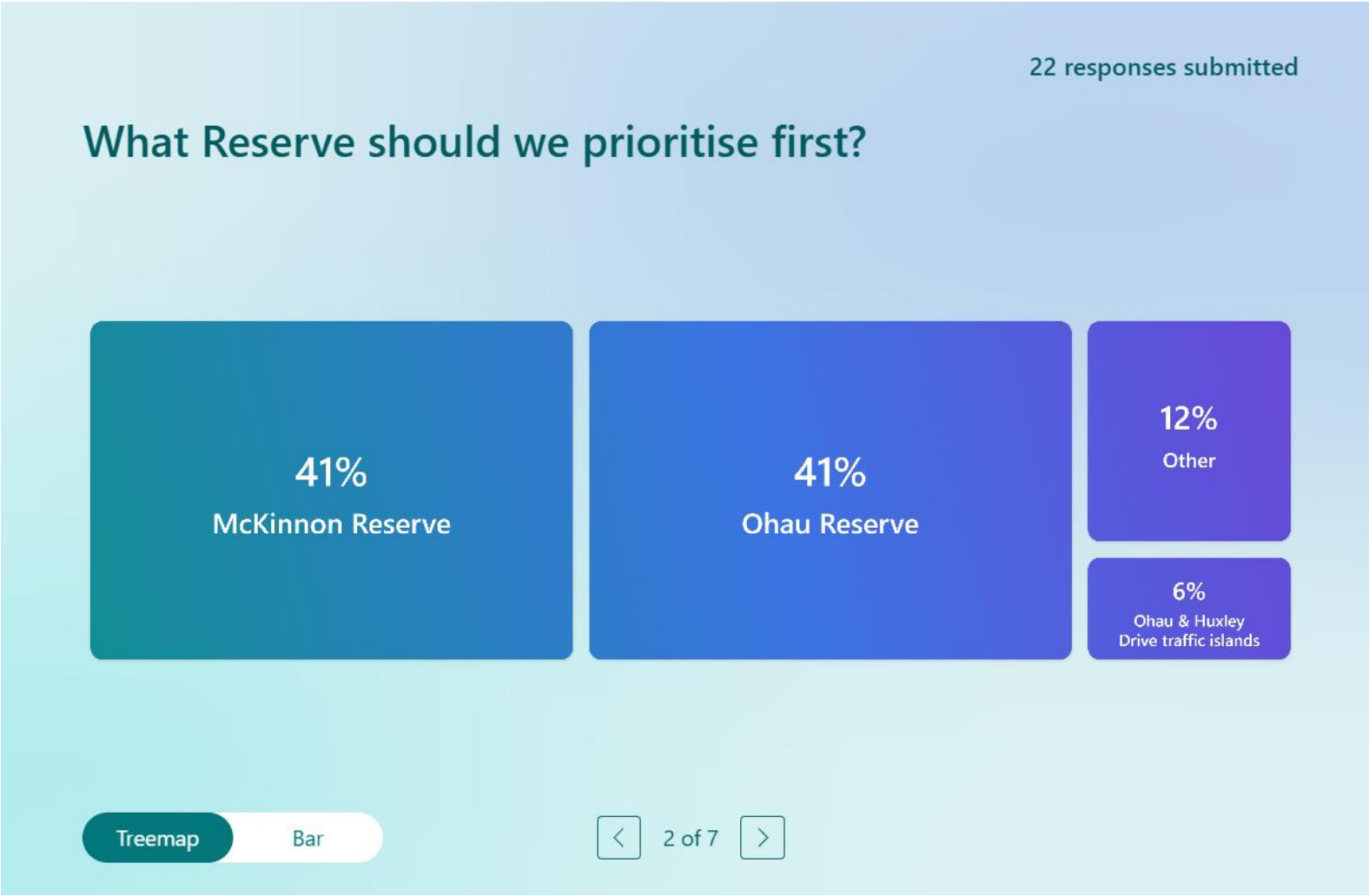
All responses

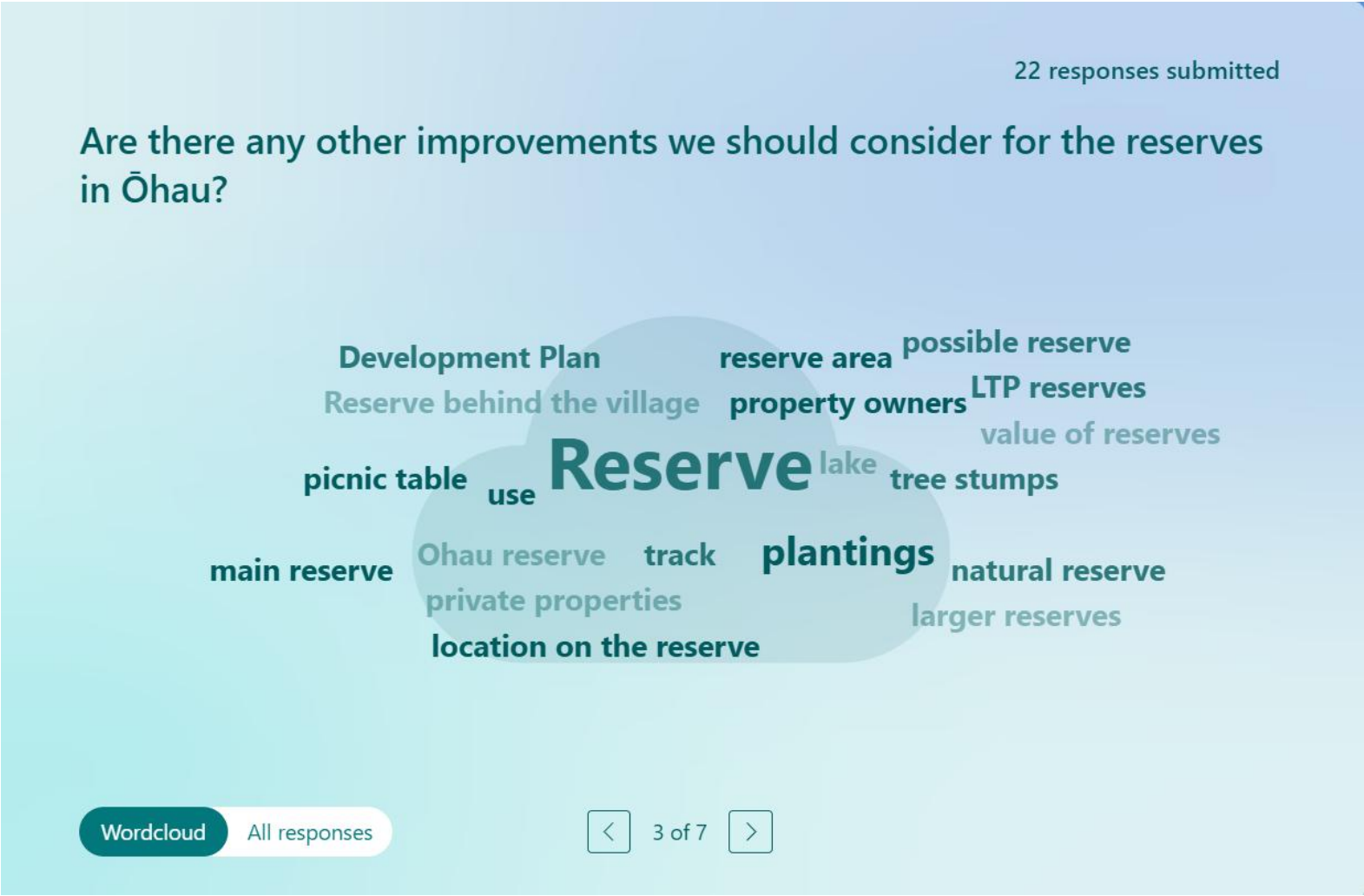


1 of 7



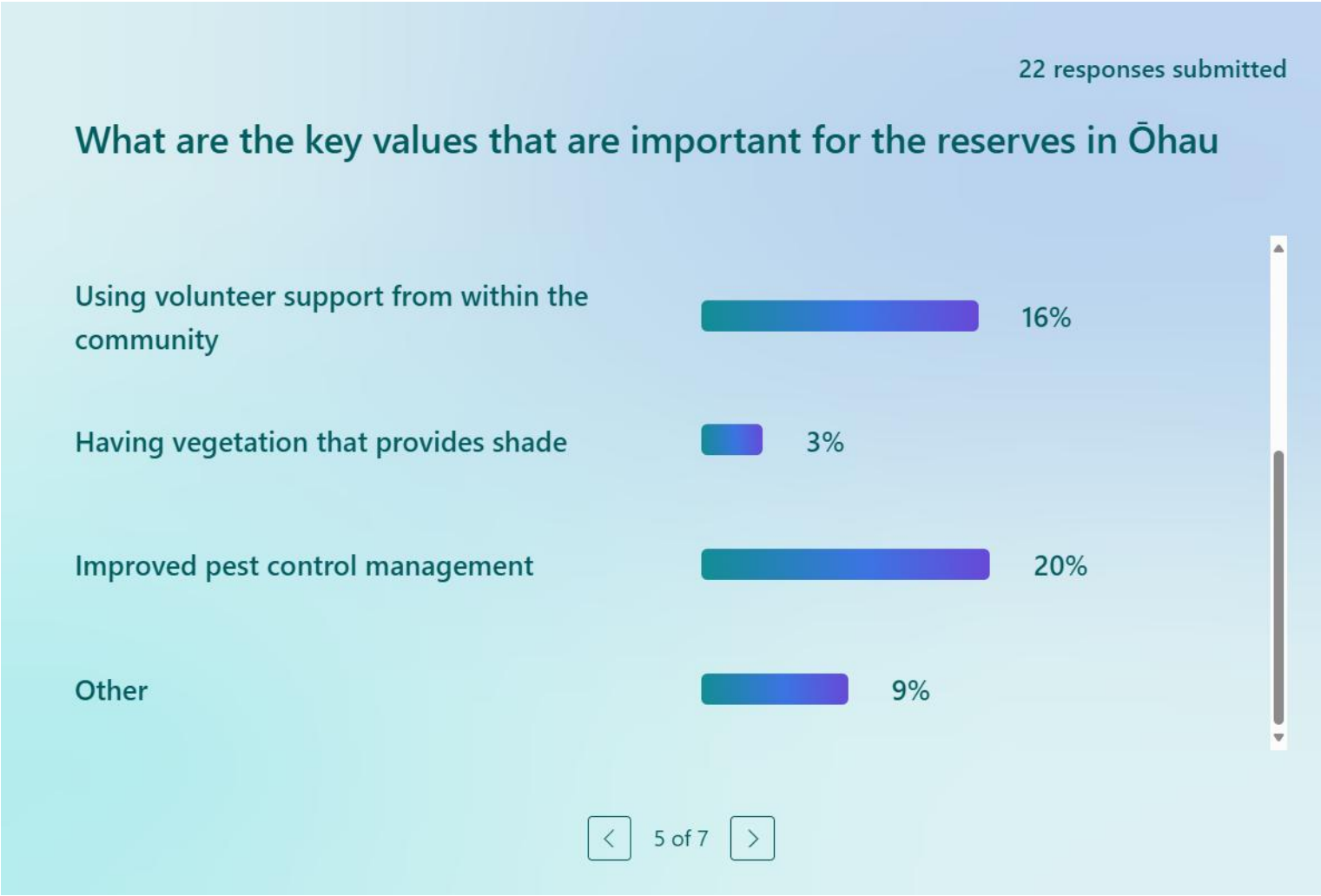
















22 responses submitted

If submitting this form in hard copy, please supply your name and preferred contact details

Id	What are the outcomes or key elements that you would like to see achieved in relation to reserve planting for the years ahead?	What Reserve should we prioritise first?	Are there any other improvements we should consider for the reserves in Ōhau?	Are you happy to be part of a volunteer team that assists with planting out of the reserves.	What are the key values that are important for the reserves in Ōhau	Are there any other comments you wish to make?
1	<p>Answering questions 1, 2, 3:</p> <p>McKinnon Reserve:</p> <p>Please prioritise restoration of McKinnon Reserve as a Wilderness / natural area as designated, by planting suitable native species (which do not impact on views from private properties). McKinnon Reserve is the one Reserve which was most damaged in the 2020 fire. It is highly visible to both residents and visitors to the area. More formed paths and mowing are not needed. It is easy to wander over similar areas in the DOC land between Freehold Creek and Ohau Lodge without formed paths. The Reserve was and should be a place for walking, quiet enjoyment and contemplation of the beautiful environment.</p> <p>Bikers (including e-bikers) have formed a route from the Reserve entrance between 26 &amp; 28 Ohau Drive, along the back of houses north and onto Schaar's private land down to the main road, so they can have joyrides at speed and without regard to folk walking and native plantings. Please erect a short farm fence with pedestrian access only from the NE corner of 28 Ohau Drive to the top of the bank with a small "No bike access" sign. With such easy access, owners of properties backing onto the Reserve from 28 Ohau Dr through to 7 Huxley Tce are vulnerable to being burgled.</p> <p>Ohau Reserve:</p> <p>Owners of properties which back onto Ohau Reserve have been canvassed and do not want any buildings or playgrounds on the Reserve. Please keep it mowed and as it is.</p> <p>Ohau and Huxley Drive traffic islands:</p> <p>Before the fire WCC (Jane Matchett) supervised volunteer planting of native tussock specific to the area (<i>Chionochloa rigida</i>). The tussock have regrown since the fire. No more planting is needed.</p> <p>Fire resistance in the village:</p> <p>Generally in the village, regarding both private and public land, much thought has gone into how the land and vegetation could be organised to provide better fire resistance.</p> <p>Those who were in the village the night of the fire and observed the path and speed of the fire, realise that nothing could have deterred the progress of the fire through the village in the prevailing gale force winds. The fire ate up all buildings and vegetation in its path regardless of how fire resistant plants were.</p> <p>Given the residential layout of the village and the small size of the Reserves, realistically nothing will prevent a similar fire causing the damage it did.</p>			Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Using eco-sourced Plants;Using volunteer support from within the community;Improved pest control management ;	
2	Maintaining low maintenance, suitable and appropriate plant species, that provide continuity, intent and purpose for the use of the reserves.		Remove stumps and debris that interfere with use and makes maintenance more difficult and costly.	Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Using volunteer support from within the community;Don't create impediment to use or majestic views.;	Tree planing down low along Ōhau Road is fine. Won't block views. Groups of trees around Eileen's table ok too for shade but be mindful of views.
3	Continue with planting of native plants and shrubs in the reserves, Weed control		McKinnon Reserve: Create a track down to the lake starting near the noticeboard/picnic table. Zigzag down to join the track alongside the road.	Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Enhancing wildlife habitat;Using volunteer support from within the community;Improved pest control management ;Family friendly;	No public toilets to be installed within the Village boundary.
4	Unightly stump removal, re plant with low shrub and snow tussocks like original plants. Leave Ohau reserve unchanged. Focus on MacKinnon		Insider an emergency egress track from Eileen's seat	Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Using volunteer support from within the community;Improved pest control management ;	Please get on with initial work and thanks for support
5	<p>- Replanting trees and natives that were lost in the fire - the building rooflines are the highest points so need some areas of plantings with beech &amp; other higher trees to make it look attractive again</p> <p>- filling up the traffic islands and entrance to village with more tussocks so contractors don't have to mow/weedeat between them</p> <p>- more planting/maintenance around McKinnon Reserve at Eileens table/notice board - this is the main village meeting point at the moment</p> <p>- access down to the lake from this area too (evacuation point) - a properly constructed zig-zag track for public &amp; residents to access the lake from the village instead of cutting through private properties.</p>	Ohau & Huxley Drive traffic islands	<p>- Get rid of tree stumps on Ohau reserve and fill in "potholes" and replant grass to make mowing easier and flat areas for kids to play;</p> <p>- Keep walkways sprayed;</p> <p>- Keep the greenways and entrance well mowed thru the spring/summer months</p> <p>- Would love to see a simple "natural" playground built;</p> <p>- Love the retro Ohau Village entrance way sign - please keep !</p>	Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Using volunteer support from within the community;Enhancing wildlife habitat;Having vegetation that provides shade;	
6	<p>1.Native planting and on-going care, with good weed control</p> <p>2.Attention to needs of/liaison with village owners and abutters who may be willing to donate extra time and/or resources to areas of the reserve to enhance beauty</p> <p>3.Consistent assistance with funding and sources of funding for sustainability</p>	<p>Is there a need to prioritize one?</p> <p>Surely some \$ can be spent on all of them? Please prioritize the type of PLANTS and begin with what will take the longest to grow to maturity i.e. trees and large bushes.</p> <p>McKinnon reserve will be the most challenging to plant, so it makes sense to be first, if there has to be a "first".</p>	<p>Once groups of trees are established, they will help shade and protect from the wind smaller plantings behind them as well as impede erosion.</p> <p>Secondly, there are very few native birds around. This place used to be full of them but all the trees and shrubs were either lost to the fire or felled afterwards. Priority should be given to the plants that birds use to nest in and feed on.</p> <p>It may be a controversial thought but we would support mowing of the top (flatter area) of the McKinnon reserve until the bank is planted. Right now, it is a mess with lupins, broom and other noxious weeds that takes considerable time and effort by contractors and locals. The long grass also presents a fire risk as unchecked it grows up to abutters properties. The 2020 fire was partly spread by grass to the houses, so any way to provide some kind of fire break until planting can be achieved would be helpful, especially to people who are not permanent residents. Our place (standing despite the fire) is proof that mowing a firebreak (which we consistently did) helped preserve the house. Additionally, mowing can provide access for the public onto the Reserve, which is not possible right now.</p>	Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Enhancing wildlife habitat;Having vegetation that provides shade;Improved pest control management ;working with all people in the village, not just one group or agency;	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. This is a small village and not everyone agrees on all matters, or even how to achieve certain objectives. It would be very helpful if WDC is very clear about certain ambiguousness in the 2020 Planting Plan, therefore clarification as soon as possible to everyone providing answers to these questions, thanks:</p> <p>1.Provide by email the final list of approved plants including the fire-resistant plants that were added in 2021?</p> <p>2.The 2020 planting plan is general. E.g. a group of "3 plants" of a certain type on the pdf covers a large area in reality. Does one plant more of those particular plants to cover this area, or can other natives of choice be incorporated to help cover that area?</p> <p>3.Can abutters to the Reserves by themselves buy and plant around the Reserve area they abut in accordance with the plan, or in addition with WDC approval? If so, what is the approval process for this to happen? How to apply #2 above?</p> <p>4.At the Feb 2025 Ohau meeting it was mentioned a gravel footpath would ideally be on the McKinnon reserve. The 2020 planting plan states only "defined plantings will ... guide walkers through the area on the designated route with a buffer zone of lower plants between the houses and an informal track". Notable, there is no pathway designated on the actual planting plan (page 29) for the McKinnon Reserve. We would be concerned about establishment of a gravel pathway at the beginning. at the very least until the plants in the "buffer zone" are well</p>

7	<p>Keep areas open for general play activities now that youngsters are often in the village.</p> <p>Avoid use of chemical sprays that blow far from the intended targets. Recently many home have planted their boundaries with the reserves, so what is in the old plans might be redundant, or no compatible with their nice borders.</p>	McKinnon Reserve	Fill in more tussocks on the Ohau Drive Island. (no more should be added on Huxley No Terrace) (note the photos are labeled incorrectly). Replacement planting near the main road below the village would be good.	No	Using eco-sourced Plants;Planting native trees and shrubs;Using volunteer support from within the community;	Hire local contractors for projects and maintenance. Our weather is highly variable and often not suitable for getting the jobs done. Locals can pick tasks to completer when the weather cooperates. Also consider a small designated car park area next to the notice board where visitors often stop.
8	<p>Low impact native small trees and shrubs. I wouldn't like trees or plants to be a fire hazard or obstruct views that we all enjoy of the mountains and lakes. I would like these to not have a uniform or formal look at all. No hedges or linear planting.</p>	Ohau Reserve	Any lupines or other weeds to be controlled.	Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Using eco-sourced Plants;Using volunteer support from within the community;Improved pest control management ;	
9	<p>A public agreement being adhered to for notifications of future changes to reserves. A maintenance plan to remove weeds/broom would be great.</p> <p>Also a description of type of plants to be used</p> <p>Full transparency of how money is spent on the reserves and perhaps a public tender decides who to award any contracts too.</p>	McKinnon Reserve	<p>Fire prevention should be a priority. Dead weeds from spraying are a hazard. Remove the weeds. Plant low maintenance plants eg tussock.</p> <p>Why are paths being installed through the reserves without 2/3 approval from Ohau ratepayers. This differs to what is agreed in the LTP reserves plan. No one has been consulted and myself and neighbours find out after the work is done.</p>	Maybe	Improved pest control management ;Planting native trees and shrubs;	<p>The remaining Ohau mayoral relief funds should be used for water treatment plant to reduce community rates . Christchurch city council used the earthquake mayoral fund for pedestrian bridges across the Avon river. The remaing Ohau mayoral fund money should NOT be given to the Ohau Community Hub Trust for any of there projects.</p> <p>Lake Ohau does not need a community hub for the small number of residents here. Best to use existing asset Avoca House which is easily accessible.</p> <p>I've heard that the hub trust is advocating for bollards instead of street lights.This is a very expensive nice to have and there are other priorities that should first be given attention eg water, flooding, fire prevention. There has been no community consultation around the lighting bollards.</p> <p>The new community liason officer must be impartial and not be seen as not favouring a particular unelected group called Lake Ohau Community Hub Trust over the elected community group LOAVRA</p>
10	<p>Preserve the beauty and the views</p>	McKinnon Reserve	Will be great to see 3d view of show the proposed planting going to look at 3,5,10 years	No	Improved pest control management ;Enhancing wildlife habitat;	
11	<p>Some shade on the main reserve.</p>	Ohau Reserve	Ensure that land owners backing on to the main reserve keep the land mown and tidy.	Maybe	Planting native trees and shrubs;Using volunteer support from within the community;Having vegetation that provides shade;	I would like to see a "doggy poo bag dispenser " installed. Assuming people take their bag away, I would be happy to keep the dispenser stocked.
12	<p>I would like the Council to step up and work with all of us to coordinate and implement the 2020 Reserves Development Plan already agreed. In this plan, it was agreed to keep the wilderness and natural character of the alpine village, especially for Mackinnon Reserve facing the lake. What are the outcomes? Promote the protection of the natural and wildd character as emphasized by the Reserves Act and the Ohau Reserves Management Plan. How?</p> <p>1. Identify and care for the native plants already there. Do not enter with machines or heavy equipment to minimise loss of biodiversity. Manual weed control around native plants already struggling there is essential.</p> <p>2. Do not limit your job to one-day volunteer planting event. It has been shown that half of the plants or even more do not survive when left without care early on on these volunteer events. If you have \$10,000 to start, use most for planting suitable native species without impacting the views (maybe on the lower banks and steep gully first as the document recommends to reduce erosion and increase stability) and the rest for manual weed control (invest in weed weapon on touch after cut, it has worked on most weeds, while cutting others like lupine before flowering) daily with permanent resident volunteers. Those willing to help with weed control should be out there often, permanent residents can do that to keep biodiversity intact, try to avoid general spraying as it affects birds, insects, lizards, etc still there. It would be good to focus on small areas first to use as successful models for other areas. I would also recommend partnering with DOC and/or ECan to investigate biological control methods (e.g., there is a natural enemy identified by ECan for controlling broom).</p>	McKinnon Reserve	<p>This might irrelevant now as Ratepayers (represented by LOAVRRA) and Council agreed to follow the 2020 Reserves Development Plan to restore our reserves as "wilderness / natural area" as specified in the document. On page 10, the document states "the Waitaki District Council recognises the value of reserves as visual buffers for their aesthetic, shelter, security, and privacy issues and it was agreed that no significant change in the use of any reserve area (i.e. establishment of walkways, gardens, playgrounds) to be made without the agreements of two-thirds of village property owners". On page 8, it was also agreed that "all consents are obtained and neighbouring property owners consulted before significant development work is undertaken". Either way, this question should consider first the over 130 ratepayers we have. The original proposal for the \$10k was for plantings, why consider other things for now and the future? Most people do not want another Tekapo or Wanaka, or even Hawea, no urban parks or commercial development either, as this is unique worldwide and the reason we live or holiday here. The plan took many years to develop and agreed and we still have not implemented it. Why would we consider changing it again?</p> <p>Other improvements should be consulted and debated form the onset to avoid the problems this community had in the past (e.g., projects not consulted like community hub, nursery, bollards). Non-significant improvement could be the addition of nice boulders to stop bikers going through private properties (no more signs please) or to avoid significant parking by the notice board. Mid- to large size shrubs could be added by the notice board and around to make the area nicer.</p> <p>Once the natural reserve is established the Council would have a minimum need for expenses and the rates could be used for other essential needs.</p>	Maybe	Planting native trees and shrubs;Enhancing wildlife habitat;Using volunteer support from within the community;Improved pest control management ;Continuous weed control of planted natives;	I would be willing to assist with weed removal to complement volunteer planting events. I feel the Council should coordinate planting and weeding efforts equally as most people might prefer one day of plantings rather than frequent days for weed control. I would be willing to help you coordinate this but you need to make sure group leaders speak to each other.
13	<p>I would like to see a variety of objectives hopefully reached.</p> <p>- limit on farmland expansion and re-establishment of tussock (many concerns about lake water level and freshwater availability in catchments could be solved through re-establishment and protection of our grasslands, which have been shown to directly benefit freshwater availability in catchments Fahey, B., &amp; Payne, J. (2017). The Glendhu experimental catchment study, upland east Otago, New Zealand: 34 years of hydrological observations on the afforestation of tussock grasslands. Hydrological Processes, 31(16), 2921–2934. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.11234">https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.11234</a>)</p> <p>- removal of pine trees, both young and established (while wilding pine removal of spread seed is important to stopping the spread, finding possible compromises to remove established, seed-producing wilding pines would be a great use of resources to directly reduce the impact of, and overwhelming spread, wilding pine species).</p> <p>- consideration of plant species to be planted and possibility of overgrowth stunting planted tree growth (some introduced grasses tend to significantly shade some planting areas, alongside the shade provided by the mountains at both evening and dawn in the day it is crucial to find areas of sufficient light for plants which require it. Another very significant consideration is plant species, in the area we have varied species of native birds, reptiles, and insects - considering the requirements of these is another great step. Such as McKinnon reserve and the overgrown area between the village and Lake Middleton. McKinnon reserve has already proven to have many species of reptile, including southern grass and McCann's skinks, and very rarely southern alps gecko, which could be more established through careful removal of invasive plants such as European broom, lupin and introduced grasses; benefitting from ground vegetation such as Muehlenbeckia and Speargrass; furthermore lower vegetative shrubs (Hebe, Coprosma, Manuka) could provide essential habitat and food for all three of these animal categories.</p>	Ohau Reserve	One last idea I have is the creation of a possible reserve in late breeding season for Black Fronted Terns on the lakefront; there is a relatively defined area between two groups of rocks on the lakefront just to the right of the campsite near the inflow of freehold creek into the lake. This season saw around 155 Black Fronted Terns with a significant portion being juveniles, and being a nationally endangered bird, like many of our representative species (kiwi, yellow-eyed penguin, kakapo, and kea), may benefit from a protected area on the rocky shore.	Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Enhancing wildlife habitat;Using eco-sourced Plants;Improved pest control management ;In order to have vegetation that provides shade, rather than retaining willows and pine trees it would be good to re-establish larger trees which are known to grow in the area and are beneficial to the ecosystem services of the area, especially coastal if you wish shade by the lakefront. These trees could include beech and kowhai. Regarding volunteer support I still view it important, but having an input from anyone, inside or outside the community that benefits the ecosystem long term is worth it.;	

14	good control/elimination of weed species	Ohau Reserve	Removal of old tree stumps. Improved drainage from stormwater outlet to drain intake at south end of Ohau reserve (perhaps as simple as a shallow depression directly between them). A more defined parking area by the notice board.	Yes	Using volunteer support from within the community;improved pest control management ;	
15	a. NOT PLANTING ON MY SECTION!!! b. Creating an open grassed "play area" for all to use c. Not planting that will block views	Ohau Reserve		Maybe	Planting native trees and shrubs;Enhancing wildlife habitat;	Why are you still using a design that for some bizarre reason considers my property at 3 Temple Lane to be part of the Ohau Reserve! I pointed this out years ago and its still being used and it apparently has been peer reviewed!
16	Bring the birds back, replace the weed (broom, lupins and coxfoot) species with native plants while maintaining our views and privacy.	McKinnon Reserve	An access track from McKinnon Reserve (by the table) down to the lake as currently there is no official access and people walk across private property.	Maybe	Planting native trees and shrubs;Enhancing wildlife habitat;Using eco-sourced Plants;Using volunteer support from within the community;improved pest control management ;	
17	Low fire proof (or not highly inflammable) native plants mostly characteristic of the Ohau valley. No structures and certainly not a so-called 'community hub' structure and an unnecessary and unrealistic nursery. No formed or gravelled tracks especially in front of those houses along the front row (yes I have one). No cyclists along the area as well - they end up trespassing on the Schaar's land. Council should not encourage an illegal activity by having tracks that lead to their land and not cause a breach of home owner's privacy. No more tables or seating . Keep the reserves natural and uncluttered. No signage or interpretation boards.	Ohau Reserve	Consideration for a natural playground on the Ohau Reserve. Timber not plastic . Adventure style, part for small children (<4) and part for older children (5+). Low native plantings .	Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Using eco-sourced Plants;Improved pest control management ;Enhancing wildlife habitat	65% of landowners (one vote per property ) should agree to any changes to the current plan and the representative entity for ratepayers is Lake Ohau Alpine Village Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc. The so-called Community Hub Trust is not representative of the Village : it is a self-appointing (of trustees), undemocratic, non-accountable group of about six people, some being local, who think they have a greater say than all others, and promote personal vanity projects while pretending to be representative . Listen to those who are unbiased and who genuinely care for the village and are not attempting to just keep busy in semi- or full retirement. If there is to be a liaison person with Council or the Ahuriri Local Board it must be an un compromised Council employee and not a local . Consult all ratepayers. You naturally have postal details of all and probably email addresses for most. No excuse not to fully consult on all issues. Disclose please to all now the amount in the Ammenities Fund and at least annually and whenever a project is proposed, but funds for projects here should come from Council sources and not be solely reliant on that Fund.
18	I would like to see native plants and try to keep the essence of the alpine village with natural reserves. I do not want to see urban furniture, signs and paths on the reserves. There is a path on the left side of the McKinnon reserve that is too close to the houses and should be closed. It is a safety issue to make paths between the road and the back of the houses.	McKinnon Reserve	The village is a quiet place, without comercial activity, people come here to relax. Do not change this trying to have another Tekapo or Wanaka.	Yes	Planting native trees and shrubs;Enhancing wildlife habitat;Using volunteer support from within the community;Improved pest control management	Somebody said during the meeting on February 22 that the council does not need to ask the property owners to make changes. This worries me because we live here and I want to have a saying.
19	Lots of open spaces , low shrubs spaces suitable for children games	McKinnon Reserve	Playground equipment	Maybe	Planting native trees and shrubs;Improved No pest control management ;Eliminate the broom	
20	hello there  thanks for the opportunity to comment on the reserves plan for lake ohau village . - what a tremendous asset the reserve areas are for the community .  time for the basics ? what would be terrific now is if the extent of the reserves could be defined once and for all ;and then work done to get them sorted/in a state for ongoing maintenance .  paths - it would be good if some thought went into reserve track design ,completion and upkeep .  and once that is achieved ,could we look at service levels . ? these wouldn't be so hard as in winter and barring a calamity , the reserves would require a low service level and in the growing seasons of spring/summer when the village fills up and they are used more ,the reserves would require a high service level .  notably ,all the reserves are there for all the community to enjoy equally .  thank you ,  louis permanent resident					
21	Having glanced through the 10 year plan for the reserves, I am happy with it and would like to see that implemented.	Ohau Reserve	Stump removal as mentioned in 10 year plan.	Maybe	Planting native trees and shrubs;Enhancing wildlife habitat;Using volunteer support from within the community;Improved pest control management ;Low growing vegetation that enhances the beauty but doesn't obstruct anyone's views	

22	<p>The first outcome sought is for the reserves to be bought up to a state where maintenance activities can easily and regularly be carried out. This is required before new planting is undertaken as it is much harder to do planting when the reserves are full of weeds and other work is needed.</p> <p>The reserves have not had work done on them for many years now to improve their baseline state - many have weeds (such as Russell lupin) in them. Russell Lupin is a problem as it spreads and becomes more dense each year on the reserve and provides a seed source for neighbouring properties. Russell lupin should be controlled in all the reserves, but particularly the McKinnon reserve where it is prolific. Spraying is the only way to successful remove Russell lupin from a reserve of this size and with the amount of plants present.</p> <p>The work Stu Patterson has been contracted to do to spray the broom has been very successful as Stu is very diligent. Removal of more weeds is still required as Stu has not been funded to do anything else than broom control.</p> <p>There are areas with briar and stumps on the reserves - these need to be removed so mowing can occur easily.</p> <p>There are areas along the reserves beside the gravel path through the Ohau Reserve where large dead broom plants on the boundary with private properties impinge on the reserve and the ability of the contractor to mow - the contractor tries to mow around these plants rather than deal with them. This means the reserve along the path is never properly mowed and maintained.</p> <p>There are several areas with old stumps in the Ohau reserve - these are a danger to people trying to use the reserve and they need to be removed.</p> <p>There is an area to the north west in the Ohau reserve where the reserve grass cover was removed during reconstruction of adjoining houses. The grass in this area needs to be reinstated after the weeds have been removed. This area could also be planted as there are several old stumps remaining from wilding trees what were removed from the reserve after the 2020 wildfire. Plants that have a bit of height to break up the large bulk of the houses adjoining the reserve would be beneficial to those using the reserve. At least one of these houses impinged into the reserve being non-compliant with the recession plane requirements in the District Plan - with approval given to this by the council staff - in recognition of this incursion into the recession plane (that is there to ensure the bulk of the building doesn't have adverse effects on the neighbouring reserve) - compensatory planting in the reserve would be appropriate.</p> <p>There are a few properties around the Village where the property owners have plants that block the use of the road side reserve. All of these property owners should be required to remove the plantings so that everyone can walk around the village streets safely on the road side reserve.</p>	<p>All the reserves are a priority to get back into shape so planting can then be successfully carried out. The reserve at the entry to the Village (McKinnon reserve) up to number no 2 Ohau Drive should be the priority.</p>	<p>I have put most of my thoughts in the box above.</p> <p>Before the 2020 Wildfire there were some beech trees growing around the Lake Ohau Lodge owned communication tower in the McKinnon reserve. The beech trees were burnt in the fire. It would be good to get a few beech trees growing again in this location on the reserve. Perhaps in the forthcoming negotiations for the permit to have the tower on the reserve, the owner of the tower could be required to plant and maintain these beech trees as a mitigation for the effects of the tower on the reserve and adjoining property owners. Planting of larger beech trees would be appropriate to compensate for the larger trees that were burnt.</p> <p>Walking access, even if informal, should be provided through all the reserves in the Village. The reserves development plan provides for this. The reserves are there for everyone in the community to use and enjoy. They are not there for the adjoining landowners sole enjoyment and use. This is particularly important for the large area of the McKinnon reserve along the top of the terrace above Lake Ohau road - the reserves plan provides for an informal track with planting as a buffer. This is one of the larger reserves in the Village - there is plenty of room for a walking track as well as maintaining privacy for properties that adjoin this part of the reserve - in fact the distance between any walking track and adjoining properties would be equivalent or more than the distance between the paths and properties in the Ohau reserve (for most of the length of the this part of the McKinnon reserve - some boundaries are closer where the top of the terrace is closer to properties - a path could be formed further down the terrace in these locations).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Using eco-sourced Plants;Enhancing wildlife habitat;Planting native trees and shrubs;Improved pest control management</p>	<p>Eco-sourced plants are essential for the scale of planting proposed in the reserves. These plants are local and adapted to growing well here in this harsh environment. By using eco-sourced plants you are also not diluting the local genetics of wild native plants by introducing non-local plants that may hybridise with the local plants. The Avoca Forest plantings to the south of the Village are all eco-sourced plants.</p> <p>Any planting activities should be organised and managed by Council staff - the use of contractors is also a good option - so the planting is carried out according to the reserves plan and is done well, so the plants survive. Use of volunteers is a good option but there needs to be good oversight and management of volunteer efforts.</p> <p>The Village is known for its bellbirds/korimako and it is important to plant to keep the bird population flourishing. Hopefully as plants grown they will provide nesting opportunities and korimako will raise young in the Village.</p> <p>It is important to consider planting wildfire resistant plants in the key areas in the reserves - such as on North west facing area - that is where the wildfire risk is most likely to occur with our predominant NW to W wind pattern. The plantings in the McKinnon Reserve, particularly those down and at the base of the terrace are key. The Ohau Conservation Trust has started to plant beech trees at the base of the terrace near Lake Ohau Road (with council permission) - these trees are growing well - beech are a good fire disrupting plant species (as evidenced by the beech forests on the Barrier range after the 2020 wildfire).</p>

## **5.2 PADDY'S FLAT MAINTENANCE**

**Author:** Erik van der Spek, Network Manager

**Authoriser:** Roger Cook, Director Natural and Built Environment

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Ahuriri Community Board:

1. APPROVES up to \$25,000 towards remedial works on the Kurow Creek drainage system from Kurow Amenity funds, and
2. APPROVES up to \$4,000 annually from Kurow Amenity funds for routine maintenance of the Kurow Creek's (Paddy's Flat) drainage system from Amenity funds.

### **DECISION OBJECTIVE**

To approve the use of Kurow Amenity funds to enable the Kurow Creek drainage system to function as intended.

### **SUMMARY**

A system of drainage channels designed to receive flood water from the Diggers Gully and Cattle Gully catchments near Kurow requires maintenance to ensure the system operates as planned. Council currently does not hold a budget for maintenance and operation of stormwater systems in Kurow.

Remedial works are estimated at a cost of \$25,000 to rectify current issues, and an annual budget of \$4,000 to maintain the system.

### **DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS**

Governance Decision-Making:	Determine Funding
Operational Decision-Making:	Implementation of maintenance work
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	Key	Economic Considerations	No



Community Views	Moderate	Community Board Views	Key
Consultation	No	Publicity and Communication	No

## **BACKGROUND**

A system of drainage channels designed to receive flood water from the Diggers Gully and Cattle Gully catchments near Kurow requires maintenance to ensure the system operates as planned.

Officers have met with Environment Canterbury staff and developed a plan of works including.

- Mechanical cleaning.
- Vegetation spraying.
- Removing any trees in the drain.
- Repair scour.
- Cut back overhanging macrocarpa branches.
- Reinstating an old sleeper retaining wall after access.
- Clearing silt build-up in culverts.
- Clearing and lower inverts downstream of culverts.



**Boundary fence and channel overgrown with Raupo causing silt build up and blockage**





**Box culvert at SH83 outlet**

The current balance of the Kurow Amenity funds is approximately \$110,000. In the absence of any other funding, this is an appropriate use of these funds.

### **SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**Option 1** – Use Amenity funds to carry out remedial work.

**Option 2** – Do not complete remedial work.

### **ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION**

The Amenity Reserve is the most appropriate option available for use for remedial work. Not completing this work would allow the stormwater network to continue to deteriorate resulting in increasing frequency of events affecting neighbouring landowners and increased costs in the future to restore the system.

### **CONCLUSION**

Using Amenity funding to remediate the stormwater system will help to minimising flood impacts on the local community and will ensure the system functions to its potential, and will minimise cost in the long term



## **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

#### **Financial Considerations**

The current balance of the Kurow Amenity funds is approximately \$110,000. In the absence of any other funding, this is an appropriate use of these funds.

## **6 MEMORANDUM REPORTS**

### **6.1 FINANCIAL REPORT TO AHURIRI COMMUNITY BOARD (JULY 2025)**

**Author:** Amanda Nicholls, Chief Financial Officer

**Authoriser:** Paul Hope, Director Support Services

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

#### **PURPOSE**

This report is intended to update the Ahuriri Community Board on financial matters and activities within the Ahuriri ward.

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### **Summary of key financial results – Appendix A**

This is a high-level view which summarises rates revenue and the operational cost of the Community Board activity – operating costs include the remuneration and other expenses related to the elected members of the Board themselves and a share of Council overheads, together with details of grants made during the period.

This report records the Board's financial performance against budget for the nine months ended 31 March 2025.

##### **Significant projects within the ward – Appendix B**

The Board may submit proposals for works to be undertaken that it believes will benefit the community, and Council officers also schedule large projects with that same objective. This report provides a financial summary listing those projects, their budgeted cost, and the amounts spent to date on bringing them to fruition. Members may request further information to be provided to a future meeting.

##### **Community funding – Appendix C**

This report provides details of budgeted and actual amounts of grant funding provided for community groups and activities within the Board's purview.

##### **Separate rate accounts – Appendix D**

This report details balances for accounts as of 31 March 2025. The Board will receive full details of all separate rate accounts pertaining to activities within the ward as of June each year, but during the year will receive a quarterly update on the position relating to halls.

**Appendix A - Summarised Key Financial Results for the period ended 31 March 2025**

The table below sets out summarised financial information related to the Community Board for the third quarter of the 2024-25 financial year, including amounts budgeted but unspent in 2024 and previous periods for community grants and discretionary spending.

Further analysis of unspent grant funding is provided in Appendix C which details community grant and discretionary spending.

	<b>2025 3rd qtr Actual</b>	<b>2025 Full Budget</b>	<b>2024 Full Yr Actual</b>
Rates revenue	206,231	274,681	241,374
Unspent budget brought forward	-	51,987	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>206,231</b>	<b>326,668</b>	<b>241,374</b>
Operating costs	145,629	274,681	228,263
Unspent grant budget brought forward	-	51,987	-
<b>Operating costs</b>	<b>145,629</b>	<b>326,668</b>	<b>228,263</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>60,602</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,111</b>

**Appendix B - Significant projects planned within the ward in the 2024-25 financial year.**

This report details projects to be undertaken in the Ahuriri ward during the 2024-25 financial year, highlighting progress being made by reporting projected project cost and actual cost incurred to date. The intention of this report is to inform the Board on progress towards the completion of key capital works for the benefit of the communities in the Ahuriri ward.

Approved budget includes both the adopted 2024-25 Enhanced Annual Plan budget for the work and any unspent budget amounts approved to be carried forward from the 2023-24 financial year.

Spent to date includes expenditure processed up to approximately two weeks prior to the date of this meeting.

<b>Project</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>Spent to date</b>	<b>Balance</b>
W2106 Duntroon Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	100,000	906	99,094
W613 LTP Adjusted 2024: Lake Ohau Drinking Water Standards Upgrade	100,000	475,629	(375,629)
W1831 LTP Adjusted 2024: Otematata Water Main Renewals	500,000	572,248	(72,248)
W2140 LTP New 2024: Otematata Wastewater Disposal Field Extension	250,000	209,096	40,904
7406.770.401 Lake Ohau stormwater	20,000	-	20,000
W1757 Omarama Urban Water Main Renewals	770,000	326,149	443,851
W616 Otematata drinking water upgrade	436,000	3,320	432,680
	<b>2,176,000</b>	<b>1,587,348</b>	<b>588,652</b>

- **W2106 – Duntroon Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade**  
This project has been included in the 2026 and 2027 financial years of the LTP. No further expenditure is expected this financial year.
- **W613 – Lake Ohau Drinking Water Standards Upgrade**  
This project is currently at the commissioning stage, with final works underway.
- **W1831 – Otematata Water Main Renewals**  
This project is now complete, with all physical works finalised. The length of piping renewed was extended to include adjacent properties while onsite, resulting in a variation to the contract and an associated budget overspend.
- **W2140 – Otematata Wastewater Disposal Field Extension**  
Construction works are complete, and the project is now awaiting compliance sign-off.
- **7406.770.401 – Lake Ohau Stormwater**  
This project is complete, with no outstanding works remaining.
- **W616 – Otematata Drinking Water Upgrade**  
This project is currently deferred pending confirmation of the new drinking water standards.
- **W1757 – Omarama Urban Water Main Renewals**  
This project is scheduled for completion in July 2025.

### **Appendix C - Community Funding**

The annual budget for the Community Board includes amounts intended to enable it to provide a level of additional financial support within its local community.

- **Discretionary Fund**
  1. The annual budget of \$5,000, together with unspent funds of \$9,309 from the 2023-24 financial year, provides \$14,509 to fund small community projects. As this budget is funded directly from rates, balances unspent at year end are carried forward until spent.
  - 2.
- **Community Grants**
  3. An annual budget of \$10,000 for Community Grants, including \$5,000 for the Kurow Museum. Unspent balances are carried forward until spent, and \$39,978 has been added from 2023-24, providing \$44,978 for the 2024-25 financial year.

The report below details expenditure on grants in the current year – recipient, purpose, and amount provided against the annual budget, including amounts unspent from previous periods.

<b>Community Grants</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Payment made to</b>	<b>Project/purpose of payment</b>
<b>Kurow Museum</b>			
Annual Plan budget	\$ 5,000.00		
ADD unspent budget from prior year	\$ -		
<b>Available to spend</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>		
	\$ 5,000.00	Waitaki Valley Comm Soc Grant paid	
<b>Total spent current year</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>		
<b>Balance to spend</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		
<b>General Community Grants</b>			
Annual Plan budget	\$ 5,000.00		
ADD unspent budget from prior year	\$ 39,978.00		
<b>Available to spend</b>	<b>\$ 44,978.00</b>		
	\$ 840.00	Gary Hawkins - cut new track to wetlands	
	\$ 898.00	Waitaki Valley Comm Soc improvements to west wing	
<b>Total spent current year</b>	<b>\$ 1,738.00</b>		
<b>Balance to spend</b>	<b>\$ 43,240.00</b>		
<b>Discretionary Fund</b>			
Annual Plan budget	\$ 5,000.00		
ADD unspent budget from prior year	\$ 9,509.00		
<b>Available to spend</b>	<b>\$ 14,509.00</b>		
	\$ 3,000.00	Waitaki Valley Comm Soc Grant paid	
<b>Total spent current year</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>		
<b>Balance to spend</b>	<b>\$ 11,509.00</b>		

## **Appendix D - Separate Rate Accounts**

These record unspent balances of targeted rates levied for specific purposes, such as water and sewer systems, township amenities (including stormwater systems if applicable), community halls, and Ward Services (including parks and reserves, sports fields, etc).

The preparation of financial reporting of separate rate accounts is subject to delays arising from the need to ensure accuracy in processing financial transactions, particularly relating to capitalisation and depreciation of assets, and to the funding of capital projects. For this reason, presentation of these reports cannot be made in a timely manner.

The table below lists the balances of separate rate accounts relating to the Ahuriri ward as at 31 March 2025.

		<b>Rate Account Balance</b>	<b>Depreciation Reserve Balance</b>	<b>Internal Loans Balance</b>
		<b>30-Jun-24</b>	<b>30-Jun-24</b>	<b>30-Jun-24</b>
<b>Ward Services</b>				
Waihemo Ward Services		-\$ 112,999	\$ 429,953	\$ -
<b>Township Amenity</b>				
Hampden		\$ 12,664	\$ -	\$ -
Hampden (Septic Tanks)		\$ 94,414	\$ -	\$ -
Moeraki		\$ 50,953	\$ -	\$ -
Palmerston		\$ 179,356	\$ -	\$ -
Shag Point		\$ 3,657	\$ -	\$ -
		<b>31-Mar-25</b>	<b>31-Mar-25</b>	<b>31-Mar-25</b>
<b>Water</b>				
Stoneburn		-\$ 170,452	\$ 269,843	-\$ 22,609
Palmerston		-\$ 605,191	-\$ 266,256	-\$ 2,575,491
<b>Sewerage</b>				
Moeraki		-\$ 1,123,906	\$ 518,835	-\$ 1,223,715
Palmetson		-\$ 529,739	\$ 279,541	-\$ 1,824,759
<b>Hall</b>				
Dunback		\$ 12,440	\$ -	\$ -
Hampden		\$ 12,222	\$ -	\$ -
Macraes		\$ 5,578	\$ -	\$ -
Moeraki		\$ 34,332	\$ -	\$ -
Palmerston		-\$ 15,508	\$ 94,697	\$ -
Wainakrua		\$ 318	\$ -	\$ -

## **6.2 MEMBER REPORTS**

**Author:** Shannon Barlow, Executive Assistant

**Authoriser:** Alex Parmley, Chief Executive

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to convey reports from the Ahuriri Community Board Members and the Ahuriri Ward Councillor for the information of communities throughout the Waihemo Ward.

### **AHURIRI COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

#### **Board Chair Calum Reid**

No report

#### **Board Deputy Chair Steve Dalley**

No Report

#### **Board Member Mike King**

12 May ACB meeting Ōmārama  
15 May Ōmārama Community meeting  
19 May Let's talk Water. Otematata  
19 June Ōmārama Community Meeting

#### **Board Member Alan Pont**

12 May Meeting ACB Ōmārama  
27 May Meet onsite with WDC maintenance team at Bike track. Oak trees Paddy Flat, Street sweeping, bark removal.  
6 June Meet with Council contractor re drainage issues Paddy's Flat and Racecourse culverts  
New Health Hub presentations at Duntroon, Kurow, Otematata, Ōmārama

#### **Board Member Karen Turner**

12 May Meeting ACB. Ōmārama  
12 May DDDA meeting. Duntroon  
9 June DDDA meeting. Duntroon

#### **Ahuriri Ward Councillor Brent Cowles**

*No report was supplied by the time of agenda production.*

**6.3 BUILDING CONSENTS ISSUED IN THE AHURIRI WARD DURING APRIL AND MAY 2025**

**Author:** Brent Cunningham, Building Services Manager

**Authoriser:** Roger Cook, Director Natural and Built Environment

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

**PURPOSE**

To provide the Board members with a list of building consents issued in the Ahuriri Ward during April and May 2025.

**APRIL 2025**

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
Ōhau Drive, Ōhau	Dwelling extension to add new master bedroom and ensuite	100,000
Teal Crescent, Ōmārama	Alterations to existing dwelling to include insulation to walls and ceilings, bracing upgrades, kitchen and laundry and free-standing woodburner	160,000
Eastern Road, Otekaieke	Relocate 3-bedroom, 1 bathroom dwelling and install wastewater septic system	50,000
Highland Way, Ōmārama	Construction of a steel framed Garage with attached 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom dwelling, installation of a free-standing woodburner and Hynds Wastewater Treatment System	300,000
Buller Crescent, Otematata	Installation of free-standing woodburner and flue Kit with Dektite Premium Soaker Flashing	5,500

<b>Area Sub-totals</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
Ōhau	100,000
Ōmārama	460,000
Otekaieke	50,000
Otematata	5,500



**MAY 2025**

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
Avoca Lane, Ōhau	Amendment, changes to Foundations	8,500
Domett Road, Otiake	Install toilets in Geo-Domes 1 & 5 and construct entry structures in domes 1 to 6. Stage 3	10,000
Parsons Lane, Otematata	Foundations and connection to services for a 3-bedroom, 1 bathroom relocated dwelling	100,000
Omarama-Otematata Road, Ōmārama -Otematata	Construction of a 2 bay Pole Shed	28,000
Kurow-Duntroon Road, Kurow	Construction of a 9 bay Pole Shed	98,000
Eastern Road, Otekaieke	Foundations, Plumbing and Drainage for 2x Relocated 3-bedroom, 1-bathroom dwellings, installation of a Wrights Septic Tank System	100,000
Eastern Road, Otekaieke	Construction of a 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom dwelling with attached carport and Oasis Clearwater Series 2000 Wastewater System	387,000
Rees Street, Duntroon	Installation of a new wastewater treatment system and effluent bed, including 100mm sewer drainage pipes, 80mm terminal vent and an overflow gully.	15,000
Gordon Street, Kurow	Internal alterations to existing dwelling to include renovations to create new laundry/storeroom and bathroom	87,000
Ben Omar Road, Ōmārama	Installation woodburner and flue into existing masonry chimney	5,000

<b>Area Sub-totals</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
Ōmārama	5,000
Duntroon	15,000
Kurow	185,000
Ōhau	8,500
Otematata	100,000
Otekaieke	487,000
Ōmārama -Otematata	28,000
Otiake	10,000

#### **6.4 COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT - LINKS TO COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PAPERS**

**Author:** Shannon Barlow, Executive Assistant

**Authoriser:** Alex Parmley, Chief Executive

**Attachments:** 1. Mayor's Report [!\[\]\(339a16584d5da0f0a3ca4e9ec17bf6a1\_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(e06a1d39938b2f5d7a2c3618fea4f77f\_img.jpg\)](#)  
2. Chief Executive's Report [!\[\]\(23ac9e28f2600a1e787d149d7f76716a\_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(ba1ec627dd10668218bdb3f2bf103f06\_img.jpg\)](#)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide links to final agenda papers and any related attachments for recent Council Meetings and events, along with the Chief Executive's summary of discussions at Council Meetings (where available), for the information of Community Board members and their Ward communities.

#### **SUMMARY**

Links are provided below to the final agenda papers to recent Council Meetings, as published on Council's website, since the previous Community Board Meeting. The Chief Executive's summaries of Council Meetings, where available and as posted on Facebook, have also been provided within the list of links, for ease of reference for Board Members and residents of their Ward communities.

Please note that recordings of all the public sessions of the meetings and events listed below can also be found on Council's YouTube page (direct links provided below):

[Waitaki District Council - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5QsY7I0r-NK-TEIR8C9yNw>

Click on the LIVE tab to bring up the various meetings and events that have been livestreamed.

Direct links to Council Meeting agenda papers since the last Community Board Meeting, as published on Council's website in the "Council Meetings / Agendas and Minutes" section are provided below.

Public Agenda for the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 8 May 2025

[Agenda of Extraordinary Council - Thursday, 8 May 2025](#)

[Unconfirmed Minutes – Thursday, 8 May 2025](#)

Public Agenda for the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025

[Agenda of Council - Tuesday, 27 May 2025](#)

[Unconfirmed Minutes – Tuesday, 27 May 2025](#)

The Mayor's and chief executive reports from the June 24 council meeting are attached to this report.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

---

**24 JUNE 2025**

**5.1 MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Author:** Gary Kircher, Mayor for Waitaki

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the information.

This report is an opportunity for me to update Councillors and our community on a number of issues and events that I feel are relevant to our community, since my last Mayor's report on 29 April 2025.

**MAYOR'S REPORT – 24 June 2025 COUNCIL MEETING**

This report is an opportunity for me to update Councillors and our community on a number of issues and events that I feel are relevant to our community, since my last Mayor's report on 29 April 2025.

**2025-2034 Long Term Plan update: Making decisions in challenging times**

With the final decisions on the Long-Term Plan all but finalised, we are nearing the end of what has been the most challenging LTP process I have been part of during my time in local government.

A number of significant pressures have converged. We've faced escalating costs across almost every area of our operations, at the same time as our households and communities are experiencing real financial stress. The changing national policy landscape, particularly around water reform, emergency management, and local government restructuring, has made future planning increasingly complex. These uncertainties, combined with transformation work within our own organisation, have tested the capacity and resilience of both our staff and elected members.

Here in Waitaki, our Council team has been undergoing an internal transformation aimed at better equipping us for the future. That has meant many changes to roles, systems, and staffing, often while key work was underway. As a result, the preparation of business-as-usual budgets and future planning has, at times, felt like trying to lay tracks while the train is already moving.

All of this has made for a difficult balancing act: making decisions that impact the next decade with imperfect information, within a changing organisation, and under public pressure to limit rate increases. That is no small ask.

I want to acknowledge that many people, quite understandably, find it difficult to make decisions where the data is incomplete, the outlook uncertain, and the implications long-lasting. But that is what this role often demands. As John F. Kennedy once said, "*To govern is to choose.*" And we must often choose not between right and wrong, or good and bad, but between shades of uncertainty.

Some of us have a higher tolerance for ambiguity than others, and as a Governance Team we've had to draw on each other's strengths and perspectives to navigate through this process. It has required trust: trust in the staff who bring us their best advice, trust in each other to raise and test ideas respectfully, and trust in the public to understand the realities we're operating within.

While we won't have pleased everyone with every decision, I'm confident that we've worked hard to balance affordability, resilience, and long-term vision. And as we move to formally adopt the LTP, I want to thank the staff, the community, and my fellow councillors for the time, energy, and thoughtfulness that has gone into it.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

We have a responsibility to be both prudent and bold, and that's rarely an easy combination. None of us are happy with the final rates increase even though it is lower than many other Councils. However, I believe we've done our best to meet that responsibility with integrity and care.

**Water Services Delivery Plan Update**

Submissions have closed on the proposals we put forward to our community, with the Joint CCO with three other Southern Councils being the preferred option. We will carry out deliberations on the submissions to look at the general opinions of submitters, their concerns and how they measure up. It has been very unfortunate that there has been a concerted attempt to provide incorrect information and assumptions to the wider public which have not only misrepresented the actual facts, but they have also contradicted the base facts of the case. It has clearly skewed the results and fed into people's natural concerns about change. We have decisions to make that impact on the viability of our Council, and more importantly, on the ability of people to afford their rates.

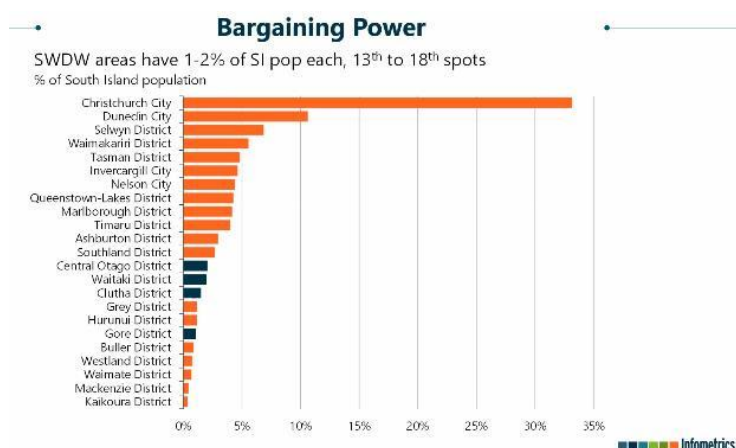
The decisions do not have a 5- or 10-year impact. They have a multi-generational impact. The topic is complex, but the issue is simple. How do we ensure that we deliver excellent water services to today's and future generations, whilst keeping those services as affordable as possible?

Of course there are other issues –

- How much direct Council control do we want to keep and how much extra are our ratepayers willing to pay?
- What is the impact of a water regulator on determining the priority of water projects?
- What is the impact of an economic regulator on how much people are charged – when Councils' ability to adjust water rates to keep rates down is gone?
- How does any Councils' in-house service recruit, or even retain, key water staff when there are likely to be better employment options with multi-Council CCOs?

These implications raised by submitters' concerns will need to be considered and they will. At the end of the day, we must do the best we can for our ratepayers and whether that means retaining water services or giving them up, it is my expectation that every Councillor and I will do our best to deliver the best decision for long-term quality and affordability over the next fifty years or more.

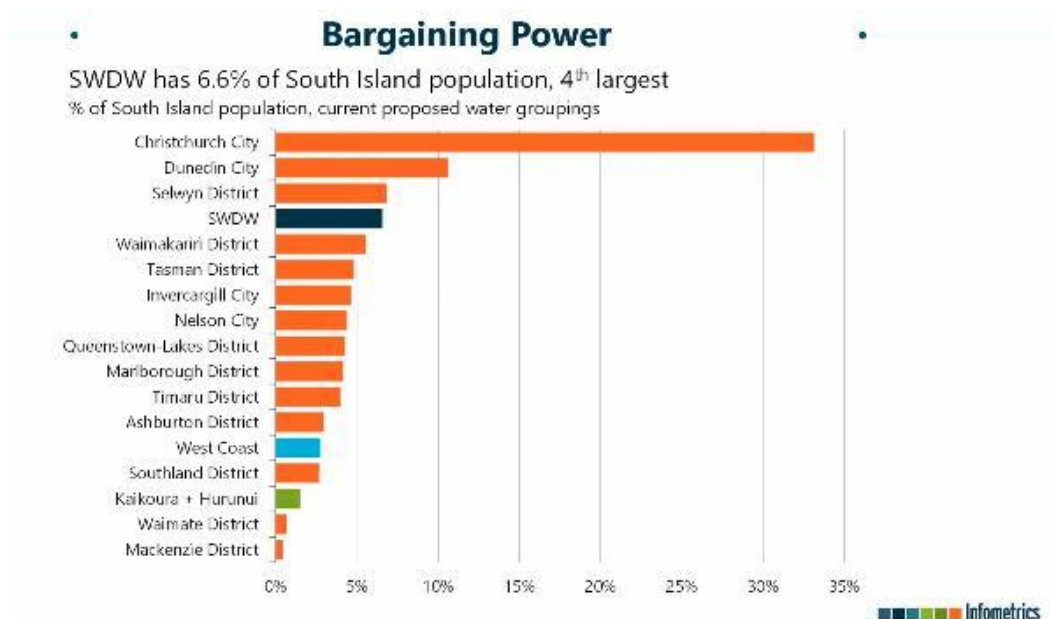
To better inform us and our community, we asked for an assessment of the proposal for Waitaki joining with the three other southern Councils to set up a joint CCO to be carried out by Infometrics. Their CEO and Chief Economist, Brad Olsen provided a helpful analysis. As always, Brad provided an insightful presentation on the issues. Here's a summary of that presentation:



The South Island Councils by population size

COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA

24 JUNE 2025



The population sizes by proposed water entities

Water infrastructure in New Zealand is at a critical turning point. The traditional approach of managing water services at the local council level is no longer sustainable. Brad Olsen's analysis reveals that the Southern Water Done Well (SWDW) proposal offers a compelling solution to the complex challenges facing water management.

The core issue is the long-term nature of water infrastructure. These assets typically last 40 to 100 years, which means the current generation must think beyond immediate costs. By using debt funding strategically, councils can spread infrastructure costs over time, ensuring fairness across generations and avoiding sudden, dramatic rate increases.

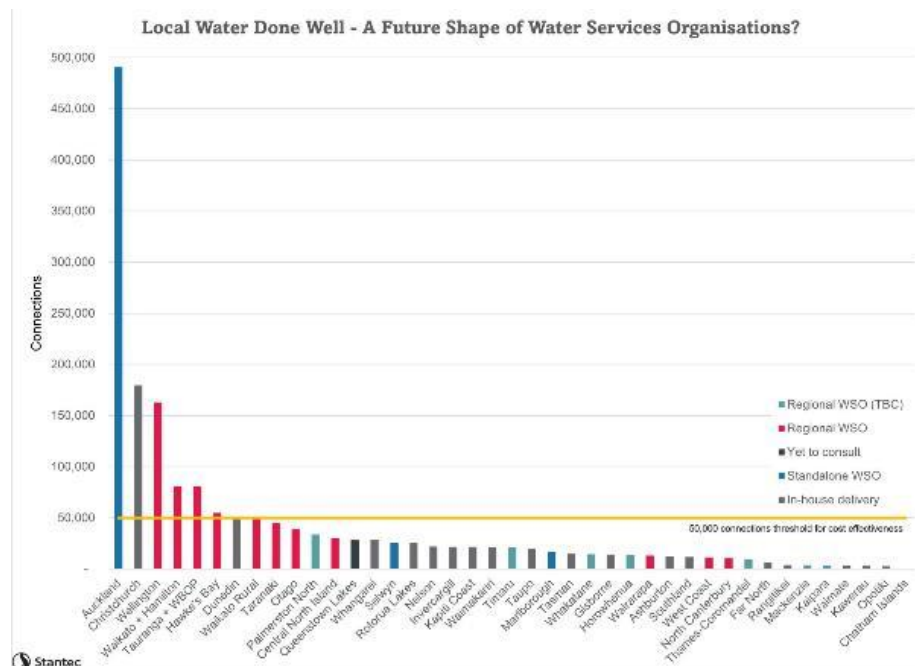
The proposed regional water entity presents significant advantages. By combining four smaller councils, the group increases its negotiating power, ability to attract skilled staff, and capacity to invest in critical infrastructure. Currently, each council represents just 1-2% of the South Island's population, but together they'll become the fourth-largest water services group, representing 6.6% of the region.

Financial modelling suggests conservative but meaningful benefits. Over a decade, the group could achieve 15-16% operational and capital expenditure efficiencies. More importantly, by year 20, they could see up to a 20% reduction in what rates would have been under the current model.

The regulatory environment is changing rapidly. Water service providers will face increasing scrutiny and higher standards. The SWDW model provides a proactive approach to meeting these emerging requirements, offering a more flexible and sustainable framework than individual council management or a standalone council-controlled organisation.

Critically, the proposal isn't just about cost-saving. It's about creating a more resilient, strategic approach to water infrastructure that can adapt to future challenges, spread costs fairly, and ensure communities have reliable water services for decades to come.

**24 JUNE 2025**



The number of water connections by proposed water entities across NZ

## Rural and Provincial meeting – 2 May 2025

Symptomatic of the many challenges that local government is going through, we had updates on a range of topics that the Department of Internal Affairs is working on, all of which impact our sector significantly. Here is a summary of those presentations, identifying the challenges and weighing up the pros and cons:

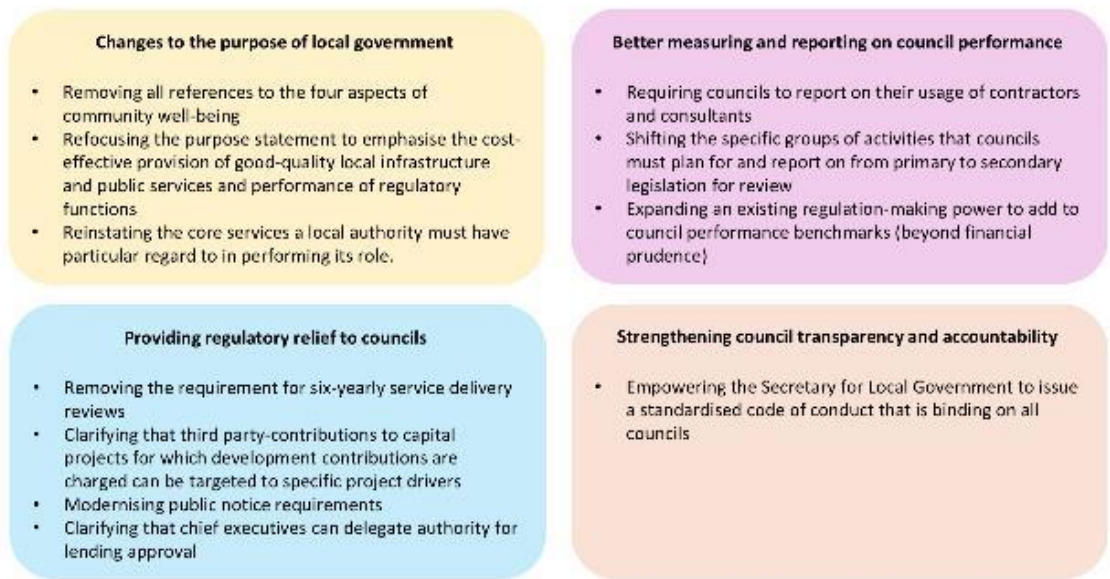
## 1. Local Government at a Crossroads: Reform, Transparency, and the Road Ahead

Local government in Aotearoa New Zealand is undergoing one of its most significant shifts in decades. Recent updates from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) signal not only structural reforms, especially in the water space, but also a broader evolution in how Councils are measured, compared, and ultimately held to account. These developments reflect a government push for increased consistency, transparency, and regional collaboration. While the intentions are sound, the changes bring a mix of opportunity and complexity for councils and communities alike.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

## **Local Government system improvements work programme**



### **2. Local Water Done Well – Collaborative Governance or Forced Marriage? – Lori Hand**

The "Local Water Done Well" initiative is the government's response to the withdrawal of the original Three Waters legislation, offering a more flexible model that still aims to address service delivery and infrastructure funding challenges. So far:

- 47 councils have started consultations on their preferred water services model.
- 29 are leaning toward a multi-council Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) model, suggesting an appetite for regional cooperation.
- 18 are favouring the single-council model, likely reflecting community identity, autonomy, or scale-related constraints.

#### **Challenges:**

- A looming deadline of 3 September for transition plans, with extensions unlikely, puts pressure on councils already grappling with tight resources and community uncertainty.
- For smaller or rural councils, the governance, legal, and financial complexities of establishing a stand-alone CCO could be daunting.

#### **Pros:**

- Shared services via CCOs should bring economies of scale, better asset management, and access to greater technical capability.
- Local ownership of the reform process may increase community buy-in compared to the previous top-down approach by the last government.



**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

**Cons:**

- The risk of "lowest common denominator" governance, where larger or more dominant councils steer decisions, may cause friction.
- The community voice could be diluted as decision-making shifts further from local boards or ratepayers.

## **Water Service Delivery Plans – what does success look like?**

**Key elements**

1. Legislative compliance – does the Plan meet the requirements outlined in legislation?
2. Revenue sufficiency – is there sufficient revenue to cover the costs (including servicing debt) of water services delivery?
3. Investment sufficiency – is the projected level of investment sufficient to meet regulatory requirements and provide for growth?
4. Financing sufficiency – are funding and finance arrangements sufficient to meet investment requirements?

**The Department will be providing further guidance to councils about the Plan assessment process later this month.**

### **3. System Performance and Transparency – A New Era of Accountability – Caroline Dumas**

DIA's move to implement a new performance framework marks a major change in how council operations are assessed and understood. It creates a benchmarking system which, if fully informed, will be very useful in increasing transparency to communities across the country. The approach is:

- Consistent across all councils.
- Based on existing public data (from LTPs and Annual Plans).
- Focused initially on financial performance (e.g. rates changes, debt levels, staff costs), with other metrics to be added over time.

Councils will receive their data for preview a few weeks prior to publication, giving some time to prepare communications. The dashboard is expected to go live in late June, with updates annually.

**Pros:**

- Offers a clearer picture of how councils compare to their peers.
- Could drive improved decision-making, internal benchmarking, and increased trust from the public.
- Highlights long-term fiscal trends, not just annual snapshots.



---

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

---

**24 JUNE 2025**

**Cons:**

- May encourage a focus on what's measurable over what matters, potentially incentivising short-term financial targets at the expense of broader social or environmental outcomes.
- Without adequate context, headline comparisons (e.g. rate rises or debt) risk being misinterpreted by the public or media. This is particularly true for the initial release of information, timed to be released at the same time as nominations opening for this year's elections. Financial benchmarking without context will be used in ways that the government hasn't intended, but they do appear to be hell-bent on releasing that initial metric anyway.
- Smaller councils may feel penalised or misrepresented when compared to group medians, especially where local conditions drive specific cost pressures.

**Challenges:**

- The risk of these metrics being politicised, used more for blame than learning.
- Capacity for smaller councils to respond constructively, especially if data analysis and communications expertise are stretched.

### **Council performance measurement framework**

- The Government is establishing a performance measurement framework for councils based on that in New South Wales. The Government intends to introduce a bill in June that will, among other things, lay the foundations for this new framework. Key features of the New South Wales model we hope to replicate are:
- an online repository for council performance information (in this case, the Department of Internal Affairs website), where people can quickly and easily assess the performance of their own council, and compare this with others.
- We are also interested in benchmarking council performance for certain measures, so people can see not only how their council is performing compared to others, but also how councils are performing compared to a standard (or 'benchmark') that reflects best practice.
- council performance measures spanning four areas of council activity:
  - financial performance
  - asset management
  - service delivery
  - governance performance

with improved consistency of council reporting by activity group (beyond water services, flood protection, and roading).

#### **4. Conclusion: An Inflection Point for Local Government**

Local government is no longer just the provider of roads, rates, and rubbish. It's becoming a key partner in national infrastructure, climate response, and community wellbeing. These reforms from DIA acknowledge that, but they also stretch the traditional model.

The challenge now is not only technical or financial. It's cultural and relational: how we work together across council boundaries, how we retain the local voice in regional decisions, and how we uphold democratic legitimacy in an age of dashboards and data.

If approached collaboratively with a focus on community engagement, transparency, and capability-building, these reforms have the potential to strengthen the sector. If not, there's a risk of alienation, mistrust, and decisions made for efficiency that lose sight of what communities actually value.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

**5. Taumata Arowai – Update from Allan Prangnell**

A quick update on the work being done by Taumata Arowai –

The Drinking Water Report (aimed at improving quality & safety for all registered water supplies) and the Network Environment Report (self-reported assessments by councils) are in progress.

- When these reports are completed, Councils will get embargoed copies before public release.
- Next time, any reports will be a joined-up view from the regulators i.e. include Commerce Commission as economic regulator, making it easier to have the complete picture presented to each Council.
- The introduction of new standards in the future will aim to reduce costs for councils and consumers, rather than just focus on the water quality outcomes.
- Taumata Arowai will be pivoting away from universal standard setting towards more bespoke targeted work. This will allow local solutions to local issues, ensuring all viable options are available to water service entities.

**Acceptable Solutions**

At a high-level, we're moving:

**From:**

A set of Acceptable Solutions that cover a mix of:

- supply types (mixed-use rural)
- source water types (spring/bore; roof water).



**To:**

A set of Acceptable Solutions that provide requirements for three common types of smaller drinking water supplies.

**From:**

Guidance is integrated into each Acceptable Solution document.

**To:**

Stand-alone documents provide requirements for each Acceptable Solution, supported by a range of separate, practical how-to materials.

**Verified end-point treatment**

~\$10,000



~\$2,500



**Drinking Water Report**

- The 2023 report illustrated prevalence and widespread nature of *e. coli* presence in water supplies across NZ.
- Key reason we asked suppliers to prioritise installation of multi-barrier protections in supplies used by 655,000 New Zealanders.
  - Over 223,000 people now have access to drinking water that has critical safety barriers installed.
  - Councils are largely on track to implement the remaining barrier(s) by the end of 2025.
- Performance against the Rules still needs to improve so that communities have demonstrably safe drinking water.
- For some supplies around the country, particularly rural supplies, the number of *e. coli* exceedances remains high.
- A number of consumer advisories have been in place for a long time...



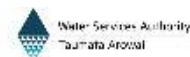
COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA

24 JUNE 2025



## Wastewater Standards

- ~**170 submissions** including some extensions for councils.
- **Detailed and engaged feedback** – will take time to review but we are taking early insights e.g.
  - TLAs generally positive of standards
  - Desire for more standards in some areas not yet covered
    - Recycled water?
    - Stormwater?
- Next step: consider feedback in final proposal to Cabinet; standards set shortly after Bill 3.



## Network Performance Report

- Last year's report was impacted by widespread data quality issues
  - This year invested in supporting council staff with reporting, alongside independent verification of 20 council submissions.
- This has seen a lift – but more work to go in increasing the accuracy of information:
  - Proportion of water networks reporting a condition grade is **97%**, up from **59%** last year
  - However, we need to lift the **confidence in and reliability of** the grading given – from desktop assessments to physical investigation of the quality
- Water loss is again likely to be a key finding – indicating an inefficient network with poor maintenance and asset condition.
- We will also reflect self-reporting against consent conditions. An early look at the data tells us:
  - **13% of drinking water take consents do not meet consent conditions.**
  - **44% of water-take consents expire in the next 10 years** (including **9 % already expired**).
  - Wastewater re-consenting bow wave and inconsistent reporting – WW standards to address.



### Otago Regional Growth Summit – Dunedin 16 May 2025

Postponed from its original date a couple of months ago, Otago's Regional Growth Summit brought together many people from a variety of sectors, all with a focus on regional growth and prosperity. The summit featured then-Deputy Prime Minister, Winston Peters, Regional Growth Minister Shane Jones, several other Ministers and also local Members of Parliament from most parties.

COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA

24 JUNE 2025



Deputy Prime Minister, Winston Peters



Regional Growth Minister Shane Jones

Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters delivered a passionate speech about New Zealand's economic potential, emphasising national unity, strategic investment, and regional development. He drew parallels with successful small nations like Singapore and Taiwan, arguing that targeted policies and infrastructure investment can transform economic prospects. Peters highlighted the importance of vocational training, digital skills, and creating attractive investment environments. He critiqued current bureaucratic approaches and advocated for more responsive, locally driven economic strategies that leverage New Zealand's natural resources and human capital.

Analysis and Opportunities for Waitaki District:

**Deputy PM Peters'** presentation suggests several potential strategies for Waitaki's development, either on its own or in partnership with other districts. The district/region could focus on:

- 1. Digital Innovation:** Leveraging the Centre of Digital Excellence concept by developing specialised training programs that connect local skills with emerging technology sectors, particularly in gaming and digital services.
- 2. Infrastructure Development:** Prioritising transportation and connectivity projects that link Waitaki's resources to broader economic networks, potentially focusing on agricultural technology, renewable energy, or tourism infrastructure.
- 3. Targeted Investment Attraction:** Identifying unique regional strengths - such as agricultural innovation, renewable energy potential, or specialised manufacturing - and creating targeted investment packages.
- 4. Skills Development:** Creating vocational training programs specifically aligned with local economic opportunities, ensuring young people can find meaningful employment without leaving the region.
- 5. Resource Extraction and Value-Adding:** Exploring sustainable ways to develop local resources, potentially in agriculture, tourism, or emerging technological sectors.

The key will be developing a clear, locally driven strategy that attracts investment, develops skills, and creates a compelling narrative for economic growth that keeps young talent in the region while attracting external investment.

**Minister Shane Jones** spoke on the opportunities that our region has and the focus that the government has in driving the country's GDP across every region. The following is a summary of his key points. These points suggest significant potential for economic growth, infrastructure development, and investment in Otago, and in the Waitaki district.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

---

**24 JUNE 2025**

**1. Infrastructure Development**

- a. \$1.2 billion Regional Infrastructure Fund available for local projects
- b. Potential for housing development with fast-tracked planning processes
- c. Southern Link Logistics Development in Mosgiel with an \$8.2 million loan, which could boost local trade and logistics efficiency

**2. Economic Rejuvenation**

- a. Government commitment to reviving regional economies
- b. Potential expansion of mining and extractive sectors
- c. Opportunities for local businesses in infrastructure and development projects

**3. Energy and Investment**

- a. Upcoming energy sector review could create opportunities for more affordable and secure electricity
- b. Potential for attracting new investments by addressing energy cost challenges
- c. Support for local manufacturing through infrastructure and energy reforms

**4. Resource Management**

- d. Simplified Resource Management Act (RMA) processes
- e. Reduced bureaucratic obstacles for local development projects
- f. Faster approval processes for infrastructure and housing developments

**5. Climate Adaptation**

- g. Focus on resilient infrastructure
- h. Opportunities for local projects that reduce carbon footprint
- i. Potential for innovative transportation and logistics solutions

The question is whether we can coordinate our efforts and provide the government with great opportunities to invest in our region. It didn't help our cause to have two inland port proposals announced that same week in coastal Otago, within a couple of days of each otherer – with only one of them recognised by the government.

COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA

24 JUNE 2025

Wednesday, 14 May 2025

## '\$3 billion' Otago inland port plan revealed

By Hamish MacLean



News > Dunedin



Calder Stewart says the facility would take 10,000 heavy truck trips off the road each year by shifting freight to rail. Photo: OOT Files

Construction giant Calder Stewart has proposed a "\$3 billion" solar-powered inland port it says will boost Otago's export capacity and create hundreds of jobs.

The 'Milburn Quadrant development', north of Milton, would span over 200ha in total and host a 55ha inland port that connected directly to State Highway 1 and the South Island's main trunk rail line, a statement issued this morning said.

Port Otago and Dynes Transport have previously floated plans for an inland depot which will be established in Mosgiel, which planners last year poured cold water on.

Friday, 16 May 2025

## Government opens wallet for Mosgiel inland port



News > Dunedin



The \$8.2 million loan will help fund the development of a three-track rail-siding connecting Port Chalmers to the Southern Link Logistics Hub development in Mosgiel. Photo: OOT Files

The government has thrown its backing behind the proposed Mosgiel inland freight port with an \$8 million cash injection.

Regional Development Minister Shane Jones said the Southern Link Logistics Hub in Mosgiel would receive a loan of \$8.2 million to upgrade the rail link to Port Chalmers.

The announcement comes in the same week Calder Stewart announced a rival project - a "\$3 billion" inland port in South Otago.

The Mosgiel inland port project is receiving a \$8.2 million loan from the government's Regional Infrastructure Fund to support the development of a three-track rail-siding connecting it to Port Chalmers. This funding will enable the Southern Link Logistics Park, a joint venture between Port Otago and Dynes Group, to upgrade its rail infrastructure. The 50-hectare site near Mosgiel is expected to open its first stage in October, consolidating existing logistics depots and linking to the port's new rail siding.

If we want our district and our region to thrive, we must be coordinated and speak to the government with one voice.

An interesting presentation on the morning was given by **Paul Bull, Head of Market Engagement at EECA**:

New Zealand's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) is pioneering a strategic approach to regional energy transformation that offers valuable lessons for other countries grappling with decarbonisation challenges.

The presentation by Mr Bull painted a compelling picture of systematic energy transition, focusing on the Otago region as a microcosm of broader national decarbonisation efforts. Unlike many countries that approach energy transformation through top-down mandates, New Zealand is taking a nuanced, enterprise-focused approach that empowers businesses to make informed choices.

Key international comparisons reveal some striking insights:

- Similar to Germany's Energiewende strategy, New Zealand is prioritising energy efficiency as the first and most cost-effective decarbonisation method



COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA

24 JUNE 2025


- The focus on biomass transition echoes successful models in Nordic countries like Sweden and Finland
- The emphasis on regional-specific solutions mirrors successful approaches in Canada's provincial energy strategies

The most innovative aspect is the "de-risking" approach. By working directly with enterprises, EECA helps businesses navigate complex energy transitions, providing practical support rather than purely regulatory pressure. This is markedly different from more punitive approaches seen in some European countries.

The transport sector transformation is particularly noteworthy. The example of Oceana Gold's electric shovel represents a microcosm of broader industrial electrification trends seen in countries like Norway and China. By demonstrating practical applications and providing technological risk mitigation, EECA is effectively accelerating adoption.

Internationally, successful energy transitions typically require three critical elements: clear economic incentives, technological support, and a long-term strategic vision. New Zealand's approach, as illustrated in this presentation, appears to be hitting all three marks, potentially positioning the country as a global leader in pragmatic decarbonisation strategies.

The narrative isn't about radical revolution, but intelligent, incremental change - an approach that could offer valuable lessons for many nations struggling with their own energy transitions.



### Our strategy

Our purpose is to mobilise New Zealanders to be world leaders in clean and clever energy use.

**Our desired outcome**

A sustainable energy system that supports the prosperity and wellbeing of current and future generations.

### Our strategic focus areas



#### Energy efficiency first

By enabling energy users to access and implement energy efficiency, we can unlock substantial economic and environmental benefits.



#### Empower energy users

Everyone benefits when people and businesses can manage their own energy usage and respond to electricity prices in real time.



#### Accelerate renewable energy

Renewable energy enhances resilience, energy independence, and significantly reduces emissions.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

**Waitaki's Health Shuttle Update**

Over the past two months, we have seen this project gain greater certainty. St John have confirmed the availability of a vehicle to be used for the Patient Shuttle service, and at a local level, the Waitaki District Health Services Trust has confirmed it will provide operational funding for the service over the next two to three years. (While St John's requested two years of funding, the trust has conditionally committed a third year if required.)

There has been one setback though – the allocated vehicle is needed in Northland where it had originally been sourced from, as the other one there has been inconveniently struck by lightning. A new vehicle will be delivered in July, when it will be fitted out with a hoist, livery and made ready for use.

At a local level, the call has gone out for volunteers. All going well, there will be a very good response, and those volunteers can then go through the necessary checks and training. We have yet to get a confirmed commencement date for the new service, but it does look like the previously indicated date in September won't be met.

In the meantime, Trevor Goodin continues to operate his donation-based service, with support from the WDHS Trust, ORV Trust, Oamaru Lions, Masonic Lodge Trust, Oamaru Rotary and others.



Representatives of WDHS the Masonic Lodge Trust

**Project Reclaim**

As we know, the government has (thankfully!) agreed to waive a couple of the major costs for Project Reclaim, our project removing historic waste from the coastal locations it had been dumped in, to move it in a more appropriate landfill. Those costs included the waste levy and the carbon tax costs. They were good decisions by the government as the project didn't involve any increase in waste or any change to carbon emissions.

The other cost we did hope to reduce was the project cost itself. However, we missed out on the government's available funding due to bad timing. In the first instance, the fund was allocated without an application process and despite the matter being raised as one of our issues by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum when we met Ministers in Wellington, our project wasn't acknowledged when the money was handed out. Then an application fund was established but due to us already carrying out the work, we were deemed ineligible for any of that.

In the meantime, the project itself has been nominated for several awards, with it winning an Āpōpō Asset Management Award. The Sustainability Award for Excellence in Collaboration was shared among the project partners; Waitaki District Council, Morrison Low, Waste Management NZ, Fulton-Hogan, Tonkin + Taylor and GHC Consulting.



**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

As to financial assistance for the project, we haven't ceased our discussions with Wellington yet, and nor have they ruled out a possible favourable decision. It is very much a case of "Watch this space."



Representatives from Waitaki District Council, Morrison Low, Waste Management NZ, Fulton-Hogan, Tonkin + Taylor and GHC Consulting.

**Election 2025**

The clock is ticking as the countdown to election day continues. While we still have some major decisions to make such as the LTP and the Water Services Delivery Plan before the October election, there are current and aspiring council candidates expressing more interest in standing. As always, I encourage people to consider standing for election.

Our district needs and deserves to have good options when deciding who to vote for. Getting a good mix of experience and rejuvenation around the governance table is important, as is having people with open and inquiring minds. I certainly hope that a good number of existing Councillors make the decision to stand again and that they are successful.

Waitaki voters have shown in the past that it wants people who can represent our communities well and bring solid knowledge and experience to help with decision-making. The more candidates with those qualities, the better!

A word to the wise: We are already seeing populist statements being made by aspiring candidates. That's the nature of politics, especially for those who don't know or understand the system they are stepping into. Those people, if elected, invariably get a reality check, so I hope that candidates do their homework to understand what they can and can't do in office.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

---

**24 JUNE 2025**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MAYOR GARY KIRCHER**

22 April	Meeting with Minister Penk
22 April	Interview with Michael Laws – The Platform
22 April	MTFJ Employer Catch up – Road Metals and others
23 April	Meeting with NZAA
23 April	Meeting re Beach Road with affected neighbours
24 April	Meeting with Minister Mark Patterson and others
24 April	Anzac Posy Laying Service
25 April	Palmerston Anzac Service
25 April	Anzac Main Parade and Service
25 April	Lunch with Veterans
27 April	Omarama Airfield Ltd Workshop and Shareholder sessions
28 April	LTP Leadership Group
28 April	Waitaki MTFJ F26 update
28 April	LTP Financial Discussions
28 April	Follow-up meeting with Beach Rd neighbours
29 April	PAR and Council Meetings
29 April	Kakanui Bridge site blessing
29 April	OWCT Annual General Meeting
30 April	Meeting with Chair – Stronger Waitaki
30 April	Meeting with Chorus Engagement Manager
1 May	All of Government Meeting
2 May	Southern Water Done Well - Councils Executive Group (CEG)
2 May	Rural and Provincial Sector Meeting
2 May	Meeting with CAA: Nick Jackson & Sean Rogers
3 May	Waitaki High Schools' Formal – Parade
4 May	Catch-up with Minister James Meager
5 May	LTP Leadership Group meeting
6 May	Real Radio Interview
6 May	Council Briefing /Workshop Day
8 May	Extraordinary Council Meeting
8 May	Waitaki Lakes Shorelines Authorities Committee Meeting
8 May	Local government webinar about new resource management system
8 May	Oamaru Tales – Meeting
9 May	Southern Water Done Well - Councils Executive Group (CEG)
12 May	Hearings Committee
12 May	Ahuriri Community Board

---

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

---

12 May	Waihemo Community Board
13 May	Sub-Committee meetings, workshops & Briefings
13 May	Citizenship Ceremony
14 May	Meeting with Grey Power resident & Secretary
14 May	Lower Waitaki Zone Committee - Final Meeting afternoon tea
15 May	Book launch for Peter Cleverley – Forrester Gallery
16 May	Southern Water Done Well - Councils Executive Group (CEG)
16 May	Otago Regional Growth Summit
16 May	KiwiRail Hillside Workshop opening
18 May	Joint Mayors' video session and FB Live session in Alexandra
19 May	Local Water Done Well community meeting – Otematata
20 May	Governance Team Session
20 May	Local Water Done Well community meeting – Ōamaru
21 May	Local Water Done Well community meeting – Palmerston
22 May	Waters Facebook Live Q&A session.
23 May	Southern Water Done Well - Councils Executive Group (CEG)
26 May	WDHSL Meeting
26 May	NO Riding for Disabled Assoc – AGM
27 May	PAR & Council Meetings
27 May	Opening - The Village Architect
28 May	Meeting regarding Geopark
28 May	Meeting with Steve Harrop – Wine Maker
28 May	Combined Councillor Webinar – Southern Water Done Well
29 May	Discussions with two classes – Ladbrooks School
30 May	Southern Water Done Well - Councils Executive Group (CEG)
30 May	Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Kaikōura
3 June	Briefings/Workshop – Council
3 June	Councillor Site Visit to Waihemo Recreation Reserve
4 June	Workshop with Southern Water Done Well (SWDW)
4 June	Meeting with Timaru and Mackenzie re joining water CCOs
5 June	Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs
5 June	Meet with Whalan Lodge representatives.
6 June	Southern Water Done Well - Councils Executive Group (CEG)
6 June	Network Waitaki Events Centre, Project Board Meeting
6 June	Guest Speaker for Mens Group @ Observatory Retirement Village
6 June	ORV Trust meeting with Steven Brent

---

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

---

**24 JUNE 2025**

**5.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

**Author:** Alex Parmley, Chief Executive

**Attachments:** 1. Transformation Preliminary Benefit Realisation - FTE

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the information.

**PURPOSE**

This report is provided to bring Elected Members up to date on progress in delivering the Council ambitions and programme including progress in delivering the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set by Council for the Chief Executive for the year ending 30 June 2025. The approach to the report continues to develop with a view to ensuring an informative progress and performance report on the organisation.

**OVERVIEW**

The last period has continued to be extremely busy as the Council progresses a number of big issues and programmes of work including the Long Term Plan and Water reform and associated consultations; whilst transforming how we operate and deliver and keeping progressing significant projects and business as usual. Capacity in the organisations remains stretched and the staff team and I continue to be spread thin across a range of competing priorities. The remainder of the year is likely to remain busy with the Council not having capacity to take on new work or priorities outside of that already agreed by Council.

***Transformation***

When I last reported, the remaining new teams had just been stood up. The new teams form part of an organisational design that supports a new operating model and new ways of working and delivering for our community. Since then, a lot of effort has been put in to embedding new teams and establishing new ways of working. I am pleased to report positive progress in this respect, but note that, as planned, there is still a lot of working to do to ensure the new ways of working are fully up and running, embedded and delivering the benefits we envisaged for our community and organisation.

It is proposed that we will close the Transformation Programme by the end of the calendar year. This does not mean we will have achieved all outcomes and benefits by then. When Council considered the business case and the benefits framework in there, it was highlighted that the benefits and outcomes would take two to three years after implementation to be fully realised. This remains the case. Our focus is now on how we ensure progress on the priority changes and outcomes, and then how we transition the remainder of the work to "business as usual" and continuous improvement.

***Customer Service: Improving access, customer service levels and efficiency***

In meeting our ambition to improve customer service, we have been implementing a new customer service model and approach. This includes developing the customer service offering at the Oamaru Public Library and Service Centre. Despite concerns raised by some sections of our community, this has gone smoothly to date and has not detracted from the library service. This has

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

enabled us to extend the hours of customer service to residents but without increasing the cost. We continue to develop the knowledge bank for customer service staff which supports an increasing number of customer requests being dealt with at the first point of contact. My thanks go to all the staff involved in this in helping make this change happen.

Significant progress has also been made on digitising council forms, giving access to many council services online, rather than residents having to come into our offices to pick up paper forms. The digitisation of forms also delivers efficiencies and reduces administration costs. Work continues on developing a customer portal that will give access to our services to residents 24/7 as well as customers being able to access their records. We continue to progress the development of booking systems for the range of services we offer which will enable residents to see availability and make bookings any time, any day whilst also improving efficiency and reducing administrative costs. Further work is being undertaken on the customer service offering at the Waitaki Aquatic Centre, which could enable us to extend our service access to seven days a week.

The implementation of our Case Management approach continues to make good progress and systems and approaches continue to bed in. Collectively, these changes are shifting our approach from residents accessing services when convenient to us to residents being able to access services when it is convenient to them. The changes also support more efficient processes, speeding up delivery to residents whilst reducing the cost to serve, whilst also enabling higher standards of customer service in terms of both speeding up the time to resolve customer requests and also the standard of service people receive.

*Project Management: improving project planning & delivery and supporting decision making*

Progress is being made in delivering a consistent and higher standard of project management across the range of council projects. The changes we are making will ensure we have resilience in project management, that we improve our project planning and delivery rate with increasing projects and programmes being delivered on time; and that we find cost efficiencies in project management and delivery by ensuring all projects are supported by an experienced and qualified team. The Project Management Office is leading this work through engagement with other teams across the organisation, clarifying roles and responsibilities as well as developing standard, consistent project management processes.

As a first stage of this, the Senior Management Team (SMT) agreed the Proposal and Discovery stages of the overall Project Management Framework that is under development. This will support strategic decision-making, continuous improvement, and the prioritisation of initiatives within both the Long-Term Plan (LTP) and Annual Plan (AP) cycles. In particular it will facilitate data-driven prioritisation of proposed initiatives; improve alignment between initiatives and Council's agreed strategic outcomes and priorities; apply a consistent and equitable method for assessing value and impact; and strengthen documentation to support decision-making during LTP and AP planning cycles.

*Benefits Realisation: Effectiveness & Efficiency*

When Council agreed the Business Case for Transformation, it aimed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Council in a variety of aspects. At the time, the business case did financially quantify the efficiency benefits, but the programme was not aimed at being a cost saving exercise. It recognised that the financial climate would likely become more challenging for all councils and therefore, efficiency was required to enable the Council to continue to invest. As we prepared to commence implementation it was apparent that the financial climate for councils and their communities was changing significantly driven by high inflation. In addition, the change in approach to water reform by the current government meant a significant and increasing investment

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

cost in meeting water standards remaining with councils for a period at least, and this came at a time when we and our communities were being squeezed financially. As a result, we adjusted our approach and focussed on the organisational design, on how we could gain efficiencies that reduced our costs significantly but whilst still meeting our ambitions to improve effectiveness including in customer service and programme delivery.

Attachment 1 is an evaluation of the progress made in gaining efficiency in our staff costs. This is not the only area targeted for efficiency as we continue to progress work in reducing other overheads such as in our operational property and in our use and procurement of external support.

*Leadership*

A significant part of improving our effectiveness and efficiency is shifting the culture of the organisation. There are many positive aspects to our culture including the community service ethos and the friendly approach. However, we have identified through transformation a need to develop our skills and approach to working more closely as one team, focussed on customer and community needs and outcomes, as well as improving our approach to increasing performance, starting with ensuring we are getting the best out of every staff member and every team. To support this, we have been investing in our leaders across the organisation to skill them up to support their teams to work and deliver in the new ways. The first cohort have just completed their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership course and we are now looking at how going forward, we will continue to support leadership development in our existing and potential leaders.

Looking forward, we are focussed on increasing the communications to our community. We have had limited capacity to focus on this due in particular to the significant communications and engagement efforts put into the Long Term Plan and options for change in water. There is a low level of understanding of our Transformation Programme and the improvements and benefits it is bringing, and we need to provide greater clarity to residents. We are also focussed on getting the Locality Model running and working effectively, having taken longer to recruit to roles within this area than other parts of the organisation.

***Long Term Plan (9 Year Budget)***

Since I last reported, we have been through our consultation process, deliberations and key directions for our Long Term Plan (LTP) and on 30 June, Council will consider the adoption of the Long Term Plan. This has been the most challenging LTP this council (and most councils) has faced with significant inflation and in particular the cost of complying with water standards driving up costs at a time when large parts of our community are feeling cost pressures in their household budgets. One of our transformation ambitions is to better engage our community in our work and so it was pleasing to see the progress made here, not only in getting a record response to the LTP consultation but also in reaching sections of our community we have not traditionally reached. This is something to build on as we work towards our ambition of to engage our community better.

The financial challenges we face have meant that the process we went through was not the one we originally planned and what Council agreed at the start. There were significantly more briefings and workshops than originally planned to scrutinise every part of the organisation and understand all of our costs and opportunities to reduce. This came at a time when we were disrupted as an organisation as we progressed the transformation and in particular the new organisational design and structure and got to grips with the government's Local Water Done Well reforms. This was less than ideal and placed a huge strain on the organisation. I would like to thank the Governance Team and staff for the hard work and many hours in meetings and preparing for meetings all focussed on getting the best result for our community in terms of delivering what is needed at a lower cost to ratepayers as possible. Whilst the proposed rate rise is higher than anyone would

---

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

---

**24 JUNE 2025**

want, it does compare favourably to most of our neighbours and shows the strain all councils are under, in particular in more rural areas, in dealing with cost increases and meeting the cost of the government's water standards and the significant cost burden this imposes on relatively small ratepayer bases.

Whilst our approach to the LTP has evolved slightly from that in the past to be more focussed on outcomes and value for communities, there is still significant scope for improvement in approach. Due to the decision to delay our LTP for a year, the next Council will be rapidly into the next LTP process. Before then though it is important to review the process, capture the lessons learned and identify the opportunities for improvement so that the new Council is even better equipped to develop an LTP in what will continue to be a challenging financial environment for councils.

***Local Water Done Well***

Since I last reported, we have undertaken significant work on responding to the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms. It is important to note that not all the legislation is in place for this yet, and the timeframes given to us by the government to submit our Water Services Delivery Plan are short. The impact of this has been that, whilst we have progressed a lot of work to consider the reforms in a short space of time, there is still much work to do in the detail of how things will work, whether we keep waters inhouse or put them into a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO). This is less than ideal and means we (and every Council) have been in the position of consulting our community without all the answers as to how things will work and Council will need to make a decision on which option to select to form its Water Service Delivery Plan, without as much detail as it would normally like for such a big decision.

It is clear from what is set out in the existing and draft legislation, there is no status quo option. In particular, the role of the Commerce Commission as Economic Regulator is going to have a significant impact on waters with broad ranging powers enabling it to give direction to Water Services Organisations – whether they be Council in-house operations or CCOs – on how much they invest in infrastructure and how much they charge water users.

Whatever the decision Council makes on water services, Council will need a new organisational strategy to reshape how it works and delivers. This will need to take account of the progress made in the Transformation Programme and continue to realise the benefits of the changes, and either the moving of waters outside of Council, or the creation of a ring-fenced inhouse business unit. An inhouse business unit, it will be required to operate almost as a separate organisation, with its own plan, own charging system outside of the existing rates system, separate reporting systems and potentially a separate governance and decision-making process. This will undoubtedly incur additional cost over the existing approach and have an impact on the rest of the council's operations and teams.

Within the Southern Water Done Well partnership of councils, whilst the focus has been on consultation and preparing councils for the decision on water services, some thought is now being given the process of change for the four councils should they decide to put water services in to a joint CCO. This too is a big change as one of the largest operations would shift out of the councils into a jointly owned company. The councils are considering how they could work together on this process and what the opportunities are for partnership working to deal with stranded overheads and develop shared resources and approaches so that as smaller organisations, the councils remain resilient and retain the capacity and capability to deliver, should councils decide to go down this route.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

---

**24 JUNE 2025**

Once the decision is made on the future of water, work will commence on the new Organisational Strategy for the post-water reform, post Transformation Programme, council, with a view to engaging the new Council early in this work.

***Elections***

The final area I would like to highlight is the work we are undertaking in preparation for elections. As an organisation with democratically elected community governance, election time is a period which requires considerable resource and capacity. This is more than just running the election process itself. Over the coming weeks we will put resource and effort in to encouraging people to register to vote, encouraging people to consider standing and then in to encouraging all electors to get out and vote. As a community organisation, increasing engagement in the election process is important in ensuring the Council has a good mandate to lead, govern and make decisions. However, we are faced with a national picture of declining engagement in the local election process.

Work has also commenced in developing the Induction Process for the new Council and community boards. Attracting diverse representation from our community is important to effective governance. When elected, the Mayor and Councillors, as well undertaking a community representation and advocacy role, also perform the role of “Board of Directors” of our organisation. A good induction programme is essential to ensuring that, whatever background our governance team are from, everyone is equipped with the skills and knowledge to perform the governance role. In doing this, our induction will be aiming to ensure the new Mayor, Councillors and Community Board are set up and supported to be successful in delivering their ambitions for our district, community and organisation.



**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)**

The following KPIs for the Chief Executive for the year ending 30 June 2025 were agreed and adopted on 24 September 2024.

**KPI 1 – TRANSFORMATION DELIVERY**

<b>KPI – Delivery/Implementation of Transformation Programme – Changing the Way We Waitaki</b>	
<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <p>Build the best council in NZ that empowers people and communities, is ambitious and high performing, and delivers excellent outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an ambitious council seeking to deliver the best for the district and residents</li> <li>• focussed on role as a community organisation and community leader</li> <li>• flexible, agile and data driven, focussed on performance and continuous improvement</li> <li>• modern, efficient, effective, customer focussed services</li> <li>• well governed</li> <li>• a leading employer with an empowered workforce</li> <li>• One Team in all that we do</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strategic Framework:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver Transformation Programme – Changing the Way We Waitaki</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Key Results:</b> (series of results that will enable successful delivery of the objective)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We deliver a customer experience that we're proud of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactions with Council are frictionless</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. We do the right things at the right time for our community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsive to real needs of community</li> <li>• Delivering on our promises</li> <li>• Understanding our community</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. We have a reputation as a trusted partner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have the agility to thrive</li> <li>• Responsive to change</li> <li>• Fit for purpose technology</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. We live within our means adding value for money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced costs of living in community</li> <li>• Rates viewed as an investment</li> <li>• Council gives more than it takes</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Key Measures:</b> <i>(initial measures, but not limited to these measures)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness – Achieve greater than 80% of key performance outcomes as agreed in the Annual Plan.</li> <li>• Efficiency – Improve the delivery of new and existing council provided services by 10% by implementing better processes and tools.</li> <li>• Effectiveness – Reduce the cost to deliver council provided services by 10% to reinvest in new council provided or partner services.</li> <li>• Community – Involve partners in the delivery of 10% of existing and new council services to support the delivery of the community outcomes.</li> </ul>

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

<p>5. We are an employer of choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff proud to work at Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievement of a 5% increase in the Culture measure, for each undertaking of the survey, in the Council's chosen Staff Engagement Survey.</li> </ul>
<p>6. The Governance Team and Community Board members are supported to carry out their governance roles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A baseline measurement is introduced during the 2025 calendar year, to be measured on an annual basis.</li> </ul>

*Progress Update:*

1. Overall progress is positive in delivering the Transformation Programme and realising the benefits and target outcomes for our community and organisation.
2. The Programme has introduced additional 'self-help' and 'self-service tools', including knowledge base articles, a chatbot, and online forms for customers. More than half of the Council's hardcopy forms are now available online, integrated into business processes, and some can accept payments, eliminating the need for customers to visit the Council in person. All forms are expected to be digitised in the next quarter. The Programme will also implement a new customer service portal, an online booking system, and digital property files within the next 9 months. This is enabling us to increase the number of customer enquiries resolved at first point of contact, improve speed of customer service and improve access to services. Efficiency improvements are anticipated as staff and customers adapt to these new tools and processes.
3. With the new operating model activated, the Programme is now refining and reinforcing new ways of working. While some teams have adapted quickly, others may take several months to adjust. New budgets aligned with the Operating Model will be effective from 1 July 2025, creating a new baseline. There will be improved access to financial information for managers and elected members and stronger financial management support and accountability. Focus areas include customer service, performance management, and locality-based planning and service delivery. Changes in Council operations will continue to improve customer experience, community engagement, and service delivery.
4. The ambition to communicate and engage our community more effectively continues to progress as Council interacts with the community through the long term plan, district plan, and 3 Waters consultations, reaching sections of the community we have not traditionally managed to engage. As further changes are implemented, such as locality working and place-based planning and service delivery, engagement levels are expected to continue increasing.
5. 73% of staff participated in the 2025 Staff Engagement Survey with an overall engagement score of 6.43 out of 10. Considering the level of change and uncertainty there has been within the organisation, this is a good score and a basis on which to improve and build engagement in and commitment to the organisation and realise our transformation ambition of becoming an employer of choice, able to retain and attract the skills and expertise our organisation and community need.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

**KPI 2 – COMMUNITY OUTCOMES**

<b>KPI 2a – Quality Services</b>	
Objective:	
Deliver modern, effective customer services within a culture of continuous improvement.	
Strategic Framework:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robust core infrastructure and services</li> <li>• Community facilities and services we are proud of</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Results:</b> (series of results that will enable successful delivery of the objective) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support our district to thrive via sustainable, resilient, and reliable networks and infrastructure</li> <li>2. Enhance access to current and future services for the community through user-friendly and convenient options</li> <li>3. Improve community wellbeing through enabling the provision of a highly valued and financially sustainable network of community facilities</li> <li>4. Council as an organisation delivers value and improvement efficiently and effectively to the district</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key Measures:</b> (initial measures, but not limited to these measures)</li> <li>• By achieving an overall satisfaction rating with the Council's performance of 60% from resident surveys</li> <li>• Reduce the need for over-the-counter service by 20% in the 12 months following the implementation of the new Customer Service model</li> <li>• Achieve an overall satisfaction rating with quality of life in the district of at least 85% from resident surveys</li> <li>• By implementing agreed outputs of the Transformation Programme by the end of the financial year (see KPI 1 for more detail)</li> </ul>

*Progress Update:*

1. The annual Resident Surveys is currently in progress and open to all residents. Results and comparisons with previous years will be available in August 2025.
2. Over half of the more than 90 hardcopy/PDF forms have been digitised. The remaining forms are scheduled to be digitised within the next quarter. The digital forms integrate service requests directly into the Council's workflow, with several facilitating payment processing. Additionally, 'self-help' and 'self-service' features, such as webchat and a knowledgebase, have been activated to further minimise the necessity for certain over-the-counter transactions.
3. The Council completed all four transition stages of the new organisational design and structure on time, as scheduled. The new teams and departments are now in a refinement and reinforcement phase where new working methods will be implemented over the upcoming months. Several new 'self-service' capabilities will be introduced to enhance efficiencies in customer service. Service delivery processes and systems continue to be

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

refined and improved to align with locality and place-based planning and service delivery models.

<b>KPI 2b – Strong Communities</b>	
Objective: Support and enable our communities to improve wellbeing	
Strategic Framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling safe and healthy communities</li> <li>• Connected, inclusive communities</li> <li>• Promoting a greater voice for Waitaki</li> <li>• Celebrating our community identity</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Results:</b> <i>(series of results that will enable successful delivery of the objective)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and promote public health and wellbeing through community initiatives and programmes.</li> <li>2. Promote diversity and cultural understanding within the community and within Council</li> <li>3. Facilitate the development of an “intentional plan” with the Council Governance Team that enables the Waitaki community to have local input into regional and central government decision-making – engage with ministers and officials to advocate for Waitaki.</li> <li>4. Support and promote local arts, culture, sport, and recreation</li> </ol>	<b>Key Measures:</b> <i>(initial measures, but not limited to these measures)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By increasing Council participation in education and awareness by 50%</li> <li>• By increasing the delivery of cultural competency education programmes to 14 by the end of the year</li> <li>• Engaging in 75% of all relevant submission opportunities</li> <li>• By growing utilisation and participation by 5% year on year</li> </ul>

*Progress Update:*

1. Stronger Waitaki continues to stand as a hub for the identification and enablement of practitioner training, support and professional development.

**Welcoming Communities**

Waitaki District Council has now achieved the first stage of accreditation in the Welcoming Communities programme which marks it as a ‘committed welcoming community’. The first draft of the Welcoming Communities action plan has also now been approved by the Local Settlement Group and a particular focus has been given to the running of a community food festival at the end of 2025.

**Mental Health and Addictions**

Oamaru Pacific Island Trust and Te Hā o Maru have been selected as partner providers for a crisis support service for the district. This is a significant milestone for Stronger Waitaki’s

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

Mental Health and Addictions Network and its advocacy for locally delivered mental health support for Waitaki. This Network has also now approved the draft of a mental wellness framework for the district. Work will be undertaken with Health NZ to create an implementation plan, and this is expected to be completed by August.

**Family Violence and Sexual Violence**

The Ripple Effect 5: Navigating the Digital Landscape conference is set to be delivered from 25 – 26 September 2025 for a 200 strong delegation. Speakers in the fields of family and sexual violence from across New Zealand have been confirmed, including Hon Karen Chhour, the Minister for the prevention of family and sexual violence.

**Family Whānau**

Stronger Waitaki's Family Whānau Network have provided the mandate for a referral map to be created for youth services in the district. In collaboration with Waitaki's dedicated Truancy Officer, this work will be undertaken to provide clear and accurate pathway information for schools and others seeking help for young people. Work is expected to be completed by January 2026.

**Warmer Waitaki Curtain Bank**

This initiative is progressing well. Equipment has been purchased, a referral pathway has been established, and volunteers will soon be trained by the Dunedin Curtain Bank. The team aims to begin providing curtains this winter.

**Homelessness response**

WDC staff recently attended a local government workshop focused on developing a coordinated response to homelessness. Following this, an internal meeting was held with various council teams, where it was agreed to adopt a joined-up approach. A framework will be developed to guide council staff interactions with people experiencing homelessness, ensuring they receive support. The next step is to host a hui with community partners to conduct a stocktake and gap analysis of relevant services, and to establish strong referral pathways.

**Home-focused referral pathways**

Housing Taskforce members are working to create clear referral pathways for clients. This will ensure that when a service engages with a client, they can confidently refer them to other relevant services that may support their housing and wellbeing needs. Stronger Waitaki is exploring ways to facilitate and strengthen this process (including partnership with another housing network), with a focus on enhancing collaboration between services and achieving better outcomes for the community.

2. The team have developed a programme of events for Matariki to be delivered in June in conjunction with the public holiday.
3. Between March 25 and June 13, 2025, 10 submissions were made, including 7 direct Council submissions, one regional partnership submission, and two Taituara collaborations. The direct Council submissions addressed various topics such as the Economic Regulation of Water Services by the Commerce Commission, the Information Disclosure Discussion Paper, Proposed National Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards, Otago Regional

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

Council's Draft Annual Plan 2025/26, the Otago Draft Regional Public Transport Plan, the Consumer Guarantees (Right to Repair) Amendment Bill, and the Emergency Management Bill Discussion Document. The regional partnership submission dealt with proposed amendments to the Waste Minimisation and Management Act and the Litter Act. The Taituara partnership submissions included the Emergency Management Bill Discussion Document by NEMA and the Public Works (Critical Infrastructure) Amendment Bill.

4. The focus for this quarter is on starting to review and enhance the marketing and promotion activities for Council facilities now that Council has a dedicated Marketing and Promotion function.

<b>KPI 2c – Prosperous District</b>	
<b>Objective:</b> Develop and enable a thriving district economy, characterised by sustainable and inclusive growth	
<b>Strategic Framework:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attracting new opportunities</li> <li>• Supporting local businesses</li> <li>• Fostering a diverse and resilient economy</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Results:</b> <i>(series of results that will enable successful delivery of the objective)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and grow the district's primary sector</li> <li>2. Revitalise our places (CBD and townships) through opportunities to support businesses, homes, and visitors</li> <li>3. Increase visitor economy return</li> <li>4. Enhance business innovation and growth</li> <li>5. Increase the skills base available to employers in the district and improve opportunities within the district for skills development</li> </ol>	<b>Key Measures:</b> <i>(initial measures, but not limited to these measures)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By facilitating at least two new feasibility studies by the end of the financial year to enable land and water use optimisation and supporting innovation and secondary industry opportunities</li> <li>• By activating 50% of CBD vacant spaces by the end of the financial year (excludes Palmerston CBD); AND By measuring the resulting economic impact by December 2025.</li> <li>• By generating &gt;15% increase in overall annual visitor spend through increased overnight stays</li> <li>• By supporting a minimum of 10 startups to become established through an entrepreneurship ecosystem</li> <li>• By creating career pathways for at least 50 people into employment across diverse business sectors</li> </ul>

*Progress Update:*

1. WDC has collaborated with four farmer/growers to explore the potential of medicinal crops for the Natural Health Product export market. Five crops were successfully grown and harvested in June 2025. The drying process is underway, and samples are being tested for

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

phytochemicals. Promising yields have been observed. As a long-term project still in the Discovery stage, Year 2 will see smaller-scale development at four sites focusing on optimized planting and weed management. Finalized learning outcomes include research and development opportunities to process waste streams. The cohort plans to share insights through field visits during Year 2.

2. The Revitalise our Places Ōamaru (ROPO) programme concluded in December 2024, successfully highlighting vacant spaces on Thames Street. This led to two businesses contacting building owners for short-term leases. Community-led projects from the Central Ōamaru Masterplan are progressing. Stage one of the Thames Street facade renovation started in May, with stage two planned for Spring 2025. Placemaking initiatives completed this quarter include the Ōamaru North Masterplan, adopted in May 2025. To support Waitaki placemaking, a new Waitaki identity and story have been developed to boost reputation and community pride, starting with Gateway and Township signage.
3. Infometrics data shows that tourism expenditure in the district decreased by 2.4% in the year to March 2025 compared to the previous year. This contrasts with a decrease of 1.6% in Otago and no change in New Zealand. Tourism expenditure was approximately \$204 million during the year to March 2025, down from \$209 million the previous year. The April Marketview visitor data indicates positive trends, with increases in spending from both domestic and international visitors. The international tourism spend compared to April 2024 increased by 19.3%, although this was from a low base (around 7% of total spend). Guest nights rose by 0.9% over the same period, in contrast to decreases of 2.9% in Otago and 2.7% in New Zealand. This resulted in a total of 471,100 nights compared to 466,900 nights a year earlier.
4. This workstream is on hold due to resource constraints.
5. **Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ)**  
The MTFJ Coordinator has achieved the target of 30 sustainable outcomes for the 2024/2025 year and continues to support these individuals as they acclimate to their workplaces. The funding for Waitaki for 2025/2026 has been increased from \$130,000 to \$220,000 with an expected outcome of 27 sustainable outcomes. The programme structure has now changed significantly, focusing on moving young people off the Jobseeker benefit instead of targeting NEETs in the community. The procurement process for the next Coordinator has been delayed, and an appointment is expected by the beginning of July.

**Building Capability**

MSD have allowed WDC to retain the remaining \$40,000 for a third and final cohort of Building Capability students. EOIs were asked for in April, with 10 applications received. Five students, three Pacific Peoples and two Māori have been successful and have begun the application process for the Bachelor of Applied Management with Capable New Zealand. These students are expected to graduate in April 2026.

**KPI 2d – Valued Environment**

Objective:

Protect Waitaki's natural and built environment for present and future generations

Strategic Framework:

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting our diverse landscapes and water bodies</li> <li>Meeting Environmental and climate change challenges</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Key Results:</b> <i>(series of results that will enable successful delivery of the objective)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide leadership to support sustainable long-term community resilience.</li> <li>Enable environmental ownership and protection in the community through education, incentives, and collaboration.</li> <li>Establish and implement robust strategies that promote the long-term protection and sustainability of Waitaki's natural and built environment.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Key Measures:</b> <i>(initial measures, but not limited to these measures)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By implementing a minimum of eight climate sustainability and/or resilience projects</li> <li>100% allocation of the Heritage, Biodiversity, and Waste Minimisation Funds</li> <li>Ensuring WDC achieves all national legislative planning standards by the end of the year</li> </ul>

*Progress Update:*

- Waitaki District Council has recently completed its first ISO 14064-1:2018 compliant greenhouse gas emissions inventory covering the 2022/23 financial year. This report establishes a verified baseline of all emissions from Council operations, superseding the previous 2018/19 report due to changes in Council operations, updated emission factors, and non-compliance with current ISO standards. A report on the WDC Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report will be presented at the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 24 June 2025.
- The Heritage Grants meeting took place on 10 June, during which five applications were received, totalling over \$70k. This amount represents more than three-quarters of the available funding. And at the 8 April meeting, the Waitaki Biodiversity Fund received three applications where funding for the financial year was fully allocated.

The Waste Minimisation Fund was fully allocated in August 2024. Waste minimisation education for our community is being progressed on multiple fronts. Work on a Reuse Directory is underway so that there is a comprehensive tool on our website to enable our community to find alternative disposal opportunities to landfill for items they no longer require. A collaborative project is also underway with our community resource recovery network sites to have standardised signage based on the waste hierarchy around their sites that encourage actions towards the top of the hierarchy. Great progress is being made on tackling the emergent issue of safe battery disposal, partnering with Phoenix Battery Recycling to provide battery disposal sites around the district. We have also been involved in Otago Waste Network initiatives on rural waste, submission content for recent Ministry for the Environment consultations, and development of educational material on safe battery disposal. And EnviroSchools facilitation continues to bring valuable sustainability education to our school and family audiences.

The number of high-quality applications received across the funds demonstrates the strong commitment and pride towards the communities in Waitaki, as well as the environment.



**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

3. The Proposed Waitaki District Plan was notified on 1 March 2025, with public consultation extended until 16 May 2025. Over 300 submissions were lodged. These are being entered into a database and summarised for public notification to allow further submissions. Hearings are expected to start in late 2025 or early 2026.

**KPI 3 – LEADERSHIP**

<b>KPI – Overarching Leadership</b>	
<b>Objective:</b> As the employee of the Governance Team, lead the staff of Council to achieve other key initiatives in the Strategic Framework and programme of priorities.	
<b>Strategic Framework:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosperous District</li> <li>• Strong Communities</li> <li>• Quality Services</li> <li>• Valued Environment</li> </ul>	
<b>Key ACTIONS:</b> <i>(series of ACTIONS that will enable successful delivery of the objective)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan developed and executed for the next stage of the Economic Development Strategy</li> <li>2. Development and implementation of a Communications and Community Engagement Strategy and approach</li> <li>3. Delivery of a new Waitaki Sports and Events Centre that meets the “must have” requirements</li> <li>4. A strong partnership exists between the Council and iwi based on trust, understanding and shared aspirations; Council is fulfilling the Te Tiriti commitments</li> <li>5. Successful adoption of a fit for purpose, transformative, Long-Term Plan that sets a direction for the district and its communities and a focus for what and how the Council will deliver to support this</li> <li>6. As part of the LTP, review CCOs and progress new arrangements to support delivery of Council target outcomes and objectives.</li> </ol>	<b>Key Measures:</b> <i>(initial measures, but not limited to these measures)</i>  <i>It is not appropriate to have measures for this KPI as it is identified as an overarching leadership objective for the Chief Executive.</i>  <i>The development and implementation of each of the Key Actions in the left column will be the deliverables in this case.</i>

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

7. Development of a Water Services Delivery Plan and Partnership Development for waters with other councils	
---	--

*Progress Update:*

1. Council at the recent LTP key directions meeting agreed to progress the repurposing of Tourism Waitaki Ltd as an Economic Development Agency, subject to a report coming back detailing arrangements, how this will be achieved and funding. Work is now commencing to progress this.
2. A briefing on the draft Communications and Engagement Strategy with Governance Team was held on May 2025 with a view to bringing a report to Council in the near future.
3. Construction on the Network Waitaki Event Centre is progressing well and ahead of schedule. Wastewater and stormwater installations are 95% done, and underground plumbing, concrete foundation, and hold down bolts are complete. Structural steel installation is 95% finished, and precast concrete panels are at 70%. Next steps include roof cladding, pouring the floor slab in the cricket area, blockwork installation, first fix electrical, and exterior wall framing.
4. Te Rūnanga o Moeraki have recently appointed a new Chief Executive, Trevor McGlinchey, after a period of vacancy for the role. Trevor brings a depth of knowledge about the district having held many roles including on Waitaki District Health Services Ltd and the Geopark Trust. Trevor's appointment enables Te Rūnanga o Moeraki and Council to continue to discuss the development of partnership working and where this can bring benefits to our communities.
5. As of 27 May 2025, the Council has agreed on the Key Directions for the Long-Term Plan (LTP) with the aim to adopt the 2025-34 LTP, originally on 24 June 2025, but now 30 June 2025, pending Audit completion. The draft 2025-34 LTP document is currently being audited in its word version, while the design version is being developed concurrently. This process is approximately 80% complete. The audit commenced on 19 May; officers are responding to requests as they arise
6. The possibility of a Water CCO remains under consideration as part of a range of options to meet the requirements of the government's Local Water Done Well reform and legislation. Progress has been made in preparing to close Waitaki District Health Services Ltd now that hospital and health care services have transferred to Health New Zealand. However, we are unlikely to make the original timeframe of the end of June 2025 due to legacy issues that still need to be dealt with from the time the CCO was providing health services.
7. Following initial analysis across all Otago and Southland councils, Council committed on 25 February 2025 to a partnership with Clutha DC, Gore DC and Central Otago DC. This led to analysis of three options for the future management of water services: In-house, a CCO wholly owned by the Council, and a joint CCO owned with other councils. Community consultation on the potential options for the future of water has recently closed and Council is due to make a decision on the option to be progressed in early July.

Continued work and analysis have taken place on the potential options including work by Concept Consulting to check the work and assumptions set out in the Morrison Lowe work. Concept reported that the analysis and assumptions were sound, but that the projected efficiency cost savings for a joint CCO were conservative. As a result, further work has been commissioned from Concept to identify the potential scale of efficiency savings. These will be

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

set out in the decision report to Council. Further work from Infometrics Chief Executive and Principal Economist, Brad Olson, was commissioned to test check the modelling and assumptions. This found that the modelling and assumptions were sound and that the joint CCO presented the most cost effective and efficient option for councils and water users. The findings of the review are to be shared with councillors ahead of decision making in July.

All Councils are required by the legislation to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan by 3 September 2025, that meets the governments requirements to meet legislative drinking water and wastewater standards in a financially sustainable way. Whilst the timetable is tight, we are currently on track to deliver a Plan on time.

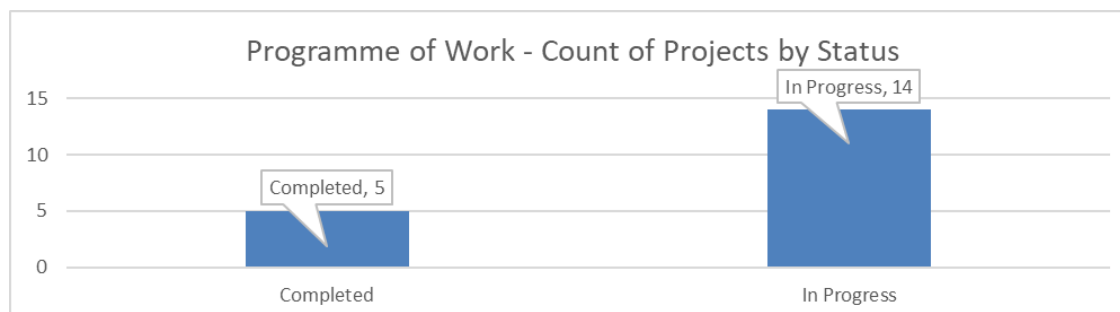
**PROGRAMME & PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

Solid progress has been made on the capital works programme for 2024–25. Significant completion has been achieved across multiple infrastructure projects, with particular strength in the Valued Environment and Quality Services portfolios. Two projects currently carry elevated risk profiles, and are receiving additional oversight to address scope, schedule, and design issues.

**Strong Communities:** While no specific projects are tagged under this outcome in this report, the Network Waitaki Event Centre will deliver significant long-term benefits for community access, sport, and events. It is captured under Quality Services but aligns strongly with this outcome.

**Prosperous District:** No direct projects are listed under this outcome in the current cycle. However, enabling infrastructure upgrades (e.g., water, digital systems, roading) lay the foundation for sustained economic and social development across the district.

**Conclusion:** Overall delivery performance is on track, with the majority of capital works either completed or progressing steadily. Two projects require continued management due to elevated risks, but mitigation steps are in place. 8 of the projects in progress are over multiple financial years.



**Projects With Elevated Risk Profiles**

Project Name	Budget	Quality	Resources	Schedule	Scope	Project Management Notes
Moeraki Sea outfalls	Amber	Amber	Green	Red	Amber	Resource Consent required
Network Waitaki Event Centre	Red	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Quality/design impacts on resources

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

Programme of Work

Valued Environment

A strong outcome area with key projects either completed or underway. Environmental upgrades and compliance-focused works dominate this category.

#	Project Name	Project Description	Project Status	Baseline Start Date	Baseline Budget	% Complete
Null	Moeraki Toilets	New toilets at M Boulders	Completed	25/06/2024	\$155,000	100
2497	OPG pond clearance	Remove sludge from ponds	Completed	1/07/2024	\$187,000	100
1096	Breakwater-Tetra Pod construction	Construct Tetra pods	In Progress	30/06/2025	\$200,000	10
4097	Moeraki Sea outfalls	Address non compliance	In Progress	1/02/2025	\$250,000	10

Quality Services

This outcome area has the most activity and budget value. Several major infrastructure upgrades are either complete or in advanced stages. High-value projects: Kakanui Bridge (\$9.5M): 15% complete. Network Waitaki Event Centre (\$15M): 30% complete but has elevated design risk. Lake Ohau DWS Upgrade: 95% complete and on track. Digitisation Projects & SharePoint: Progressing with phased implementation.

#	Project Name	Project Description	Project Status	Baseline Start Date	Baseline Budget	% Complete
2473	Otematata Water main renewals	replace watermains	Completed	1/07/2023	\$536,773	100
2489	Sealed Pave Rehabs	Sealed rehabs	Completed	16/01/2025	\$1,785,000	100
2490	Sealed Roads resurfacing	Planned reseals	Completed	1/09/2020	\$2,700,000	100
1018	SharePoint upgrade	Upgrade of digital services	In Progress	1/07/2023	\$303,000	15
1028	Kakanui Bridge Construction	Construct new bridge	In Progress	16/02/2025	\$9,500,000	15
1059	Lake Ohau DWS upgrade	Meet DWS	In Progress	1/07/2024	\$2,000,000	95
2453	Digitisation of property files (P2)	Digitisation of files project	In Progress	1/07/2022	\$540,000	25
2467	Waihemo Urban WM upgrades	Upgrade watermains	In Progress	1/07/2024	\$3,900,000	60
2516	Forrester Gallery extension	Extension to F Gallery	In Progress	1/07/2024	\$5,784,960	25

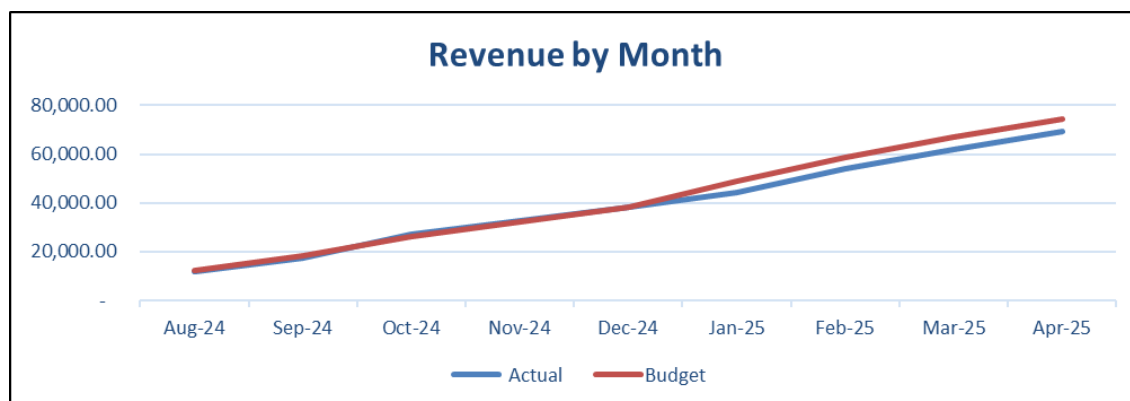
**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

4458	Backflow prevention programme	Install at Council properties	In Progress	1/07/2024	\$300,000	80
4463	Emergency District Generators Large	Purchase generators as backup power at key Water service locations	In Progress	1/07/2024	\$240,000	80
4473	Emergency District Generators small	Purchase generators as backup power at key Water service locations	In Progress	1/07/2024	\$240,000	80
4545	Network Waitaki Event Centre	6 court event centre	In Progress	9/09/2024	\$15,000,000	30
4549	Otematata wastewater disposal field	Additional infiltration field	In Progress	30/08/2024	\$250,000	95
4567	Urban Water main renewals-Omarama	Planned renewals	In Progress	2/07/2024	\$780,140	70

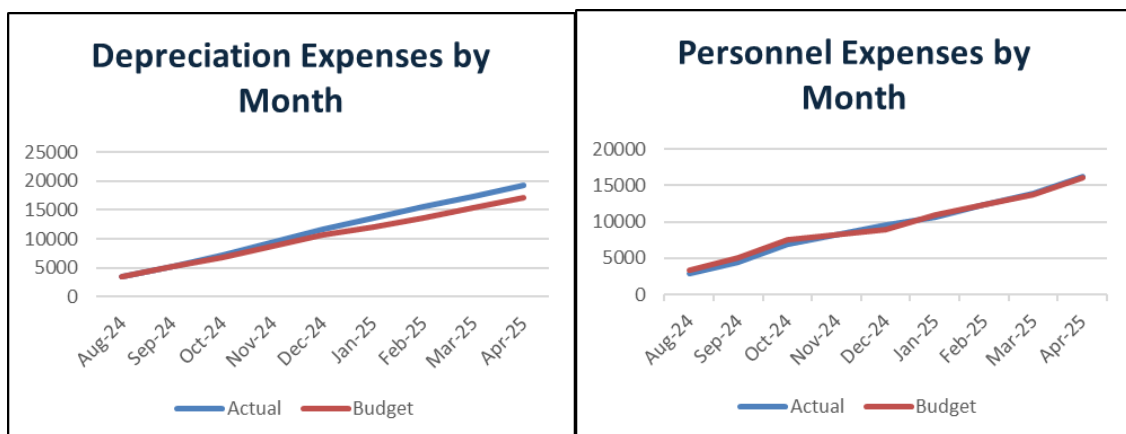
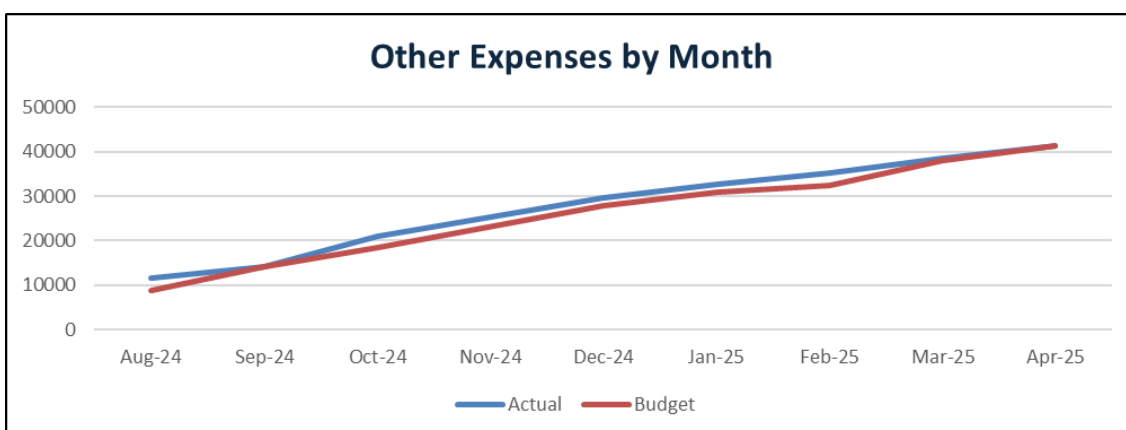
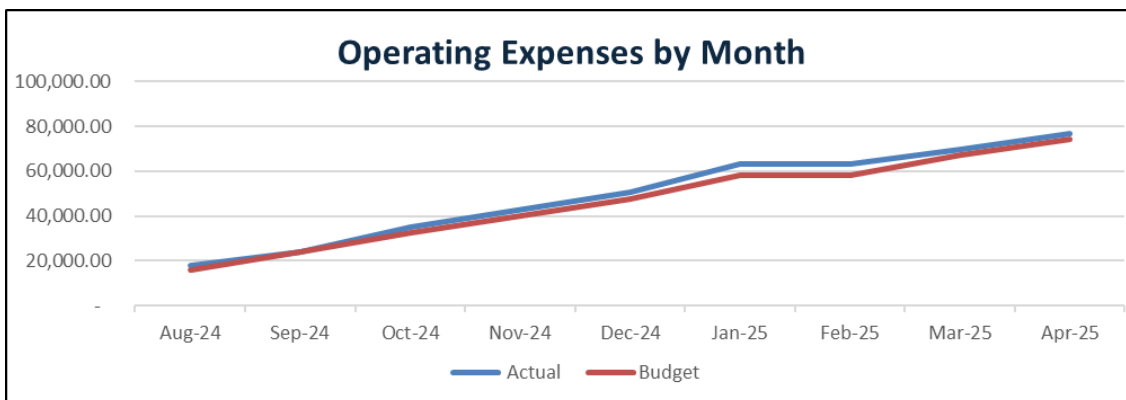
**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Council's overall operating result for the period ending 30 April 2025 is a \$7.9m deficit, versus the budgeted breakeven point for the same 10-month period. This is largely due to receiving lower grants and donations than expected within the year, as well as increased costs in the current year in relation to Project Reclaim, higher Depreciation than forecast, and generally higher other expenses than forecast.



**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

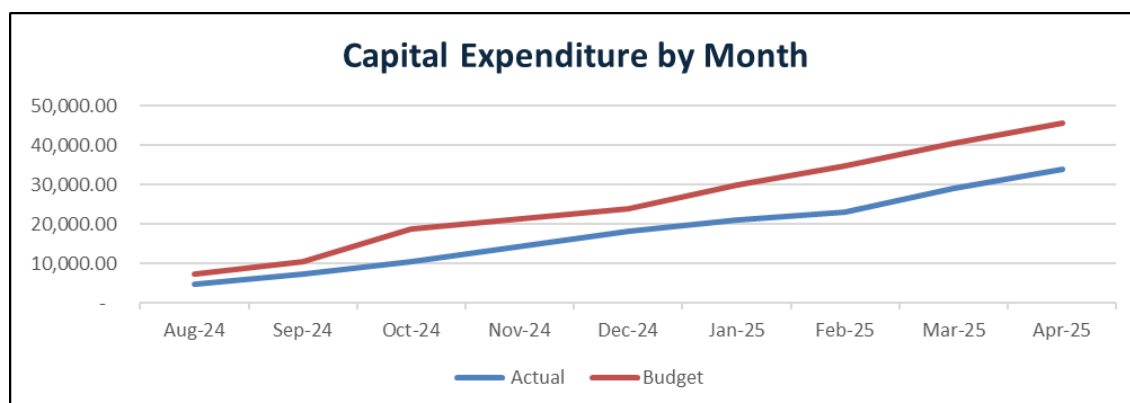
**24 JUNE 2025**



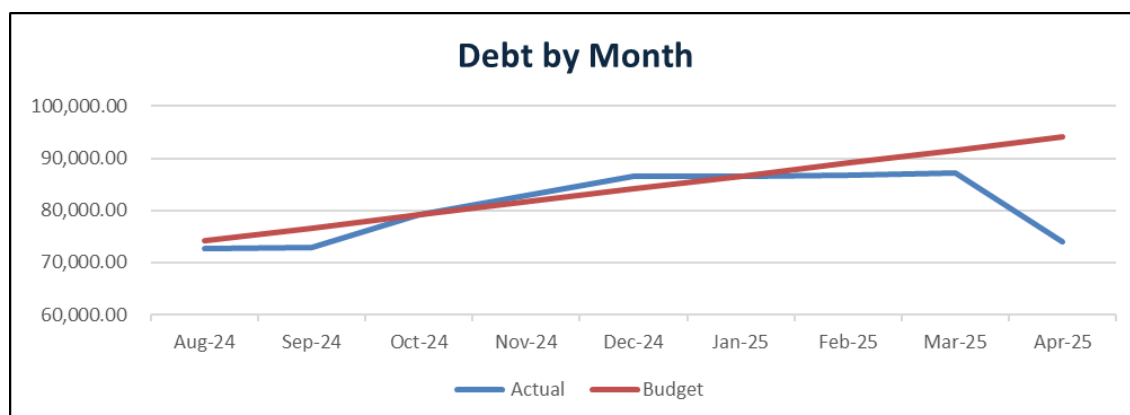
Capital expenditure is significantly behind budget. The total budget for the year was \$59m as per the 2025 Enhanced Annual Plan; however, when carry-forwards were agreed, Council directed that a review was undertaken of the Capital programme to ensure deliverability. Therefore, it was agreed to defer \$20m of the \$59m to future years, at Council's 17 December 2024 meeting. The current spend is \$34m against the revised \$39m budget for the year.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**



Debt is much lower than planned due to the \$20m deferred capital work, as well as the \$15m early repayment of the Observatory Village loan in February 2025 (used to repay debt when at the next available loan maturity in mid-April 2025). We had expected to end the year 2025 with \$99m of debt; however, this is now expected to be slightly over \$70m.



**PEOPLE**

As at the end of the quarter, 59% of Council's workforce identify as female (159 staff), 40% as male (108 staff), and 3% prefer not to disclose. In terms of age, 5% (13 staff) are under 20, 9% (25) are aged 21–30, and 14% (38) are aged 31–40. The largest age cohorts are 41–50 (23%, or 61 staff) and over 50 (49%, or 132 staff), reflecting a mature workforce with deep experience. These insights are helping to inform our People Strategy including succession planning, flexible work practices, and future recruitment strategies.

The 2025 Staff Engagement Survey, with a strong 73% participation rate, revealed a committed workforce that values teamwork, the support of managers and having meaningful and purposeful work. However, the survey demonstrated staff hold concerns about leadership visibility, communication clarity, and fairness in pay and progression. An engagement score of 6.43/10 and an eNPS of -29 highlight the need for increased transparency and alignment but are within a context of a transformation programme that has, as expected, been disruptive and unsettling to staff and taken a lot of the capacity of staff across the organisation. In response, Council is prioritising initiatives to strengthen internal communication, clarify career development pathways, and enhance trust in leadership.

Exit survey feedback this quarter was generally positive, with departing employees citing retirement, relocation, or contract completion as their reasons for leaving. Most felt supported by their managers and teams, though some noted the offboarding process could be more personal.

**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

**24 JUNE 2025**

The three-month onboarding survey showed new starters feel welcomed and supported, but raised concerns about unclear role definitions, outdated systems, and inconsistent onboarding experiences—particularly in finance and project-based roles. Planned improvements like the IBIS financial system and PSODA project management system rollouts and better documentation aim to address these gaps and strengthen early employee experiences.

The end-of-year performance review process is now underway at Council, following a pause during the 2024 transformation period. This interim review cycle provides staff with an opportunity to reflect on their achievements, receive feedback, and discuss development goals. The process is aligned with Council values and will support the transition to a new performance framework being introduced later in 2025. The process will be completed in the first half of July and will inform upcoming remuneration reviews.

Bargaining with the PSA union has encountered some delays including challenges in securing engagement time with PSA representatives. Council remains committed to progressing negotiations in good faith and has taken proactive steps to clarify expectations and align processes.

The People Strategy 2025–2030 has now been approved by the Senior Management Team, marking a significant milestone in our long-term organisational development work. This strategy sets out our priorities for building a capable, connected, and future-ready workforce over the next five years. It focuses on four key pillars: leadership, performance, workforce, and culture & systems, each supported by clear actions and success indicators. Implementation will be phased, with early emphasis on leadership development, workforce planning, and embedding a refreshed performance framework. Governance will continue to receive regular updates as this work progresses and supports the transformation goals.

Over the past quarter, Council recorded a range of health and safety incidents, the majority of which were minor injuries or near misses. A significant number occurred at the Aquatic Centre and involved slips, cuts, or minor impacts, many relating to children and public patrons. One serious psychosocial incident and several reports relating to bullying, community abuse, and staff wellbeing were also logged, reinforcing the need for ongoing support and vigilance in high-risk roles. Staff responded appropriately in most cases, with immediate treatment and follow-up actions taken, including first aid, environmental checks, and facility maintenance. Several improvement measures have been initiated, such as workstation assessments, infrastructure reviews, and reinforcement of safety messaging, ensuring a continued focus on proactive risk management and staff wellbeing.

We are strengthening our approach to health, safety and wellbeing by increasing leadership visibility, sharing responsibility, and focusing on practical action. Our updated Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee now includes both worker-elected representatives and appointed managers, creating a balanced forum for joint decision-making. This change ensures faster progress on the issues that matter while maintaining compliance with legislative requirements, including majority worker representation.

Council has engaged Intesafety to support a review of how we manage our most critical health and safety risks. Through targeted workshops running from late May to June, we will assess key risk areas (such as lone work, driving, contractor management, and wellbeing) to ensure our controls and leadership practices are robust and fit for purpose.

Council continues to face challenges in attracting and securing qualified candidates, particularly in highly skilled roles, in a competitive labour market. Our current average time to hire is 53.2 days, reflecting both the constrained talent pool in regional areas and increased caution among jobseekers. Despite strong interest in public service roles, many applicants are seeking greater role clarity, flexibility, and career progression before committing. Skills shortages, particularly in technical and regulatory roles, continue to limit the depth of candidate pools. Additionally, some recruitment processes are delayed by re-advertising rounds or extended offer negotiations. These challenges highlight the need to strengthen our employer brand, streamline our recruitment practices, and invest in targeted talent sourcing strategies.



**COUNCIL  
MEETING AGENDA**

---

**24 JUNE 2025**

**PROGRESS WITH OTHER KEY WORK**

In summary, other areas on which the Chief Executive continues to engage are:

- Regular meetings with Council Controlled Organisation Chief Executives and Boards.
- Regular meetings with other Waitaki Chief Executives.
- Otago Chief Executives Forum, for which the CE is currently the Chair.
- Otago Mayoral Forum.
- Otago Civil Defence Executive Group.
- Otago Civil Defence Joint Committee.
- Canterbury Chief Executives Forum.
- Canterbury Mayoral Forum.
- Waitaki Events Centre Project Board meetings.

**7        MEETING CLOSE**