



# Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

*TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI*

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

**Date: Monday, 7 July 2025**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

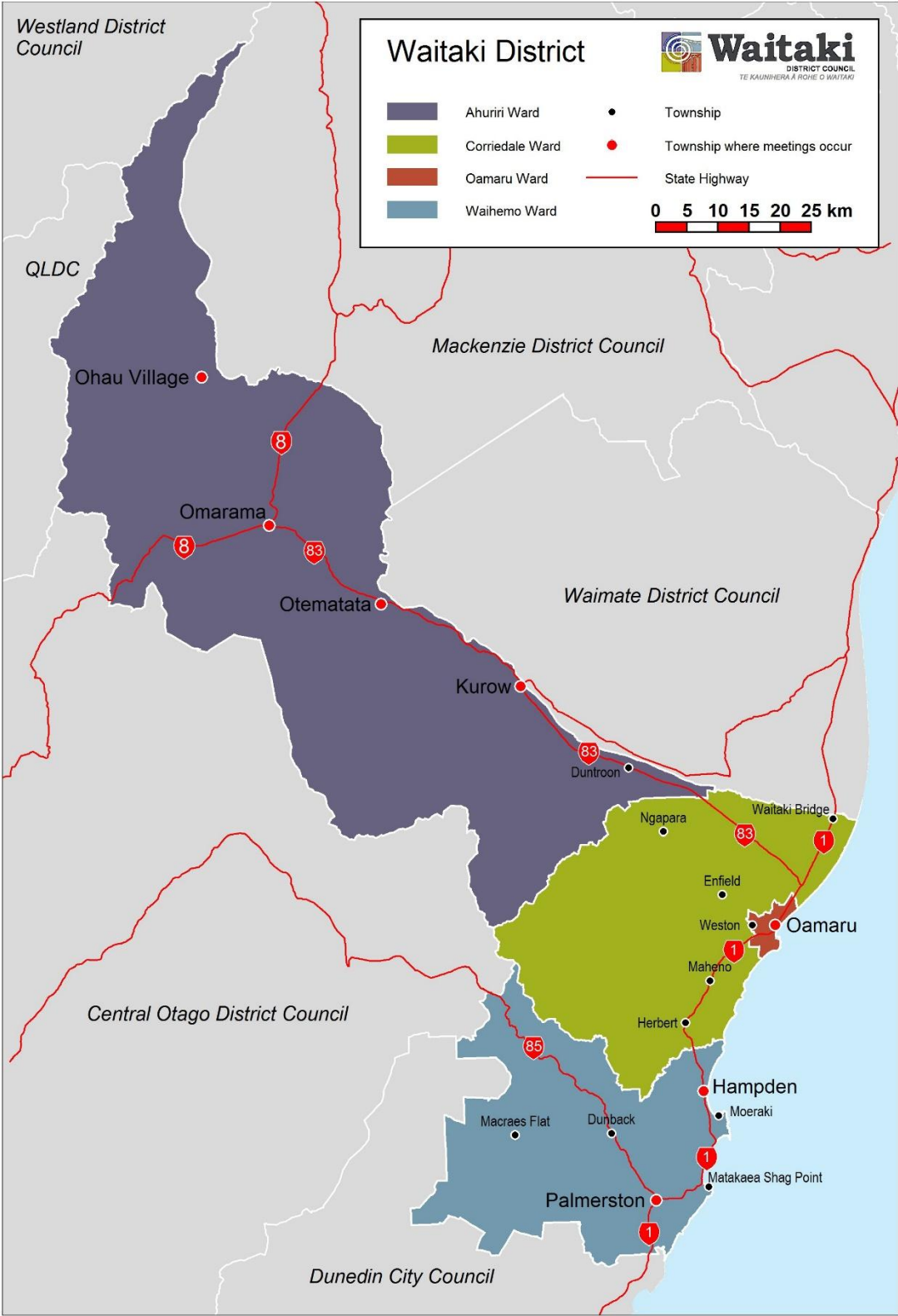
**Location: Waihemo Service Centre, Palmerston**

## **Agenda**

### **Waihemo Community Board Meeting**

### **7 July 2025**

**Alex Parmley  
Chief Executive**





## Agenda Items

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

**4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

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

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

**Authoriser:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

**OF THE WAIHEMO COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD IN THE HAMPDEN COMMUNITY HALL, 25/27 LONDON STREET HAMPDEN  
ON MONDAY, 12 MAY 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Member Jim Thomson, Member Tanya Bell, Member Kerry Stevens, Chair Heather McGregor, Member Paul Roy, Member Carol Watson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Gary Kircher  
Joanne O'Neill (Director Strategy Performance and Design)  
Arlene Goss (Governance Services Lead)  
Erik van der Spek (Network Manager)  
Melanie Jones (Community and Economic Development Manager)  
Sonia Martinez (Strategic Engagement and Communications Manager)  
Maria Barta (Puketapu Community Trust)  
Hamish McFarlane (Puketapu Community Trust)  
Chris McCarthy  
Taranaki Smith  
Andy Clare (Puketapu Community Trust)  
David Saunders (Shag Point Community)

**MEETING OPEN**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 6pm and welcomed everyone present.

**1 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED WCB 2025/001**

Moved: Member Kerry Stevens

Seconded: Member Carol Watson

That the apology received from Chief Executive Alex Parmley be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 PUBLIC FORUM**

David Saunders asked to speak on behalf of Shag Point residents and ratepayers. He noted there was a road counter on the Shag Point road and was pleased with this. He raised issues around weed spraying, saying this was haphazard.

Stormwater that flowed from the new subdivision at Shag Point was causing damage and slips. He said maintenance was needed on drains and culverts. The water had twice run through someone's property.

The Mayor asked if the new locality officer was looking into these issues. The locality officer role was created to allow one point of contact. Mr Saunders said the Palmerston locality officer had been out to look at the stormwater problem and was aware of the issues.

Hamish McFarlane then spoke on behalf of the Puketapu Community Trust. He asked if the issue of access to Puketapu was being discussed at this meeting. Yes, in public excluded due to it involving

financial negotiations. Mr McFarlane supported council efforts to buy the land involved. Discussion included the complexity of this issue and the reasons for slow progress.

Mr McFarlane asked if the trust could get back to regular meetings with the community board, as a lack of communication was leading to misunderstandings and tension. The chair suggested that a group include two representatives from the board, two from the trust, one from council and one from Runanga.

Both speakers were thanked for attending and raising their issues.

## **4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

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

#### **RESOLVED WCB 2025/002**

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson  
Seconded: Mr Kerry Stevens

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

**CARRIED**

## **5 DECISION REPORTS**

### **5.1 HAMPDEN SCHOOL STORMWATER**

The purpose of this report was to determine whether the Waihemo Community Board would contribute to the cost of stormwater pipe repairs in the Hampden School grounds.

Hampden School has a stormwater pipe that passes through its grounds, which has failed. As the pipe takes flow from other community infrastructure, Hampden School has requested that the Waihemo Community Board make a contribution to the cost of repair.

Member Kerry Stevens said he has spoken to the principal, who is frustrated at the stormwater issues on the playground. Mr Stevens was in favour of the community board contributing this money (\$9106.76 plus GST). He also asked council staff to look at the long-term ownership of the pipe.

The chairwoman asked if this discussion could be put on hold until Mr van der Spek, the council network manager, arrived at the meeting. He arrived about 10 minutes later and the discussion continued.

Mr van der Spek said if the school wanted Council to take ownership of the pipe they had been asked to submit this to the Long Term Plan process, but had not done so. This was just one of the stormwater problem areas in the ward, and others would be brought to the community board soon.

The board agreed to approve the cost of repairs to the pipe, as requested by the school.

#### **RESOLVED WCB 2025/003**

Moved: Mr Kerry Stevens  
Seconded: Mr Paul Roy

That the Waihemo Community Board:

1. Waihemo Community Board approves the full cost of repairs (Quoted at \$9106.76 plus gst) to come from the Hampden Amenity Rate.

**CARRIED**

## **6 MEMORANDUM REPORTS**

### **6.1 WAITAKI GATEWAY AND TOWNSHIP SIGNAGE**

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

Melanie Jones, Community and Economic Development Manager, and Sonia Martinez, Strategic Engagement and Communications Manager, joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the new Waitaki Brand Identity and town signage.

They noted that the new signs had been added to the council asset register to ensure maintenance and replacement took place in the future.

Questions were raised about the materials to be used, and whether they would age well.

NZTA rules required signs that were easily read from a moving car.

Several options for the Palmerston sign were presented. These would be given to suppliers to quote on, so prices could be compared for different materials.

Melanie and Sonia asked for feedback from the community board members. They would like to start installing the new signs at Palmerston.

The chairperson confirmed that a third sign had been requested for Palmerston, to be placed at the state highway 85 entry to town. Discussion took place on the cost of three signs and whether all three could be afforded. The chair mentioned that \$20,000 had been put aside in 2021 and was this money still available? Melanie Jones said she was looking into this.

The sign needed to be simple and not include too many details. Members agreed to keep it simple with good contrast. They did not like the blue highlights, but preferred the rust colour and white alone.

Public consultation would take place on Let's Talk with a short survey. The aim would be to consult quickly.

### **RESOLVED WCB 2025/004**

Moved: Tanya Bell

Seconded: Paul Roy

That the Waihemo Community Board endorse the proposed approach for the design and installation of gateway and township signage across the district, featuring the new Waitaki logo and identity.

**CARRIED**

### **6.2 CORRESPONDENCE**

The purpose of this report was to present board correspondence and to provide additional officer comments where these have been sought by the Chair, and for actions to be agreed in response.

#### **Gilligan/ Brough Street Intersection**

A letter to the Waihemo Community Board expressing concern about Gilligan/ Brough intersection was received. The letter expressed concern about vehicle speeds since the intersection was changed.

Speed counters have been introduced on this road. The concerns about speed have also been expressed by the police officer who lives there. There was also a house with five children who regularly walked on the road.

Member Kerry Stevens suggested thanking the writer and noting their concerns, and pass this to the locality officer to work with staff on the best outcome for this section of road.

The community board said they were concerned about making decisions without input from roading experts. A resolution was passed as below.

**RESOLVED WCB 2025/005**

Moved: Mr Kerry Stevens

Seconded: Mrs Carol Watson

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the concerns in the letter and refers the matter to the locality officer to work with the resident and the relevant council staff.

**CARRIED**

**6.3 BUILDING CONSENTS ISSUED IN THE WAIHEMO WARD DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2025**

The purpose of this report was to provide board members with a list of building consents issued in the Waihemo Ward during February and March 2025.

**RESOLVED WCB 2025/006**

Moved: Mr Paul Roy

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

**6.4 FINANCIAL REPORT TO WAIHEMO COMMUNITY BOARD (MARCH 2025)**

This report is intended to update the Waihemo Community Board on financial matters and activities within the Waihemo ward. The chairperson noted that cameras were installed but not operational. Wiring needed to be connected from the public toilets, so there may be more costs in the future for this.

**RESOLVED WCB 2025/007**

Moved: Mrs Carol Watson

Seconded: Mr Kerry Stevens

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

**6.5 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The purpose of this report was to share the Chairperson's report with board members and the public. The chairwoman noted that she had met with the local MP regarding speed limits through Hampden, and had also attended the hearing of submissions related to the grazing licence application for the Waihemo Recreation Reserve.



**RESOLVED WCB 2025/008**

Moved: Mrs Heather McGregor

Seconded: Mr Paul Roy

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

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

The purpose of this report was for members of the board and the Waihemo Ward councillor to report on their activities.

It was noted that Cr Jim Thomson had attended the Anzac Day service on 25 April, not Cr Jim Hopkins.

**RESOLVED WCB 2025/009**

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson

Seconded: Mrs Carol Watson

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

**6.7 COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT - LINKS TO COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PAPERS**

The purpose of this report was to provide links to 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.

The Mayor asked Cr Thompson to update on the district plan review. He explained that submissions were extended for a further week, on request from a law firm that was acting on behalf of a group of residents.

Unfortunately there have been mapping issues on council's website, which have been fixed and council has apologised for this.

They are expecting a large number of submissions. Councillors have requested a report from staff on how to take account of changes at a national level that are upcoming. Council will consider options that include an option to park the plan awaiting changes at a national level.

Although this project has been going on for a long time, there were a lot of people who had only just discovered they had overlays on their property.

The Mayor updated the community board on progress with the Long Term Plan. The governance team and staff have been working on reducing the rates rise, and will keep working on that until May 27.

The water services delivery plan needed to be delivered to DIA by September 27. Consultation on the matter was happening currently. The Mayor explained the background to this matter and the four options that were part of the consultation process.

The consultation period on this matter was ending in June.

Cr Thompson said in Waihemo the three waters issues were with sewage dispersal fields, and consent abatement notices. Truck stop stations were also a problem because people were using them to dump waste other than stock waste. Currently this waste was being trucked to Timaru.

Member Tanya Bell asked if rural ratepayers would be facing higher rates rises than urban ratepayers this year. The Mayor said it came down to the work that was being done and where. More work on roading and increased valuations would have an impact on rural ratepayers.

Discussion took place on rates and how they were set in urban and rural areas.

Joanne O'Neill then updated on work towards the upcoming elections. A project team has been created to manage the elections and the induction of new elected members.

**RESOLVED WCB 2025/010**

Moved: Mr Paul Roy

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

**7 RECOMMENDATION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED WCB 2025/011**

Moved: Mrs Carol Watson

Seconded: Mr Kerry Stevens

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

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution</b>
<b>Puketapu Land Acquisition</b>	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

**CARRIED**

**8 RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING**

**RESOLVED WCB 2025/012**

Moved: Mr Kerry Stevens

Seconded: Mrs Tanya Bell

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

**CARRIED**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.22pm.

## 5 DECISION REPORTS

### 5.1 LINCOLN STREET RAIL CROSSING, HAMPDEN

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

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Waihemo Community Board recommends:

That Council:

1. Approve making Lincoln Street one-way where it crosses the Rail lines to alleviate Safety concerns.

#### DECISION OBJECTIVE

To get Community Board advice and support to make Lincoln Street one-way to resolve safety concerns.

#### SUMMARY

KiwiRail and the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association have identified a safety concern at the Railway crossing on Lincoln Street, Hampden, and have suggest Lincoln Street be made one-way.

#### DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS

Governance Decision-Making:	To determine whether to make changes to road layout and appropriate funding.
Operational Decision-Making:	Implementation of Council decision
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	Moderate	Economic Considerations	No
Community Views	Moderate	Community Board Views	Key
Consultation	No	Publicity and Communication	No

## **BACKGROUND**

Waitaki District Council has been approached by KiwiRail who have expressed safety concern over the Lincoln Street level crossing at Hampden. Over the last couple of years there has seemingly been a marked increase in the number of towing vehicles & campervans using this crossing, mainly due to the growing popularity of the NZMCA Holiday Park. These vehicles are often quite large, lengthy and slow moving from an uphill restart.

The operators of the camp and KiwiRail have requested a better option should be explored. The roadway and the crossing pad are quite narrow, so whenever two large opposing vehicles meet at the crossing, each driver's attention is likely to be focused on not colliding with the other, and probably not giving the railway line the respect it deserves.

The camp operators have already adopted their own mitigation strategy, and they tell each visitor as they register at the camp office to exit via the Chelmsford Street crossing to the south and have installed their own directional signage to reinforce this.

The camp managers and KiwiRail propose that this street officially adopt a one-way rule, with vehicles coming down into the camp/beach via Lincoln Street and all vehicles leaving via Chelmsford Street (which would remain unchanged as a two-way crossing), which has better view lines and more level approaches.

Officers have considered this and agree that this solution makes sense. Officers understand this has been discussed previously and understand the Community Board has also made submission in the past for a footpath along Lincoln Street to the Campground. Construction of a footpath requires further thought and design due to the steepness of terrain and approach to the rail crossing. The cost and complexity of a footpath is likely to be significant enough to need approval as a Project in Council's Long Term, or Annual Plan.

The plans below show the proposed changes.







The anticipated cost of signs and marking is \$3,800 which can be met from current budgets

### SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED

**Option 1** – Adopt one way traffic for Lincoln Street where it crosses the Railway.

**Option 2** – No Change – Lincoln Street remains two-way.

**Option 3** – Make Lincoln Street and Carlisle Street a one-way loop.

### ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION

Making Lincoln Street a one-way street resolves safety issue and is able to be completed a minimal cost from existing budgets.

### CONCLUSION

Making Lincoln Street a one-way street is the preferred option as this resolves a safety issue at low cost

## **ADDITIONAL DECISION-MAKING CONSIDERATIONS**

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

#### **Outcomes**

##### **Community Outcomes**

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

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

###### **Strong Communities**

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

###### **Quality Services**

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

###### **Valued Environment**

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

#### **Community Views**

Changes to the road layout will affect local community and Community Board advise and endorsement is recommended.



## **5.2 HAMPDEN WASTEWATER INVESTIGATION FUNDING**

**Author:** Joanne O'Neill, Director Strategy, Performance, and Design

**Authoriser:**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Waihemo Community Board:

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

2. That the Waihemo Community Board recommends to Council:

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

### **DECISION OBJECTIVE**

The community board is asked to make the following decisions:

1. Does the Board wish to proceed with commissioning a new Hampden wastewater report, despite the existence of the 2022 report?
2. Should a community consultation process be undertaken to understand current views on wastewater infrastructure in Hampden?

### **SUMMARY**

On Monday, 26 May, the Director of Strategy, Performance and Design met with those Waihemo Community Board members who were available to discuss the \$40,000 currently budgeted for a report on a potential reticulated wastewater system for Hampden.

Historical records indicate that multiple investigations into Hampden's wastewater management have been undertaken since the 1980s. More recently, in 2022, a community meeting in Hampden resulted in a request for a detailed report to outline the issues and costs associated with developing a reticulated system.

In response to that request, Council commissioned a report by Waugh Infrastructure in April 2022. This report estimated the cost of a centralised wastewater system at approximately \$9 million at that time. Given current infrastructure cost increases, this figure is now expected to be closer to \$12 million.

### **Key Points for Consideration**

- The Community Board indicated that members were not aware of the 2022 Waugh report.
- Had this information been available to the Board at the time, the \$40,000 request for a new report may not have been made.

- A copy of the 2022 report and a supporting PowerPoint presentation were circulated to Board members on 26 May 2025 for review.

### **Clarification on Budgeted Funds**

A question was raised regarding the source of the \$40,000 and whether it was specifically collected from the Hampden community.

Council's Finance Department has confirmed:

- The \$40,000 is loan-funded, not directly collected from Hampden ratepayers.
- If the funds are not spent, there is no refund available—only an outstanding loan to be repaid.
- As at 31 March 2025, the loan balance associated with this budget is \$38,568.35 (including expenditure prior to 1 July 2024).

### **Loan Repayment and Rating**

- Council currently charges the Hampden Township for septic tank servicing through the *Hampden Roding Amenity Rate*.
- The Hampden Wastewater Issues & Options project (W1815) is aligned with this purpose.
- A 20-year loan (Loan #10165) has been established to fund the project, with repayments (interest and principal) made via the Hampden Roding Amenity Rate.
- These repayments are included in the 2025–2034 Long Term Plan.

### **SUMMARY OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**Option 1** – Accept the 2022 Waugh report as identifying the issues and solutions sufficiently, removing the budget allocation.

**Option 2** – Hold the identified funds unspent.

**Option 3** – Carry on with the commissioning of an additional report into Hampden wastewater and spend the \$40,000 allocated for this purpose.

### **ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION**

Option 1 is the preferred option as a second costly report is unlikely to provide any further information than what is already available.

### **CONCLUSION**

Staff recommend that the community board rescinds its earlier request for a report into Hampden wastewater issues and makes a recommendation to Council on the amount budgeted for this purpose.

### **DECISION-MAKING EXPECTATIONS**

Governance Decision-Making:	WCB to decide if funding is to be spent
Operational Decision-Making:	Whether Asset Planning progress the commissioning of a report

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Communications	Whether communication with the Hampden community is required
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SUMMARY OF DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA

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

**5.3 DISCRETIONARY FUNDING REQUEST - PALMERSTON PARK RUN**

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

**Authoriser:**

**Attachments:**

1. Application for Funding [!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5\_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(f5c463b8c1554ac5049d611bd8e33a51\_img.jpg\)](#)
2. Quote for Black Hawk Gazebo [!\[\]\(54f1390f33a36173a1b97c4b6eb40204\_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(1301e78e125668a3a0cedabdef0db7f3\_img.jpg\)](#)
3. Quote for Hercules Instant Shelter [!\[\]\(56569b83aa18fd9e11cffbd51c077de8\_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(f5d5c96294f439af4002d9cf46b04252\_img.jpg\)](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Waihemo Community Board:

1. Receives the attached correspondence from Chris Wells, Palmerston Park Run.
2. Considers and approves/declines a grant to Chris Wells of \$1,040.34 to purchase a Hercules Pop Up Gazebo, from the Board's discretionary community grants account.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to refer, for the Board's consideration and decision, a discretionary funding application from Chris Wells of the Palmerston Park Run for money to buy a gazebo for community use during future park runs.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chris Wells** < >

Date: Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 8:53 PM

Subject: Re: FW: Request for funding from Waihemo Community Board

To: < >

Waihemo Community Board  
C/- Heather McGregor, Board Chair  
30th June 2025

Dear Waihemo Community Board members

My name is Chris Wells, I am the Event Director and one of the four Run Directors, here in Palmerston. For our community event, East Otago High School parkrun. We are all Volunteers. We are not employees or subcontractors to or for parkrun.

I would like to make a request for a Discretionary Community Grant of \$1,040.34 from the Waihemo Community Board to purchase a Hercules Pop Up Gazebo.  
I understand from your email that you already have a copy of our two quotes.

We held our first timed East Otago High School parkrun on 1st February 2025. Since then we have successfully completed a parkrun on every Saturday since, 22 events in total. At these 22 events, we have had 658 participants, Walk, Jog or Run, at one of or multiple of our events, having fun and improving both their physical and mental health. We do not charge an entry fee, these events are Free for Everyone, and we Do Not give Prize money and Everyone is welcome to participate.

Over and above these 658 participants, we have also had 58 Volunteers to make sure that our parkrun is completed Successfully and above everything else, completed Safely. Usually we between eight (8) to twelve (12) Volunteers every week. Which usually works out to be some of the same people Volunteering each week and some Volunteers managing multiple Volunteer Roles.

We have had between 11 to 87 participants at our 22 events. These parkrunners have come from many different places around the world and also from many different places around New Zealand, wherever their home parkrun may be, 62 different parkrun sites here in New Zealand and a total of over 2500? around the world.

Often our participants are whole families, Mum, Dad and their multiple children and also multiple generations participating together on the same parkrunday, but some have traveled from different home parkruns around New Zealand and or the world.

Since our first East Otago High School parkrun on the 1st of February 2025, when I hoped someone would turn up and we had 87 turn up, I am always amazed that we still average about, in the mid 20's every parkrunday. We here in Palmerston have a

population of about 1050. If we compare this population with Balclutha, that has a population of about 4000 approximately and they get around the mid 30's on an average each week. I think we are doing very well! And Palmerston is doing well with the extra business from these NEW, parkrun Tourist spending here in town and around in other towns in the wider area.

It is because we have a parkrun every Saturday, 52 weeks of the year, unless there is a Government ban on Social Gatherings again? Or an Extreme weather event, We would like the Waihemo Community Board to support us with a positive response to our application here for a Discretionary Community Grant of \$1,040.34 to purchase a Pop Up Gazebo.

The Gazebo will be used to protect our four (4) to five (5) Volunteers, from all and any type of weather conditions well waiting in the Start/Finish Shoot area from the time our parkrun starts until the last participant and our Tail Walk Volunteer crosses the finish line. Which is normally around 1 to 1 1/4 hours. The Gazebo will also allow our early finishers to have shelter well waiting on family or friends.

The Gazebo will be taken to our event and taken home each week by one of our Volunteer Run Directors and will only be used for East Otago High School parkrun events.

There will be no other costs involved in purchasing or using the Gazebo in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Waihemo Community Board Members for considering our Discretionary Community Grant application, and we look forward to your response in the near future.

Yours Sincerely, Chris Wells.









FROM

**Beth A**  
**Blackhawk Gazebo & Display**  
www.blackhawks.co.nz

PHONE

09-4431630

FOR

**East Otago High School Parkrun**

TO

Chris Wells

EMAIL

eastotagohighschool@parkrun.com

ADDRESS

PHONE

0274811755

QUOTE NUMBER

25414

DATE

9 June 2025


EXPIRY DATE


7 September 2025 at 11:00 AM


 Download PDF

Blackhawk Gazebo & Display QUOTE FOR East Otago High School Parkrun

BLACKHAWK PEACE-OF-MIND GAURANTEE

 30-DAY  
MONEY-BACK

 LIFETIME PARTS  
AVAILABILITY

 CORROSION-  
FREE WARRANTY

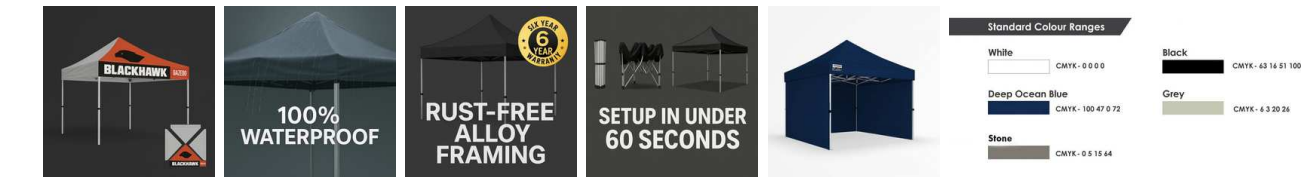
Max Alloy 3m x 3m - 3 wall package

Built for Business, Made for the Wild

*Rust-Free Alloy Frame (Max Alloy)*  
*5-Year Warranty*  
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*Setup in Under 60 Seconds*

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- 3m Max Aluminum Gazebo Frame
- 3m Canopy - Deep Ocean Blue
- 3m Solid walls- Deep Ocean Blue (3)
- Set Of heavy duty Pegs / Guide ropes
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CLICK TO DOWNLOAD MAX ALLOY INFORMATION

	1,315.00
	x 1
	10% discount
	1,183.50

Carry Bag on Wheels 3m

Our wheelie carry bags are specially designed to quickly fit in the whole gazebo frame with canopy on. The end of the wheelie bag is reinforced with steel plates to prevent scratching from the gazebo foot.

The bag is fully waterproof with inside PVC coating.

Side pockets are designed for sidewalls and other accessories.



	165.00
	x 1
	25% discount
	123.75

URBAN ONLY SHIPPING (1 x unit) FREE OFFER

No RURAL or P.O.Box deliveries

	70.00
	x 1
	100% discount

Subtotal, includes discount of 242.75	1,307.25
GST 15%	170.51
Total NZD including GST	\$1,307.25

We thank you for your time

\*We Trust this quote above proves to be both informative & acceptable, our goal is to provide you with high-value products with reasonable price tags and keep future maintenance cost down to the minimum.

Feel free to CLICK accept this quote when you are ready to place an order Or click on the " Comment" button if you have any questions to ask.



QUOTE NUMBER  
21838

DATE  
11 June 2025

EXPIRY DATE  
9 September 2025 at 9:00 AM

FROM  
**Daryl Brooks-Marsh**  
**Ifocus International Ltd T/A**  
**Hercules Gazebo**  
Auckland Branch, Wellington Branch,  
Christchurch Branch  
[www.herculesgazebo.co.nz](http://www.herculesgazebo.co.nz)

PHONE  
0800 810910

GST NUMBER  
102300718

FOR  
**East Otago High School parkrun**

TO  
Chris Wells

EMAIL  
[eastotagohighschool@parkrun.com](mailto:eastotagohighschool@parkrun.com)

PHONE  
027 481 1755

## Hercules Instant Shelter - East Otago High School parkrun Quotation

### Keep the team spirit high with NZ's Best Pop-up Sports Gazebo!

From football to motorsports, cricket to rugby, BMX to car racing—you name it! Our premium sports gazebos will surely make your team stand-out.




### Autumn Sale - Limited Time Only

- Free Shipping on Hex 45S and Aluminum Gazebos.

### Get the Best Product at the Best Price — Guaranteed!

With Hercules Instant Shelter you get premium quality with unbeatable value—if you find the same product (with same features) for less, we'll beat it!

<p>Blue <b>Pro 37 3x3m Pop Up Gazebo "Advanced Heavy Duty Alloy Model"</b></p> <p>Package includes:            1 x Pro 37 Frame w/ 8 years framework warranty(37x2mm leg, two-rib arm)            1 x Heavy Duty Polyester Plain Canopy with PVC Pro Corner            8 x Heavy Duty Pegs (45cm)            4 x Heavy Duty Guy Ropes            1 x Carry Bag</p>  <p><a href="#">PRO 37 Advanced Alloy Specs</a></p> <p><a href="#">PRO-37-Wind Action Engineering Report Upto 60kph</a></p>	<p>1,016.52 x 1 20% discount 813.22</p>
<p>Wheelie Bag 2.5x2.5m / 3x3m <b>Heavy Duty Wheelie Bag for 2.5x2.5m &amp; 3x3m Gazebo Black</b></p> <p>Package includes:            1 x Heavy Duty Wheelie Bag for 2.5x2.5m &amp; 3x3m Gazebo - Black</p>	<p>130.4347 x 1 130.43</p>
<p><b>carry bag return - up graded to wheelie bag</b></p>	<p>-39.00 x 1 -39.00</p>
<p>Subtotal, includes discount of 203.30 GST 15% <b>Total NZD including GST</b></p>	<p>904.65 135.69 <b>\$1,040.34</b></p>

### Next Steps and Timeframes

**FREE Visual Mockup** - Email your logo and receive a 3D visual of your order.

**FASTEST Turnaround Time** - 2 to 3 weeks after the final mockup is confirmed with a 50% deposit.



### Hercules Hassle-Free Warranty and Support

- Up to **10 years framework warranty**.
- **Full range of parts** availability.
- Three local branches for services in **Auckland, Wellington, & Christchurch**. [Contact us](#) for any enquiries



## Testimonials

More testimonials, please visit: <https://www.herculesgazebo.co.nz/testimonials/>



## About Hercules Instant Shelter:

### NZ Owned & Operated

Hercules is a trusted New Zealand brand established in 2008. With many years experience, we have grown to be one of the largest suppliers and top brand that dedicated to providing highest quality plain and custom INSTANT SHELTERS, relevant accessories, and promotional event items to customers.

### Quality Control

We work closely with our manufacturing facility which allows us to monitor and control the quality of all materials and components used in the construction of our product range, to provide customers with safe and high-quality products. All alloy gazebos come with structural engineer certification.

### Customer Oriented Service

We have three store branches located in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. By offering local store showroom, quick nationwide delivery and hassle-free service, to ensure complete customer satisfaction.

**OUR MISSION:** To make the most durable instant shelter at friendly prices, offer outstanding customer service and exceed expectations.



## Reviews [See all reviews](#)



Daryl has been excellent to deal with. he has listened and delivered what he promised. Under difficult circumstances he has managed to meet all our expectations and timelines.



Great product - really sturdy, especially compared to other cheaper brands. Worth the money. Customer service was great too. We called to find out the status of our shipment and the team



So wonderful and great communication! Teresa would answer almost straight away every time I sent an email and was super patient as we were sorting through the school system. A really easy and pleasant experience!

**6 MEMORANDUM REPORTS**

**6.1 BUILDING CONSENTS ISSUED IN THE WAIHEMO WARD DURING APRIL AND MAY 2025**

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

**PURPOSE**

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

**APRIL 2025**

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
Taieri Peak Road, Stoneburn-Palmerston	Construction of a 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms dwelling with Metro woodburner and Natural Flow Wastewater System	500,000
Lincoln Street, Hampden	Timber foundations, drainage and connection to existing septic system for a new relocated 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom dwelling	50,000
Burranness Street, Palmerston	Installation of a free-standing woodburner and flue kit with Dektite Soaker Flashing	5,000
Burranness Street, Palmerston	Installation of a free-standing Pellet Fire and Flue Kit	7,500
Monmouth Street, Hampden	Installation of a free-standing Metro Mirco Rad Woodburner and ECO Flue Kit with Dektite Soaker Flashing	5,000

<b>Area Sub-totals</b>	<b>Cost \$</b>
Hampden	55,000
Palmerston	12,500
Stoneburn- Palmerston	500,000

**MAY 2025**

<b>Project Address</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
Tiverton Street, Palmerston	Change manual main shop door to automatic door	10,815

Shag Point Road, Shag Point	Construction of a 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom dwelling with woodburner and Wastewater Holding Tank	650,000
Hillgrove-Moeraki Road, Hillgrove-Moeraki	Construction of a 3 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom dwelling with a freestanding woodburner with an attached garage.	425,000
Palmerston-Dunback Road, Palmerston- Dunback	Construction of a 4-bedroom, 2 bathrooms dwelling with woodburner, attached garage and Wastewater Treatment System	1,070,000
Ipswich Street, Hampden	Installation of a free-standing woodburner and ECO flue kit with Dektite Soaker Flashing	5,000
Chelmsford Street, Hampden	Convert existing garage to dwelling	50,000
Appleby Street, Hampden	Installation of Wastewater Treatment Plant connected to existing septic tank and effluent fields	24,000
Taieri Peak Road, Stoneburn-Palmerston	Construction of a 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom dwelling with Multi Fuel Fire and Austin Bluewater Septic Treatment System.	207,090
Bride Street, Moeraki	Installation of a free-standing woodburner and ECO flue kit with Dektite Soaker Flashing	6,800
Bluff Hill Road, Waianakarua	Installation of a free-standing woodburner and flue kit with Dektite Soaker Flashing	5,000

<b>Area Sub-totals</b>	<b>Cost \$</b>
Hampden	79,000
Hillgrove-Moeraki	425,000
Moeraki	6,800
Palmerston	10,815
Palmerston-Dunback	1,070,000
Shag Point	650,000
Stoneburn-Palmerston	207,090
Waianakarua	5,000

## **6.2 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

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

**Authoriser:**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

### **PURPOSE**

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

### **MEETINGS ATTENDED**

8 May	Community Trust of Otago workshop, Palmerston
9 May	Meeting with Governance Services Lead, Palmerston.
9 May	Attended Palmerston Fire Brigade Sky Tower fundraiser.
12 May	Hearings Committee meeting re Waihemo recreation Reserve, Oamaru
12 May	Meeting with Hampden residents, MP Miles Anderson re Hampden Speed Signs.
12 May	Waihemo Community Board meeting, Hampden.
13 May	Emergency Management, Civil Defence Workshop / Meeting.
14 May	Palmerston Waihemo RSA Committee meeting.
16 May	Hampden Wastewater Workshop, Palmerston.
19 May	Puketapu Radio Charitable Trust meeting.
20 May	Palmerston RSA Charitable Trust meeting.
21 May	Water Done Well, Waihemo Community Meeting, Palmerston.
26 May	Palmerston RSA Charitable Trust meeting, Palmerston Waihemo RSA Meeting.
3 June	Cancer Society Meeting, Dunedin.
4 June	Meeting with Business owner, Community & Economic Development Manager and Locality Officer-Waihemo.
9 June	Waihemo Community Board Outline Agenda Meeting-Zoom.
11 June	Board Informal Discussion.
12 June	Attended the East Otago Musical Theatre Production Mamma Mia.

I have had several conversations with Waitaki District Council Staff regarding issues related to the Waihemo Ward.

### **Hampden Township Speeds**

I attended a meeting with Community Board Member Kerry Stevens and Hampden Residents who presented a submission to MP Miles Anderson to advocate to reduce the speed limits through Hampden Township, the well-presented submission was greatly received, thank you to all those who had some input into this.

### **Palmerston Revitalisation**

Board members, Economic Development Staff and Locality Staff walked around the town centre to look at revitalising the town centre.

The Board has received views from ratepayers regarding the vision on the Tiverton Street pedestrian crossing.

The Board are looking at removing the large plantings and allocating these to other areas within the town, the plants that are removed will be replaced with smaller plants, this will visually make the pedestrian crossing safer.

**Waihemo Recreation Reserve.**

Councillors at the June 24 meeting agreed with the Waihemo Community Boards recommendation to a progressive rehabilitation of the Waihemo Recreation Reserve.

**Local Body Elections**

Nominations open on Friday 4 July.

I would encourage anyone considering standing either as a Councillor or Community Board Member to attend the drop-in sessions or speak to Board Members.

There will be a drop-in session prior to the next Board meeting in the Waihemo Community Board Room on Monday July 7 from 5pm to 6pm.

**Heather McGregor**

**Waihemo Community Board**

**Chairperson**

### **6.3 FINANCIAL REPORT TO WAIHEMO COMMUNITY BOARD (JULY 2025)**

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

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

#### **PURPOSE**

This report is intended to update the Waihemo Community Board on financial matters and activities within the Waihemo 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 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 Yr Budget</b>	<b>2024 Full Yr Actual</b>
Rates revenue	257,369	342,421	332,828
Unspent budget brought forward	-	50,844	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>257,369</b>	<b>393,265</b>	<b>332,828</b>
Operating costs	187,871	342,421	350,558
Unspent grant budget brought forward	-	50,844	-
<b>Operating costs</b>	<b>187,871</b>	<b>393,265</b>	<b>350,558</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>69,498</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(17,730)</b>

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

This report details projects to be undertaken in the Waihemo 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 Waihemo 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.

	Project	2025 Budget	Spent to date	Balance
7870.701.401	Community Safety Cameras - Palmerston CBD	\$ 12,000	\$ 28,913	-\$ 16,913
W1734	Coastal Erosion Mitigation	\$ 10,780	\$ 1,625	\$ 9,155
W1819	Puketapu Track	\$ 800,000	\$ 10,747	\$ 789,253
W2107	Palmerston Cemetery - new ash beam	\$ 52,020	\$ -	\$ 52,020
W2049	Moeraki Sea Outfalls @ Millers Bay Reserve	\$ 150,000	\$ 13,650	\$ 136,350
3330.580.401	Maintenance of Watercourses in Palmerston	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
7331.700.401	Moeraki Haven Street Bollards & Walking Track	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
W2104	Palmerston streetscape	\$ 53,000	\$ -	\$ 53,000
W1815	Hampden Wastewater Issues & Options	\$ 40,000	\$ 3,593	\$ 36,407
W1748	Waihemo Urban Water Main Upgrades	\$ 3,950,000	\$ 1,392,621	\$ 2,557,379
W1760	Palmerston Wastewater Main Renewals	\$ 650,000	\$ 16,949	\$ 633,051
W1834	Wastewater Overflow Mitigation - Palmerston	\$ 150,000	\$ 264,898	-\$ 114,898
W1869	Coastal Landfill Remediation	\$ 6,966,000	\$ 8,567,207	-\$ 1,601,207
W2056	Copinsha Street footpath	\$ 110,000	\$ 94,764	\$ 15,236
		<b>\$ 13,018,800</b>	<b>\$ 10,394,967</b>	<b>\$ 2,623,833</b>

### **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 \$18,492 from the 2023-24 financial year, provides \$23,492 to fund small community projects. As this budget is funded directly from rates, balances unspent at year end is carried forward until spent.

2.

- **Community Grants**

3. An annual budget of \$9,000 for Community Grants, including \$5,000 for the Waihemo Heritage Trust. Unspent balances are carried forward until spent, and \$29,853 has been added from 2023-24, providing \$38,853 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>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Payment made to</b>	<b>Project/purpose of payment</b>
<b>Community Grants</b>			
<b>Palmerston Museum (specific)</b>			
Annual Plan budget	5,000.00		
ADD unspent budget from prior year	<u>10,000.00</u>		
Available to spend	15,000.00		
Total spent current year	-		
Balance to spend	<u>15,000.00</u>		
<b>General Community Grants</b>			
Annual Plan budget	4,000.00		
ADD unspent budget from prior year	<u>19,853.00</u>		
Available to spend	23,853.00		
Spent current year	-		
Balance to spend	<u>23,853.00</u>		
<b>Discretionary Fund</b>			
Annual Plan budget	5,000.00		
ADD unspent budget from prior year	<u>18,492.00</u>		
Available to spend	23,492.00		
Spent current year	-		
Balance to spend	<u>23,492.00</u>		

#### **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 Waihemo 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	\$ -
Wainakrue		\$ 318	\$ -	\$ -

The Palmerston Hall rate supports the operations of two halls in the township. Council maintains a depreciation reserve in relation to the Palmerston Sports Hall only.

#### **6.4 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**Authoriser:**

**Attachments:** 1. Letter from Hampden School Board to Waihemo CB June 2025 [↓](#)   
2. Letter from Jean Hesselin to Waihemo CB June 2025 [↓](#) 

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Waihemo Community Board formally receives one items of correspondence and considers officer comments (where available) and any actions in response.

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present Board correspondence that has been received by the Board Chair for formal receipt by the Board and to provide additional officer comments where these have been sought by the Chair and for actions to be agreed in response.

#### **SUMMARY**

Correspondence has been supplied by the Board Chair for formal receipt at this meeting.

1. **Hampden School Board of Trustees.**
2. **Letter from Jean Hesselin.**



## HAMPDEN SCHOOL EST 1864

'Be the best we can be' WHĀIA TE ITI KAHURANGI

Hampden School Board of Trustees  
41 - 47 Norwich Street  
Hampden  
Ōamaru  
[hampdenbot@hampden.school.nz](mailto:hampdenbot@hampden.school.nz)

Waihemo Community Board  
c/- 94 Teviot Street  
Palmerston  
Otago 9430

30 May 2025

To Waihemo Community Board,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Hampden School Board of Trustees regarding some recent property issues we have had.

We would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the Waihemo Community Board for their on-going support for our school. We appreciate the time and effort the board has put into supporting and addressing our issues. You have been thoughtful, proactive and caring in your support of our school.

Recently these issues have included when we were addressing a serious plumbing and drainage issue on the school grounds and when we have been looking into ways we can improve the parking, roading and safety outside our school.

Whilst we haven't gained the intended outcomes we would have liked with the roading situation on Norwich Street, your support, guidance and willingness to collaborate with us on this matter was greatly appreciated.

In terms of the plumbing and drainage issue we have with our school we appreciate that, whilst the Waitaki District Council took no accountability for the various stormwater pipes that direct water through the school, you were keen to support the finance of the repair of the sinkhole situation we currently have. As a school which is financially challenged, especially for unforeseen plumbing issues with many mitigating factors, it was refreshing and beneficial to have your support around this. We are very grateful for this support and understand you are doing this as you saw a need in supporting our little school within your regional considerations.

To conclude, we would again like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for your support of our school and our ongoing property issues. It is reassuring to know we have your support from both a financial and community minded perspective.

If there is any way, we, the Hampden Board of Trustees can support the Waihemo Community Board in the future, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or our Principal, Matt Hannagan.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hepburn - Presiding Member Hampden School Board of Trustees

## Introduction

The Waihemo recreation reserve area has some unique ecological values that should be considered before any changes are made or attempted.

There are very few stands of Kōwhai, especially the South Island variety, and apart from forest margins and beside creeks Kōwhai struggles when it has to compete with other native trees for light. *"In parts of their range, kōwhai are now scarce and those that remain are lone trees or small groves growing in isolation"* (DoC downloaded on 30/5/2025). Preserving the status quo and the way the reserve is currently managed would help to maintain this stand of Kōwhai for future generations. Kōwhai has cultural, ecological and biodiversity value in both the above and below ground spaces.

## Discussion

There is cultural significance- Kōwhai is our national flower- possibly because it grows everywhere in NZ. It has significance for Māori- *"Kōwhai is highly valued in Māori culture and is seen as a **symbol of strength and courage**. The tree's yellow flowers are also used in traditional Māori medicine for treating a range of ailments, including colds and skin infections"*

(downloaded from [www.mynativeforest.com/nz-native-trees/kowhai](http://www.mynativeforest.com/nz-native-trees/kowhai) on 30/05/2025). The wood from the trees was also valued because of its durability. The flowers have been used in many forms of art and still are being used as well as being instantly recognisable to most people. There are a lot of beautiful specimens growing in Palmerston.

The ecological benefit to maintaining the stand the way it is, cannot be underestimated. The easily observed such as nectar for Tui, Korimako (bellbird) and kākā plus Kereru feed on the leaves and flowers. This means the population of these in an area close to Palmerston is supported which adds to the amenity value of the town



Less visible but equally important is the habitat for invertebrates including the Kōwhai moth, *Uresiphita polygonalis maoralis* and the hobbit psyllid *Psylla frodobagginsi*

The Kōwhai moth's caterpillars require leaves from legumes (pea family) so they do have a variety of food sources. These moths and their caterpillars are food for Riroriro (Grey warbler)

"*Psylla frodobagginsi*" or the hobbit kōwhai psyllid is a species of psyllid, a plant-feeding hemipteran in the family Psyllidae. It is endemic to New Zealand and is found only on New Zealand kōwhai trees and is named after the character Frodo Baggins from The Lord of the Rings. Downloaded from [Psylla frodobagginsi - Wikipedia](#) on 30/05/2025



Named in 2019 it's specimen that has been collected as the reference is from the Oamaru Botanic gardens.

Even less visible is what goes on in the underground space. Kōwhai trees are legumes which means they have Rhizobium bacteria living on their roots that can retrieve Nitrogen from the air and convert it to Ammonia which plants can use. This enables them to survive on poor clay soils such as those on Puketapu. These mesorhizobium are specific to Kowhai. In a study of using native plants for erosion control the tensile strength of Kōwhai and its ability to penetrate soil to twice the size of its canopy are considered to be beneficial. Grazing shallow rooting pasture species that grow above the Kōwhai root system allows them to continue providing the benefits.

[Erosion and sediment con trol using New Zealand native plants - what do we know](#) downloaded on 30/05/2025. Adding other species may reduce the capacity of the current root systems to hold the readily eroded clay in place.

Before any changes are made consideration of the values of the existing trees and their survival as well as all the other species that benefit from them being there should be a priority. Why disturb a grove of Kowhai which is so valuable and irreplaceable?

What qualifies me to ask these questions? I attained a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science from Lincoln with my 4th year specialising in Soils, Soil and Water management, Agronomy and Farm Forestry. I have maintained a strong interest in these areas and have spent about 30 years as a Secondary Science teacher. I have not done any study in the reserve area and have relied on secondary sources for my information.

Yours faithfully

Jean Hesselin

## **6.5 COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS AND WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

**Authoriser:**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

### **PURPOSE**

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

### **WAIHEMO COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

#### **Board Member Tanya Bell**

12 May Waihemo Community Board Meeting Hampden  
4 June Informal Discussion Placemaking in Palmerston  
6 June Meals on Wheels  
11 June Informal Discussion Meeting Palmerston

#### **Board Member Carol Watson**

21 May 2025 Southern Water done well consultation in Palmerston  
11 June 2025 Attended an informal meeting of the Community Board

#### **Board Member Kerry Stevens**

#### **Board Member Paul Roy**

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

#### **Waihemo Ward Councillor Jim Thomson**

May 13th Sub committees day Oamaru.  
20th Governance only day Oamaru.  
24<sup>th</sup> Informal discussion on Hampden sewerage report Palmerston.  
27th Council Oamaru.  
June 3rd Council briefings Oamaru  
5th Shareholder meetings Oamaru.  
9th Meet with Palmerston Squash Club with WDC staff.  
10th Council Briefings Oamaru.  
17th Governance only Oamaru. Election 25 presentation Oamaru.  
19th DPRSC Oamaru.  
23rd Water services submissions Oamaru.  
24th Council Oamaru.  
30th Transformation review and Council meeting to adopt LTP (zoom).

## 6.6 COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT - LINKS TO COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PAPERS

**Author:** Shannon Barlow, Executive Assistant

**Authoriser:**

**Attachments:**

1. Mayor's Report [↓](#) 
2. Chief Executive's Report [↓](#) 

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Waihemo 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.



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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.

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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.

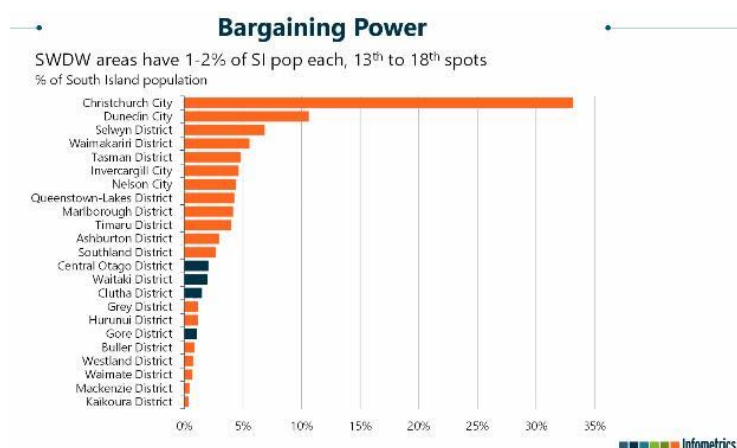
The decisions do not have a 5- or 10-year impact. They have a multi-generational impact. The topic is complex, but the issue is simple. How do we ensure that we deliver excellent water services to today's and future generations, whilst keeping those services as affordable as possible?

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.

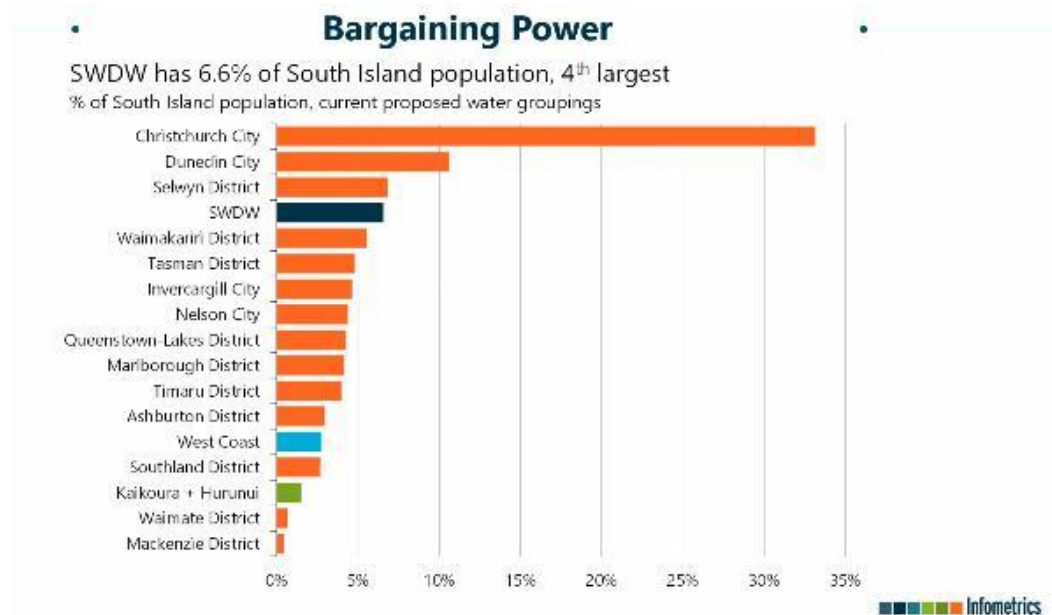
To better inform us and our community, we asked for an assessment of the proposal for Waitaki joining with the three other southern Councils to set up a joint CCO to be carried out by Infometrics. Their CEO and Chief Economist, Brad Olsen provided a helpful analysis. As always, Brad provided an insightful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



The South Island Councils by population size

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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.

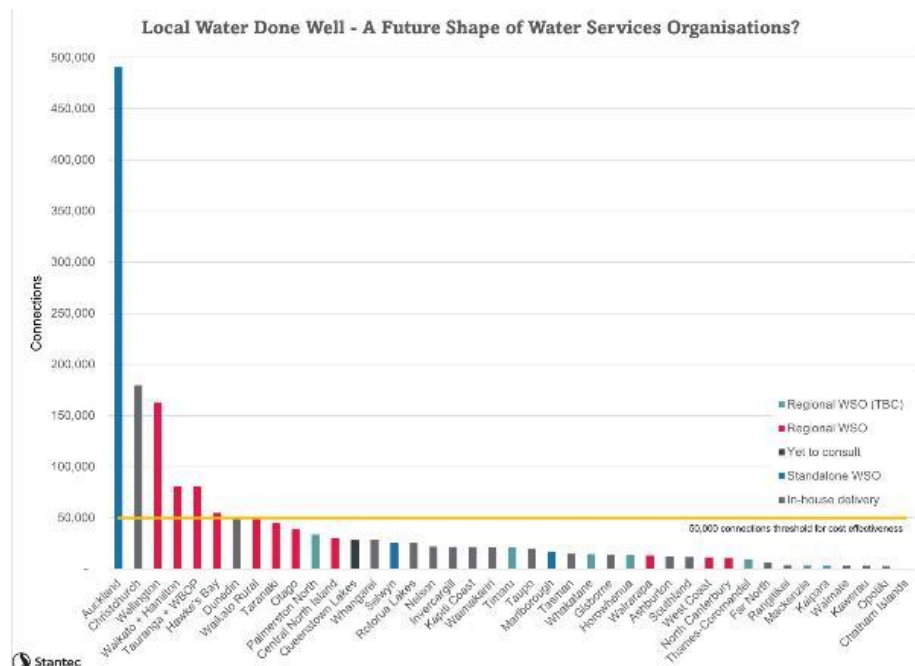
The proposed regional water entity presents significant advantages. By combining four smaller councils, the group increases its negotiating power, ability to attract skilled staff, and capacity to invest in critical infrastructure. Currently, each council represents just 1-2% of the South Island's population,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

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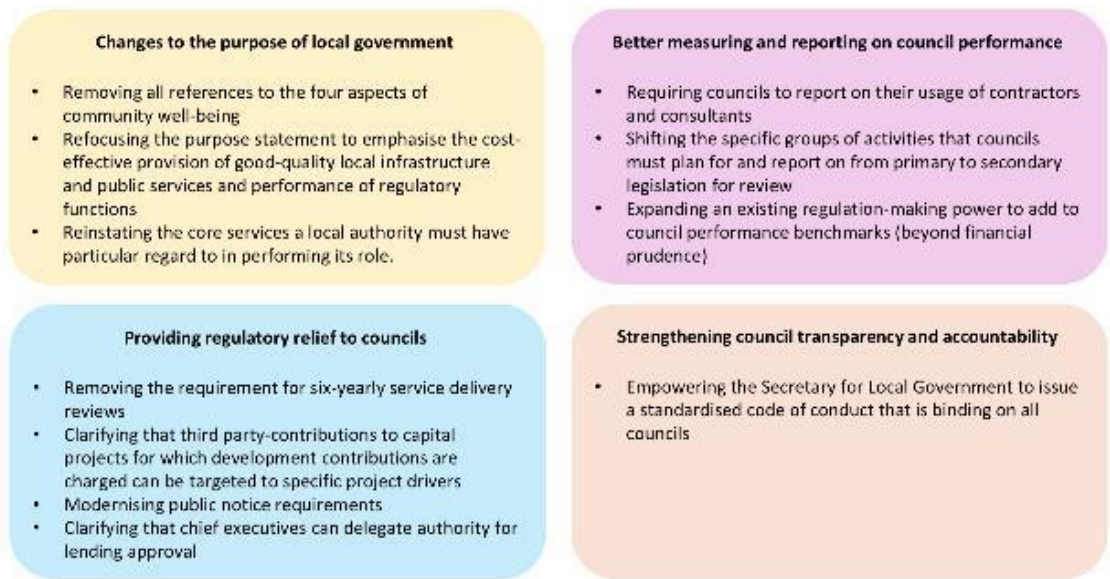
## Rural and Provincial meeting – 2 May 2025

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

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## 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.

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**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.

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**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.



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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...





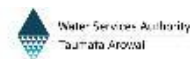
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## Wastewater Standards

- ~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.

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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.

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**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 other – with only one of them recognised by the government.

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Wednesday, 14 May 2025

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

By Hamish MacLean

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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 will be established in Mosgiel, which planners last year poured cold water on.

Friday, 16 May 2025

## Government opens wallet for Mosgiel inland port

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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

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- 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.



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**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.

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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.

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**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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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.

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**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> (initial measures, but not limited to these measures)</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>

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5. We are an employer of choice <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>
6. The Governance Team and Community Board members are supported to carry out their governance roles.	<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.



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KPI 2 – COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

KPI 2a – Quality Services	
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>Support our district to thrive via sustainable, resilient, and reliable networks and infrastructure</li> <li>Enhance access to current and future services for the community through user-friendly and convenient options</li> <li>Improve community wellbeing through enabling the provision of a highly valued and financially sustainable network of community facilities</li> <li>Council as an organisation delivers value and improvement efficiently and effectively to the district</li> </ol>	<b>Key Measures:</b> (initial measures, but not limited to these measures) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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:*

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

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

**KPI 2b – Strong Communities**

**Objective:**

Support and enable our communities to improve wellbeing

**Strategic Framework:**

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

**Key Results:** *(series of results that will enable successful delivery of the objective)*

1. Support and promote public health and wellbeing through community initiatives and programmes.
2. Promote diversity and cultural understanding within the community and within Council
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.
4. Support and promote local arts, culture, sport, and recreation

**Key Measures:** *(initial measures, but not limited to these measures)*

- By increasing Council participation in education and awareness by 50%
- By increasing the delivery of cultural competency education programmes to 14 by the end of the year
- Engaging in 75% of all relevant submission opportunities
- By growing utilisation and participation by 5% year on year

*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

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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

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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.

**KPI 2c – Prosperous District**

**Objective:**

Develop and enable a thriving district economy, characterised by sustainable and inclusive growth

**Strategic Framework:**

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

**Key Results:** *(series of results that will enable successful delivery of the objective)*

1. Support and grow the district's primary sector
2. Revitalise our places (CBD and townships) through opportunities to support businesses, homes, and visitors
3. Increase visitor economy return
4. Enhance business innovation and growth
5. Increase the skills base available to employers in the district and improve opportunities within the district for skills development

**Key Measures:** *(initial measures, but not limited to these measures)*

- 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
- 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.
- By generating >15% increase in overall annual visitor spend through increased overnight stays
- By supporting a minimum of 10 startups to become established through an entrepreneurship ecosystem
- By creating career pathways for at least 50 people into employment across diverse business sectors

*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

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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:

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<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.

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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

KPI – Overarching Leadership	
<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <p>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.</p>	
<p><b>Strategic Framework:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosperous District</li> <li>• Strong Communities</li> <li>• Quality Services</li> <li>• Valued Environment</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Key ACTIONS:</b> <i>(series of ACTIONS that will enable successful delivery of the objective)</i></p> <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>	<p><b>Key Measures:</b> <i>(initial measures, but not limited to these measures)</i></p> <p><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></p> <p><i>The development and implementation of each of the Key Actions in the left column will be the deliverables in this case.</i></p>

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



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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.

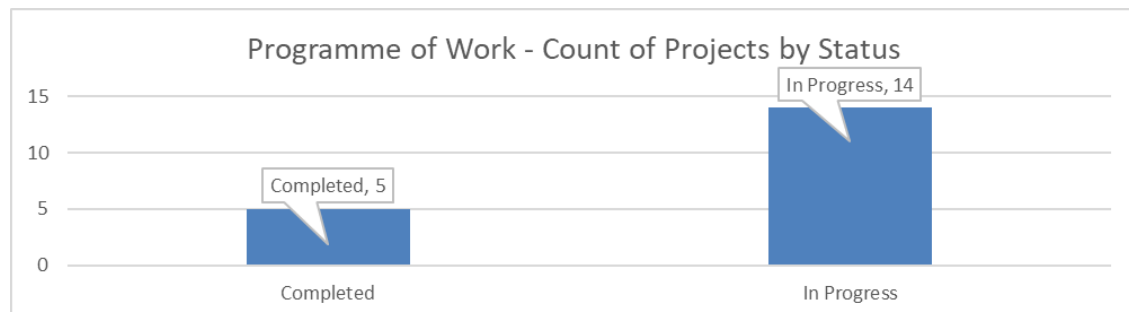
**PROGRAMME & PROJECT STATUS UPDATE**

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

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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 watermain	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 watermain	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

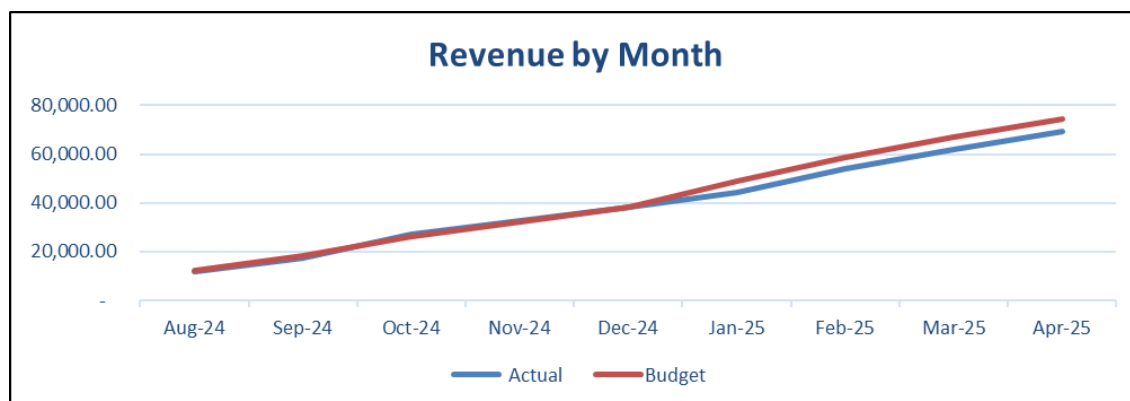
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4458	Backflow prevention programme	Install at Council properties	In Progress	1/07/2024	\$300,000	80
4463	Emergency District Generators Large	Purchase generators as backup power at key Water service locations	In Progress	1/07/2024	\$240,000	80
4473	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

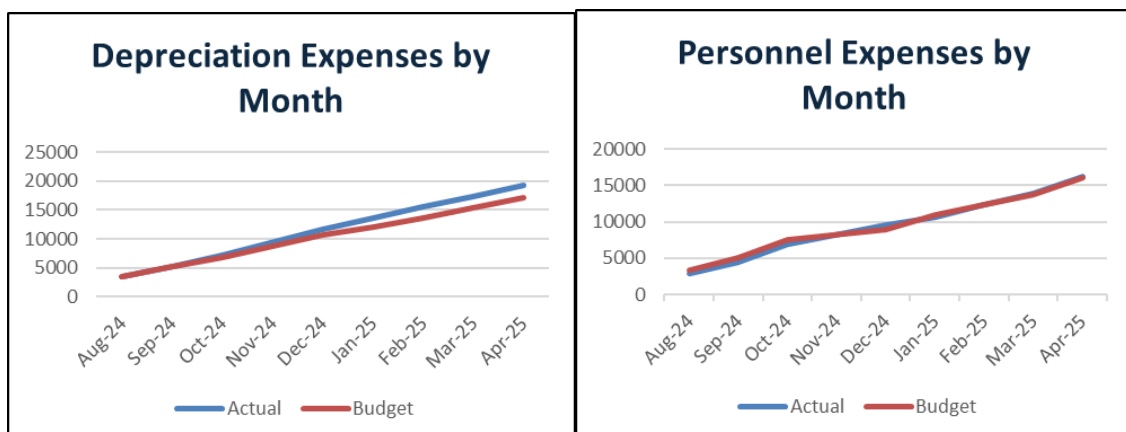
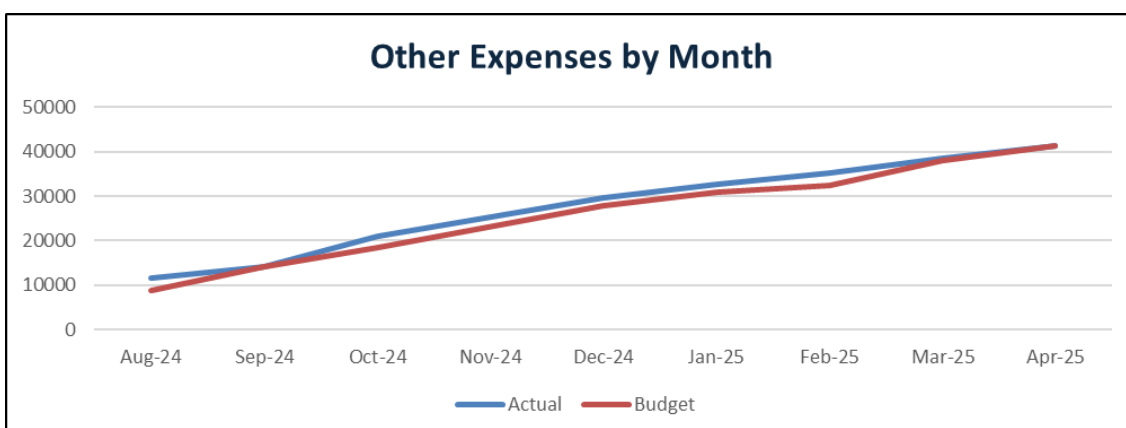
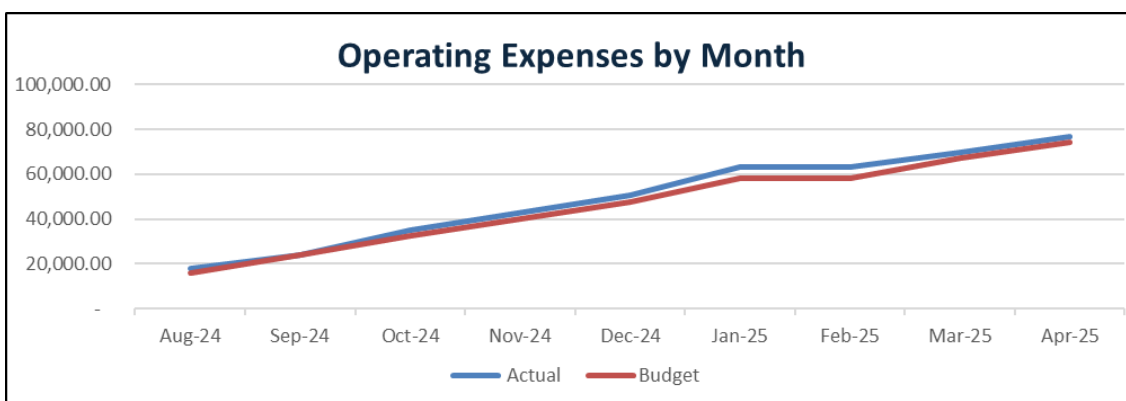
**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

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.



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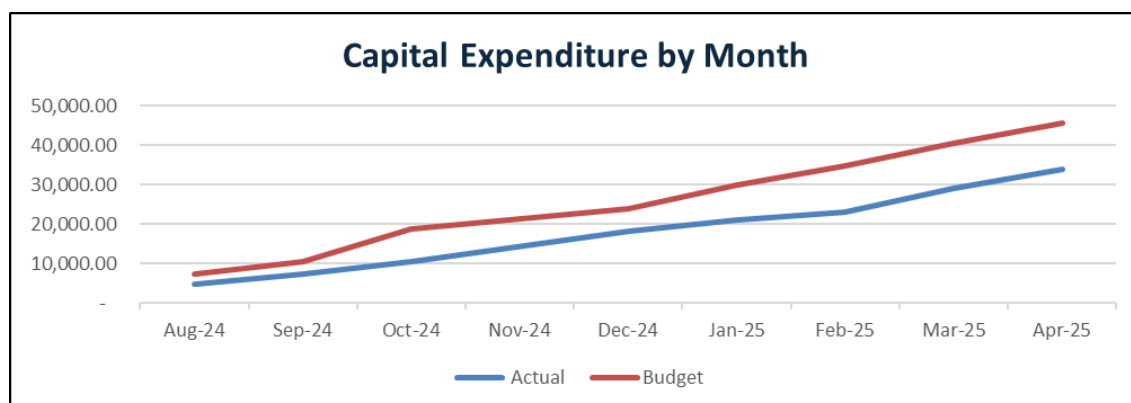
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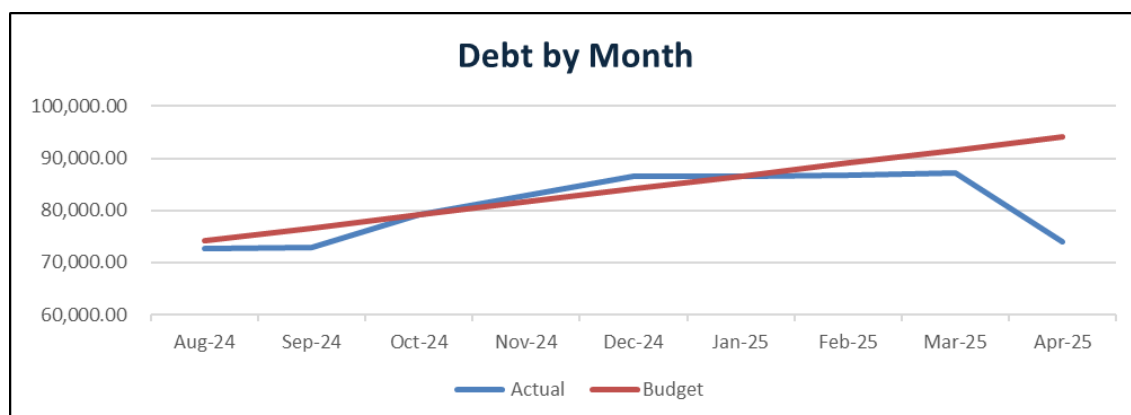
Capital expenditure is significantly behind budget. The total budget for the year was \$59m as per the 2025 Enhanced Annual Plan; however, when carry-forwards were agreed, Council directed that a review was undertaken of the Capital programme to ensure deliverability. Therefore, it was agreed to defer \$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.

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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.

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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.

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**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.

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