

Ashburton District Council

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

A meeting of the Ashburton District Council will be held on:

Date: Wednesday 16 April 2025
Time: 1pm
Venue: Hine Paaka Council Chamber
Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

Membership

Mayor	Neil Brown
Deputy Mayor	Liz McMillan
Members	Leen Braam
	Carolyn Cameron
	Russell Ellis
	Phill Hooper
	Lynette Lovett
	Rob Mackle
	Tony Todd
	Richard Wilson

Meeting Timetable

Time	Item
1.00pm	Council meeting commences
2.45pm	Civil Defence Service Presentation – David Watson

1 Apologies

2 Extraordinary Business

3 Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant and to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

Minutes

4	Council – 2/04/25	3
5	Audit & Risk Committee – 26/03/25	6
6	Three Waters Committee – 26/03/25	24

Reports

7	Term of Parliament – ADC Submission	27
8	Delegations Review 2025	34
9	Ashburton Water Zone Committee Review	40
10	Road Maintenance & Operation Procurement Model	69
11	2025-2026 Unsubsidised Rooding Projects	104
12	Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club	110
13	Councillor Reports	116
14	Mayor’s Report	118

Business Transacted with the Public Excluded

15	Council – 2/04/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birdsong Initiative Trust • Land purchase 	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 1
16	Audit & Risk – 26/03/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety report 	Section 7(2)(a) Protection privacy persons	PE 2
17	Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust lease	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 3
18	Land Purchase	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 27

4. Council Minutes – 2 April 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 2 April 2025, commencing at 1.00pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, Rob Mackle, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Lou Dunstan (Policy Advisor), Emily Reed (Corporate Planner), Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner) Erin Register (Finance Manager) and Tania Paddock (Legal Counsel).

One member of the public.

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Item 10 – the Mayor declared an interest and gave notice he will leave the meeting for the duration of this item. The Deputy Mayor will take the Chair.

Presentation

RDR Management Ltd – 2.04pm-2.39pm

4 Confirmation of Minutes

- Council – 19/03/25

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 March 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/McMillan

Carried

5 Appointment & Remuneration of Directors of Council Organisations Policy

Council noted that a key change to the Policy is that directors' remuneration shall be paid to the person holding the position and Council will not receive the fees, as has been the case for the RDRML appointment. While this change wasn't fully supported, Council noted that legal advice has confirmed this is the most appropriate way forward.

The inclusion of a new clause (cl 3.3.2), that would prevent elected members and Council officers appointed as directors to COs from holding other interests in the organisation they have been appointed to, generally wasn't supported and it was suggested this be removed.

The Chief Executive explained this clause would primarily relate to interest held due to being a shareholder of a competitor.

That Council adopts the 2025 Appointment and Remuneration of Directors of Council Organisations Policy, amended to remove cl 3.3.2 as attached in Appendix 2.

McMillan/Wilson

Carried

6 Consultation for the Annual Plan 2025-26

That Council decides not to consult on the Annual Plan 2025/26 in accordance with section 95(2a) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Mayor/Ellis

Carried

7 Ashburton Cemetery – new public toilets

The Open Spaces Manager advised that when Council agreed to extend the cemetery to the Seafield Lawn, part of the decision was to construct a new toilet facility in that area. The recommendation aligns with the asset management plan (replacement schedule) and Council's Long-term Plan 2024-34.

Council questioned whether alternative and less costly options could be considered, such as building one new facility in between the two lawns, or having a single pan facility in two separate blocks. There was some support for retaining the existing facility without undertaking any improvements.

The Mayor commented that 'doing nothing' is also an option. He asked for more detail on the capital expenditure split (percentage for loan and depreciation funding) for this particular project. Officers will need to check and report back. Data requested on the use of existing facilities will take more time to compile and will be provided at a later date.

That Council constructs one new toilet facility in the Ashburton Cemetery between the Seafield Lawn and the Bremner Lawn and that the existing toilet block be demolished.

Lovett/Braam

A show of hands gave 5 for and 5 against the motion

Before exercising his casting vote, the Mayor asked that the capital expenditure information be made available for the next Council meeting.

That the motion lies on the table, pending further financial information, and the matter be uplifted by Council on 16 April 2025.

Ellis/Lovett

Carried

8 Ashburton Car Club Street Sprints Road Closure

That Council permits the temporary road closure of Smallbone Drive, Robinson Street, Watson Street and McNally Street from 6.00pm on Friday, 25 April 2025 until 8.00pm on Sunday, 27 April 2025 and the temporary road closure of Range Street from 6.00pm Saturday, 26 April 2025 until 6.30am on Sunday, 27 April 2025 to allow the Street Sprint Meeting to be held.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

RDR Management Ltd

Tony McCormick, Richard Spearman and Evan Chisnall provided an overview of the company's activities via a powerpoint presentation.

Key points:

- Regional economic study undertaken of the three irrigation schemes and two power stations
- Highbank power station refurbishment – capex circa 30m
- Recreational activities – will be submitting on the Methven Strategic Plan consultation
- Stockwater – Council's transitional exit plan is positive (ADC's RDR allocation is fully allocated)
- Flood repairs
- Methven historic pipe shed project – completed.

Welcome to Staff

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager, introduced new staff – Honey Gupta (Business Systems Analyst), Rebecca Lees (Safety and Wellness Lead) and Tamara Tait (Horticulturalist).

Council also acknowledged 10 years' long service of Dave Folley (EANC Plant & Maintenance Officer).

Business transacted with the public excluded 2.42pm.

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject 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 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
9	Council 19/03/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birdsong Initiative Trust• 2nd Bridge project engagement• 2nd Bridge & local road partner agreement	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(g) Section 7(2)(i)	Commercial activities Maintain legal professional privilege Conduct of negotiations
10	Land purchase	Section 7(2)(h)	Protection of privacy of natural persons

McMillan/Ellis

Carried

Council concluded at 3.26pm.

Confirmed 2 April 2025

MAYOR

5. *Audit & Risk Committee – 26 March 2025*

Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2025, commencing at 11.30am, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakare, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillors Russell Ellis (Chair), Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Liz McMillan and Richard Wilson.

Also present:

Councillors Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, Rob Mackle and Tony Todd

In attendance

Hamish Riach (CE), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support).

Staff present for the duration of their reports:

Erin Register (Finance Manager) and Katie Perry (People & Capability Manager)

1 Apologies

Murray Harrington

Sustained

(Due to the late notice of change to the meeting time, Murray was unable to attend and his apology for absence was noted).

2 Extraordinary Business

That pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business, to be taken as Item 6.1:

- Civic Financial Services Limited – AGM and Director Nominations

Ellis/Cameron

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 12 February 2025 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

5 Ashburton Contracting Limited – Draft Statement of Intent 2025 *Appendix 1*

In receiving the draft Statement of Intent, the Committee recommended the following changes:

cl. 6 Performance Measures

- a) Rework to ACL Parent excludes LHEP but does not extend to any future joint ventures

g) Any breaches of the Resource Management Act be reported to Council

cl. 13 Dividend Policy

13.2 adjust to exclude any future joint ventures

The Committee requested further information from ACL, namely a copy of the financial forecast for the 2027/28 financial year (cl. 8) and a list of the charities that receive support under the Charitable Gifts Policy (cl.14).

Clarification will be sought on

- cl. 13.1 of the Dividend Policy reference regarding “subject to capital requirements of the Company”, and
- cl. 15.1 Procedures for Acquisition of Interests in other Companies or Organisations.

Recommendation to Council

That Council develops a Statement of Expectation with Ashburton Contracting Ltd, to be signed off in conjunction with the Statement of Intent for the 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 financial year.

Wilson/Cameron

Carried

Recommendation to Council

1. **That** the Audit and Risk Committee receives the Ashburton Contracting Limited 2025/26 draft Statement of Intent and refers it to Council for approval.
2. **That** Council formally advises the ACL Board of the comments on the draft Statement of Intent before 29 April 2025.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

Cr Braam left the meeting at 12.30pm.

6 New Zealand Mutual Liability Riskpool Receipt of Call Letter

Recommendation to Council

That Council receives the Report and notes the requirement to make payment of \$17,404 plus GST to New Zealand Mutual Liability Riskpool.

Wilson/McMillan

Carried

Extraordinary Business

• Civic Financial Services Limited – Director Nominations

Notification has been received from Civic Financial Services Limited that their annual general meeting has been scheduled to be held on Friday 13 June. This year there are two Director vacancies to be filled, with nominations closing on Sunday 13 April.

That the Committee delegates authority to the Mayor to lodge a nomination, if required.

Ellis/Mayor

Carried

7 Transwaste Dividend – 30 June 2025

An invitation is to be extended to the Chair of Transwaste to present to Council on how they see the future of Kate Valley in the changing environment.

That the Transwaste dividend report be received.

McMillan/Mayor

Carried

8 EA Networks Centre Income and Expenditure

That the EA Networks Centre financial report for February 2025 be received.

McMillan/Wilson

Carried

Recommendation to Council

That the Audit & Risk Committee will no longer separately review EA Networks Centre financial reports, as activity level data is included with Council's monthly financial variance report.

Mayor/Ellis

Carried

Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion.

The Committee adjourned from 12.45pm to 3.18pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.18pm

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject 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 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
9	Audit & Risk Committee minutes	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
10	Health and Safety Report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
11	Duress and lockdown procedures	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons

Ellis/Wilson

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.44pm.



ASHBURTON CONTRACTING LIMITED

STATEMENT OF INTENT FROM 1 JULY 2025

(covering the Financial Year ending 30 June 2026)

Draft

ASHBURTON CONTRACTING LIMITED

STATEMENT OF INTENT FROM 1 JULY 2025 (Covering the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2026)

1. PREAMBLE

This Statement of Intent (SOI) is required by section 64 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Board of a Council Controlled Trading Organisation must deliver to the Council a draft Statement of Intent on or before 1 March each year. The Board must;

- a) consider any comments on the draft Statement of Intent that are made to it within two months of 1 March by the Council, and
- b) deliver the completed Statement of Intent to the shareholders on or before 30 June each year.

2. GOVERNANCE

Role of the Board

The collective responsibility of the Directors is to direct the management of the Company.

The Board carries out its responsibilities by setting the Company's strategic direction, providing leadership to put this into effect, appointing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), agreeing targets and objectives and monitoring performance. The CEO has been delegated responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Company. He has an executive team to assist him.

Board Composition

The Company's Constitution provides the Board will consist of not more than five directors of whom not more than one shall be a member or employee of any Local Authority. Directors of the Company are appointed by the shareholder by notice in writing to the Company. The term of appointment shall be for a maximum period of three years, but may be for a lesser period as specified by Council at the time of appointment. Retiring directors are eligible for re-election.

Board Meetings

Each year there are a minimum of eleven scheduled directors' meetings. The Board is able to meet at other times if there is business to be conducted. Any two directors have the power to summon a meeting of the Board.

Remuneration of Directors

The Shareholder by ordinary resolution from time to time sets a total maximum amount payable for annual directors' fees divided among the directors as they consider appropriate.

Director's Fees may be reviewed on an annual basis with a maximum review interval of two years. The Directors shall engage an independent consultant to provide a recommendation to the Shareholder.

Board Interaction with Management

Board policy is to make site visits to view Company operations and to familiarise directors with issues associated with the business. These visits usually involve interaction between directors and management and direct access to employees when their particular area of expertise is required. Most contact is with the CEO whom the Directors hold accountable for the operational performance of the Company.

Directors Obligations

Directors' Interests

A Directors' Interests Register is maintained and records particulars of notices given by Directors in regard to positions and shareholdings held in other companies and entities. The Register is reviewed annually as part of the Company's annual reporting process. All Board Meetings contain an agenda item addressing any changes to Directors Interests or Conflicts of Interest.

Officers Interests

A Register of interests of senior management is maintained.

Directors' and Officers' Insurance and Indemnity

The Company has arranged Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance which ensure directors and officers will incur no monetary loss as a result of actions undertaken by them as directors and officers. Certain actions are specifically excluded, for example, criminal acts and the incurring of penalties and fines which may be imposed in respect of breaches of law.

Financial Results

Management prepare monthly accounts which are provided to the Directors as part of the Board Report for review.

Unaudited half yearly summary reports are prepared for the Ashburton District Council.

The Company prepares Annual Accounts which are audited by Audit New Zealand. The directors review and sign the Annual Accounts which are incorporated in the Annual Report.

External Auditor

Section 70 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that the Auditor General is the auditor of Council Controlled Organisations.

3. OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of Ashburton Contracting Ltd are in accordance with section 59 of the Local Government Act 2002 to:

- a) be a successful business; and
- b) be a good employer; and
- c) exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates and by endeavouring to accommodate or encourage these when able to do so; and
- d) conduct its affairs in accordance with sound and ethical business practice.

4. NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The nature of the Company's activities are that of civil and roading contracting and associated sectors. Its activities include excavation, transport, construction, drainage, civil works, pipeline installation and surfacing (chip sealing/hotmix).

The company manufactures hotmix and readymix concrete.

The company has vehicle repair workshops and paint shop which service internal and external customers.

The company carries out quarrying and the supply of aggregates and landscaping products.

The company maintains water, sewer and wastewater facilities.

The company is a partner in the Lake Hood Extension Project (LHEP) joint venture.

The company supplies goods, materials, services and equipment for sale or hire.

The company engages in any other relevant activity as determined by the directors in consultation with the Shareholder from time to time.

5. RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES FOR ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL OWNERSHIP

The rationale for the ongoing ownership of the Company in terms of contributing to the Ashburton District Council Long Term Plan is;

- a) To ensure local capacity and capability to undertake civil works, particularly focused on infrastructure.

- b) To promote competition in the district for civil construction and maintenance activities.
- c) To form part of a balanced portfolio of Council investments.
- d) To provide a commercial rate of return on the Council's investment.
- e) Assist Ashburton District Council in civil emergencies.

6. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- a) Budgeted profit before tax for ACL Parent is achieved. ACL Parent excludes Joint Ventures.
- b) The annual rate of return on ACL Parent average shareholder's funds will be a *target* of 10% before tax based on the rolling average of the last 5 years (excluding any subvention payments and the before tax profit or loss relating to the LHEP).
- c) The Company will achieve its annual budgeted external revenue.
- d) Health & Safety:
 - i. The Company will maintain its ISO 45000 Health and Safety certification.
 - ii. The Company will strive to reduce its lost time injury (LTI) frequency rate year upon year.
 - iii. The Company will strive to reduce its medical treatment injury (MTI) rate year upon year.
- e) Environmental: The Company will maintain its ISO 14001 Environmental certification.
- f) Quality Systems: The Company will maintain its ISO 9001 Quality certification.
- g) The Company will comply with the Resource Management Act.
- h) The Company will ensure business management procedures and practices meet with the requirements of the Auditor such that the Company receives an unqualified audit report of its annual Financial Statements.
- i) Environmental Sustainability: The Company will monitor and work to reduce its carbon outputs. The Company's ability to reduce carbon outputs is subject to ongoing advancements in technology and the capability of the supply chain to provide cost effective solutions for the reduction of carbon.

7. LAKE HOOD EXTENSION PROJECT (LHEP) POLICY

The Company will actively participate in and manage the performance of its investment in the Lake Hood Extension Project and report on its progress in the Notes to the Financial Statements of the Annual Report.

8. FINANCIAL FORECASTS

The budget projection for the year ending 30 June **2026** and forecast projections for each of the years ending 30 June **2027** and 30 June **2028** will be disclosed to the shareholder, on a confidential basis, in a timely manner to enable the Council to incorporate this information in its Annual Plan.

9. RATIO OF EQUITY TO TOTAL ASSETS

- a) Equity is defined as the paid-up capital, plus any tax paid profits earned and less any dividends distributed to shareholders. They include undistributed profits which have been accumulated in accounts known as either "Revenue Reserves" or "Capital Reserves".
- b) Total Assets are defined as the sum of all current assets, investment assets and fixed assets of the Company.
- c) The ratio of Equity to Total Assets will be no less than 50%.

10. DIRECTORS' ESTIMATE OF THE COMPANY VALUE

The Directors estimate that the commercial value of the shareholder's investment in Ashburton Contracting Ltd will be represented by the opening balance of Equity.

11. REPORTING TO SHAREHOLDER

The Company will report to the Shareholder on both a regular basis and as and when necessary. The following information will be available to the shareholder based on an annual balance date of 30 June:

11.1 Draft Statement of Intent

The Directors shall deliver to the shareholder a Draft Statement of Intent on or before 1 March each year which fulfils the requirements of section 64 of the Local Government Act 2002.

11.2 Completed Statement of Intent

The Directors shall deliver to the shareholder a completed Statement of Intent on or before 30 June each year, which fulfils the requirements of section 64 of the Local Government Act 2002.

11.3 Reporting

Within two months after the end of the first half and the second half of each financial year, the Directors will meet with the shareholder and deliver to the Shareholder, a report containing the following unaudited information as a minimum in respect of the period year under review:

- a) An Income Statement disclosing actual and budgeted revenue and expenditure and comparative figures for the same period in the previous financial year.
- b) A Statement of Changes in Equity with comparative figures for the same period in the previous financial year.
- c) A Balance Sheet period with comparative figures for the same period in the previous financial year.
- d) An abbreviated Statement of Cash Flows with comparative figures for the same period in the previous financial year.
- e) A commentary on the results for the period under review. Where the Report is in respect of the first six months, the report will contain an outlook for the second six months with reference to any significant factors that are likely to have an effect on the Company's performance, including an estimate of the financial result for the year based on that outlook.
- f) Commentary on the Company's performance with regard to Health and Safety including appropriate graphical information on the Company's performance and KPIs.

11.4 Quarterly Reports

In addition, an abbreviated report, content to be agreed between the Board and the Ashburton District Council to maintain an overview on the Company and its operations, be provided at quarterly intervals between the half yearly report and the annual report.

11.5 Annual Report

Within three months of the end of each financial year, the Directors shall deliver to the Shareholder, an Annual Report which shall contain audited Financial Statements in respect of the financial year, containing the following information as a minimum:

- a) A Directors' Report including a summary of the financial results, a review of operations, a comparison of performance in relation to objectives and any recommendation as to dividend.

- b) An Income Statement disclosing actual and budgeted revenue and expenditure with comparative figures from the previous Annual Report.
- c) A Statement of Changes in Equity at the end of the year with comparative figures from the previous Annual Report.
- d) A Balance Sheet at the end of the year with comparative figures from the previous Annual Report.
- e) A Statement of Cash Flows with comparative figures from the previous Annual Report.
- f) An auditor's report on the above statements and the measurement of performance in relation to objectives.

12. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies adopted for Ashburton Contracting Limited are documented in Appendix 1. The Company will report at 30 June 2025 under NZ IFRS Tier 1 of the New Zealand Accounting Standards Framework as a large, for-profit entity that has annual expenses exceeding \$30m.

13. DIVIDEND POLICY

- 13.1 ACL is committed to maximising the long-term sustainable distribution flow to the shareholder and maintain a distribution intent of paying 50% of any net after-tax return to the shareholder, subject to capital requirements of the Company. Any distribution needs to be prudent in the circumstances and meet Solvency Tests.
- 13.2 The ACL Parent Profit after Tax excludes any realised capital gains/losses, revaluation movements, any material one-off non-cash items, and any after tax profits/losses arising from Joint Ventures.
- 13.3 Some, or all, of the distributions to the Shareholder may be made, with agreement of the Shareholder, by subvention payment or other mutually agreed method after taking account of all tax considerations.

14. CHARITABLE GIFTS POLICY

- 14.1 The Company may make charitable gifts to qualifying entities in terms of the Income Tax Act 2007. Qualifying entities are those entities which are not carried on for private pecuniary profit and whose funds are wholly applied to charitable, benevolent, philanthropic or cultural purposes within New Zealand. The limit of the gifts is the level of taxable income for the Company. Charitable gifts for less than \$20,000 in total in any

one financial year will not require prior formal approval of the Ashburton District Council.

- 14.2 Any charitable gift in excess of \$20,000 must have the formal agreement of the Company Directors and the Ashburton District Council regarding the recipient qualifying entity, the project and the amount of the gift.

15. PROCEDURES FOR ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS IN OTHER COMPANIES OR ORGANISATIONS

- 15.1 As a general policy, any proposed investment by the Company in other companies or organisations will be required to meet the weighted average cost of capital (WACC) of the proposed investment(s).
- 15.2 If the directors believe that the Company should invest in, or otherwise acquire, an interest in another company or organisation, the directors will obtain prior approval of the shareholder by special resolution.

16. SALES OF GOODS/ SERVICES TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 16.1 The Company will provide goods and services to the Ashburton District Council as part of its normal business activities. These goods and services shall be charged for on a commercial basis.
- 16.2 Ashburton Contracting Limited, under any contract with Ashburton District Council, will be required to meet levels of service determined by the Council.

Appendix I

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Significant Accounting Policies

Ashburton Contracting Limited (the "Company") is a company domiciled in New Zealand.

The Company is a Council Controlled Trading Organisation as defined in Section 6 (1) of the Local Government Act 2002, wholly owned by the Ashburton District Council and is a profit-orientated entity for financial reporting purposes.

The Company's business includes contracting for physical works, both maintenance and construction, offering goods and services for sale and plant and equipment for hire. These activities occur predominantly in the Ashburton district and immediate surrounding areas and may be undertaken in other geographical areas.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1993, Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP), the pronouncements of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) and they comply with New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS).

The Company is a Tier 1 for-profit reporting entity under the New Zealand Accounting Standards Framework on the basis that it is a large, for-profit entity that has annual expenditure over \$30 million. The Company has in previous years elected to report under the reduced Tier 2 disclosure regime. The Company has in some cases chosen to include information within its accounts used for the financial reporting requirements of its parent.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, rounded to the nearest thousand. They are prepared on the historical cost basis except for Land and Buildings, Investment Properties, and certain other investments, which are stated at fair value.

Non-current assets held for sale are stated at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with NZ IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expense. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgments about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements, except where otherwise stated.

Changes in Accounting policies and disclosures

New and amended standards and interpretations

The Company has not early adopted any standards, interpretations or amendments that have been issued but are not yet effective.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Owned Assets

Items of property, plant and equipment are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, except for Land and Buildings which are valued annually by a registered valuer and are stated at fair value.

The cost of self-constructed assets includes the cost of materials, direct labour and an appropriate proportion of production overheads.

Where parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of property, plant and equipment.

Subsequent Costs

Further expenditures are added to cost only if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied with the item will flow to the Company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other costs are recognised in the profit or loss as an expense when incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged to profit or loss on either straight-line or diminishing value basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of property, plant and equipment. Lower value assets (cost less than \$50,000) are depreciated at the current maximum rates allowed by the Inland Revenue Department as these rates approximate the useful lives and residual values associated with these assets. Land is not depreciated.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Buildings 30- 50 years
- Plant and Equipment 3-38 years
- Office Equipment & Fixtures 3-10 years
- Land Improvements 20 years

The residual value and useful life of an asset is reviewed, and adjusted if applicable, at each financial year-end.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets acquired by the Company are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses.

Amortisation of intangible assets with a finite life is charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the intangible assets. The estimated useful life of software is three to ten years.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are not amortised, but are tested for impairment annually, either individually or at the cash-generating-unit level. The assessment of indefinite life is reviewed annually to determine whether the indefinite life continues to be supportable. If not, the change in useful life from indefinite to finite is made on a prospective basis. An intangible asset is derecognised upon disposal (i.e. at the date the recipient obtains control) or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss arising upon derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in the statement of profit or loss.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or net realisable value using weighted average. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated costs of completion and selling expenses.

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when control of the goods or services is transferred to the customer, at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The Company has concluded that it is the principal in its revenue arrangements, because it controls the goods or services before transferring them to the customer.

Civil construction and contracting

Civil construction and contracting services include drainage, sealing, asphalt laying, utilities and rural contracting.

Construction services within a contract are deemed to represent a single performance obligation, which is satisfied progressively over the construction period. Performance is measured using an output method, by reference to regular progress claims and assessments by client contract engineers.

Any expected loss on construction contracts is recognised immediately as an expense in profit or loss.

Any variable consideration, such as liquidated damages, included in the Company's revenue contracts is included in the transaction price only to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur. Payment is due as specified in the payment schedules.

Rendering of services

Contracts for workshop and transport services are comprised of one performance obligation, with revenue being recognised over time. Payment is generally due upon completion and acceptance by the customer. An input method (cost incurred) is used as a measure of progress.

Production and sale of goods

The Company earns revenue from the sale of goods, including ready-mix concrete and aggregates. Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point in time when control of the asset is transferred to the customer, generally on delivery. Payment is generally due based on standard 30-day trading terms.

Contract assets, contract liabilities and trade receivables

When a performance obligation is satisfied by transferring a promised good or service to the customer before the customer pays consideration or before payment is due, the Company presents the contract as a contract asset, unless the Company's rights to that amount of consideration are unconditional, in which case the Company recognises a receivable. Trade receivables are measured at the transaction price determined under NZ IFRS 15.

When an amount of consideration is received from a customer prior to the Company transferring a good or service to the customer, the Company recognises a contract liability.

The Company recognises an allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs) for all debt instruments not held at fair value through profit or loss. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Company expects to receive, discounted at an approximation of the original effective interest rate.

For trade receivables and contract assets, the Company applies the simplified approach in calculating ECLs. Therefore, the Company does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date.

Warranties

The Company provides for defects liability periods in accordance with NZ IAS 37.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits with original maturities of less than 3 months. Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand form an integral part of the Company's cash management and are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows.

Investments

Other Investments

Investments in equity securities held by the Company are recorded at fair value through profit or loss.

Advances and other financial assets at amortised cost

If there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, ECLs are provided for credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the next 12 months. If there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, a loss allowance is required for credit losses expected over the remaining life of the instrument.

Joint Venture

The Joint Venture has been incorporated into the financial statements using the equity method.

Impairment of non-financial assets

The carrying amount of the Company's assets other than inventories are reviewed at each balance date to determine whether there is any objective evidence of the indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

If the estimated recoverable amount of an asset is less than its carrying amount, the asset is written down to its estimated recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss. For revalued assets the impairment loss is recognised in other comprehensive income for that asset. Where that results in a debit balance in the revaluation reserve, the balance is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal of Impairment

Impairment losses are reversed when there is a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. For revalued assets the reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in other comprehensive income and credited to the revaluation reserve. However, to the extent that an impairment loss for that asset was previously recognised in profit or loss, a reversal of the impairment loss is also recognised in profit or loss.

Income Tax

Income tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years. Deferred tax is provided using the balance sheet method, providing for temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. The amount of any deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities using tax rates or substantively enacted at the balance date.

Current tax and deferred tax is charged or credited to profit or loss, except when it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income, in which case the tax is dealt with in other comprehensive income.

A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilised.

Employee Entitlements

The Company has made provision in respect of entitlements for annual leave, long service leave, and retirement gratuities. The provision is calculated on an actual entitlement basis at current rates of pay.

The Company recognises a liability for sick leave to the extent that compensated absences in the coming year are expected to be greater than sick leave entitlements earned in the coming year. The amount is calculated based on the unused sick leave entitlement that can be carried forward at balance date, to the extent the Company anticipates it will be used by staff to cover those future absences.

Obligations for contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are recognised as an expense in profit or loss when they are due.

Expenses

Net Financing Costs

Net financing costs comprise interest payable on borrowings, interest receivable on funds invested and dividend income. Interest income is recognised in profit or loss as it accrues. Dividend income is recognised in profit or loss on the date the Company's right to receive payment is established.

Trade and Other Payables

Trade and Other Payables are stated at amortised cost. Due to their short-term nature, they are not discounted.

Provisions

A provision is recognised in the balance sheet when the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

Loans

Subsequent to initial recognition, loans are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Goodwill

All business combinations are accounted for by applying the purchase method. Goodwill represents the difference between the cost of the acquisition and the fair value of the net identifiable assets acquired.

Goodwill is stated at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is allocated to cash generating units and is tested annually for impairment.

The impact of Covid-19 has been considered in the impairment assessment. The impact on the company was not significant and has not resulted in any impairment of goodwill.

Impairment of Goodwill

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. The amount of the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the assets carrying amount and the recoverable amount.

An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed.

Calculation of recoverable amount

The recoverable amount of assets is the greater of their market value less cost to sell and value in use.

In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the assets. For an asset that does not generate largely independent cashflows, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Reversal of impairment

An impairment loss in respect of an asset carried at amortised cost is reversed if the subsequent increase in recoverable amount can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised.

An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed.

In respect of other assets, an impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimated use to determine the recoverable amount.

An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the assets carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if not impairment loss had been recognised.

Leases

Right-of use assets

The Company recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e. the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term or the estimated useful life of the asset.

Lease liabilities

At commencement date of the lease, the Company recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. These lease payments include fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees. The lease payments also include the exercise price of an option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Company and penalties for terminating the lease if the lease term reflects the Company's exercising the option to terminate.

Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as expenses (unless they are incurred to produce inventories) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Company uses a borrowing rate at the lease commencement that best represents the term of the lease. For plant and vehicle leases the company uses the Bank fixed interest rate for the term of the lease and for property, an appropriate market yield is used. After the commencement date, the amount of the lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is re-measured if

there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the lease payments or a change in the assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset.

Short term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Company applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases i.e. those with a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date with no purchase option.

The Company also applies the lease of low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Management has defined this as assets which are, when new, valued at \$7,000 or less.

Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

All amounts are shown exclusive of GST, except for trade receivables and payables that are stated inclusive of GST.

New Accounting Standards

Not applicable.

Draft

6. *Three Waters Committee – 26 March 2025*

Minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2025, commencing at 10.30am, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillors Russell Ellis (Chair), Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, Liz McMillan and Tony Todd.

Also present: Crs Leen Braam, Rob Mackle and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Hernando Marilla (Operations Manager), Ulrich Glasner (Water Services Manager), and Phillipa Clark (Governance Support).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 12/02/25

That the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 12 February 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Hooper/Lovett

Carried

A powerpoint presentation accompanied the activity reports.

5 Three Waters operations & maintenance

- **Ocean Farm**

Weighbridge automation – capturing data electronically will give a better understanding of what's coming in and out, and will assist with resource consent compliance and reporting requirements. It's intended that there will be one access, with a monitoring camera.

6 Projects

- **Methven reservoir**

Work is now complete on the reservoir that had been taken offline for maintenance. Council acknowledged the Methven community for complying with the hand-held hosing restrictions, noting

the positive outcome of having sufficient capacity in the remaining reservoir while maintenance was undertaken on the other.

- **Ocean Farm irrigation**

Not complying with resource consent conditions (nitrogen levels) due mainly to the irrigation system not covering the full area.

Officers are suggesting that Council develops a wastewater strategy for Ashburton before making a decision and investing in a new irrigation system. With the possibility of a large trade waste company looking to connect to the wastewater, there needs to be a good understanding of this and other planned development over the next 15-30 years.

Discussion will be held with ECan who require more data on flows into the various irrigation zones and the losses/leakage.

It's anticipated that some funding will be available through savings in the renewals programme (specifically the grit chamber pipeline project) but will need to go to the market to get an understanding of costs.

The Mayor agreed that a Strategy is a good idea but there is an urgency to deal with the issues at Ocean Farm. He suggested that the contractors' proposals be further looked at to find an immediate solution.

Officers noted there is also urgency to talk to ECan about non-compliance and how they see the issues being addressed. Discussion will address the question on whether an additional block of land could be opened up to spread the loading.

- **Source water risk management plans**

Proposing to progress this with in-house resource and looking to extend the outsourcing of compliance reporting work for a further 16 months to enable this.

Officers confirmed that they will engage with affected landowners (in the various zones), where necessary, as the work progresses.

The Committee will be provided with the water services staff structure chart.

- **Montalto water supply**

In discussion with Taumata Arowai in respect to this scheme to find solutions for mixed use rural water supplies. Trialling point of entry treatment (UV and cartridge filtration). Even if successful, there is backflow prevention risk.

Detailed work has been done based on the old rules (between \$5-7m) – a lot of investment for a small supply (32 houses).

Awaiting Taumata Arowai guidelines which will likely be available in June.

- **NE Ashburton wastewater service concepts**

The first stage of work on a gravity solution has been completed and it appears that this option will be pursued. Properties that can't be serviced by the network may have to go to individual (private) pump-ups.

Beca is awaiting Council's feedback before detailed costs can be provided. A report will be prepared for Council.

7 Drinking Water Compliance

Overview of the internal assessment against the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (many and varied).

8 RMA Consent Compliance

Overview of the five new compliance monitoring reports (CMRs) received since the last meeting and actions taken (shown in appendix B)

9 Financials

- **Drinking water capital expenditure**

The Committee will be updated with more detail at the next meeting.

- **DIA water supply compliance rules**

Officers are yet to receive guidance from DIA on the water compliance rules and regulatory changes.

- **Buckleys Tc request for wastewater service**

Of the 12 properties asked for feedback, 11 responses were received with approximately 33% in favour of connection, but supporting only if Council changes the zoning to allow properties smaller than 4000m² to subdivided.

- **Taumata Arowai wastewater performance standards**

Taumata Arowai (the Water Services Authority) is consulting on a set of proposed national wastewater environmental performance standards.

Officers will be attending a Canterbury Wastewater Managers meeting tomorrow and are looking to prepare a joint submission.

Council heard that the Minister of Local Government has offered for the Commerce Commission to visit councils. A date will be arranged for the Commission to meet with ADC and talk about their requirements around wastewater standards.

Council asked whether there are sufficient resources in place to respond to the increasing requirements and provision of data to ensure accurate reporting.

Officers confirmed that, regardless of the final structure, there will be an impact on a number of areas within Council's operations, and Council's contractors in the transition to a new way of delivering water services.

- **Water Services site visits**

Site visits will be scheduled on the morning of Thursday 8 May, including the laboratory (in-house), grit chamber pipeline renewal, UV and filtration upgrades and Rakaia sludge drying beds.

Councillors were asked to notify officers if there are other sites they'd like to view.

The meeting concluded at 11.13am.

7. *Submission on Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill*

Author	<i>Femke van der Valk, Policy Advisor</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Mark Low, Strategy & Policy Manager</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham; Group Manager Democracy & Engagement</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to approve Council’s submission to the Justice Committee on the Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill.
- The Bill refers to keeping the standard maximum term of a Parliament at three years, but allow for an extension to four years when the condition of the referendum and the proportionality requirement are met.
- The Bill does not refer to the term of local authorities matching that of parliament, potentially creating two different term cycles.
- The submission emphasises the importance of the parliamentary term to be a fixed period of four years and to be matched by local government.
- Submissions close on Thursday 17 April 2025.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council approves the submission to the Justice Committee on the Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill, as attached in Appendix 1.

Attachment

- Appendix 1** Ashburton District Council’s submission to the Justice Committee on the Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill

Background

The current situation

1. The Justice Committee is currently consulting on the Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill (the Bill).
2. The [Bill](#) provides for an option to extend the maximum term of Parliament from three to four years at the start of a parliamentary term, if the following conditions are met:
 - a referendum where the majority of electors support this change; and
 - the so called ‘proportionality requirement’, being that ‘the overall membership of the subject select committees is proportional to the party membership in the House of Representatives of the non-executive members. The intention of this is that the term of a Parliament could only be extended if there are improved checks and balances on the Government via the subject select committees.’
3. The purpose of the Bill is to support law making improvement. A 3-year term in parliament is uncommon internationally and the relatively short electoral cycle is not always conceived as contributing to ‘good law making’. The possibility of a 4-year term is intended to allow more time to develop and progress well-tested policy and legislation.
4. The Bill does not refer to the term of local authorities and community boards to extent to a 4-year term. This disconnect could cause significant challenges for local government to respond to changes on Government policies, budgeting and funding cycles and related reviews.
5. Officers have prepared a draft submission for Council to consider, recommending that
 - the proposed proportionality condition is removed, and
 - the Bill and referendum refer to a fixed term of four years, for both Parliament as well as local authorities and community boards.
6. Submissions need to be lodged by Thursday 17 April 2025.

Options analysis

Option one – Do not make a submission

7. This is not the recommended option. Council may decide to stay silent and not make a submission on the Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill.

Advantages: No further staff time required, although lodging a submission is a minimal effort.	Disadvantages: The Council's voice will not be considered by the Justice Committee.
Risks: Reputational - This would result in Council missing an opportunity to advocate on behalf of local government.	

Option two – Approve the proposed submission as attached in Appendix One (recommended option)

8. This option would see Officers lodge the appended submission on the Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill.

Advantages: The proposed submission is a draft and ready to be lodged, meaning it will meet deadlines.	Disadvantages: Current draft may not accurately reflect elected members' position.
Risks: Elected member's position could not accurately reflect the wider community views.	

Option three – Approve the proposed submission with amendments

9. Under this option, Council approves the submission with amendments.

Advantages: Council's improvements and recommendations are included in the submission.	Disadvantages: No disadvantages
Risks: Depending on the nature of the changes there is the risk to miss the deadline as the submissions close on Thursday 17 April.	

Legal/policy implications

10. The lodging of a submission does not breach or trigger any statutory or legal duty of the Council.

Climate change

11. There is no direct link between climate change and the Council submission on the Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill.

Strategic alignment

12. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcomes of 'residents are well-represented, included and have a voice'.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	The recommendations in the submission relate to potential issues with budget and funding cycles if terms are not matched which could impact the economic wellbeing of the district.
Environmental		
Cultural		
Social	✓	By advocating on behalf of the district, the submission may contribute to social well-being by strengthening community networks.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	No cost for lodging the submission. Officer resource was required for preparing the submission.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	N/A
Where is the funding coming from?	Strategy & Policy
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Not required – lodging the submission has no budget implications

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	This has been assessed as low due to the recommendation relating solely to lodgement of the submission.
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform – one way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The community will be informed of Council's submission through the usual channels.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham: GM Democracy & Engagement

Submission



Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year term) Legislation Amendment Bill

PREPARED BY: Ashburton District Council
PO Box 94
ASHBURTON

SUBMITTED TO: Justice Committee
Parliament Building
WELLINGTON

Contact: Mayor Neil Brown
mayor@adc.govt.nz

ju@parliament.govt.nz
via upload to:
<https://www.parliament.nz>

Ashburton District Council does **not** wish to make an oral submission to the Committee

Introduction

1. Ashburton District Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill (the Bill). This submission has been prepared by the Council.
2. Located an hour's drive south of Christchurch, more than 38,400¹ residents live in our district. Approximately 50% of our residents live in the main town of Ashburton, with the rest of our residents living rurally or in smaller towns or villages across the district.
3. Ashburton District (the District) has experienced moderate and sustained population increase since the mid-1990s, increasing by 23% between 2006 and 2013 (a 3.3% increase per year). This growth, however, has now slowed, with an average growth of 1.3% per year since 2013.

The Bill proposal

4. Council notes the proposal in the Bill to enable a 4-year parliamentary term. The Bill proposes the standard term of Parliament will remain at 3 years, with the ability to extend to 4 years based on certain conditions. An extension is contingent on the proportionality requirement, ensuring that select committee membership is apportioned between executive (i.e. government) and non-executive (i.e. opposition) members. This would enable a more effective scrutiny of government actions, to balance off the extension in the parliamentary term. This decision would be made following an election. For the Bill to proceed, it must be passed through Parliament and implementation is subject to a successful vote via a public binding referendum.

¹ Infometrics, *Regional Economic Profile*, 2024

Council's position on a 4-year term

5. As part of Council's consideration of the LGNZ *Local Electoral Reform review*², Council has discussed the option of a 4-year term. It supports a 4-year term for Parliament and for local government.
6. This would enable more time to develop and implement policy, including better engagement and pre-engagement on policy. For Parliament, it also allows for the opportunity to grow more cross-party consensus and incentivises better longer term and strategic thinking.

Bill's Proposal is unworkable

7. Council notes the proposal leads to the term of Government to potentially differ from 3 to 4 years and that no reference is made in the Bill to enabling a 4-year term for local authorities. Council therefore considers the proposal as stated in the Bill unworkable. This is because of the anticipated issues related to policy development and funding cycles when the terms of national and local government don't align, the potential clash for election timing and the risk of losing voter turnout when elections fall in the same year.
8. Council notes that a flexible term approach could also create confusion for the timing of elections, including at times the likelihood that national and local elections would be held in the same year. This could lead to a lower turnout of voters for national and/or local elections when the current timing of October for local and November for national elections are maintained.
9. Council is also concerned for the scenario when the national term is variable from three to four years and the local authorities' term is fixed on three years. This could cause significant challenges for local government to respond to changes on Government policies, budgeting and funding cycles and related reviews.
10. Council notes the Bill goes against the recommendations of the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)³ for the bill and the limited time and consultation that had occurred in designing the Bill and considering the associated issues, as outlined within this statement. The RIS specifically states that "Option 3 [*the Bill's proposal*] has been assessed as being much worse than the status quo [*i.e. a 3 year term*] because features of the Bill are constitutionally and practically problematic"⁴
11. Council supports Taituara's submission on the Bill which recommends to Parliament that 'any extension of the Parliamentary term to 4 years, be accompanied by an extension of the term of local authorities and highlights the implications of moving to a 4-year term for local authorities, both in general and in the case where the term of office is variable'⁵.

² LGNZ Local Electoral Reform review - <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/policy-advocacy/key-issues-for-councils/local-electoral-reform/>

³ Regulatory Impact Statement: Enabling a four-year term of Parliament - <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/assets/RIS-Documents/Regulatory-Impact-Statement-Enabling-a-four-year-term-of-Parliament.pdf>

⁴ Regulatory Impact Statement: Enabling a four-year term of Parliament - <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/assets/RIS-Documents/Regulatory-Impact-Statement-Enabling-a-four-year-term-of-Parliament.pdf>, p.3

⁵ Taituara submission on Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year term) Legislation Amendment Bill, p1

12. The Taituara submission refers to the issues of an uncertain Parliamentary term as to how often (and even whether) there will be changes to Government policy and the current public sector framework to be built on a three yearly review, including for example the funding commitments for the Land Transport Funding⁶.

Recommendations

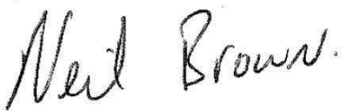
Council would like to make the following recommendations:

1. That: The Bill refers to a fixed term of four years, for both Parliament as well as local authorities (including community boards).

Rationale: Council considers it essential that the terms of national and local government are matched to avoid the negative outcomes described above.

2. That: to enable the recommendation above, the referendum refers to a decision on a fixed four-year term for all government levels, with the proposed conditions tied to select committee composition removed.

Ashburton District Council thanks the Justice Committee for the opportunity to provide this submission.



NEIL BROWN

Mayor



HAMISH RIACH

Chief Executive

⁶ Taituara submission on Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year term) Legislation Amendment Bill, p5

8. *LocoDelegations Review 2025*

Authors	<i>Phillipa Clark; Governance Team Leader Mel Neumann; Policy Advisor</i>
Activity Managers	<i>Phillipa Clark; Governance Team Leader Mark Low; Strategy & Policy Manager</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham; GM Democracy & Engagement</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and adopt the updated LocoDelegations.
- Council received this report on 5 February 2025, but opted to ‘leave it on the table’ with further information requested that would help clarify some of the delegated roles’ responsibilities.
- Council’s register of delegations (LocoDelegations) underwent review, primarily to ensure that all relevant legislation is referenced. The review has removed legislation that has been revoked, sections that have been repealed and delegations to roles that no longer exist.
- The review has also identified where changes to roles and reporting lines have occurred.
- Following discussion with Councillors, it has been agreed to uplift this report for further consideration.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council uplifts the Review of Council Delegations report from 5 February 2025.
2. **That** Council adopts the 2025 delegations register (LocoDelegations).

Attachments

Appendix 1 LocoDelegations – changes to masterlist [\[Supplementary document\]](#)

Background

The current situation

1. Council's register of Delegations (LocoDelegations) was recently reviewed and presented to Council for adoption on 5 February 2025.
2. While accepting the need to adopt and maintain a delegations register that reflects current legislation, Council opted to leave this matter 'on the table' pending further discussion to better understand how delegations are applied to the various roles.
3. The discussion focused on the division between governance and management activities, and delegations to Council officers. Elected members' particular concern is having a greater awareness and being better informed of how delegations have been exercised.
4. Council has directed the Chief Executive to look at how officers might report back to them on the use of delegations. It was suggested that summary information could be included in the regular Activity Briefing reports – for example, leases renewed during a reporting period.
5. Council agreed that the information sought would provide an overview that would help show whether delegations are correct or if they need to be reviewed for a particular role, whether the delegation is sitting in the right place, or if increased financial delegation is required.

LocoDelegations

6. Council operates under a range of legislation that provides territorial authorities with specific powers, functions and duties.
7. Council has a register of delegations retained in a web-based system called LocoDelegations. LocoDelegations was developed by the Association of Local Government Information Management (ALGIM) as an all-digital delegations register designed specifically for local government, to help councils manage their delegation efficiently and reduce the risk of operating under outdated delegations. Around a third of Councils now use the LocoDelegations system.
8. Council joined the LocoDelegations pilot programme in 2019/20 and, after transitioning from a Microsoft Word delegations document, went "live" with the ADC instance of LocoDelegations in March 2023. LocoDelegations is publicly available on the ADC [website](#).
9. LocoDelegations contains five main sections:
 - Legislative delegations
 - Bylaws

- Financial delegations
 - General (non-legislative) delegations
 - Warrants of appointment¹
10. LocoDelegations comes pre-loaded with all the current NZ legislation that councils have delegable powers under. The master list is held by ALGIM and is maintained and regularly reviewed by Simpson Grierson.
 11. In reviewing ADC's delegations, officers compared ALGIM's master list with Council's instance and identified some acts or regulations without delegations that may need to be included. These were referred to the relevant activity managers to determine whether a delegation is required and the role it would be applied to.
 12. The review has removed legislation that has been revoked, sections that have been repealed and delegations to roles that no longer exist. Bylaws are current (those expired have been removed).
 13. Officers are aware of the recently enacted [Fast-track Approvals Act 2024](#) and the need to have appropriate delegations in place. The Act will be considered by Simpson Grierson for inclusion in the LocoDelegations legal database and Council's instance of LocoDelegations will then be updated.
 14. In addition, the Financial Delegations section now includes reference to purchase cards which have recently been issued to certain positions. A credit limit of \$1,000 is imposed for purchase cards. Most have a transaction limit of \$200, with a maximum of three transactions per day.
 15. The review process has been thorough, with input from group and activity managers. As the LocoDelegations system will automatically notify changes, Council can be confident that the delegations will continue to reflect current legislation.
 16. The purpose of a delegations register is to define and authorise the scope of:
 - a) the division between governance and management activities
 - b) Council's delegations of governance activities to Council committees
 - c) Council's delegations of management activities to the Chief Executive
 - d) The Chief Executive's delegations to Council officers, including the Executive Team.
 17. Other aspects of Council's work programme can be delegated by Council resolution. This includes the work programme detailed in the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan.
 18. Delegations are reviewed usually at least once in a triennium. LocoDelegations will continue to be updated with minor administrative changes, such as when roles have changed. Any significant alteration or additions to the delegations will be reported to Council for resolution.

¹ ADC warrants are not included in LocoDelegations. A separate piece of work is being undertaken to capture all of the warrants which are currently administered in another system.

Options analysis

Option one – Do not adopt the updated online LocoDelegations

19. Council could decide not to update the online LocoDelegations system. While there is no legal requirement for a delegations manual, individual delegations are required and must be documented. If Council chose not to update the online system, consideration would then be given to an alternative way of capturing delegations.

<p>Advantages:</p> <p>There are no apparent advantages to maintaining LocoDelegations without including updates</p>	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>Less certainty of legislative compliance Significant (lost) time for the review and updating that has taken place Loss of a centralised and comprehensive source</p>
<p>Risks:</p> <p>Risk of operating under outdated delegations</p>	

Option two – Adopt the updated LocoDelegations (Recommended)

20. Since joining the pilot programme in 2019, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to load all of Council’s delegations into the online system. The benefits of LocoDelegations quickly became apparent – a more user-friendly system with its report-running and search functions and notification of legislative changes.
21. Council will benefit from the adoption of updated delegations which have undergone comprehensive review and assessment by officers, relevant managers and the Executive Team.

<p>Advantages:</p> <p>Likely to improve legislative compliance Consistent with organisation structure Administratively efficient / user-friendly (publicly searchable via web) Ensures accountability is clear</p>	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>An external application with reliance on external parties / software</p>
<p>Risks:</p> <p>The possibility of losing external support (low risk)</p>	

Legal/policy implications

Local Government Act (LGA) 2002

22. [Section 14](#) of the LGA requires Council to conduct its business in an open, transparent and democratically accountable manner. By making delegations publicly available, it helps to ensure transparency.

23. [Schedule 7, cl.32 of the LGA](#) provides Council with the power to delegate the powers of a local authority to any officer or employee (except for specific powers such as making a rate or making a bylaw).
24. [Section 42 of the LGA](#) requires Council to delegate the management of the organisation to the Chief Executive on the terms and conditions that Council considers appropriate.
25. ALGIM have confirmed that they will notify Council of legislative changes, therefore it will be easier to keep the delegations up to date and comply with legislation.

Climate change

26. The outcome of this decision won't directly impact climate change.

Review of legal / policy implications	
Reviewed by In-house Counsel	<i>Tania Paddock; Legal Counsel</i>

Strategic alignment

27. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcome of 'residents are included and have a voice' because it allows for Council to conduct its business in an open and transparent manner.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	X	
Environmental	X	
Cultural	X	
Social	✓	The recommended option has an effect on social well-being because Council conducting its business in an open and transparent manner can help strengthen community networks.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Annual subscription cost. Some additional cost incurred for share of legal review. The cost is low and may be offset by savings in legal costs.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Existing budget – Information Systems
Are there any future budget implications?	Yes – ongoing annual subscription to LocoDelegations
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager

28. ALGIM provided some administrative assistance – a one-off cost in the current year that has been met from existing budget.

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	Delegations are largely operational and have very little impact on the community or Council’s levels of service.
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform. The community will be informed of the decision via meeting minutes and media release.
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	As above – delegations are largely operational. A publicly available system enables clear accountability to the community of delegation powers.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

9. *Zone Committee Review Feedback*

Author *Toni Durham: GM Democracy & Engagement*
Executive Team Member *Hamish Riach: Chief Executive*

Summary

- The purpose of this report is for Council to formalise its feedback to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the Zone Committee Review that is currently underway.
- Environment Canterbury presented their proposal for a Local Leadership Group to Council in March 2025. Since then some in the community have indicated that it is their preference to be represented within the Local Leadership Group also.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council approves the feedback memo to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the Zone Committee Review as attached in Appendix 1.

Attachment

Appendix 1 Ashburton District Council's feedback to the Zone Committee Review
Appendix 2 Ashburton Water Zone Committee Review 2024

Background

The current situation

1. In December 2023, Ashburton District Council called for an internal review in the effectiveness of the Ashburton Zone Committee. This was received by Council in April 2024 and can be found as an appendix to this feedback. The key finding of this review was:

“The Zone Committee role has changed since it was initially established, and the leadership required in managing freshwater in Canterbury does appear to have altered. At the local level, the AWZC has achieved a number of meaningful actions. However, as stakeholders have developed and matured, the ZC approach has become less meaningful and authoritative than it once was. This is not because of a lack of effort of past and present members, it appears to be more a result of the mana and authority afforded to Zone Committees by the Joint Committee partners of ECan and ADC. The next evolution of freshwater management in Canterbury requires careful consideration to ensure that the many gains that have been made to date are not lost.”

2. In early 2024, Environment Canterbury heeded the request of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to review the entire Zone Committee structure across Canterbury. This work has resulted in a new proposal being made to local authorities and mana whenua across the region for their consideration, as shown below.

Zone Committee Review 2024

Proposed base model – Local Leadership Groups

- Locally connects councils and mana whenua at leadership level
- Core membership and function regionally consistent
- Confirm local action plan – priority setting and promotion/oversight of action
- Community engagement, priorities, and investment support determined locally



3. Under the proposed model the groups' core purpose would be to **connect** councils and mana whenua to support collaborative and strategic freshwater management on key priorities, as proposed by ECan.
4. The LLG's proposed primary function will be to **prioritise, align, and recommend** actions crucial for improving local freshwater outcomes locally. This will include

connecting with communities and interest groups to align work with community-driven action.

- **Prioritise:** numerous water management challenges need to be addressed, and resources are limited. Doing fewer things well.
 - **Align:** consistent with existing regional frameworks (Targets, ZIPs & Action Plans) and ensure alignment with efforts of agencies and catchment groups in the community.
 - **Recommend:** role is to provide strategic guidance and recommendations to councils, not to engage directly in the implementation of water management projects.
5. Following the ECan presentation to ADC in March 2025, Council has been lobbied by community representatives desiring the core leadership group to have community representation sitting alongside Territorial Authorities, Mana Whenua and the Regional Council.

What are the key issues found for the Ashburton Zone Committee?

6. While the AWZC has had some considerable wins since its formation, the ADC review found that the ongoing role of the AWZC was no longer fit for purpose.
7. The review found that the AWZC was no longer working as well as it either once had, or ever did. These four key themes are outlined below:

Community Representation

8. There is a consistent perception that the AWZC is not representative of the local community, with those interested and able to apply having a greater personal interest in freshwater management. To a degree this holds true, as the very essence of volunteering to be on the AWZC means a committee member is likely to have a vested interest in freshwater management in some way, shape or form. However, the perception that the needs/wants of the agricultural community are over-powering in AWZC decision-making does exist amongst past and current members.

Function of AWZC

9. A second theme that became apparent was that the work being undertaken by AWZC has changed over time. Review of minutes over the 14 years of the AWZC show that in the past several years the focus of the committee does appear to have shifted from the strategic to the localised. This diminishment from the broader advocacy work undertaken in the earlier years of the AWZC, when members felt there was a greater opportunity to influence decision-makers at a strategic level. Examples given were the early work undertaken on the original Ashburton River Review in 2013 and ECan plan changes 1 and 2 which deeply involved the Zone Committee.

Joint Committee Approach

10. A third theme raised was the apparent inequality of the joint committee between the regional and district council. Some interviewees signalled that Ashburton District

Council has been disconnected or missing from the joint committee for some time and that the Regional Council was the primary focus of members. This could be argued as being inherent in the differences in the roles and functions of each Council which is driven by legislation. In simpler terms, ADC's role in freshwater management is peripheral to the regional council's.

Zone Committee Structure

11. The fourth theme that emerged, although more difficult to articulate, was the inherent challenges that exist with the very nature of the structure of Zone Committees. They were established to take an empowered collaborative approach to freshwater management at the local level. The way in which the CWMS envisioned this working was that the implementation programmes:

"...will be social contracts in which all parties agree on a balanced way forward that will enable community and economic wellbeing to occur whilst safeguarding the ecosystems on which they depend. Once the programmes have been put in place stakeholders and investors must both be confident that all elements will be delivered in their entirety. Legal processes that follow in the wake of the adoption of the programmes should not be allowed to undermine this balanced, holistic approach to managing water resources in each zone and across the region as a whole".

12. Fifteen years on, the reality of this vision in the challenging and complex world of freshwater management is becoming evident for AWZC as a joint committee. To some extent, the ideology of the Zone Committee to take a collaborative governance consensus-building approach could be viewed as it's downfall due to the resource-intensive and high-trust approach needed. This is likely to be driving the current concerns with the role and function of the AWZC.

Community Feedback

13. Following the presentation to Council, the community have signalled concerns with not being represented in the LLG under the proposed model. Officers have investigated the drivers of these concerns and they largely centre around the theme of 'nothing about us, without us'. Some in the community believe that unless the community is sitting around the table directly, then their views will not be well represented in the proposed local leadership group.
14. Officers have prepared a draft submission for Council to consider, recommending that
 - a middle-ground is found that addresses the issues of the AWZC while ensuring that the community voice isn't lost.
15. The feedback needs to be lodged with Environment Canterbury by the 22 April to be included in their analysis for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

Options analysis

Option one – Do not provide feedback

16. This is not the recommended option. Council may decide to stay silent and not make a provide feedback on the proposed new model.

Advantages: No further staff time required.	Disadvantages: The Council’s voice will not be considered by Environment Canterbury.
Risks: Reputational - This would result in Council missing an opportunity to advocate on behalf of the local community.	

Option two – Approve the proposed feedback as attached in Appendix One (recommended option)

17. This option would see Officers provide the appended feedback.

Advantages: The proposed feedback is a draft ready to be lodged, meaning it will meet deadlines.	Disadvantages: Current draft may not accurately reflect elected members’ position.
Risks: Reputational: The community may not consider that the proposed feedback meets all of their requests.	

Option three – Approve the proposed feedback with amendments

18. Under this option, Council approves the feedback with amendments.

Advantages: Councils improvements and recommendations are included in the submission.	Disadvantages: More staff time to process the changes is required.
Risks: Depending on the nature of the changes there is the risk to miss the deadline as the feedback is due with Environment Canterbury on 22 April.	

Legal/policy implications

19. The lodging of a submission does not breach or trigger any statutory or legal duty of the Council.

Climate change

20. There is no direct link between climate change and the Council submission on the Zone Committee Review.

Strategic alignment

21. The recommendation relates to Council’s community outcomes of ‘residents are well-represented, included and have a voice’.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	The recommendations in the submission relate to freshwater management which are important for all well-beings.
Environmental	✓	
Cultural	✓	By advocating on behalf of the district, the submission may contribute to social well-being by strengthening community networks.
Social	✓	

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	No cost for lodging the submission. Officer resource was required for preparing the submission.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	N/A
Where is the funding coming from?	Democracy & Engagement
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Not required – lodging the submission has no budget implications

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	This has been assessed as low due to the recommendation relating solely to lodgement of the submission.

Level of engagement selected	1. Inform – one way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The community will be informed of Council’s submission through the usual channels.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham: GM Democracy & Engagement

Appendix 1

Date	2 April 2025
Project Title	Zone Committee Review - Feedback
Report to	Environment Canterbury
From	Ashburton District Council



Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide feedback on the Zone Committee review currently being undertaken by Environment Canterbury on behalf of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

Recommendation

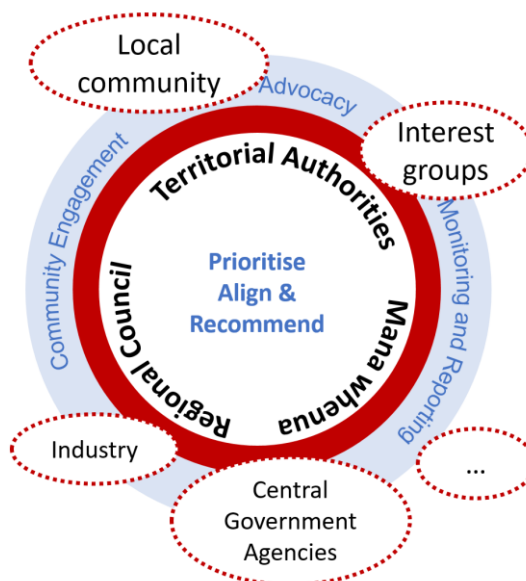
2. That Council proposes Option 2 to Environment Canterbury as an alternative model to the proposed Local Leadership Group.

Background

3. In December 2023, Ashburton District Council called for an internal review in the effectiveness of the Ashburton Zone Committee. This was received by Council in April 2024 and can be found as an appendix to this feedback. The key finding of this review were:

“The Zone Committee role has changed since it was initially established, and the leadership required in managing freshwater in Canterbury has altered. At the local level, the AWZC has achieved a number of meaningful actions. However, as stakeholders have developed and matured, the ZC approach has become less meaningful and authoritative than it once was. This is not because of a lack of effort of past and present members, it appears to be more a result of the mana and authority afforded to Zone Committees by the Joint Committee partners of ECan and ADC. The next evolution of freshwater management in Canterbury requires careful consideration to ensure that the many gains that have been made to date are not lost.”

4. In early 2024, Environment Canterbury heeded the request of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to review the entire Zone Committee structure across Canterbury. This work has resulted in a new proposal being made to local authorities and mana whenua across the region for their consideration, as shown below.



5. The proposed model would create Local Leadership Groups that would:
 - Locally connects councils and mana whenua at leadership level
 - Core membership and function regionally consistent
 - Confirm local action plan – priority setting and promotion/oversight of action
 - Community engagement, priorities, and investment support determined locally
6. Following a presentation to ADC in March 2025, Council has been lobbied by community representatives desiring the core leadership group to have community representation sitting alongside the Territorial Authority, Mana Whenua and Regional Council.

What are the key issues of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee?

7. While the AWZC has had some considerable wins since its formation, the ADC review found that there were aspects of the Zone Committee that weren't working as well as they either once had or ever did. These four key themes are outlined below:

Community Representation

8. There is a consistent perception that the AWZC is not representative of the local community, with those interested and able to apply having a greater personal interest in freshwater management. To a degree this holds true, as the very essence of volunteering to be on the AWZC means a committee member is likely to have a vested interest in freshwater management in some way, shape or form. However, the perception that the needs/wants of the agricultural community are over-powering in AWZC decision-making does exist amongst past and current members.

Function of AWZC

9. The second theme that became apparent was that the work being undertaken by AWZC has changed over time. Review of minutes over the 14 years of the AWZC show that in the past several years the focus of the committee does appear to have shifted from the strategic to the localised. This diminishment from the broader advocacy work undertaken in the earlier years of the AWZC, when members felt there was a greater opportunity to influence decision-makers at a strategic level. Examples given were the early work undertaken on the original Ashburton River Review in 2013 and ECan plan changes 1 and 2 which deeply involved the Zone Committee.

Joint Committee Approach

10. A third theme raised was the apparent inequality of the joint committee between the regional and district council. Some interviewees signalled that Ashburton District Council has been disconnected or missing from the joint committee for some time and that the Regional Council was the primary focus of members. This could be argued as being inherent in the differences in the roles and functions of each Council which is driven by legislation. In simpler terms, ADC's role in freshwater management is peripheral to the regional councils.

Zone Committee Structure

11. The fourth theme that emerged, although more difficult to articulate, was the inherent challenges that exist with the very nature of the structure of Zone Committees. They were established to take an empowered collaborative approach to freshwater management at the local level. The way in which the CWMS envisioned this working was that the implementation programmes:

“...will be social contracts in which all parties agree on a balanced way forward that will enable community and economic wellbeing to occur whilst safeguarding the ecosystems on which they depend. Once the programmes have been put in place stakeholders and investors must both be confident that all elements will be delivered in their entirety. Legal processes that follow in the wake of the adoption of the programmes should not be allowed to undermine this balanced, holistic approach to managing water resources in each zone and across the region as a whole”.

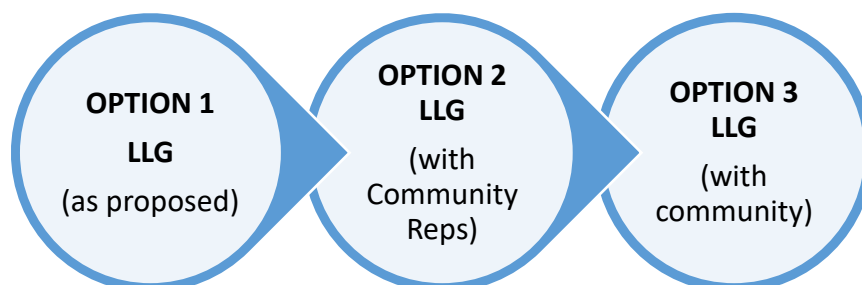
12. Fourteen years on, the reality of this vision in the challenging and complex world of freshwater management is evident for AWZC as a joint committee. To some extent, the ideology of the Zone Committee to take a collaborative governance consensus-building approach could be viewed as it's downfall due to the resource-intensive and high-trust approach needed. This is likely to be driving the current concerns with the role and function of the AWZC.

What are the key concerns of the community?

13. Following the presentation to Council, the community have signalled concerns with not being represented in the LLG under the proposed model. Officers have investigated the drivers of these concerns and they largely centre around the theme of 'nothing about us, without us'. Some in the community believe that unless the community is sitting around the table directly, then their views will not be well represented in the proposed local leadership group.
14. The feedback has indicated that a community 'Advisory Group' could be established that would be directly connected to the proposed LLG by the way of having a representative/s sitting at the table also. The purpose of the Advisory Group would be to ensure that ADC, ECan and Mana Whenua have a direct connection to the local community.
15. The community have indicated that they see the work undertaken by the LLG as being broader than just freshwater management and that Advisory Group could bring an important balance to the social, cultural, environmental and economic values for the wider community. There is an element of wanting to ensure that ECan are making balanced, informed and consistent decisions.
16. Suggestions about the breadth of work that the LLG could focus on include the physical environment, freshwater management, pest control, flood risk, biodiversity, recreational opportunities, community's interest and economic sustainability. The community have indicated that the LLG should be focused on fostering enabling legislation that leads to development in Mid Canterbury.
17. It is expected that the LLG could provide early feedback on changes to regional and district plans, advocate for work programmes to be included into respective Long-Term Plan processes and be a key educator for the community about local issues and what the community can do about it – generating a proactive response.

How to give effect to the community desires while evolving local freshwater management?

18. Council now has the opportunity to help shape the structure for future of local freshwater management to give effect to the strategic direction and priorities of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. The following diagram shows the spectrum of options for Council to consider.



19. Under each option, it is assumed that the groups' core purpose would be to **connect** councils and mana whenua to support collaborative and strategic freshwater management on key priorities, as proposed by ECan.
20. The LLG's proposed primary function will be to **prioritise, align, and recommend** actions crucial for improving local freshwater outcomes locally. This will include connecting with communities and interest groups to align work with community-driven action.

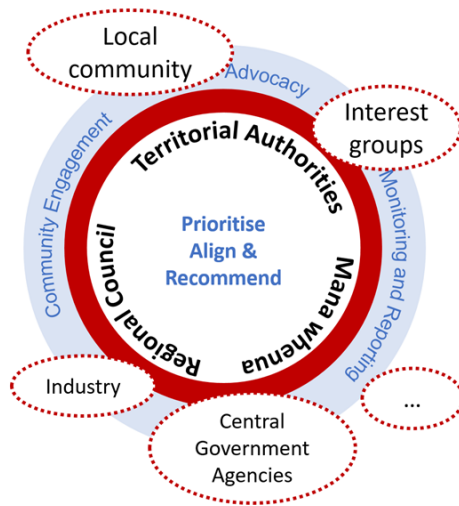
Prioritise: numerous water management challenges need to be addressed, and resources are limited. Doing fewer things well.

Align: consistent with existing regional frameworks (Targets, ZIPs & Action Plans) and ensure alignment with efforts of agencies and catchment groups in the community.

Recommend: role is to provide strategic guidance and recommendations to councils, not to engage directly in the implementation of water management projects.

Option 1

21. This option would see the Local Leadership Group replace the Ashburton Zone Committee as proposed by Environment Canterbury. The three key stakeholders would be Ashburton District Council, Environment Canterbury and Mana Whenua.



Advantages:

Theoretically, this option would be bringing together the three agencies with the appropriate authority for freshwater management within the District.

The model allows for different community representatives to be engaged as required.

Disadvantages:

Some in the community feel that they aren't represented within the LLG

Risks:

Reputational: Having the community sitting outside of the LLG may make it more difficult to ensure that community perspectives are understood, however, it is fair to assume that the Territorial Authorities role is to represent the views of the local community.

Option 2

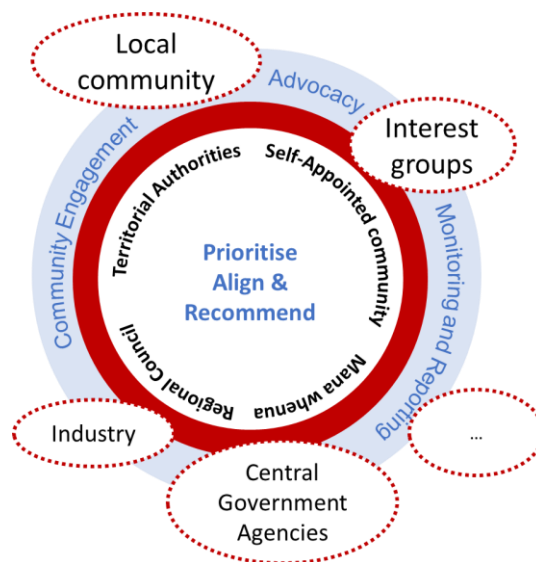
22. This option would see the Local Leadership Group replace the Ashburton Zone Committee as proposed by Environment Canterbury. The four key stakeholders would be Ashburton District Council, Environment Canterbury, Mana Whenua and 1-2 representatives from the 'Advisory Group'.



<p>Advantages: This option would be formalising the request to have community voices represented at the LLG.</p> <p>The model still allows for different community representatives to be engaged as required.</p>	<p>Disadvantages: The Advisory Group will need to be balanced to represent the broad perspectives within the community.</p> <p>Likely to require Council oversight / support to have the confidence that the Advisory Group is operating in a fit for purpose manner. Possibly this could be sitting under Council's working / advisory group structure.</p>
<p>Risks: Reputational: The Advisory Group representatives will need to have the skillset and competencies to make a meaningful contribution to the LLG.</p>	

Option 3

23. This option would effectively be establishing the Local Leadership Group to replace the Ashburton Zone Committee. The key stakeholders would be Ashburton District Council, Environment Canterbury, Mana Whenua and the self-appointments from within the wider community. In essence, this would be the Zone Committee operating under a different name.



<p>Advantages: This option would be allowing for the community to join the LLG as they see fit.</p>	<p>Disadvantages: This option does not address the known issues identified under the AWZC review.</p>
<p>Risks: Reputational: This is unlikely to lead to meaningful change in freshwater management within the District.</p>	

24. Officers propose that Option 2 is the likely option that meets the structural needs of Council and the community currently lobbying Council. How the LLG is formed and established will be determined through the review work by ECan, but officers suggest that a Memorandum of Understanding between parties would be an appropriate structure for the LLG, instead of a Joint Committee.

What function or work will the LLG undertake?

25. It is proposed that the attention and focus of the LLG should initially be constrained to freshwater management with an 18 month focus on establishing key projects or initiatives that can be fed into the respective Long-Term Plan processes of both Environment Canterbury and Ashburton District Council.
26. If the LLG is found to be performing well and achieving in this time frame, then the role could expand and/or switch focus.

Appendix 2

Ashburton Water Zone Committee Review

Contents

1.	Executive Summary	1
2.	Introduction	2
	2.1. What is the Canterbury Water Management Strategy?.....	2
	2.2. What is a Zone Committee?	3
3.	Methodology	2
	3.1. Literature Review.....	2
	3.2. Interviews	2
	3.3. Survey of existing committee	2
4.	Findings	4
	4.1. Literature Review	4
	4.2. Interviews	5
	4.3. Survey of existing committee	5
5.	Discussion	7
	5.1. What has worked well?.....	7
	5.1.1. Hinds Water Catchment	7
	5.1.2. Managed Aquifer Recharge Trial to Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust.....	7
	5.1.3. Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective.....	7
	5.1.4. AWZC Funding	8
	5.2. What hasn't?	8
	5.2.1. Community Representation	8
	5.2.2. Function of AWZC.....	8
	5.2.3. Joint Committee Approach.....	9
	5.2.4. Zone Committee Structure	9
	5.3. Discussion	10
	5.4. Where to from here?	10
6.	References.....	11

1. Executive Summary

This review examines the effectiveness of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee (AWZC) in fulfilling its role and function within the context of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) and the evolving landscape of freshwater management. Initiated by the Ashburton District Council (ADC) and a catalyst for the broader review of Zone Committees by Environment Canterbury (ECan), this assessment aims to inform decision-making regarding the future of the AWZC.

The CWMS, established in response to water challenges in the late 1990s, introduced a collaborative framework for managing water resources in Canterbury. Zone Committees, including the AWZC, were formed to develop actions and strategies to achieve the CWMS goals. However, concerns have emerged regarding the AWZC's effectiveness and relevance, prompting this review.

Through a mixed-method approach involving literature review, interviews with key stakeholders, and a survey of current committee members, several findings have emerged:

- **Achievements of the AWZC:** Notable successes include initiatives such as the Hinds Water Catchment project, Managed Aquifer Recharge Trial, and support for the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective, demonstrating effective local leadership in freshwater management.
- **Challenges and Concerns:** Issues such as community representation, shifting focus from strategic to localized priorities, unequal representation within the joint committee, and the inherent limitations of the Zone Committee structure have been identified as areas of concern.

The findings suggest that while the AWZC has achieved significant successes, its effectiveness and relevance have been challenged by evolving dynamics and perceptions. Decisions regarding the future of the AWZC require careful consideration of potential alternatives within the broader context of freshwater management in the region.

2. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to review the Ashburton Water Zone Committee (a joint committee of Ashburton District Council and Environment Canterbury) and consider if its form and function remains fit for purpose for Ashburton District Council (ADC).

The review was called for by the ADC in response to views expressed questioning the role and purpose of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee (AWZC). The Canterbury Mayoral Forum, as stewards of the [Canterbury Water Management Strategy](#), had called for a review of Zone Committees in 2023, however, there were expectations of a considerable delay to this work being undertaken.

As such, Ashburton District Council passed the following resolution on the 6 December 2023.

“That Council requests the Chief Executive to undertake a review of the Ashburton Zone Committee function early in 2024”. (Mayor/Ellis)

Since this resolution was passed, Environment Canterbury has commenced planning the 2024 zone committee review. Officers have discussed this review with relevant ECan staff who have confirmed that the review will focus on what structure, function and resourcing are needed to support local freshwater leadership into the future. The review will be reported back to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in November 2024.

The review’s objectives are to answer the following main questions:

- What local freshwater leadership is required in the future?
- For which actions will key partners (Environment Canterbury, Territorial Authorities and mana whenua) need local leadership to deliver freshwater management outcomes in the future?
- What resourcing is required to support local leadership?

2.1. What is the Canterbury Water Management Strategy?

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) has its origins in the Canterbury Strategic Water Study (CSWS), which was initiated by central and regional government in response to severe droughts of the late 1990s. Building on the CSWS, the CWMS was released in March 2009 as a product of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (a group comprising of the ten mayors of Canterbury’s territorial authorities and the Chair of the regional council) and a steering group of key stakeholders.¹

The CWMS was developed as a non-statutory framework to promote consensus-building through collaborative governance. It proposed Canterbury be divided into 10 zones for water management, with each zone having a zone committee of local people. The CWMS² established ten regional targets:

1. Ecosystem health and biodiversity
2. Natural character of braided rivers

¹ Source: Thomas, R (2018): Perceptions of Legitimacy within the Collaborative Processes of Freshwater Management in Canterbury

² Source: Canterbury Water Management Strategy – Strategic Framework <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-water-management-strategy/>

3. Kaitiakitanga
4. Drinking water
5. Recreational and amenity opportunities
6. Water-use efficiency
7. Irrigated land area
8. Energy security and efficiency
9. Indicators of regional and national economies
10. Environmental limits

2.2. What is a Zone Committee?

The Zone Committee structure was established in 2010 by the Regional Council - Environment Canterbury. Throughout Canterbury, 10 Zone Committees were formed, each as a joint committee of the respective local territorial authority/authorities and regional council, to develop actions and tactics on the ten targets of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. Of the ten Zone Committees established, 9 remain in existence today (the Hurunui Waiau Uwha committee was disbanded in 2021 due to the committee becoming dysfunctional).

The remaining zone committees are:

- Kaikōura
- Waimakariri
- Christchurch West-Melton
- Banks Peninsula
- Selwyn Waihora
- Ashburton
- Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi
- Upper Waitaki
- Lower Waitaki South Coastal

Zones in Canterbury were identified large enough 'to enable the management of abstraction from surface and groundwater systems to be integrated with the management of the irrigated areas' where usage occurs, and small enough to restrict 10 people having their say to their own localities³. The intention was for zonal areas to develop solutions with final sign off carried out by the Regional Council (Environment Canterbury (ECan)), under integrated management between local, regional and central government.⁴

³ Source: Source: Canterbury Water Management Strategy – Strategic Framework, page 9, <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-water-management-strategy/>

⁴ Source: Thomas, R (2018): Perceptions of Legitimacy within the Collaborative Processes of Freshwater Management in Canterbury

3. Methodology

The review used a mixed-method approach to gather information about the Ashburton Zone Committee. Mixed method in this respect included a desktop review of the various reports on the CWMS, direct conversations with key stakeholders and a survey of current Zone Committee members. The collated information has formed the basis of this report to Ashburton District Council elected members.

3.1. Literature Review

Environment Canterbury's website contains a wealth of information on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and associated Zone Committees. The key documents relied on for this review include:

- Canterbury Water Management Strategy Strategic Framework 2009
- Canterbury Water Management Strategy Targets and Goals (updated in 2021)
- Ashburton Zone Committee ZIP and Annual Progress Reports
- Ashburton Water Zone Committee Minutes and Terms of Reference 2010 – 2024

Other reports reviewed are sourced in the report and shown in the reference list.

3.2. Interviews

Seven in-depth semi-structured interviews were held over the course of the review. Interviewees included present and former members of the Ashburton Zone Committee, rūnaka, and parties who originally develop the CWMZ and Zone Committee structure. The interviews were confidential and the views and perspectives presented have been anonymised for the purpose of this report. These interviews ranged in length from 45 – 90 minutes.

The key questions focused on the following:

- What has AZC done well?
- What has AZC not done so well?
- What should AZC do more/less of?
- What has changed since the AZC was established?
- Is the Zone Committee still fit for purpose? If not why?
- If not a ZC, then what could take its place?
- Does the District Council have a role in an alternative going forward?
- What do you think the wider community views of AZC effectiveness are?

3.3. Survey of existing committee

The current Ashburton Zone Committee were invited to participate in a short survey (via the online tool Survey Monkey) of their views of the achievements of the ZC. The results have been anonymised for the purpose of the report.

The key questions focused on the following:

- How long have you been a member of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee?

- On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate your satisfaction with the achievements of the AWZC since you became involved?
- What do you believe the AWZC has done well?
- What do you believe the AWZC could improve on?
- What should the AWZC do more of?
- What should the AWZC do less of?

4. Findings

The following summarises the findings from the three sources of information used for the review.

4.1. Literature Review

The development of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy in 2007-2009 was a significant undertaking that acknowledged the challenging freshwater environment for the region. The approach of providing a collaborative framework to help manage the multiple demands on water was a relatively uncommon approach, heralded for taking a consensus-building approach to address complex problems.

The Water Zone Committees were tasked with developing actions and tactics to deliver on the 10 targets of the CWMS in their respective Zone. This was captured in the Zone Implementation Programmes (ZIPs). These recommended actions and approaches for integrated water management solutions to achieve the CWMS principles, targets and goals encompassing environmental, cultural, economic and social outcomes. The approach taken by the Zone Committees in developing the ZIP was through a collaborative and consensus approach. Ashburton Zone Committee submitted its first ZIP in 2011.

The CWMS and associated ZIP are non-statutory documents, but are expected to be implemented, resourced and given effect to subject to long-term plan, annual plan and other statutory processes. The ZIP was also expected to inform initiatives of industry and communities⁵. Progress reports are produced regularly to monitor progress⁶.

Academics and research institutions have taken a keen interest in the progress of the CWMS particularly given the collaborative governance model used. The problems it is aiming to address are complex and multi-layered, with the vision capturing benefits across all four well-beings (cultural, economic, environmental and social) for current and future generations. The very nature of the issues means that the success or otherwise of actions against targets may take extended periods of time to show results.

The Ashburton Water Zone Committee has a Terms of Reference (ToR) agreed to by both the regional and local authority. The most recent ToR document was reviewed in 2021⁷. The document outlines the membership, purpose, functions, selection, appointment and member terms. The ToR allows for a membership of:

- 1 elected member appointed by ADC
- 1 elected member appointed by Environment Canterbury
- 1 nominated representative from Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and Te Taumutu Rūnanga respectively
- Between 4-7 community members (with a provision that this number may be exceeded if ADC and ECan agree)

Members are paid an honorarium of \$4,000 per annum for appointed members, \$5,000 per annum for Deputy Chair and \$6,000 per annum for Chair.

⁵ Source: Ashburton ZIP 2022 <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/data/document-library/?ids=2138524,2138496,2138517,2138514,2138534,2138527,2138520,1582364,2138539,2138529,1712593>

⁶ Source: AZC Progress Reports <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/ashburton-water-zone/ashburton-water-zone-progress-report/>

⁷ Source: AZC Terms of Reference <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/data/document-library/?ids=4412538,2948544>

Currently Council's involvement in the Joint Committee costs approximately \$45,000 per annum. Administrative support, meeting rooms, live-stream functionality and catering are also provided by ADC. These costs are funded 100% by the General Rate.

AWZC Action Plan

Each Zone Committee has an action plan which outlines how they will work with the community to give effect to the CWMS.

The AWZC's Action Plan 2021-2024 contains important actions and priorities for the Ashburton district, including Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lake water quality, Hakatere/Ashburton River (including Carters Creek enhancement and the Wakanui hāpua project), Hekeao/Hinds catchment improvements, enhancing mahinga kai values and the utilisation of stockwater races in the district.

AWZC is not the party primarily responsible for advancing or achieving many of these actions. However, it has played a large part in supporting and advocating for progress and has also played an important conduit role between local and regional councils, mana whenua and the wider community. Council should therefore be mindful of the impact that changing the AWZC structure may have on these progressing actions and priorities.

4.2. Interviews

The interviews conducted uncovered a rich diversity of thought on the Ashburton Water Zone Committee past, present and into the future. The perspectives provided ranged from the macro (wide lens / helicopter view) to the micro (narrow focus on specific issues / projects) and depended on the association of the interviewee to AZC.

There was unanimous recognition of the role of AZC at the beginning of the CWMS journey and all acknowledged that the collaborative framework of the ZC created the opportunity for people with different perspectives to come together and work through complex freshwater challenges.

From this basis, there then emerged two divergent themes of the future role and purpose of AZC. The first is that the current model is fit for purpose and needs improved recognition from local government (both at the regional and district level) to return legitimacy and status to the AZC. The divergent view to this is that the AZC has achieved all it can and that it is time for a fresh approach to freshwater leadership at the local level. The themes will be discussed in greater detail in section 5 of the report.

4.3. Survey of existing committee

The Ashburton Zone Committee has a current membership of eleven people. All were invited to participate in the survey to provide their perspectives of the Zone Committee. 4 responses to the survey were received. The data has been treated as qualitative in nature given the small survey base and only general themes have been extracted for this report.

- Satisfaction with the achievements of the AZC were split evenly between satisfied and dissatisfied

- Some believed that the AZC protects entrenched interests (such as agricultural water users)
- Others believed that the AZC enhanced collaboration and supported local projects well
- Areas for improvement included working more collaboratively with Rūnanga and others, being more involved with local and regional decision-making processes including stockwater, greater accountability to the Zone Action Plan and being more closely involved with the Otuharekai report
- Respondents were evenly split on if the AZC remains fit for purpose to provide freshwater leadership for the community into the future.

5. Discussion

5.1. What has worked well?

The achievements of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee have given effect to the vision of the CWMS, “to enable present and future generations to gain the greatest social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from our water resources within an environmentally sustainable framework”⁸. Over the past 13 years there are some notable success stories for the Ashburton Zone Committee.

5.1.1. Hinds Water Catchment

In 2014, the AWZC established the Hinds Drainage Working Party (HDWP) to facilitate a water body by water body approach to develop management plans for the main water bodies of the Lower Hinds Plains. The group comprised a mix of AWZC appointees and elected community members. In March 2016 the working party presented 16 water management recommendations to the zone Committee. The committee then worked with HDWP members, Rūnaka, ECan and the wider community to implement these recommendations. A review⁹ undertaken five years later showed significant progress on the actions, specifically:

- Boundary Drain – adaptive minimum flow trial
- Rock weir trials for habitat diversity
- Community water quality monitoring to be continued to 2026
- Giving effect to HDWP recommendations through plan changes (specifically Plan Change 7)
- Managed aquifer recharge and near river recharge

5.1.2. Managed Aquifer Recharge Trial to Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust

The Hinds Drains Working Party recommended the concept of a Hekeao/Hinds MAR trial to AWZC, which has successfully run since June 2016. In 2019, the Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust (HHWET) was formed to lead the trial from pilot to catchment scale.

There are now numerous operational sites which are augmenting (increasing) groundwater across the Hinds Plains area. Since its implementation, the MAR project has achieved a new level of community support, leading to the introduction of targeted rates to fund further expansion of the trial.

5.1.3. Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective

The AWZC provided seed funding for the establishment of a co-ordinator role within the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective. The MCCC went on to receive significant central government funding to place catchment communities in the Ashburton District at the centre of decisions and direction on biodiversity, water quality and the environment. Nine localised catchment collectives sit under the umbrella of the MCCC who provide facilitative support to the locally led initiatives. Throughout New Zealand catchment collectives have been operative in varying degrees for a number

⁸ Source: Canterbury Water Management Strategy – Strategic Framework <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-water-management-strategy/>

⁹ Source: Hinds Water Catchment progress report <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/zone-news/ashburton/progress-review-an-opportunity-to-celebrate-efforts-in-the-lower-hinds-catchment/>

of years, and when successful, can provide water quality solutions, backed by science on the ground level.

5.1.4. AWZC Funding

Over the past 14 years the AWZC has invested several hundred thousand dollars into local biodiversity and water quality enhancement projects. This is now a primary role of the AWZC.

5.2. What hasn't?

While the AWZC has had some considerable wins since its formation, interviewee and survey respondent feedback indicated there were aspects of the Zone Committee that weren't working as well as they either once had, or ever did. These four key themes are outlined below:

5.2.1. Community Representation

Community representatives on the Zone Committee are appointed through an application and interview process, with appointments made by a panel of the CWMS partners, as per the Terms of Reference¹⁰. There is a consistent perception that the AWZC is not representative of the local community, with those interested and able to apply having a greater personal interest in freshwater management. To a degree this holds true, as the very essence of volunteering to be on the AWZC means a committee member is likely to have a vested interest in freshwater management in some way, shape or form. However, the perception that the needs/wants of the agricultural community are over-powering in AWZC decision-making does exist amongst past and current members.

Some solutions were suggested in the form of having some positions to AWZC elected, like a local government election. This would, to a degree, allow for a more democratic process for some of the positions on the committee. Alternatively, nominated positions could be made on the committee to ensure different representation was evident, such as representation from specific social cohorts in the community. A third view to this was that removing all community representatives would be the best solution as the community needs should/could be represented by Ashburton District Council, Environment Canterbury and Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu.

A view expressed by iwi (noting that this cannot be interpreted as unanimous agreement of all iwi representatives) is that the AWZC has served its original purpose and that the iwi-voice now has other, more influential platforms/committees.

5.2.2. Function of AWZC

A second theme that became apparent through the research, was that the work being undertaken by AWZC has changed over time. Some interviewees considered that the focus in recent years had largely been about distributing funding from the Zone Committee Action Plan budget. In their view this was a diminishment from the broader advocacy work undertaken in the earlier years of the AWZC, when they felt there was a greater opportunity to influence decision-makers at a strategic level. Examples given were the early work undertaken on the original Ashburton River Review in 2013 and ECan plan changes 1 and 2 which deeply involved the Zone Committee.

¹⁰ Source: AZC Terms of Reference <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/data/document-library/?ids=4412538.2948544>

Review of minutes over the 14 years of the AWZC show that in the past several years the focus of the committee does appear to have shifted from the strategic to the localised. It is not clear if this is an intentional shift.

5.2.3. Joint Committee Approach

A third theme raised was the apparent inequality of the joint committee between the regional and district council. Some interviewees signalled that Ashburton District Council has been disconnected or missing from the joint committee for some time and that the Regional Council was the primary focus of members. This could be argued as being inherent in the differences in the roles and functions of each Council which is driven by legislation. In simpler terms, ADC's role in freshwater management is peripheral to the regional council's.

It was suggested that the status of the Zone Committee's was greater when Environment Canterbury was under statutory management, and the ZC's were held in high regard. As the regional council has transitioned back to a fully elected council, there is a view that the role of the Zone Committee has diminished in the eyes of elected members and management. When discussed in greater detail the ZC has been left out and not involved in several projects that involved the catchment including the work about Otūwharekai water quality. Whether an intentional decision or not, the effect has resulted in a belief of AWZC being disempowered in the management of freshwater in the District.

Likewise, the role of the District Council for some has felt distant and at arms length, to the point that ADC has been described as 'missing in action'. Some interviewees believe that the Zone Committee has an important role in the future of stockwater, for example, and expect that Council would be consulting and working closely with the ZC on future plans.

5.2.4. Zone Committee Structure

The fourth theme that emerged, although more difficult to articulate, was the inherent challenges that exist with the very nature of the structure of Zone Committees. They were established to take an *empowered collaborative approach* to freshwater management at the local level. The way in which the CWMS envisioned this working was that the implementation programmes “*will be social contracts in which all parties agree on a balanced way forward that will enable community and economic wellbeing to occur whilst safeguarding the ecosystems on which they depend. Once the programmes have been put in place stakeholders and investors must both be confident that all elements will be delivered in their entirety. Legal processes that follow in the wake of the adoption of the programmes should not be allowed to undermine this balanced, holistic approach to managing water resources in each zone and across the region as a whole*¹¹”.

Fourteen years on, the reality of this vision in the challenging and complex world of freshwater management is becoming evident for AWZC as a joint committee. To some extent, the ideology of the Zone Committee to take a collaborative governance consensus-building approach could be viewed as it's downfall due to the resource-intense and high-trust approach needed. This may have consequentially led to concerns with the role and function of the AWZC.

¹¹ Source: Canterbury Water Management Strategy – Strategic Framework, page 58 <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-water-management-strategy/>

5.3. Discussion

The CWMS is a long-term strategy to managing freshwater resources in Canterbury. The Zone Committee approach to delivering locally led solutions to local issues feeds into the overall direction set by the CWMS. There have been notable achievements with Zone Committees and the AWZC has had a number of success stories since its inception. However, in recent years, the intention of the AWZC appears to have shifted from a high-order strategic focus to more localised, lower-order priorities. As the AWZC is a Joint Committee of both ADC and ECan this may have been an intentional shift, or it could be the result of a shift in status of the role of Zone Committees by ADC and Ecan.

Regardless of the intention or otherwise, the ability of the Zone Committees to function in a consensus-building approach will inherently always be limited by resources, perceptions of legitimacy in terms of the range of views being able to influence decisions and the decision-making power afforded. An OECD (2017) report recognised that collaborative governance faces challenges like slow implementation due to needing trust, varying community abilities to grasp complex information, and the risk of certain interests dominating if representation isn't fair, which can hinder meeting water quality goals¹².

The collaborative governance approach of Zone Committees appears to be clashing with the actuality that regional councils must follow RMA policies and are answerable to Central Government¹³. The frustration expressed by current and former committee members highlights that the feeling of being able to make meaningful change is a reality of this clash. Iwi articulated this succinctly when they indicated that their time and resources can now be more effectively used sitting at tables of more influence than Zone Committees. This view is afforded by iwi due to local Rūnanga now having direct relationships with industry players within the district. While collaborative governance holds the potential for steering clear of the confrontational aspects often found in traditional policymaking by promoting cooperation and shared governance¹⁴, in reality the view that the ZC structure likely needs to evolve to meet the current and future delivery needs of the CWMS is valid.

The Zone Committee model in Canterbury is unique in the broader New Zealand context. When looking at how other regions are addressing freshwater management issues at the local level, Catchment Collectives are more commonly found. While the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective is a relatively new arrangement for the district, the valuable localised role they play has merit and may be the evolution of the local aspect of freshwater management. However, there would need to be a number of matters addressed before committing to this approach. These include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring that the MCCC retains its role and function as a catchment collective (and doesn't become a quasi-Zone Committee)
- Establishing clear roles for ADC and ECan (if any) in the catchment collective structure
- Establishing where the 'local' line in freshwater management for catchment collectives sit

5.4. Where to from here?

Since the review being initially requested by Ashburton District Council in December 2023, Environment Canterbury has heeded the call from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to review the entire

¹² Source: <https://www.oecd.org/stories/ocean/the-canterbury-water-management-strategy-new-zealand-307e7d5e/>

¹³ Source <https://www.oecd.org/stories/ocean/the-canterbury-water-management-strategy-new-zealand-307e7d5e/>

¹⁴ Source Thomas, R (2018): Perceptions of Legitimacy within the Collaborative Processes of Freshwater Management in Canterbury

Zone Committee Structure across Canterbury. With this work now underway, it would be premature of ADC to make decisions around future involvement with the Joint Committee for the AWZC without considering the findings of the Environment Canterbury review. This will be reported to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in November 2023.

The Zone Committee role has changed since it was initially established, and the leadership required in managing freshwater in Canterbury does appear to have altered. At the local level, the AWZC has achieved a number of meaningful actions. However, as stakeholders have developed and matured, the ZC approach has become less meaningful and authoritative than it once was. This is not because of a lack of effort of past and present members, it appears to be more a result of the mana and authority afforded to Zone Committees by the Joint Committee partners of ECan and ADC. The next evolution of freshwater management in Canterbury requires careful consideration to ensure that the many gains that have been made to date are not lost.

6. References

Ashburton Zone Committee Agendas and Minutes <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/data/document-library/?Search=ashburton+committee+agenda&locations=3275&documentTypes=-1&pageSize=12&start=1&sortDir=desc>

Ashburton Zone Committee Progress Reports <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/ashburton-water-zone/ashburton-water-zone-progress-report/>

Ashburton Zone Committee Terms of Reference, 2021 <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/data/document-library/?ids=4412538,2948544>

Ashburton Zone Committee ZIP 2022 <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/data/document-library/?ids=2138524,2138496,2138517,2138514,2138534,2138527,2138520,1582364,2138539,2138529,1712593>

Canterbury Water Management Strategy – Strategic Framework - <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-water-management-strategy/>

Hinds Water Catchment progress report <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/zone-news/ashburton/progress-review-an-opportunity-to-celebrate-efforts-in-the-lower-hinds-catchment/>

OECD. In Practice: The Canterbury Water Management Strategy, New Zealand <https://www.oecd.org/stories/ocean/the-canterbury-water-management-strategy-new-zealand-307e7d5e/>

Thomas, R (2018): Perceptions of Legitimacy within the Collaborative Processes of Freshwater Management in Canterbury

10. ROAD0400 Road Maintenance and Operations Contract Procurement Model

Author	<i>Ravi Trivedi; Asset Engineer</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Mark Chamberlain; Roading Manager</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Neil McCann; GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to consider the ROAD0400 Road Maintenance and Operations Contract 2025-30 procurement model. Two options are discussed,
 - Option one** – Single contract model (Status quo)
 - Option two** – Multiple contracts model (schedule A, B and C)
- The existing ROAD0144 road maintenance and operation contract awarded to HEB construction Ltd is due to end on 30 November 2025; the next contract ROAD0400 is to be published on 26 May 2025 for tendering.
- ROAD0144 was procured in a single contract model, as commonly used by other councils, and aligned with the council procurement strategy endorsed by NZTA.
- If council approves option two, the transportation procurement strategy needs to be updated. NZTA are aware of the proposed change and have not expressed any concern with the change.

Recommendation

- 1. That** Council approves a Multiple Contracts procurement model for the ROAD0400 Road Network Maintenance and Operations Contract.

Attachment

Appendix 1 ADC Transportation Procurement Strategy DRAFT

Background

The current situation

1. Council has an existing contract ROAD0144 with HEB Construction Ltd for the general maintenance of roads, footpaths and structures throughout the district. It includes,
 - Sealed road maintenance
 - Unsealed road maintenance
 - Bridge maintenance
 - Drainage maintenance
 - Traffic services maintenance
 - Footpath maintenance
 - Vegetation control
 - Street cleaning
 - Heavy rain event emergency works
2. ROAD0144 was tendered using the Price Quality Method (PQM) with 60% for non-Price attributes. The contract term was 5 (five) years and is due to end on 30 November 2025; the ROAD0400 road maintenance and operation contract 2025-30 is to be published on 26 May 2025 for tendering.
3. The contract ROAD0400 duration is “Fixed term” for five years, starting on 1 December 2025 and ending on 30 November 2030. The delivery model is “Staged model”, and the supplier selection is Price Quality Method (PQM) with 50% weighting for Non-Price and Price attributes. The 50% weighting split was requested at the roading reference group meeting on 12 March 2025.

The procurement model

4. The existing contract was procured in a “Single Contract” model, the entire district's road maintenance works and other management requirements such as inspections, programming, monitoring, reporting, public liaison, and data validation is performed by a single contractor.
5. The Council procurement policy advocates for the use of the local supplier market, and this was reflected in the weighting attributed to tenders in the evaluation process. The majority of contract works undertaken by the lead contractor (HEB construction Ltd), with support provided by Tarbotton Land and Civil and other local sub-contractors.
6. The budget spent on sub-contractors under the existing contract ROAD0144 during 2024/25 financial year is approximately \$2,310,000 (32%).
7. A Multiple contract procurement model is where the contract is separated into two different work packages, which can be delivered by separate contractors or by a single contractor. The two packages are for sealed and unsealed works.

- 8. The motivation for considering two separate packages instead of a single contract is to provide an opportunity for local contractors to participate in tendering for work and was a recommendation from the Rooding Reference Group. The contract can be separated into three schedule options A, B and C for tendering.
- 9. Option A is pricing the entire schedule (unsealed and sealed), option B is pricing only the unsealed road aspects of the contract, and option C is pricing all aspects that are not part of option B.

Option	Scope of Works
Option A (all)	All items covered by Options B and C below
Option B (unsealed)	Unsealed roads (potholes, grading, metalling, basecourse renewal), drainage on unsealed roads (culverts, soakpits, cut-outs), emergency events and callouts relating to unsealed roads
Option C (sealed)	Sealed roads (potholes, pavement repairs, edge break), all structures (bridges, railings, guardrail), all signs, all markings, drainage on sealed roads (sumps, kerb and channel, culverts, sumps, swales), street cleaning, all vegetation removal, vehicle crossings, all footpaths, ice gritting, emergency events and callouts relating to sealed roads

- 10. Three separate schedules can be provided with the Request for Tenders (RFT), and the contractor can tender for one or more options.
- 11. Tenderers that have no experience with large road maintenance works or no experience with rooding works within the Ashburton District will not be accepted. This will be made clear at the RFT stage through pre-conditions.

Options analysis

Option one – A single contract procurement model (status quo)

- 12. This option has historically been the procurement model for the Road Maintenance Contract at ADC.
- 13. Given the seasonal variance, this has proved to be a cost-effective way of delivering the full scope of the contract.

<p>Advantages: A firm price and most coordination risk is allocated to the contractor.</p> <p>Less management resources are required for managing customer request, contract administration and reporting.</p>	<p>Disadvantages: Large contract means it's more difficult for small sized contractors to tender competitively.</p>
<p>Risks: Large national contractor is awarded the contract and self-delivers the majority of the contract works.</p>	

Option two – Multiple Contracts procurement model (Recommended).

14. This procurement model has been proposed by the Road Reference Group to give the opportunity to local contractors to tender for a part of the contract.
15. Subject to NZTA approval, the transportation procurement strategy needs to be changed and endorsed by NZTA prior to publishing contract for tendering.

<p>Advantages: More opportunities to tender for smaller local suppliers.</p> <p>Shared risk allocation and contractor focused effort as they're managing only one type of the network (sealed or unsealed).</p>	<p>Disadvantages: Uncertainty regarding small contractors' ability to deliver contract works due to no track record on similar contracts.</p> <p>A small sized contractor may be challenged with reporting requirements and experience with IT applications and licencing (RAMM, GIS etc).</p> <p>Challenges for council call centre staff to manage and direct customer services requests to two different contractors.</p> <p>Additional ADC staff time for administering two maintenance contracts.</p>
<p>Risks: Uncertainty with small sized contractor performance and level of service provided. Loss of synergies between sealed and unsealed works with plant, staff and materials. Council may end up awarding contract to two large national contractors. More financial risk for small contractor if mispriced works.</p>	

Legal/policy implications

16. NZTA procurement manual requires the approved organisation (local council) to review their procurement strategy at once every three years and ensure that they always remain fit for purpose.
17. The existing procurement strategy expires in June 2025 and requires NZTA to endorse with council's preferred ROAD0400 procurement model option.
18. If council approves option one (single contract), the procurement model and contract arraignment will remain the same.
19. If council approves option two (multiple contracts), NZTA approval is required before publishing the contract for tendering.

Climate change

20. Maintenance of the roading network influences climate change due to the use of materials, equipment, etc. Difficult to mitigate the effects but work with the contractor on the best type of machinery, efficient manufacture of materials, and reuse of materials.

Strategic alignment

21. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcome of a district of great spaces and places because of the connections that the roading network provides.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	Support local economy through broader outcomes (25% use of local staff and contractor)
Environmental	✓	
Cultural	✓	By connecting communities to enable business, leisure and social activities
Social	✓	Providing footpaths and cycleways promotes active transport, enhancing our community's physical and mental health.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Estimated \$9,000,000 per financial year over the next five years
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes. Approved roading budget in Council's LTP and 2024-27 Land Transport programme.
Where is the funding coming from?	49% funded through rates and 51% funded by NZTA in 2024-27 Land Transport programme.
Are there any future budget implications?	No.
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager.

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	Despite a high-value contract covering the entire district and affecting road users, any approved procurement model would likely enable the continuation of business as usual and should not impact service levels.
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform – One way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	Decisions related to the contract procurement model and maintaining a level of service is allowable under the current procurement strategy. No wider community engagement is required.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

Transportation Procurement Strategy (Draft)

Version 1.1

Document Control

Revision	Status	Author	Reviewed by	Date
1.0	Draft submission	R Trivedi	M Chamberlain	07/03/2025
1.1	NZTA submission Section 2.4, 4.2, 4.3 and 5.4 updated	R Trivedi	M Chamberlain	01/04/2025

ADC Approval

Name	Title	Date
Mark Chamberlain	Roading Manager	
Neil McCann	Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces	
<i>Version __ Adopted by Council</i>		

NZTA Endorsement

Name	Title	Date

Contents

1.	Executive Summary.....	4
1.1.	Introduction	4
1.2.	Procurement Delivery Model	4
1.3.	Programme and Delivery	4
1.4.	Ashburton Procurement Environment.....	5
1.5.	Recommendations.....	5
2.	Policy Context.....	6
2.1.	Government Procurement Rules	6
2.2.	Ashburton District Council Long Term Plan	6
2.3.	Ashburton District Council Procurement Policy	7
2.4.	Broader Outcomes	7
2.5.	Optimised Decision Making	8
2.6.	Competitive and Efficient Markets	8
2.7.	Collaboration.....	9
2.8.	Health and Safety.....	11
2.9.	Professional Services	11
2.10.	Contract Management	12
3.	Procurement Delivery	13
3.1.	Delivery Model.....	13
3.2.	Supplier Selection Methods.....	14
3.3.	Contracts	14
4.	Procurement Programme	15
4.1.	Maintenance and Operation of Local Roads	15
4.2.	Renewal of Local Roads	18
4.3.	Improvements to Local Roads.....	19
4.4.	Road Safety Promotions	20
4.5.	Professional Services	21
4.6.	Shared Work	21
5.	Procurement Environment	22
5.1.	Professional Service Suppliers	22
5.2.	Physical Works Contractors	23
5.3.	Emergency Work	23
5.4.	Other Road Controlling Authorities.....	24

6.	Implementation	25
6.1.	Transportation Organisational Structure	25
6.2.	Organisation Risks and Issues	26
6.3.	Council Delegations	26
6.4.	Performance Measures	26
6.5.	Communications.....	27
7.	Appendix A: Transportation Funding Forecast 2024-34	28

List of Tables

Table 1-1	2024-27 Programme and Selection Models	4
Table 4-1	Tender Schedule Options	15
Table 6-1	Staff Responsibilities	25
Table 7-1	2024-34 Ashburton Land Transport Programme	28

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Introduction

Ashburton District Council (ADC) is an approved organisation (AO) under the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA), and as such it is eligible to receive funding assistance for roading work from the NZTA (trading as Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency).

In order to qualify for this funding assistance, the LTMA requires all AOs to have a Procurement Strategy, complying with the requirements of, and endorsed by, NZTA.

NZTA requires all road controlling authorities to submit a procurement strategy. This not only fulfils obligations by the Office of the Auditor General but ensures that both taxpayers and rate payers obtain value for money from each transportation dollar spent.

1.2. Procurement Delivery Model

The proposed models for the Ashburton District Council are the “Staged Model” and “Design and Build” (as defined in sec 6.4 of the NZTA Procurement Manual). The majority of the land transport activities in Ashburton District are well defined, mostly low risk, and the scope of each of these activities can be easily defined in contract documents.

1.3. Programme and Delivery

The transportation activity programme for Ashburton District and the proposed supplier selection methods and models are summarised below for 2024-27. Future years of the 2024-34 programme are expected to be similar in scope.

Table 1-1 2024-27 Programme and Selection Models

Programme	2024-27 Average Annual Expenditure	Price Quality	Lowest Price	Direct Appointment	Closed Tender
Maintenance and Operations	\$6,820,803	●	●		
Renewals	\$8,347,864	●	●	●	●
Road Safety Promotions	\$78,000			●	●
Emergency Works	Varies	●	●	●	●
Local Road Improvement	\$705,000	●	●		
Professional Services	Varies	●	●	●	●

*\$7.5m allocated in 2024-27 for the Ashburton Second Urban Bridge project. This is a project that has a state highway/NZTA component (bridge and approaches from South St to Carters Tce) and Council component (new road from Carters Tce to Grahams Rd). By agreement, it is being managed as one project by NZTA with the state highway and local road components fully funded by NZTA and Council respectively.

There are programmes for managing, maintaining and improving transportation works that are not eligible to receive funding assistance from NZTA. Sourcing of service providers for these works

will be undertaken in accordance with the Ashburton District Council Procurement Policy and this procurement strategy.

1.4. Ashburton Procurement Environment

Ashburton District has an extensive history of the methods used to obtain the services necessary to complete the annual roading programmes. Over the last 11 years Council has used a combination of in-house, contract design and build, and professional services to undertake the work delivery. It is proposed that this remains the appropriate method of delivery for land transport activities with external expertise sought as required

1.5. Recommendations

Ashburton District Council recommends that NZTA;

- endorse this procurement strategy
- approve the use of in-house professional services

2. Policy Context

This procurement strategy focuses on subsidised land transport activities only.

2.1. Government Procurement Rules

New Zealand government procurement is shaped by the Government Procurement Charter, which sets out Government's expectations of how agencies should conduct their procurement activity to achieve public value, and these five principles;

- Plan and manage for great results.
- Be fair to all suppliers.
- Get the right supplier.
- Get the best deal for everyone.
- Play by the rules.

To facilitate these expectations and principles Government Procurement Rules have been created to support good market engagement, improve cost efficiencies and help drive better outcomes for agencies, businesses and New Zealand.

All councils are encouraged to use the Rules to help drive good procurement practice.

2.2. Ashburton District Council Long Term Plan

The 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP) adopted by Council on 26 June 2024, sets out Council's purpose;

- To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- To promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future (we call these the four-well-beings).

Council's strategic direction includes Community Outcomes to integrate the four well-beings:

- Residents are included and have a voice
- A district of great spaces and places
- A balanced & sustainable environment
- A prosperous economy based on innovation and opportunity

And to further enable success with these aims there are Transportation Strategic Priorities:

- Plan and provide fit for purpose services
- Represent the district on regional/national issues and partner with others as needed.
- Work with the community and engage in meaningful conversations
- Lead the community with clear and rational decision-making

2.2.1. Transportation Activity

The LTP details level of service, key performance measures, and the funding required for operating, managing, maintaining and improving the district transportation network. This LTP is informed by Council's 30 year Strategic Plan and the Transportation Activity Management Plan 2024-27.

Council's role with respect to transportation is to:

- Provide effective and efficient core Council infrastructure that meets the district's needs
- Advocate for effective and efficient transport

The goal is to meet a required level of service, in the most cost effective manner, through the management of assets for present and future customers.

2.2.2. LTP inputs

The following documents are required to inform the transportation aspects of the LTP;

- Regional Land Transport Strategy (Canterbury) [Ecan]
- Regional Land Transport Plan 2024-34 (Canterbury) [Ecan]
- ADC 30 year Infrastructure Strategy
- ADC Transportation Activity Management Plan 2024-27
- ADC Annual Roding Asset Valuation
- ADC Procurement Policy

2.3. Ashburton District Council Procurement Policy

The current Policy (adopted February 2020) states that Council will, alongside other decision-making considerations, consider the five principles of the Government Procurement Rules (and an additional sixth relating to sustainability) when making decisions on procurement.

Council will ensure that where possible procurement processes consider the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being (the four well-beings from the LTP) of current and future communities. Considering these well-beings in procurement contributes to the achievement of Council's community outcomes and strategic priorities. Generally, procurements that are more significant will lead to a greater consideration of the four well-beings.

2.4. Broader Outcomes

In October 2018 the Government recognised that its procurement activities offer a unique opportunity to achieve broader cultural, economic, environmental and social outcomes for New Zealand.

Council's approach to procurement emphasises achieving the best 'public value' which considers the four wellbeing's of economic, cultural, social and environmental significance. All procurement decisions made by Council should aim to achieve public value through procurement. Council defines public value as:

...the best available result for Ashburton District for the money spent. It includes using resources effectively, economically and responsibly, and taking into account the procurement's contribution to the desired result, including:

- Council's strategic priorities and community outcomes
- Broader outcomes for the district
- The total costs and benefits of a procurement (i.e. total cost of ownership).

Promoting public value does not mean selecting the lowest price but rather the best possible outcome for the whole-of-life of the goods, services or works.

Public value is a fluid concept and should be considered at all stages of the procurement process. In particular, officers should consider outcomes related to sustainability and local economic development when procuring goods.

2.5. Optimised Decision Making

Council's Transportation Activity Management Plan 2024-27 is a statement of how agreed services will be provided to defined standards, at least cost, and through the management of assets in a way that is sustainable in the long term and that complies with statutory requirements. This plan is used by Council's officers to combine management, financial, engineering and technical processes and procedures to ensure agreed levels of service are provided to present and future customers.

Council is involved in a number of working groups and initiatives seeking to ensure that the specific aspects of the transportation activity are connected to peers from other councils, other transport sector organisations, and relevant professionals. However, this is largely focused on the service delivery functions of Transportation. Longer term there is a need to evaluate if other governance and funding models are feasible. Council's involvement in regional working groups is considered a sound first step in being involved in this type of discussion in the future.

2.6. Competitive and Efficient Markets

The transportation financials in the LTP provide a statement to the community on what Council intends to procure. This statement provides details of per annum amounts to be spent on operating, maintaining, upgrading and improving the transportation networks in Ashburton District.

Service suppliers will be procured in a manner as set out in this strategy to complete the work planned for each of the next 10 years. However, suppliers will still need to recognise that there are uncertainties with this programme due to:

- Legislative changes
- Local and global economic factors (including volatility of oil prices) affecting the cost and availability of materials, equipment and personnel sourced from overseas markets
- Funding constraints affecting the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP)
- Changes to the NZ Transport Agency subsidy funding assistance rate (FAR)
- The impact of increased heavy commercial vehicles (HCV), including high performance motor vehicles (HPMV), on existing infrastructure
- Loss of experienced engineering staff and contractors through transfer or retirement
- Council's obligations for fiscal responsibility possibly affecting their ability to fund the "local share"
- Limited service provider competition due to increased national work programmes, other markets and practical considerations
- Changes in rural land use throughout the district

- Effects of climate change on transportation infrastructure planning and assets

The purpose of a procurement strategy is to acknowledge the above but ensure a competitive market is still maintained. Council's procurement strategy needs to be flexible to adapt to rapidly changing political and economic factors. Since 2010, Council has used its Transport Procurement Strategy (based on NZTA's Procurement Manual) as a means to ensure that fair competition to the market is maintained. NZ Transport Agency manual is designed to ensure that transportation within local authorities and NZ Transport Agency can obtain physical works and professional services in an efficient manner, whilst maintaining fair competition amongst suppliers.

It has been recognised for a long time that an important factor to ensure the best value for money spent was through the encouragement of fair competition between suppliers of materials, physical works and professional services.

Parties involved with procurement of services for transportation activities are familiar with the requirements of the Transportation Procurement Strategy.

This procurement strategy recognises changes made beyond the last decade and continues to map out Council's long term view on procurement, in order to be able to obtain the best value for money for our stakeholders (ratepayers, NZTA, and other sources of funding). Ashburton District Council must ensure that the strategic priorities are met and that value for money is obtained through the competitive process. This procurement strategy will be reviewed three yearly to ensure that this continues to be the case.

2.7. Collaboration

Ashburton District Council is party to joint arrangements with adjacent approved organisations. If arrangements are deemed to be advantageous to Ashburton and provide the best value for money, then the process to secure the most efficient services will need to comply with each AOs' procurement strategies.

If the Council proposes to enter into a joint venture in a transportation contract as joint client where the other client is a private or government organisation, then the other organisation will be bound by the requirements of the Ashburton District Council Procurement Strategy.

Council has a Corridor Agreement with NZTA which clarifies the financial and operational responsibilities for transport activity management (maintenance and operational issues) on and within the State Highway road corridors within the Ashburton District.

Council is party to a Memorandum of Understanding with Timaru, Waimate and Mackenzie District Councils (Waitaki DC intended to join) with the objective to improve management and operation of their transportation networks by working together in all aspects of activity management. In undertaking this venture Council wants to:

- improve activity management processes, outcomes and consistency in respect of the transportation network
- improve investment decision-making, whilst recognising and accepting appropriate risk
- attract, develop, and retain effective and talented personnel, while utilising shared skill, knowledge and resources across the four councils
- enhance governance through shared policy and strategy
- provide a sustainable market for affordable specialist resources
- become "smarter buyers"
- enhance customer satisfaction

- improve safety on the network
- utilise collective strength in regional and national sector submissions and feedback through ARC representation

This initiative is known as the Aoraki Roving Collaboration (ARC) and has been in place since 2014. The first major collaborative achievement was the preparation and tendering of a common maintenance contract and specification, followed by the 2024 delineation strategy.

Over the years specific projects have changed to reflect the current direction of the sector, but through all actions there is valued support and participation from all members.

2.8. Health and Safety

Ashburton District Council focuses on the health, safety and wellbeing of its people, our wider group of workers and our customers. Our health and safety culture and performance is the collective sum of all our efforts.

As an organisation, our people are committed to:

- Leading by example and demonstrating our safety commitment through visible leadership and performing tasks safely.
- Taking responsibility for their own health, safety and wellbeing.
- Managing risks and introducing controls that improve the way we work.
- Having a safety management system which will continuously improve through our people's participation.
- Providing the tools, equipment and knowledge to keep our workplaces safe.
- Empowering our people to assess every situation, speak up or stop work if their safety or the safety of another person is ever compromised.
- Complying with the provision of all relevant legislation, regulations, codes of practice and guidelines.
- Rewarding success, promoting event and near miss reporting, and sharing organisational learnings.
- Ensuring the safety of all people present at work during an emergency.
- Supporting our people through the promotion of health and wellbeing initiatives and return to work programmes.
- Consulting, cooperating and collaborating with our contractors and other stakeholders.
- Measuring our performance, reviewing our results and setting objectives to improve.

Expectations of robust Health and Safety practices by our contractors are included in the specific risk analysis of larger projects. All contracts require submission of Health and Safety schedules providing information and commitments to training, planning, logging, monitoring, inspections, oversight and reporting, to ensure the requirements of the current Health and Safety in Employment Act are met.

2.9. Professional Services

Ashburton District Council undertake various professional services through in-house resources. These services include;

- Contract management/supervision
- Forward works collation and programming
- Activity Management Plan and strategy preparation
- Data gathering and analysis/evaluation
- Document preparation and tender evaluation

Where time constraints or expertise dictate, outsourcing is undertaken in accordance with this strategy – refer to Sections 4 and 5.1.

Services provided by external suppliers include;

- Traffic counting
- Pavement condition testing and modelling
- Bridge inspections, design, and valuation

2.10. Contract Management

Contract management is currently undertaken by council staff, with specific individuals assigned as Engineer's Representative, or general liaison (specific designation is defined by the relevant contract model and specifications).

Contract management includes ongoing monitoring and management of a supplier's provision of services in line with the agreed terms and conditions. This means ensuring open and effective communication, making sure suppliers meet their commitments on time, and that the approved organisation, as the purchaser, has also performed and delivered in accordance with the contract.

Efficient contract management includes consideration at the start of the contract of how to manage both expected and unexpected changes to the contract over time. Overall, good contract management will ensure the anticipated best value for money outcomes are obtained.

3. Procurement Delivery

3.1. Delivery Model

The NZTA Procurement manual has identified 4 permitted delivery models that AOs may use. These are as follows:

- Staged – for small to medium projects, with low complexity and risk, control retained by AO, and the scope is easily defined.
- Design and Build – for medium to large projects, complexity and risk are higher, there is more opportunity to innovate, and more risk is transferred to supplier.
- Shared Risk (advanced) – for medium to large projects where complexity and risk are high, joint venture suppliers are required and innovation potential is high.
- Supplier Panel (advanced) – similar projects are included in a programme and supplier consistency is required, there is value to establish a long term purchaser/supplier relationship, large volume involving multiple suppliers, or specialist skills/resources are required and there are multiple suppliers able to provide required outputs.

The selection of a delivery model depends on the scale and complexity of the activity and the risks generated. Consideration should also be given to assessing any value that may be gained by aggregating or bundling activities against the use of multiple discrete contracts. Generally the two delivery models most appropriate to the Ashburton District Council are the “Staged” and the “Design and Build” models. The ability of Council to adequately justify and design for the desired outcomes will determine the model to be used.

The Staged model is suitable for activities where:

- The scale of the activity is small to medium
- Complexity, uncertainty and risks are low
- The AO wishes to maintain some form of involvement and control
- Scope is well defined, and opportunity of innovation is low

The Staged model is generally **not** suitable for:

- Complex, large scale activities
- Activities that are difficult to specify
- Activities with high levels of risk
- Activities that require innovation and the capability to manage risk

Given these factors a Design and Build model may be the better option. This involves appointing a single supplier who assumes responsibility for the overall delivery of the activity and assumes a larger portion of the risk. Council will need to place greater emphasis on quality to ensure receipt of the best combination of price and quality.

The transportation activities for Ashburton District in the areas of maintenance and operation, renewal, and improvement will normally be delivered through a number of separate contracts.

Section 6.4 *Delivery models* of the NZTA Procurement Manual provides details of the various delivery models. If it is deemed by the Council that a delivery model other than the Staged or Design and Build models are to be used for a particular activity, agreement to use a different model will be sought from NZTA before proceeding.

3.2. Supplier Selection Methods

Ashburton District is permitted to use supplier selection methods referred to in the NZTA Procurement manual under section 6.5 *Supplier selection methods*. Under the Staged delivery model, an activity may be delivered through one or several contracts. Every supplier selection process over \$100,000 must commence as an open competitive process as required under rule 10.9 in the NZTA Procurement manual. Where appropriate the process may be in stages, with the initial open competitive process followed by, for example, a short-listing process which may reduce competition to 3 or 4 suppliers.

Where the Design and Build delivery model is to be used then “Price Quality” is the supplier selection method that will be used.

Historically, most Council contracts have been let using the Lowest Price Conforming method, but where best-for-network once drove outcomes, the focus is now on best-for-customer, and thus there is a greater emphasis on public value. The Price Quality Method provides more clarity and assurances for expected outcomes, and is used on larger, longer-term contracts where quality is considered by Council as a qualifying differentiator.

3.3. Contracts

Once a service supplier is selected, Council will enter into a contract with that supplier. The contract establishes the form of relationship between the Council and the supplier and will include terms and conditions for the purchase of the outputs. Council will provide potential suppliers the contract terms and conditions, including the form of proposed contract in the “Request for Proposal”(RFP). The NZTA Procurement manual sets out the minimum requirements to be contained in the RFP in section 10.12 *RFP contents and conformity*.

The above contracts will be tendered either separately or in combination following the procurement processes outlined.

4. Procurement Programme

The details of the Ashburton District procurement programme for the current LTP period (2024-27) are set out below. Expenditure per year can vary dependent on various factors including; reactive maintenance work, emergency events and additional projects identified during the period. The forecast budgets for the next 10 years have been summarised in the appendix attached.

Some of the contracts will include planned Council work which does not receive subsidy from NZTA, mainly because the work does not qualify, but is included because it is of a similar nature to work that does qualify for subsidy, and increasing the scope generally improves the best value for money for the Council.

4.1. Maintenance and Operation of Local Roads

Approximate expenditure 2024-27	\$23.6M
Proposed delivery model	Staged
Proposed supplier selection method	Price/quality

4.1.1. General Road Maintenance & Operations

Contract value	\$29.9M
Supplier selection	Price/quality
Contract duration	5 years
Start Date	1 December 2020
End Date	30 November 2025

Council has an existing contract with HEB Construction Ltd for the general maintenance of roads, footpaths and structures throughout the district. It includes areas of renewal work such as unsealed road metalling, drainage renewal and signage. It was tendered using the Price Quality Method with 60% for Non-Price Attributes and spans multiple LTP periods. The contract with HEB Construction Ltd is due to end on 30 November 2025; the upcoming road network and operation contract is to be published in May 2025.

The contract duration is “Fixed term” for five years, starting on 1 December 2025 and ending on 30 November 2030. The delivery model is “Staged model”, and the supplier selection is Price Quality Method (PQM) with 50% weighting for Non-Price and Price attributes. The 50% attributes weighting split emphasise the value Council place on good quality and processes as well as a competitive price. To allow an opportunity for the small to medium sized contractors to participate in tendering (especially for unsealed networks), Council propose to separate the 2025-30 road network and operation contract into three schedule options A, B and C for tendering, refer to Table 4-1.

Option A is pricing the entire schedule, option B (unsealed) is pricing only the unsealed road aspects of the contract and option C (sealed) is pricing all aspects that are not part of option B. Three different schedules will be provided in the RFP, and tenderers will have the option to tender for any or all of the three schedules.

Table 4-1 Tender Schedule Options

Option	Scope of Works
Option A (all)	All items covered by Options B and C below

Option	Scope of Works
Option B (unsealed)	Unsealed roads (potholes, grading, metalling, basecourse renewal), drainage on unsealed roads (culverts, soakpits, cut-outs), emergency events and callouts relating to unsealed roads
Option C (sealed)	Sealed roads (potholes, pavement repairs, edge break), all structures (bridges, railings, guardrail), all signs, all markings, drainage on sealed roads (sumps, kerb and channel, culverts, sumps, swales), street cleaning, all vegetation removal, vehicle crossings, all footpaths, ice gritting, emergency events and callouts relating to sealed roads

4.1.2. Streetlight Operation and Maintenance

Contract value	\$1.1M
Supplier selection	Lowest price conforming
Contract duration	5 years
Start Date	1 July 2024
End Date	30 June 2029

Council has an existing lighting operation and maintenance contract with Power Jointing limited. It was tendered using the Lowest Price Conforming method. The contract includes the ADC Rooding, Property and Open Spaces assets, as well as NZTA streetlights on the district’s State Highways.

Note: Electricity supply is procured under a whole-council contract, and traffic signal maintenance is undertaken as part of WTOC operations with a shared service agreement.

4.1.3. Network and Asset Management

Approximate expenditure 2024-27	\$3.1M
Supplier selection	Varies
Contract duration	Varies

This activity includes day to day management of the road corridor along with data collection and analysis for planning purposes. Both in-house resources and outsourced professional services are utilised, dependent on time constraints and the expertise required.

In-house work includes;

- Corridor management (including Corridor Access Requests, work permits and Temporary Traffic Control approvals)
- Forward programming
- Speed limit reviews
- Network user management and information
- Data and inventory management
- Stakeholder liaison

Outsourced contracts include;

Contract	Last Tendered	Last Contract Value	Last Supplier	Procurement Type	Frequency
Road Roughness Survey (northern)	2022	\$19,343	WSP Opus	Direct appointment (sole supplier)	2 years
Road Roughness Survey (southern)	2023	\$14,341	WSP Opus	Direct appointment (sole supplier)	2 years
JunoViwer Pavement Modelling	2023	\$27,100	Lonrix Ltd	Direct appointment (sole supplier)	One-off
Roading Valuation	2023	\$35,000	IAM Consulting	Direct appointment (best business practice)	One-off
Multi Speed Deflectometer Survey	2024	\$171,280	GeoSolve	Direct appointment (sole supplier)	Three years
Traffic Counting	2024-29	\$253,791	AgFirst	Lowest price conforming	5 years
Footpath Condition Rating Survey	2024	\$19,475	Cabal Ltd	Direct appointment (best business practice)	3 years
Bridge Inspections	2024	\$44,410	WSP Opus	Closed tender (limited suppliers)	3 years

4.2. Renewal of Local Roads

Approximate expenditure 2024-27	\$20.1M
Proposed delivery model	Staged
Proposed supplier selection method	Price/quality

Some renewal activities are best tendered within and as part of other contracts because of the size/nature of the activity, not as separate contracts.

4.2.1. Sealed Road Resurfacing

Contract value	\$6.2M
Supplier selection	Price/quality
Contract duration	2 years

Council has an existing 2-year contract for the resurfacing of roads throughout the district, and includes seal design, service lid adjustment and pavement marking. The contractor is Ashburton Contracting Ltd, and the contract works were completed in March 2025. It was tendered using the Price Quality Method with 50% for Non-Price Attributes.

Upcoming sealed road resurfacing contract is to be published in May 2025 for tendering. The contract duration is “Fixed term” for two years. The delivery model is “Staged model”, and the supplier selection is Price Quality Method (PQM) with 40% weighting for non-Price and 60% for Price attributes. Sealed road resurfacing contracts let in recent years are shown below;

Contract	Year	Supplier	Contract Price	Tender Method	Length (m)
ROAD0145	2020-21	Ashburton Contracting Ltd	\$2,861,172	PQM	86.7km
	2021-22		\$2,910,853		76.4km
	2022-23		\$2,723,456		61.1km
ROAD0298	2023-24	Ashburton Contracting Ltd	\$2,835,555	PQM	49.6km
	2024-25		\$4,564,521		110.2km

4.2.2. Sealed Pavement Rehabilitation

Approximate expenditure 2024-27	\$7.3M
Supplier selection	Price/quality
Contract duration	Annual or Bi-Annual

This activity is undertaken annually, and made up of one or more separate contracts, over one or multiple years, determined by the location and extent of the proposed work. The supplier selection method of LPC or PQM is determined by the scope and duration of the works.

Minor rehabilitations may also be undertaken within the network maintenance and operations contract where appropriate. Sealed road rehabilitation contracts let in recent years are shown below;

Contract	Year	Supplier	Contract Price	Tender Method	Sites	Length (m)
ROAD0205	2022-23	HEB Construction Ltd	\$648,731	PQM	Barford Rd (2 sites), Thompsons Track	2140
ROAD 0266	2022-23	Fulton Hogan Ltd	\$1,501,048	PQM	Arundel Rakaia Gorge Rd (3 sites), Forks Rd, Ashburton Staveley Rd	5155
ROAD0273	2022-23	Fulton Hogan Ltd	\$380,563	LPC	Mayfield Valetta Rd	1300
ROAD0302	2023-24	Fulton Hogan Ltd	\$1,879,100	PQM	Seafield Rd, Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Rd, Tramway Rd, Thompsons Track (2 sites)	5231
ROAD0314	2023-24	Ashburton Contracting Ltd	\$1,198,87	LPC	Maronan Rd, Lismore Mayfield Rd, Ealing Montalto Rd (2 sites)	4300
ROAD061	2024-25	Fulton Hogan Ltd	\$1,032,552	LPC	Ashburton Staveley Rd (3 sites), Forks Rd, Pudding Hill Rd	3760
ROAD061	2024-25	Fulton Hogan Ltd	\$1,336,789	PQM	Beach Rd (2 sites), Seafield Rd, Maronan Rd	4380

4.2.3. Footpath and Kerb & Channel Renewals

Contract value	Nil (2024-27 fiscal year)
Supplier selection	Lowest price conforming
Contract duration	Annual

The footpath and kerb and & channel renewals contract usually combines both renewal and capital (new install) work and is tendered annually or as programming requires. Best value for money is lowest price supplier selection.

NZ Transport Agency approved 35% of the requested funding for footpath renewals activity in 2024-27 NLTP. In this instance, the council may not let separate footpath and kerb & channel renewals contact, minor renewals may be undertaken within the network maintenance and operations contract where appropriate.

4.3. Improvements to Local Roads

Approximate expenditure 2024-27	\$0.7M
Proposed delivery model	Staged
Proposed supplier selection method	Price/quality Lowest price conforming

4.3.1. Low Cost - Low Risk

NZ Transport Agency has approved the bridge and structure renewals activity funding (\$0.7M) for the Lake Stream Bridge and Mayfield Hinds bridge renewals project while no funding has been approved for the Low Cost Low Risk (LCLR) programme in the 2024-27 NLTP.

The supplier selection is Lowest price conforming. The combined work package of bridge renewals is to be published in 2025/26 FY for tendering, while the Mayfield Hinds bridge renewal work is to be completed in 2025/26 FY, and the Lake Stream Bridge renewals work is to be completed in 2026/27 FY.

Council requested a total of \$12.09M for the LCLR programme, this included a number of minor capital works, with individual project expenditure to be less than \$2M.

4.4. Road Safety Promotions

Approximate expenditure 2024-27	\$0.234M
Proposed delivery model	Staged
Proposed supplier selection method	Lowest price conforming OR Direct appointment

The Council undertakes approved Road Safety Action Plan works under four main categories (Speed, Alcohol, Intersections and Young Drivers). Alcohol and Young Drivers are actioned by direct appointment with ACADS and RYDA. Speed and Intersection plans are undertaken with regional co-ordination through media campaigns.

4.5. Professional Services

Approximate expenditure 2024-27	Varies
Proposed delivery model	Staged
Proposed supplier selection method	Direct appointment OR Price quality

The NZTA Procurement manual permits direct appointment of a single willing and able supplier in the activity of professional services when the contract cost estimate is less than \$100,000. The professional services work will be made up of a number of separate contracts which may fall below the \$100,000 limit so the supplier selection process will be carried out in terms of Appendix C Section C.2 of the NZTA Procurement manual.

Where applicable other professional services will be obtained using “price quality”.

4.6. Shared Work

In the past ADC has combined planned work with the State Highway operations team when similar work has been carried out by them adjacent to the Council work site. In these cases, NZTA has prepared the RFT, and the delivery model and supplier selection process complied with the NZTA rules.

There are no combined works planned for 2024-27 other than the Ashburton Second Urban Bridge, but future joint ventures will be handled in a similar way to obtain best value for money. The funding share of the Council work is met through the approved Council annual plan budget.

The Ashburton Second Urban Bridge project has NZTA managing the whole project with the full costs of the bridge and new road funded by NZTA and Council respectively. The proposed procurement method is Early Contractor Involvement followed by Design and Construct. There is a separate procurement of the Principal’s Technical Advisor to manage the ECI and project development.

While there is potential to combine with State Highway contracts for the delivery of some services, ADC considers there is more opportunity for collaboration with its neighbouring Councils. The current contract delivery model for the State Highway maintenance and operation is not one that aligns with ADC’s preferred model.

KiwiRail undertakes maintenance, renewals and improvements at its rail crossing sites, and where appropriate minor council works may be executed in conjunction with these projects to ensure optimisation of resources and minimal disruption to road users. Costs are apportioned per asset owner according to existing demarcation agreements.

EA Networks is the local lines company and has an ongoing programme of undergrounding power. Where the power poles support streetlights, council funds the installation of new streetlights and poles as required within a managed programme.

Council requires notification of all works carried out in the road corridor by third parties, and ensures contractors undertake works to council-specified requirements. This allows liaison to occur where required and any project planning to coincide for resource and road user advantage.

5. Procurement Environment

5.1. Professional Service Suppliers

The close proximity of Ashburton District to urban centres including Timaru and Christchurch means that there are multiple suitably experienced and qualified professional service firms able to provide competition for services to the Ashburton District Council. Modern work practices and technology also enable remote suppliers to compete for works, dependent on the particular project. Many of these suppliers have national and/or international resources so servicing our needs can be carried out in a competent and timely manner.

The work that we could require these suppliers to provide includes the following:

- Road design, pavement and material testing and quality assurance
- Site supervision and contract management
- Asset management and Asset & Work Manager (AWM) systems
- Resource consent preparation and management
- Investigations and surveys
- Contract auditing
- Land surveying and land purchase

The main service providers used in recent years include the following

- WSP
- GHD Ltd
- Beca
- Thinkproject NZ Ltd
- David Smith Ltd
- Stantec
- AECOM Ltd
- Tonkin and Taylor
- AgFirst Consultants Environmental Ltd
- Abley Limited

The Roding team within Council are supported when required by professional service providers as indicated above to manage, administer, maintain, renew and develop the district roading network.

Engagement of professional service providers complies with NZTA procurement requirements.

5.2. Physical Works Contractors

There are a number of contracting firms that have carried out work for Council in recent years including:

- Fulton Hogan Ltd
- HEB Construction Ltd
- Ashburton Contracting Ltd
- Tarbotton Land & Civil
- Electricity Ashburton
- Higgins Contracting
- Grant Hood Contracting
- Tru-Line Civil Ltd
- Downer New Zealand Ltd

It should be noted that Ashburton Contracting Ltd is wholly owned by Ashburton District Council. To ensure fair competition in tendering processes, Council staff in the role of tender evaluator will include reference to how Ashburton Contracting Ltd will be treated i.e. at the strategic level they are owned by Council but treated the same as any other contractor on an operational level.

These contractors and others are currently interested in tendering for roading works, meaning there will be on-going competition between service providers for Council work packages.

In addition there are smaller contractors who have carried out work for Council at various times. The general approach to physical roading works has been to use the price quality method to secure suppliers for the reseal and road maintenance contracts, and lowest price conforming for other works.

Land use changes within the Ashburton District over the last decade, as a result of increased irrigation, has been the catalyst for increased heavy commercial vehicle travel. Dry stock and sheep farming has reduced, while more intensive agricultural practices have grown. Intensive farming requires increased vehicle trips for both the farm transport (e.g. trucks, tractors) and supporting services (e.g. dairy tankers, feed supply). This traffic growth is predicted to continue to increase but at a slower rate. The existing pavements are failing with this increased pressure, resulting in Council's roading budget increasing.

5.3. Emergency Work

Emergency events causing significant levels of work not currently allowed for in any suppliers' contracts or in annual plan budgets are likely to arise from the following:

- Severe rain events and flooding
- Severe snow events
- Earthquakes

Rain events and associated flooding is an ongoing issue to varying degrees across the district and especially recurring in the foothills and high country. Snow events are expected annually, but not usually of a severity to disrupt much of the network for extended periods. Earthquakes resulting in infrastructure damage have occurred in the past years, and the predicted AF8 event is planned for through the local and regional emergency management entities.

The maintenance contract set up for managing and maintaining the district's roading assets requires the service provider to manage and co-ordinate all physical work relating to an

immediate response to emergency events. The maintenance service provider is also required to obtain and manage assistance from as many additional contractors that may be necessary to attend to the issues and ensure road user safety during emergency events.

Permanent reinstatement, and budget provision will be provided by way of variations through the service agreement or by tendering appropriate work packages.

5.4. Other Road Controlling Authorities

The other influences on our procurement environment are the NZTA and our ARC partners; Timaru, Mackenzie and Waimate District Councils. The NZTA State Highway managers have regular liaison meetings with ARC and the individual councils. These meetings are vital, not only for information sharing but upcoming maintenance and construction contract discussions to ensure we work in where appropriate or stagger contracts to avoid overloading the contractor tendering teams. This means that there is certainty around work load and commitments to ensure the best price is achieved.

6. Implementation

6.1. Transportation Organisational Structure

The Roding team of the Ashburton District Council is part of the Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group, managing transportation activities in the district, including maintaining and operating the road and footpath assets of the Ashburton District Council. All roads in the District come under the jurisdiction of the Ashburton District Council, except State Highway 1 from Ealing to Rakaia, and State Highway 77 from Ashburton to Rakaia Gorge which are the responsibility of NZTA. All footpaths are Council’s responsibility including those on State Highways.

The Roding team has a total of 8 full time staff responsible for managing all aspects of the roading network. The network includes over 2600 km of sealed and unsealed roads, 189 bridges and 257 km of footpaths.

The roles and responsibility of the current Roding section staff are shown in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Staff Responsibilities

Programme	Role and Responsibility
Roding Manager	Managing the Roding Team; development and implementation of the District Land Transport programme; regional land transport planning.
Asset Management Engineer	Assist with developing and implementation of the district land transport programme; activity management and asset management planning; procurement and financial strategies.
Data Management Officer	Development and maintenance of transportation asset databases; data reporting for contracts.
Roding Engineer – North and Roding Engineer- South	Field investigation and contract supervision; development and management of maintenance; supervision of renewal work and improvement contracts; supervision of minor activities on the network; auditing contract work.
Roding & Safety Technician	Implementation of community programmes and road safety action plans; safety audits; assist the roading engineers; undertake investigation and long term programme development.
Corridor Manager and, Applications Officer - Roding	Management of road corridor activities including CAR (corridor access requests), processing of permits and applications, carriageway access requests; auditing TTMP; road closures and event management.

There is a good level of liaison between Council staff and contractors, with innovation being encouraged where possible to ensure that outcomes in the transportation area continue to evolve positively. Given the small size of the team, there is a continual need to provide services from suitably resourced consultants, mainly in the area of specialised investigation work such as bridge inspections, pavement investigation and design, plan preparation and project management.

6.2. Organisation Risks and Issues

A number of risk scenarios were listed in Section 2.3. While many of these are outside the control of the Council, they still need to be considered and their effects managed within current activity plans and approved budgets.

In recent years the effect of oil price fluctuations on the cost of road surfacing materials has been high, requiring continual review of the work scope of this activity. While additional funds have been available from NZTA (In comparison to the previous NLTP), it is not always possible to source these due to restraints on the ability to raise the local share of funds. The process has been generally managed by reducing scope in other activities to retain the overall work activities within the total budget.

An organisational risk for the Council is the transfer or retirement of experienced engineers and Council's ability to attract suitable replacements.

This risk is being managed by:

- Ensuring an open environment where ideas are shared
- Encouraging all members of the team to be familiar with the network and how it is managed
- Ensuring professional training is available to all members to develop their skill sets
- Additional training via various industry-led courses is made available to all members of the team
- Documentation of strategies, plans and policies (such as AMP, Procurement Strategy and other operational policies)

Changes to rural land use over the last decade, with a large number of dairy farms being developed, has led to a significant increase in heavy commercial vehicles on many roads in the district. The effect of these changes has been a deterioration of both sealed and unsealed roads throughout the network. Many of these roads were not designed or constructed to withstand the loadings now being impacted on them, and deterioration in some areas has been rapid. Whilst funding for road renewals had been included in the current 10 year plan, the level of this funding will need to be carefully reviewed to determine if it is adequate. With any changes proposed to current budget forecasts, the ability of the district to supply the local share of funding has to be considered.

6.3. Council Delegations

Council has an internal delegations manual that clearly sets out the limits and parameters Council can commit to suppliers for various activities. Delegations to specific work positions, standing committees and Council are clearly set out in this manual.

It is planned that for roading services procurement there is compatibility between the NZTA Procurement manual and Council's internal procurement practice.

6.4. Performance Measures

The Ashburton District Council has a number of performance monitoring systems for internal performance and external reporting.

Council has an agreement with NZTA which sets out maintenance guidelines including road user satisfaction measures, safety measures, and asset preservation measures. These are reported on annually, and to date the condition of the district's infrastructure has been retained within the

specified limits. There are also three-yearly NZTA procedural and technical audits carried out where processes are monitored and the state of the network assessed to ensure that standards are being maintained.

Appendix E of the NZTA Procurement Manual details the information that AOs are required to collect for audit purposes.

The Council LTP has a range of key performance indicators that the district must achieve annually, and these are reported on in the Council's annual report. There have also been separate audits into activity management plans.

6.5. Communications

The Transportation Procurement Strategy will be distributed and communicated as follows;

6.5.1. Roothing Team

All staff in Roothing will be using this strategy to implement the transportation programme.

6.5.2. Other Local Authorities

Copies will be sent to surrounding AOs including Mackenzie, Waimate and Timaru District Councils.

6.5.3. Elected Representatives

The Roothing team reports regularly via the monthly Activity Briefing. All contracts awarded throughout the year are reported here, including those awarded under delegated authority.

The Ashburton District Council will adopt the Transportation Procurement Strategy as a formal Council procedure.

6.5.4. New Zealand Transport Agency

This strategy is required to be endorsed by NZTA and failure to obtain this endorsement may put at risk the ability of Council to receive NZTA subsidy funding.

The Council has had a reporting responsibility to NZTA and its predecessors for a very long time. There is an active partnership between Council and NZTA to operate, maintain, redevelop and improve the transport network in Ashburton District with positive results, and for many years a high return in the value for money spent has been achieved. There is increasing pressure on the demand for local share funding, and increased stresses on the network which requires the relationship to remain strong to ensure we continue to achieve the best value for district road users.

6.5.5. Suppliers

This strategy will be available to all current and/or prospective suppliers via the Ashburton District website, or at the Council offices.

6.5.6. Public

This strategy will be available to all local road users via the Ashburton District website, or at Council offices.

7. Appendix A: Transportation Funding Forecast 2024-34

The table below is an excerpt from the Ashburton District Council Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34. Specific funding sources and applications can be found in the LTP.

Table 7-1 2024-34 Ashburton Land Transport Programme

Ashburton District Council	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Transportation Funding	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
10 Year Forecast 2024-34	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Operating expenditure by activity										
Roading	18,971	19,373	21,626	23,638	24,506	25,408	26,357	27,254	28,269	29,268
Footpaths	1,466	1,541	1,619	1,825	1,920	2,017	2,118	2,218	2,326	2,434
Total operating expenditure	20,437	20,913	23,245	25,464	26,426	27,425	28,475	29,471	30,595	31,702
less depreciation	8,265	8,841	10,085	11,382	12,099	12,851	13,636	14,454	15,307	16,188
Total applications of operating funding	12,172	12,072	13,160	14,081	14,327	14,573	14,839	15,017	15,288	15,514
Capital expenditure by activity										
Roading	13,686	76,497	78,843	12,621	12,460	12,859	13,384	13,223	14,006	13,825
Footpaths	1,103	1,103	963	1,205	1,232	1,260	1,289	1,319	1,349	1,379
Total capital expenditure	14,789	77,599	79,807	13,826	13,692	14,119	14,674	14,542	15,355	15,204
less vested assets	2,150	1,558	2,011	1,520	1,116	1,254	1,512	1,078	1,582	1,127
Council funded capital expenditure	12,639	76,041	77,795	12,306	12,576	12,865	13,162	13,464	13,773	14,077

11. 2025/26 Unsubsidised Roding Projects

Author *Mark Chamberlain; Roding Manager*
Executive Team Member *Neil McCann: GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces*

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to consider a list of projects to allocate the proposed \$2,500,000 unsubsidised budget for 2025/26 from the previously allocated Low Cost Low Risk category, which did not receive subsidised funding from NZTA.

Recommendation

- 1. That** Council spends the proposed Council unsubsidised budget for 2025/26 of \$2,500,000 on the following works:
 - a) Replace concrete street light poles (42 poles) \$220,000
 - b) New Streetlights in conjunction with Power Undergrounding \$225,000
 - c) Reseals \$1,000,000
 - d) Drainage improvements \$150,000
 - e) Signage improvements at curves and intersections \$50,000
 - f) Road marking \$200,000
 - g) Footpath Maintenance \$50,000
 - h) Road Safety Promotions \$20,000
 - i) Wills St Rail Bridge Refurbishment - \$365,000
 - j) Springburn Bushside Rd box culvert \$200,000

Attachment

Appendix 1 2025/26 Council Funded Unsubsidised Roding Projects

Background

The approved funding

1. Following budget workshops with Council in early 2025, funding of \$2,500,000 has been approved in the draft 2025/26 Annual Plan for unsubsidised roading projects (along with \$500,000 for gravel). This funding will be formally approved when the 2025/26 Annual Plan is adopted by Council prior to 30 June 2025.
2. This follows on from 2024/25 when the Council share was not matched with subsidy by NZTA for any Low Cost Low Risk projects and for a portion of the requested footpath maintenance and renewals was spent on reseals and other work categories.

Possible Projects (listed in appendix 1)

3. Replace cracked concrete streetlight poles. Inspections by the streetlight maintenance contractor has identified issues with the concrete streetlight poles. Spalling of concrete, particularly where the outreach arm attaches to the top, is the main problem. There are 42 poles assessed to need replacement soon. The subsidised traffic services renewals funding is not sufficient to cover this cost but a request for a cost adjustment can be made to NZTA. If approved, Council would receive 51% subsidy for this work.
4. New streetlight installations in conjunction with EA Networks power undergrounding programme. EA Networks has an ongoing programme to underground power at locations where the poles and cabling are at the end of the useful life. With the power poles no longer available to hold the streetlights, new streetlight poles need to be installed. This installation has previously been funded as a LCLR project.
5. Sealed road resurfacing (\$1,000,000). The additional length of reseals able to be completed would bring the total up to the desired 5% of the sealed network. The extra sealing is proposed to be carried out on Chertsey Kyle Road, Mainwarings Road and Pendarves Rakaia Road where pre-seal repairs have been completed already in the 2024/25 season.
6. Drainage improvements. Cutouts (unsealed), swales (sealed), new sumps, and new soakpits across the network. This is work that was previously done as LCLR local road improvements to provide additional drainage on the sealed and unsealed network.
7. Sign improvements at curves and intersections. This is work that was previously done as LCLR local road improvements to provide increased signage at curves and intersections.
8. Roadmarking to allow a full remark of the whole network. The current budget for network services maintenance is insufficient to carry out the repainting of roadmarking across the district along with the signs and streetlight maintenance.
9. Footpath maintenance. With the lower than requested funding approved by NZTA for footpath maintenance and renewals this will allow more maintenance work to be carried out.

10. Road safety promotions. This amount will enable Council to continue to support road safety initiatives such as Community Alcohol Action Project (CAAP), Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA), Age Concern, and Students Against Dangerous Driving (SADD).
11. Wills St Rail Footbridge refurbishment. The work on the heritage listed footbridge is being funded from a combination of both structures maintenance and structures component replacement in subsidised funding over 2025/26 and 2026/27. Work is being carried out to confirm the scope of works, but it has been indicated that there will be a shortfall, so an amount has been included in these projects. Additional funding will be requested from NZTA, but Council will still have to contribute 49% to those costs if approved.
12. Springburn Bushside Rd culvert replacement. The replacement of the existing culvert with a larger box culvert to increase the capacity to match the siphon under the RDR was previously agreed by Council but the installation had not progressed because of funding and further discussion being held with property owners downstream. The box culverts have been purchased and are in storage ready to be installed.
13. The following rehabilitation projects are not included in the proposed list due to the \$2.5m limit.
14. Sealed road rehabilitation on two sections of Ashburton Staveley Road of (1.3km and 0.9km respectively). The approximate cost is \$700,000. Including these two sections will increase the length to 10.565km. These are currently in the 2026/27 forward works programme. A request can be made to NZTA to obtain subsidy for this additional length of rehabilitation.
15. Sealed road rehabilitation Oak Grove/Walnut Ave/Harrison St/Belt Rd roundabout. This is funding to renew the surface of the roundabout which currently has several patches and old areas of seal. (Approx. \$200,000) The work will be milling of the existing surface and placement of new asphalt. This site is currently in the 2026/27 forward works programme.

Option one – Spend the unsubsidised budget of \$2,500,000 in 2025/26 on the projects proposed by officers (recommended option)

16. This would spend the funding on what is considered by officers to be where the approved funding is currently less than desired or not approved.

<p>Advantages: The Council funding will be spent on the network.</p>	<p>Disadvantages: No disadvantages identified.</p>
<p>Risks: There are no risks identified to spending this funding.</p>	

Option two – Spend the unsubsidised budget of \$2,500,000 in 2025/26 on some of the projects proposed by officers and other work supported by Council

17. This would spend the funding on what is considered by officers to be where the approved funding is currently less than desired or not approved and on work supported by Council.

<p>Advantages: The Council funding will be spent on the network.</p>	<p>Disadvantages: No disadvantages identified.</p>
<p>Risks: There are no risks identified to spending this funding.</p>	

Option three – Spend the unsubsidised budget of \$2,500,000 in 2025/26 on other projects supported by Council

18. This would spend the funding on work supported by Council.

<p>Advantages: The Council funding will be spent on the network.</p>	<p>Disadvantages: The projects may not be supported by RAMM data or evidence to potentially receive funding if successful with a subsidy application.</p>
<p>Risks: There are no risks identified to spending this funding.</p>	

Legal/policy implications

Climate change

19. Maintenance and construction on the roading network influences climate change due to the use and materials, equipment, etc. to carry out the work. Difficult to mitigate the effects but work with the contractor on the best type of machinery, efficient manufacture of materials, and reuse of materials.

Review of legal / policy implications	
Reviewed by In-house Counsel	Tania Paddock; Legal Counsel

Strategic alignment

20. The recommendation relates to Council’s community outcome of *A district of great spaces and places* and a prosperous economy built on innovation, opportunity and high quality infrastructure, because of the connections and services that the roading network provides.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	supporting the local economy through transportation of produce to markets.
Environmental		
Cultural	✓	by connecting communities to enable business, leisure and social activities
Social	✓	providing footpaths and cycleways promotes active transport, enhancing our communities' physical and mental health

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	\$2,500,000
Is there budget available in LTP/AP?	Yes, the \$2,500,000 has been included in the draft 2025/26 Annual Plan. This funding will be formally approved when the 2025/26 Annual Plan is adopted by Council prior to 30 June 2025.
Where is the funding coming from?	Targeted Rates
Are there any future budget implications?	Yes. With the reduced funding approved by NZTA for 2024-27 there will be consideration of similar funding for 2026/27.
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No.
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	While some selected projects may be of interest to the community, additional budget to accommodate these are expected to be approved as part of the adoption of the Annual Plan 2025/26.. Levels of service are likely to be impacted in some areas where subsidised funding has been reduced or removed, but this approved additional unsubsidised funding will offset that to an extent.
Level of engagement selected	Inform - .
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	This report covers the selection of projects to accommodate anticipated additional funding approved through the Annual Plan 2025/26. Council decided not to consult on the Annual Plan 2025/26. Future funding decisions for roading will be subject to future Annual Plan or LTP processes.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low; Manager Strategy & Policy

Appendix 1 – 2025/26 Council Funded Unsubsidised Roading Projects

2025/26 Council Funded Unsubsidised Roading Projects Ashburton District Council



Description	Estimate (\$)	Cumulative Estimate (\$)
1 Replace cracked concrete street light poles (42 poles)	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000
2 New Streetlight Installation in conjunction with EA Networks power undergrounding programme	\$ 225,000	\$ 445,000
3 Sealed Road Resurfacing (20km) - Chertsey Kyle Road, Mainwarings Road, Pendarves Rakaia Road	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,445,000
4 Drainage improvements - cutouts (unsealed), swales (sealed), new sumps, and new soakpits across the network	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,595,000
5 Signage Improvements at Curves and Intersections	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,645,000
6 Increase roadmarking budget to allow re-mark of whole network in 2025/26	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,845,000
7 Footpath Maintenance - Top up budget to respond to CRMs, driveways, tree damage	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,895,000
8 Road Safety Promotions (CAAP, RYDA, Age Concern and SADD)	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,915,000
9 Wills St Rail Footbridge - Funding Shortfall for bridge refurbishment	\$ 365,000	\$ 2,280,000
10 Springburn Bushside Road Culvert - Install box culvert above RDR siphon	\$ 200,000	\$ 2,480,000
11 Sealed Road Rehabilitation (1.3km) - Ashburton Staveley Road (near Walkhams Road)	\$ 400,000	\$ 2,880,000
12 Sealed Road Rehabilitation (0.9km) - Ashburton Staveley Road (near Blacks Road)	\$ 300,000	\$ 3,180,000
13 Sealed Road Rehabilitation - Oak Grove/Walnut Ave Roundabout	\$ 200,000	\$ 3,380,000
	<u>\$ 3,380,000</u>	

12. Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club Standing Quarter Mile Sprint Meeting

Author *Poppy SurrIDGE; Applications Officer - Roading*
Activity Manager *Mark Chamberlain; Roading Manager*
Executive Team Member *Neil McCann; Group Manager – Infrastructure & Open Spaces*

Summary

- This report considers an application from the Ashburton Car Club for temporary road closure of Blands Road from Dip Road to Methven Highway (State Highway 77) on Saturday, 17 May 2025 to hold the Standing Quarter Mile Sprint Meeting.
- This report outlines the benefits and risks to be taken into consideration regarding whether to approve or decline the road closure.

Recommendation

- 1. That** Council permits the temporary road closure of Blands Road from Dip Road to Methven Highway from 9.00 am to 4.30pm on Saturday, 17 May 2025 to allow the Standing Quarter Mile Sprint Meeting to be held.

Background

The proposal

1. The Ashburton Car Club has applied for a road closure to hold the Standing Quarter Mile Sprint Meeting. The period of closure is from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm on Saturday, 17 May 2025.
2. The proposed road closure is on Blands Road from Dip Road to Methven Highway (State Highway 77).
3. The event has been advertised with a period for objections to be submitted. No objections have been received with the objections period closing on Friday, 11 April 2025.
4. The required insurance and traffic management plan have been received.
5. This application must be considered by Council under clause 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, because New Zealand Motorsport, of which the Ashburton Car Club is a member, requires roads to be closed for motorsport events under the Local Government Act, as event participants may be under 18 years of age.
6. The Ashburton Car Club has run car racing events safely and successfully for over 18 years. Their events are well organised, and every risk and precaution is taken by the organisers to ensure that the highest levels of safety are maintained. Their events are highly supported by the local community and are a valued attraction to the district.
7. Council is not obliged to approve any road closures. Our practice has been to approve such requests, subject to being confident that the event organisers can manage the event safely, and that the road will be restored to pre-race condition.
8. Officers are satisfied that the Ashburton Car Club can meet these expectations, as they have repeatedly done so for many years. This event requires a detour and two of the roads concerned do experience high traffic volumes. Full detour signage will be in place and this event will be well advertised for these reasons.

Options analysis

Option one – Approve road closure (recommended option)

9. Our practice has been to approve such requests, subject to being confident that the event organisers can manage the event safely, and that the road will be restored to pre-race condition.
10. Ashburton Car Club has a strong record of safe and successful management of these events in the district for over 18 years.
11. The responsibility for risk-free operation lies with the organisers and all contingencies are covered in the conditions of closure.
12. The road condition will be inspected by Roding staff before and after the event. Staff are confident that the asset will be returned to its pre-existing condition after the event.

<p>Advantages: Ashburton Car Club events are supported by the local community. They have been running without issue for many years.</p>	<p>Disadvantages: If an incident occurs this could prevent access to the road for a period of time.</p>
<p>Risks: Safety issues due to it being a motor vehicle event. Travel impact on residence, road users and spectators. The impact on the condition of the road. These risks are considered LOW overall as they can all be successfully managed.</p>	

Option two – Decline road closure

13. As per option 1 our practice has been to approve such requests, subject to being confident that the event organisers can manage the event safely, and that the road will be restored to pre-race condition.
14. Ashburton Car Club has proven they can run this event with no issues so declining the temporary closure is not recommended by officers.

<p>Advantages: Any safety, travel delay or impact on road condition are avoided.</p>	<p>Disadvantages: Many people look forward to these types of events and they provide positive attraction to the district.</p>
<p>Risks: Reputational risk to Council to hold motorsport events within the district.</p>	

Legal/policy implications

15. Clause 11 of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 provides –

“That Council may, subject to such conditions as it thinks fit... close any road or part of a road to all traffic (e)... for any exhibition, fair, market, concert, film making, race or other sporting event or public function.”

16. As noted previously, our practice is to enable these events to proceed subject to ensuring the safety of road users, residents, and spectators

Review of legal / policy implications	
Reviewed by In-house Counsel	<p><i>Name; Position <See above guidance box for when Finance review must be sought></i></p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p><i>Not required <provide brief explanation></i></p>

Strategic alignment

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	Events attract visitors from outside the district.
Environmental		
Cultural		
Social	✓	Connect communities to enable business, leisure and social activities (social, cultural wellbeing).

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	No costs to council
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	N/A
Where is the funding coming from?	All costs associated with this event are being paid by the organisers (Ashburton Car Club)
Are there any future budget implications?	N/A
Reviewed by Finance	<i>Name; Position <See above guidance box for when Finance review must be sought></i> <i>Or</i> <i>Not required <provide brief explanation></i>

Significance and engagement assessment

17. There will be a letter drop to the residents in the affected areas so they are aware of the event and road closures.
18. The event has been publicly notified.
19. Emergency services are provided with a copy of road closure information after approval has been given.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Medium
Rationale for selecting level of significance	N/A
Level of engagement selected	Level 3 – Consult. Council must advertise the closure and consider objections if any are received.
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	This level of engagement is required to meet statutory requirements.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

Appendix one – Road Closure Diagram



13. Councillor Reports

Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan

13.1 Meetings

In addition to the usual Council meetings and workshops, I have attended the following meetings and events:

March 2025

- 4 Mar Road Safety / Settlement working group meetings
- 7 Mar Opening of ZAWAA25
- 8 Mar Zonta Women's Day Breakfast
- 10 Mar Methven Community Board
- 12 Mar Te Koru o Whakatere video launch
- 14 Mar MTFJ Core group meeting in Wellington
- 15 Mar Methven A&P Show
- 18 Mar Age Friendly Strategy Group meeting
- 21 Mar Ambassador of Thailand with Methven Community Board members
- 24 Mar Safer Mid Canterbury board / Bike Skills park meetings
- 28 Mar Safe Communities Steering Group
- 29 Mar Live on the Lawn

April 2025

- 1 Apr MTFJ SROI results via zoom / Nowruz
- 4 Apr Philip Wareing Ltd 50th celebrations
- 7 Apr Canterbury Waste & Joint Landfill committees via zoom
- 8 Apr Bike Skills Park meeting
- 10 & 11 Apr Zone 5 & 6 Conference in Christchurch
- 14 Apr Methven Community Board

13.2 Canterbury Waste Joint Committee & Regional Landfill Committee

I attended both these meetings via Zoom.

I have attached links to the agendas as they have some interesting reports in them.

The Waste Joint committee agenda has a report on disaster waste report and the Canterbury waste data report.

[Agenda of Canterbury Waste Joint Committee - Monday, 7 April 2025](#)

The regional landfill agenda has the draft SOI and half yearly report for Transwaste Canterbury.

[Agenda of Canterbury Regional Landfill Joint Committee - Monday, 7 April 2025](#)

The supplementary agenda has the change in Constitution and Board structure.
[Supplementary Agenda of Canterbury Regional Landfill Joint Committee - Monday, 7 April 2025](#)

13.3 Nowruz

Cr Cameron and I were invited to the Nowruz celebrations at the Sinclair Centre. Nowruz is the Iranian or Persian New Year. Historically, it has been observed by Iranian peoples, but is now celebrated by many ethnicities worldwide.

Locally, these celebrations have grown over the years since Ashburton has become a Resettlement town. There were over 100 people in attendance including volunteers. Several families were presented certificates for two years living in Ashburton and Kathy Harrington-Watt (former team leader for Refugee Settlement Support) was thanked and farewelled.

13.4 New Zealand Refugee Advisory Panel (NZRAP)

I have been invited to be part of the selection committee for the 2025 recruitment of the NZRAP. This will involve four zoom meetings on 5, 12, 13 and 20 May.

14. *Mayor's Report*

14.1 Local Government New Zealand

- **Conference Remits**

I have spoken with Minister Simon Watts about the implications of the UAGC as discussed when Council considered making a remit to LGNZ on the matter. We have received correspondence that he is looking into the matter, therefore Council will not be making a remit on this topic.

14.2 Meetings

- **Mayoral calendar**

March 2025

- 20 March: Canterbury Mayoral Forum – meeting with Hon. Simon Watts
- 20 March: Regional Transport Committee hearings panel deliberations
- 21 March: The Breeze radio interview
- 21 March: Annual Plan workshop
- 21 March: Wakanui School visit
- 24 March: Ashburton Water Zone Committee field trip
- 24 March: Advance Ashburton
- 25 March: Hokonui radio interview
- 25 March: Rangitata Diversion Race Management Group
- 26 March: Three Waters Committee
- 26 March: Audit & Risk Committee
- 26 March: Activity Briefings
- 26 March: SnowValley investment representatives along with CE Hamish Riach
- 26 March: EA Networks sand court opening
- 27 March: Climate Change workshop
- 27 March: Road Maintenance contract workshop
- 28 March: Hon. Shane Jones/Canterbury Regional Economic Summit with CE Hamish Riach
- 28 March: Mid Canterbury Rugby Union Chair farewell with CE Hamish Riach

April 2025

- 1 April: Rob Reid and Chris Robertson – Braided Rivers Trust with CE Hamish Riach
- 1 April: Dereck Ollsson and Julian Tan – Audit NZ with Hamish Riach
- 1 April: Mayoral Task Force for Jobs update
- 2 April: Alister Lilley – ACL
- 2 April: Pamela Peters and Executive Committee
- 2 April: Council meeting

- 3 April: Roading presentation
- 3 April: Delegations and Electoral Reform workshop
- 4 April: Philip Wareing Transport 50th anniversary celebrations
- 8 April: Hokonui radio interview
- 8 April: Media Christchurch
- 8 April: Local Water Done Well public consultation, Methven
- 9 April: Friendship Lane elderly persons housing refurbished units viewing
- 9 April: Heritage Working Group walking tour
- 9 April: Craig Pauling - ECan Chair Resource Management briefing (via MS Teams)
- 9 April: Local Water Done Well public consultation, Ashburton
- 10/11 April: LGNZ Zone 5&6 Conference, Christchurch along with Councillors Cameron, McMillan, Wilson and CE Hamish Riach
- 11 April: Mayor Sam Broughton's Civic Reception along with CE Hamish Riach
- 14 April: Alister Lilley – ACL
- 15 April: Tayla Argyle – TUA representative along with Councillor McMillan
- 15 April: Commerce Commission briefing on economic regulations environment for water (via MS Teams)
- 15 April: Brett Painter and Peter Lowe – Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust
- 15 April: National Waterski Championships opening
- 16 April: Grants workshop
- 16 April: Council meeting

Recommendation

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Neil Brown
Mayor