

Council Activity Briefings

Date: Wednesday 25 March 2026
Time: 9:00am
Venue: Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere
2 Baring Square East, Ashburton



Attendees

Mayor Liz McMillan
Deputy Mayor Phill Hooper (Chair)
Councillors Carolyn Cameron
Russell Ellis
Tony Todd
Richard Wilson
Jeanette Maxwell
Deb Gilkison
Julie Moffett
Phill Everest

Executive Team

Chief Executive Hamish Riach
GM Infrastructure Neil McCann
GM Compliance & Development Ian Hyde
GM Business Support Helen Barnes
GM People & Facilities Sarah Mosley
GM Community & Open Spaces Toni Durham
GM Legal & Democracy Tania Paddock

Activity Reports

1	Business Support		Time	Page
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1.3	Finance	Gordon C	9:10am	10
2 Infrastructure				
2.1	Solid Waste Management	Justin Bloomfield	9:15am	11
2.2	Stockwater Operations	Crissie Drummond	9:20am	18
2.3	Stockwater Exit Transition	Crissie Drummond	9:25am	19
2.4	Roads and Footpaths	Mark Chamberlain	9:30am	23
2.5	Contracts/Tenders	Neil McCann	9:35am	28
2.6	Lake Hood	Neil McCann	9:40am	29
3 Compliance & Development				
3.1	Building Services	Michael Wong	9:45am	30
3.2	Civil Defence Emergency Management	Jim Henderson	9:50am	37
3.3	Alcohol Licensing	Rick Catchpowle	9:55am	39
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3.7	Economic Development	Shelley Donnelly	10:15am	45

Break 10:20am – 10:40am

4	People & Facilities			
4.1	Council Services	Amanda Watson	10:45am	60
4.2	Ashburton Library	Jane Riach	10:50am	61
4.3	EA Networks Centre	Richard Wood	10:55am	67
4.4	Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum	Shirin Khosraviani	11:00am	73
5	Community & Open Spaces			
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5.2	Strategy & Policy	Mark Low	11:10am	81
5.3	Memorial Halls & Reserve Boards	Ann Smith	11:15am	88
5.4	Welcoming Communities	Mercedes Walkham	11:20am	90
5.5	Open Spaces	Ian Soper	11:25am	92

1. Business Support Group

1.1 Information Systems

1.1.1 Projects

The following provides detail on a selection of team activity, typically the larger or more complex work items that are currently being worked on.

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
Application and Process Development					
Application enhancement and development	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	<p>Ongoing general development and business improvement within Council's ERP, GIS and other core applications.</p> <p>Recently completed works include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS - Dog exercise and alcohol ban public maps • GIS – District water treatment pump station (Hinds and Mayfield) maintenance survey <p>Current developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small standalone dwellings – process development of new statutory building consenting requirement • Property reporting – Review of existing report suite and resulting actions of updating existing, creating new and retiring unused reports. • Cemetery data – analysis and verification of held cemetery data. • Noise Control – process updates to manage new Act requirements • Dispute Account Management – process enhancement to allow for emailing of account statement

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
Approved Consent Mapping	August 2026	April 2026	Yes	Yes	This work will provide a spatial (map) view of approved consent location and associated information to support function activities and public access to consent information.
Aerial Urban Imagery Refresh	September 2025	July 20026	Yes	Yes	Working with Canterbury regional and local authority partners this work will deliver an updated set of aerial imagery for district urban areas. This dataset is used as an information set on both internal and public facing GIS systems supporting a broad range of use including Council service design and delivery, emergency management and district economic applications.
Health & Safety	June 2025	July 2026 (tbc)	Yes	Yes	A multi-phase review of and updates to our corporate solution functionality and configuration is underway. The work sets out to take advantage on new solution developments as well as consider the current configuration and its design to meet ADC requirements. Redesign of Locations used for event reporting has been delivered, with design, build and testing underway on field safety audit, defect reporting, and resolution.
Grants & Funding Management	April 2025	February 2026	Yes	Yes	This project delivers a digital solution to support the receipt of grant application and management process on assessment and decision. This work is complete with the system supporting the current round of grant application and administration.
Financial Modules and Management Services	October 2024	September 2028	Yes	Yes	Transformation of remaining financial and management function and process within the TechnologyOne solution to the current product offering.

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					<p>Multi-stage, multi- year project. With works in budget, travel & expense (purchase cards), end of year rollovers and creditor set up completed.</p> <p>Current work covers the review of processes associated with monthly allocation and reporting.</p> <p>Delivery has been made on improved automation process in overhead allocation, reducing the level of required effort to complete this specific task.</p>
IT Infrastructure, Server and Desktop					
Cyber Security	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	<p>Ongoing programme in the development of reducing Council's cyber security risk profile and includes access, monitoring, hardware and patch management and identification, investigation and application of security related applications and enhancements.</p> <p>Following recent audits and internal reviews a programme of security related priorities has been identified with work underway to deliver these.</p>
Core Switch and Security Infrastructure Renewal (Scoping)	July 2025	December 2025	Yes	Yes	Complete - Forms part of our planned renewal programme. This work covers the design and identification of required hardware, ahead of physical renewal works.
Core Switch and Security Infrastructure Renewal (Implementation)	December 2025	May 2026	Yes	Yes	The first phase of this work is complete with new hardware in place and operational. The second continuing to plan.
Information Management					
Physical and Digital Record Management - continuing work to identify, record, appraise and manage remaining Council physical records.	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	Continuing and ongoing activity with business teams to assess digital and physical records held by Council as part of the management of the life of that record, including that of protected or permanent retention under statutory Acts including the Public Records Act and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act. Work includes the

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					<p>decision to retain or dispose a record based on Council's adopted retention and disposal schedule and execution of that decision.</p> <p>Work continues with Museum staff in recording detail on Council archives (pre-1990) held at the Museum. Assessment to date has included Ashburton Borough, County and Road Board records, Rates and Rent Ledgers. These records form part of the Archives collection that is available on the Whakatere Heritage Website https://whakatereheritage.catalogaccess.com/archives?search=&page=1&size=10&withImages=false</p> <p>On the digital side, works are ongoing to assess and manage unstructured and structured data held on business file shares and within our document management systems. This works includes retention and disposal activity. Recent activity includes the management of EANC client records, employee records, and business activity images.</p>
EDRMS Renewal	July 2025	June 2028	Yes	Yes	<p>Our EDRMS system is scheduled for replacement in the financial year 27/28, with budget allocated. In a product area that has advanced over the past decade our first action is to complete investigation on what market offerings exist which can support our record management responsibilities, confirm our requirements and prepare to go to market in 26/27.</p> <p>Works are continuing as scheduled.</p>
Information Asset Register	September 2025	June 2026	Yes	Yes	<p>Phase 2 in the development of an Asset Register for information which Council holds. This work will build on the current listing of identified Council systems adding further</p>

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					information to support its legislative and required management of records that it creates or receives.
Information Maturity Assessment	February 2026	February 2026	Yes	Yes	Complete. Annual assessment against Archives NZ maturity standards, allowing us to measure, track and plan future improvements in Council's information management function.

1.2 Property

Current	Brief Project Description / progress																										
Ashburton Business Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In total, approximately 43-hectares of the Business Estate remains unsold, with 39-hectares sold. • Updates to the marketing content on Council’s website are underway. Testimonials are being refreshed, and new drone footage will showcase imagery of the latest developments. During this process, some existing businesses have expressed enthusiasm and a willingness to share the updated material with their networks. • A contractor will carry out gorse and broom spraying between 20 March and 2 April, weather permitting. Signage will be in place while the work is underway. 																										
Elderly persons housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98 units are currently occupied. Three units are undergoing renovations and one unit is now ready for a new tenant. • There are 23 applications on the waiting list, with seven people requesting single units and 13 requesting double units and 3 requesting either (comprised of two couples and 21 individuals). • 22 people on the waiting list are current residents in the Ashburton District, with one from out of town (Mosgiel). • The occupancy rate is currently at 99% of available units. 																										
Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The table below provides an update of aircraft movements for the past 12 months. <div data-bbox="663 895 1868 1273" style="text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <caption>Aircraft Movement at Ashburton Airport</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Aircraft Movements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Mar-25</td><td>750</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr-25</td><td>900</td></tr> <tr><td>May-25</td><td>850</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-25</td><td>1150</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-25</td><td>1050</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-25</td><td>1180</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-25</td><td>1150</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-25</td><td>780</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-25</td><td>1600</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec-25</td><td>1100</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan-26</td><td>820</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb-26</td><td>1150</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 30 annual landing fee holders. • From 30 March 2026 to 1 April 2026, the YAK52 Team for Warbirds over Wanaka will be practicing at the Airport prior to heading down to the event. The Ashburton Aviation Museum has assisted the team with correspondence to Council Officers. 	Month	Aircraft Movements	Mar-25	750	Apr-25	900	May-25	850	Jun-25	1150	Jul-25	1050	Aug-25	1180	Sep-25	1150	Oct-25	780	Nov-25	1600	Dec-25	1100	Jan-26	820	Feb-26	1150
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Current	Brief Project Description / progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is also anticipated that during these dates, other Warbird aircraft may refuel at Ashburton Airport like previous years. The Yak Team has advised Council that they have contacted RD Petroleum and the fuel tanks will be filled up for the potential additional use.
Former Polytech (Cameron St) Demolition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget allocation for the demolition (including asbestos removal) and construction of a basic gravel carpark is \$1.56m. The underfloor pipework and flue has now been removed. The asbestos contractor will be back on site early next week to remove the remaining asbestos from the basement. The floor will then be removed by the contractor. The below ground asbestos pipework is significantly less than originally anticipated. The project is expected to be completed by the end of March. The contingency has been well managed and remains within the original budget.

1.3 Finance

1.3.1 Projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track (yes/no)	Within budget (yes/no)	Carry-over (yes/no)	Comments
Annual Report	March 2026	30 October 2026	Yes	Yes	No	The Annual Report project planning is underway. With pre-work being worked on by the Finance Team. The interim audit is scheduled to start 1 June 2026.
Annual Plan 2026/27	Current	30 June 2026	Yes	Yes	No	Four workshops on the 2026/27 Annual Plan have been completed with Council, with progress continuing to track towards final approval. The IBIS rates-modelling software has been used to demonstrate the impacts of the proposed rate increases. Final adoption is expected ahead of 30 June.

2. Infrastructure

2.1 Solid Waste Management

2.1.1 Solid waste management contract

- Mobilisation activities are progressing for the new contract with WasteCo starting in September 2026. A meeting with current staff has been held with the expectation that most staff will be retained.

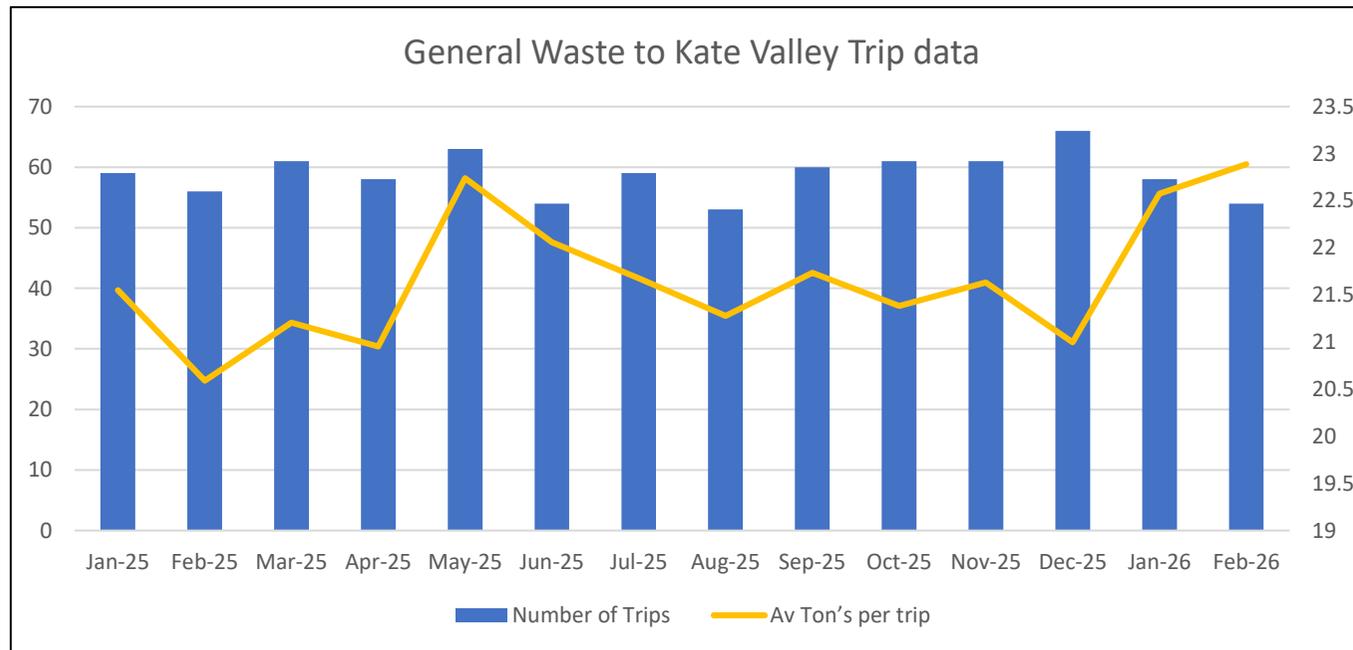
2.1.2 Solid waste kerbside refuse and recycling collection

- A total of 169 and 125 CRMs were received in January and February, respectively. A summary of the CRMs for the last six months is shown below:

Request Enquiry	Monthly Total Number					
	September	October	November	December	January	February
Illegal dumping	9	5	9	10	16	7
Kerbside - Bin Accessory	10	51	5	7	4	2
Additional Bins	28	22	39	31	29	19
Damaged Bins	27	39	28	22	27	24
New Bins	16	16	23	24	25	15
Missing Bins	17	13	9	13	16	10
Missed Collections	26	40	25	31	26	37
Contractor Complaints	0	3	1	1	1	1
Satellite Drop Off Site Issues	1	2	1	4	0	0
Non-compliant & other miscellaneous	32	11	18	10	23	9
Total	166	202	158	153	169	125

- Of the 37 reported missed collections in February, only 14 were actually missed, the remainder were due to bins not being out in time, bins being hidden behind an obstruction (e.g. a vehicle), the truck had not yet been past the address, or the bins were overfull and deemed non-compliant. The reported missed bins are collected the following day.
- There is a reduction of CRMs across the board in February except for missed collections. A good drop off in Illegal dumping is noted as well following high numbers in January.

- A total of 58 and 54 trips were made to Kate Valley Landfill in January and February, respectively. Total trips to December 2025 are 361.



- The average trip weight in February was 22.88 tonnes (the highest since tracking has started). Since the tonnage per trip is dependent on the weight of the materials being dumped in the pit, the operators separate lighter materials whenever possible, mixing them with heavier materials to spread the load contents and maximise the bin weight for each trip. The average weight per trip over the past 12 months is 21.76 tonnes.

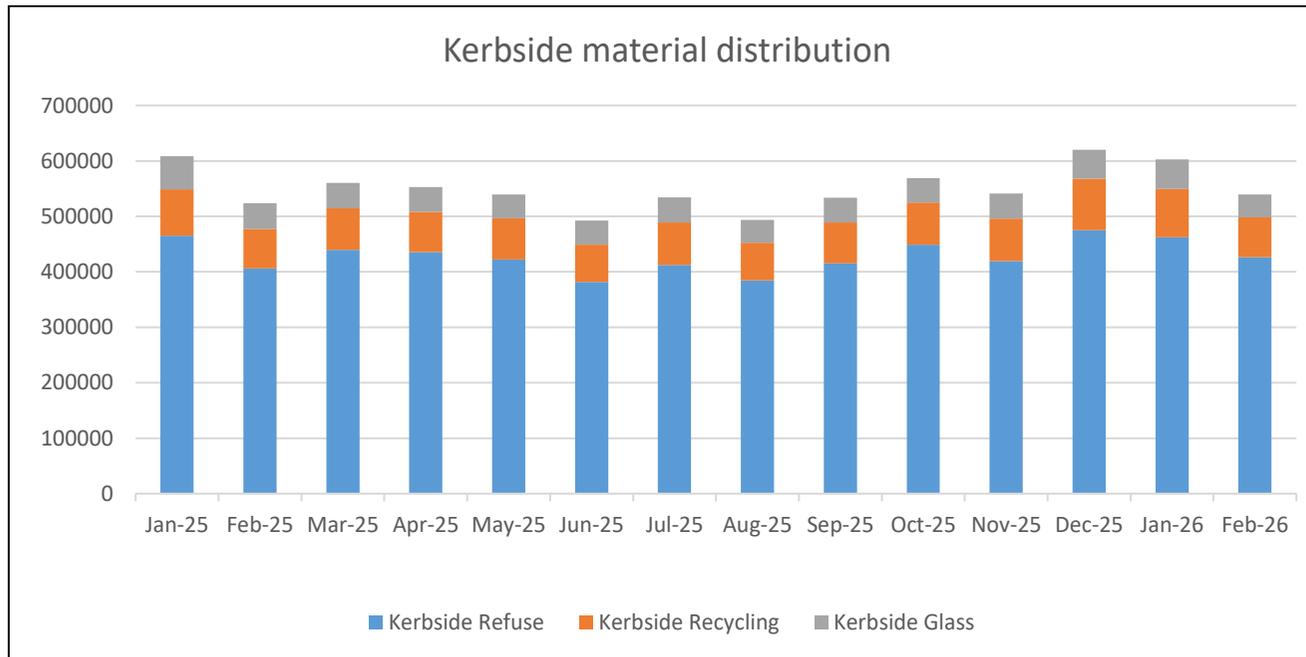
Month	Tonnes To Landfill	Number of Trips	Ave Ton's per trip
Feb-25	1153.079	56	20.59
Mar-25	1293.59	61	21.21
Apr-25	1215.27	58	20.95
May-25	1432.65	63	22.74
Jun-25	1191.18	54	22.06
Jul-25	1278.97	59	21.68
Aug-25	1127.71	53	21.28
Sep-25	1304.21	60	21.74
Oct-25	1304.42	61	21.38
Nov-25	1319.6	61	21.63
Dec-25	1385.81	66	21.00
Jan-26	1,319.74	58	22.57
Feb-26	1,217.88	54	22.88

- The weight of residual waste sent to Kate Valley between July and February 2026 is 10,219 tonnes. The average volume of waste sent to Kate Valley the past three years is 14,800 tonnes per year. Based on the trend of waste collected during the last six months, compared to the same period in the past year with 7,851 tonnes, we anticipate sending a slightly higher volume of waste to Kate Valley this year.
- The volume of recyclable materials received from the drop off stations has fluctuated over the past six months with the highest total in January.

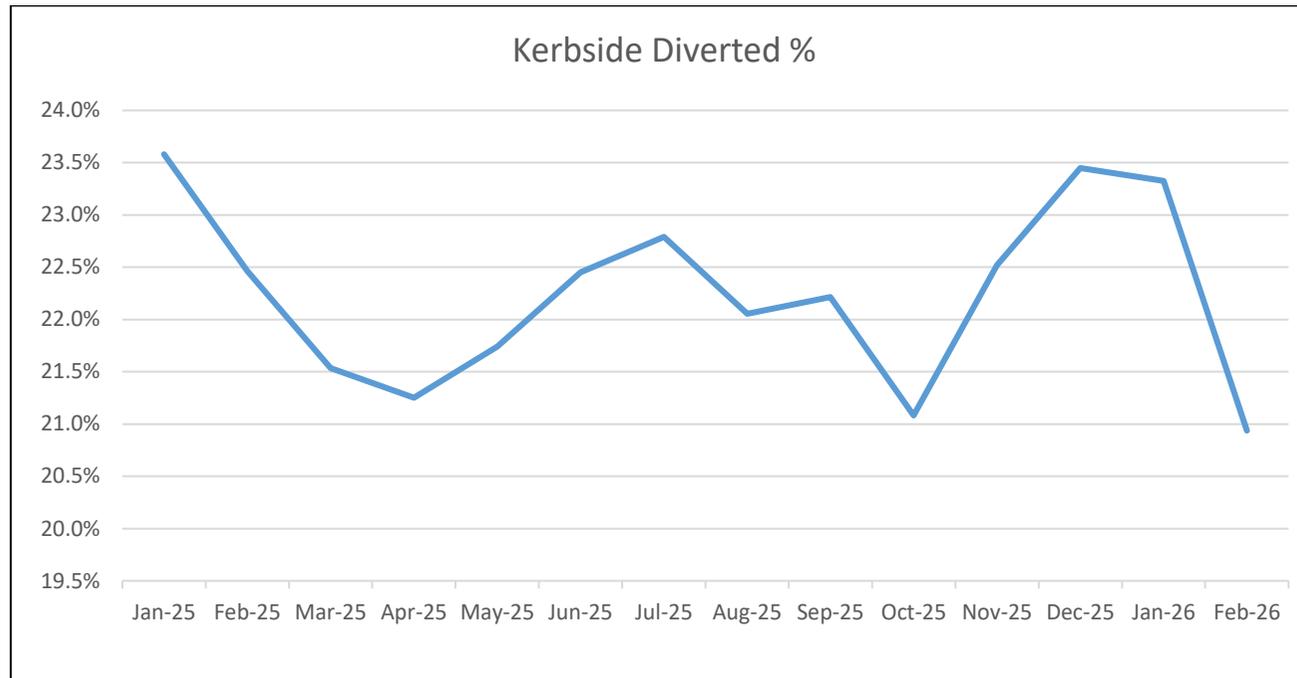
Site	Last 6-months Recycling Volumes					
	September	October	November	December	January	February
Methven Recycling Centre	9.99	12.19	11.10	17.15	13.38	15.45
Rakaia Huts	0.34	2.30	0.38	1.44	0.34	2.16
Pendarves	4.43	2.76	0.87	3.45	2.21	3.88
Hakaterere Huts	0.40	1.47	1.82	0.45	1.95	0.5
Willowby	3.75	3.16	2.25	1.03	1.02	5.54

Rangitata huts	0.26	2.27	0.44	1.09	2.23	0.2
Hinds	2.17	2.34	3.80	1.43	4.78	1.99
Mayfield	2.60	0.91	2.56	1.01	2.76	4.56
Mt Somers	4.15	0.49	0.63	4.60	2.76	3.06
Staveley	0.46	1.32	2.22	2.16	1.75	0.74
Fairton	2.72	0.49	1.89	2.08	2.06	2.92
Rakaia Resource Recovery Park	5.08	5.60	3.55	6.20	6.17	4.92
Monthly Totals	42.78	38.47	35.83	47.15	49.48	42.78

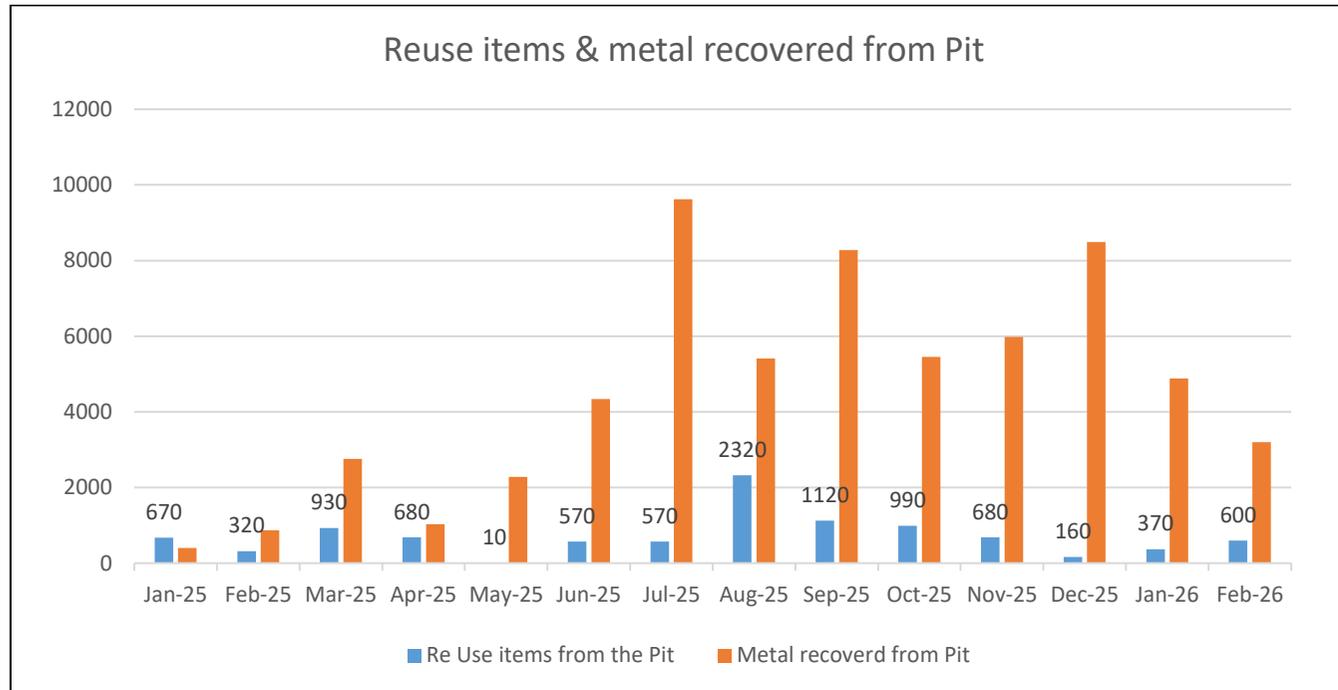
- Glass collection in February is 41.52 tonnes, down from 53.61 tonnes in January and 52.28 in December 2025. The average monthly volume of glass collected over the last six months is 46.92 tonnes.



- Kerbside refuse in February was 426.6 tonnes. This volume is at the lower end of volume collected during the first six months. The August volumes were the lowest collected over the period at 384.7 tonnes.



- Kerbside diversion rate (volume of kerbside recycling against volume of kerbside general waste collected) for February is 20.90%. The kerbside diversion rate for February was influenced by the fewer days and a decrease in the weight of glass collected from kerbside.



- Items recovered from the pit increased during January and February at 370 and 600 items, respectively.
- The weight of recovered metal has been high in the past six months peaking at 8.28 tonnes in September. The weights in January and February were 4.88 and 3.2 tonnes, respectively.
- The RRP recycling centre received 9,909 visitors in February. The number of visits has decreased in the past four months. These are the people passing through the recycling drop-off lanes and visiting the re-use shop.
- The re-use shop sales figure for February was \$11,025, being slightly lower than January at \$14,003 Below is a table showing the items sold with the total sales in the past 12-month period.

Breakdown of Items Sold at the ARRP

Month	Household items	Kitchen items	Linen	Clothing	Outdoors/ Garden	Toys	Sports items	Bike/ scooters	Tag tested	Lawn mower	Total Items Sold	Total Income
Feb-25	3861	2459	1714	801	587	376	164	79	31	16	10,088	\$10,520.50
Mar-25	3888	2501	310	1064	973	570	141	65	34	30	9,576	\$15,330.30
Apr-25	3243	1994	252	778	612	431	70	53	35	19	7,487	\$13,023.60
May-25	3258	2007	268	817	792	401	77	53	39	13	7,725	\$13,294.51
Jun-25	2460	1532	269	823	426	293	69	52	72	8	6,004	\$8,593.77
Jul-25	3041	1789	187	1375	740	546	123	34	14	9	7,858	\$10,769.60
Aug-25	3346	1561	83	723	521	428	164	38	27	4	6,895	\$11,254.90
Sep-25	2864	1599	661	919	479	142	167	56	42	3	6,932	\$9,392.60
Oct-25	3120	1544	182	704	705	352	138	61	73	22	6,901	\$9,490.20
Nov-25	3309	1395	1126	823	720	267	253	54	30	18	7,995	\$10,219.80
Dec-25	3313	1319	1018	645	536	213	98	62	14	19	7,237	\$11,573.70
Jan-26	3670	1770	208	1120	1270	603	128	63	22	24	6,683	\$11,025.90
Feb-26	3000	1102	262	985	895	332	275	82	46	12	8,934	\$14,003.00

- The most saleable items over the past 6 months continues to be household goods, kitchen items, clothing, outdoor/garden products, toys and linens.
- At the December 2025 Activity Briefings, clarification was sought on whether the contractor (WasteCo) retains the profits from the re-use shop. Officers can confirm that the income generated in the re-use shop is kept by the contractor as income to run the shop. WasteCo are proposing that community groups be offered the opportunity to run the shop on weekends with income retained by the group. Officers will discuss with WasteCo the process of selecting the community group(s) prior to the new contract starting in September.

2.1.3 Solid waste capital projects

Procurement for the Green waste and Sorting Bunkers at the resource recovery park is underway with the work planned to be completed by June 2026.

2.1.4 Waste education

- The kerbside audits are ongoing. This was the first year that no Xmas trees, baubles or whole hams were found in the recycling bins!
- No school sessions were held in January due to the school holidays, but the education team participated in the EA Networks holiday programme providing water education sessions. Making mini worm farms was the topic for the library's holiday programme in Methven/Mayfield with many worms finding new homes.
- School sessions recommenced in February with some worm farms also being set up at schools and preschools as well as water education sessions being held.

2.2 Stockwater Operations

General

- Mains race cleaning is continuing across the network. The cleaning work is progressing well, being mostly mechanical but with some areas being sprayed by drone. Now that crops are finally being harvested, access is more available for the machinery to get into some areas previously excluded by the presence of those crops.
- The off and on wet weather continues to be a nuisance. While it has kept the pressure off the network, it is continuing to cause issues with some of our intakes – between January 1 and 28 February the contractors reinstated Methven Auxiliary intake six times and Pudding Hill intake five times. Normally we would expect to be 'looking' for water in summer, not carrying out flood repairs on an almost weekly basis.
- We continue to receive occasional enquires race or other insignificant closures or alterations. These go through the normal race application process with several smaller ones having been recently signed off by the Group Manager Infrastructure Services as they had 100% support from property owners for closure.

2.3 Stockwater Exit Transition

Pudding Hill

- On 17 December 2025 Council approved the recommendation from the STWG to close most of the Pudding Hill Network.
- The scope of the proposed closure comprises all network races supplied by the Pudding Hill intake from their divergence from Mt Harding Creek to their respective discharge points.
- The Pudding Hill intake itself and main race from the intake to Mt Harding Creek and down to Draytons gate will continue to operate at this time pending further discussions with Environment Canterbury on future potential environmental augmentation of Mt Harding Creek
- All affected properties were advised by a letter dated 22 December 2025 of the pending closure.
- John Wright, (Melius) has been directly contacting/working with those properties who require an alternative supply to work through their options. The options include connecting with BCI, Spaxton Stockwater or connection to the Methven Water Supply.
- Council signed a Heads of Agreement with BCI on 18 December 2025.
- Officers are currently working with AECL, the Arowhenua Mātaimai Committee, Fish & Game and DOC to develop a fish salvage plan to be implemented in the lead up to the closure.
- No work has commenced on the archaeological assessments at this point. Noting, there are no changes to the intake proposed at this time there is still ample time to progress this work.

Methven Auxiliary

- All investigation reports have been provided to the Stockwater Transition Working Group.
- The closure of the Methven Auxiliary intake will be discussed and considered by Council this year.
- Stormwater/drainage investigations are progressing with the focus of work assessing the implications if the Methven Auxiliary network were to close and identifying if any parts of the existing network should be formally retained for drainage purposes.
- A key focus is the main race that flows down Forest Drive in the Methven Township. If this network were to close, this race will become dry, but due to the interconnected nature of the system, it will receive stormwater in various places from township streets.
- This highlights a need to provide a new formal stormwater outfall for the Methven Township. Investigations are continuing.

- Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed

Bushside

- Melius has completed the investigation into the needs for the six properties (of 20) who will require an alternative stockwater supply should the intake close.
- The wider stakeholder engagement process received seven submissions with respondents stating their interest was environmental and amenity values.
- Discussions continue with BCI as an alternate supplier for the Bushside Intake.
- The ecological assessment for the Bushside Intake network was undertaken on 16 October 2025. This work was carried out by Wildlands Ltd, and the report will be presented to the May meeting of the working group.
- The AECL Cultural Assessment was undertaken on 4 February 2026. This report will be presented to the May meeting of the working group.
- Stormwater/drainage investigations are yet to be progressed.
- Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.

Stoney Creek

- Melius completed the investigation into the needs for the 23 properties (of 45) who will require an alternative stockwater supply should ADC cease the delivery of stockwater in some races.
- The wider stakeholder engagement process received five submissions with respondents stating their interest was in stormwater, environmental and amenity values.
- The 23 properties can be served through new infrastructure from BCI. This is split between large volume farm and lifestyle properties.
- The latter group may be better supplied from the Mount Somers public water supply; however, this scheme carries a high development contribution cost for new connections (\$21,510.00 inclusive GST) on top of the cost any connecting infrastructure.
- The ecological assessment for the Stoney Intake network was undertaken on 16 October 2025. This work was carried out by Wildlands Ltd, and the report will be presented to the May meeting of the working group.
- The AECL Cultural Assessment was undertaken on 4 February 2026. This report will be presented to the May meeting of the working group.
- Stormwater/drainage investigations are yet to be progressed.
- Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.

Limestone Creek

- All investigation work and necessary assessments are complete.
- The Stockwater Exit Transition Working Group considered a closure report at the 4 March meeting, supporting a recommendation to Council to close the race as of 30 June 2026. Council will consider the report on 18 March 2026.

Brothers

- Melius have completed their investigation into the needs of properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply if the intake is closed. 100 properties, or 65% of those properties affected by the potential closure, do not require the supply of stockwater.
- The remaining 53 properties, or 35% of those properties affected by the potential closure, indicated that they rely on the supply.
- Discussions are underway with commercial irrigation entities in relation to the potential transfer of the intake and network operation in its existing open race form.
- Because of these discussions, it was determined that further analysis of alternative stockwater supplies was not required at this stage
- Ecological and cultural assessments will not be carried out at this time. If it is determined the race operation will transfer to another entity the assessments will not be required, however if it is to be closed this work will proceed.

Alford Forest

- All investigation work and necessary assessments are complete.
- The Stockwater Exit Transition Working Group considered a closure report at the 4 March meeting, supporting a recommendation to Council to close the race as of 30 June 2026. Council will consider the report on 18 March 2026.

Langdons Creek North & South

- The survey of Langdons Creek North & South users has been completed with 34 properties having no need for stockwater, and 11 properties who would need an alternative.
- No wider stakeholder survey has been carried out.
- No public drop-in session has been programmed to date. A joint 'springs' session will be held.

Clearwell Springs

- The survey of Clearwell Springs users has been completed with nine properties having no need for stockwater and one property needing an alternative.
- No wider stakeholder survey has been carried out.
- No public drop-in session has been programmed to date. A joint 'springs' session will be held.

Cracroft

- A survey of the Cracroft Intake users has been completed with 24 properties out of 161 (14%) indicating they require an alternative supply.
- A joint Cracroft/Klondyke wider stakeholder survey has been open – three submissions have been received to date.
- A joint Cracroft/Klondyke public drop-in session was held on 17 February at the Ruapuna Hall attended by 32 members of the public.
- Because of the ongoing discussions with commercial irrigation entities in relation to the potential transfer of the intake and network operation in its existing open race form, no further analysis of alternative stockwater supplies will be carried out at this stage.

Klondyke

- The survey of the Klondyke intake users has been completed with 34 properties out of 57 (60%) indicating they require an alternative supply.
- A joint Cracroft/Klondyke wider stakeholder survey has been open – three submissions have been received to date.
- A joint Cracroft/Klondyke public drop-in session was held on 17 February at the Ruapuna Hall attended by 32 members of the public.
- Because of the ongoing discussions with commercial irrigation entities in relation to the potential transfer of the intake and network operation in its existing open race form, no further analysis of alternative stockwater supplies will be carried out at this stage.

Shepherds Brook

- The Shepherds Brook intake user survey is currently underway.

Remington Creek

- The Remington Creek intake user survey is currently underway.

Other

- In mid-February, Council received a joint letter from Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd, Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Ltd, Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust, MHV Water Ltd, and Rangitata Diversion Race Management Ltd regarding their collective intent to work with Council on the future management of stockwater and water-race services in the district. Council officers had a meeting with members of the collective, with a further meeting programmed to be held in late March.
- 242 people are receiving the stockwater exit project newsletter updates.
- Four intakes remain to be surveyed.

2.4 Roads and Footpaths

2.4.1 2025/26 financial year

NZTA has approved an additional \$2,500,000 in the Local Road Pothole Prevention (LRPP) Activity Class. We were invited to request the additional funding because we had unsubsidised funding in place and we would complete the extra work.

The result will mean an increase in total spend of \$2,500,000, an increase in income as subsidy of \$1,275,000, and \$1,225,000 of the unsubsidised budget used as the local share of the additional subsidised budget.

However, with the ADC budget being less than the NZTA budget for some work categories, the overall spend will need to be carefully managed. This may mean some of the NZTA budget will be carried forward to 2026/27 if there is not sufficient ADC budget.

	ADC budget	From unsubsidised	Amended ADC budget	NZTA approved budget	Spend as at 28/02/2026	67%	Comments
Local Road Operations							
Structures Maintenance	\$321,662		\$321,662	\$321,662	\$58,232		
Environmental Maintenance	\$662,624		\$662,624	\$662,624	\$445,316		
Network Services Maintenance	\$795,641		\$795,641	\$897,437	\$671,951		
Network Operations	\$17,370		\$17,370	\$17,370	\$31,231		
Level Crossing Warning Devices	\$35,704		\$35,704	\$35,704	\$19,390		
Minor Events	\$96,499		\$96,499	\$96,499	\$101,014		
Network and Asset Management	\$1,061,484		\$1,061,484	\$1,061,484	\$1,010,977		
Structures Component Replacement	\$418,160		\$418,160	\$568,160	\$101,014		

Traffic Services Renewals	\$184,060		\$184,060	\$184,060	\$277,437	
Total Local Road Operations	\$3,593,204		\$3,593,204	\$3,845,000	\$2,716,562	76% of ADC budget
Local Road Pothole Prevention						
Sealed Pavement Maintenance	\$1,311,779		\$1,311,779	\$2,177,351	\$1,447,925	
Unsealed Pavement Maintenance	\$719,628		\$719,628	\$932,196	\$748,006	
Routine Drainage Maintenance	\$510,000		\$510,000	\$732,883	\$194,156	
Unsealed Road Metalling	\$1,200,000	\$512,500	\$1,712,500	\$1,685,245	\$1,247,884	
Sealed Road Resurfacing	\$2,238,223	\$1,000,000	\$3,238,223	\$4,100,000	\$1,778,912	
Drainage Renewals	\$550,000		\$550,000	\$634,946	\$144,448	
Pavement Rehabilitation	\$2,032,816		\$2,032,816	\$3,037,379	\$1,694,567	
Total Local Road Pothole Prevention	\$8,562,446		\$10,074,946	13,300,000	\$7,255,898	72% of ADC budget
Walking and Cycling						
Cycle Path Maintenance	\$2,160		\$2,160	\$925	\$3,356	
Footpath Maintenance	\$115,863		\$115,863	\$73,513	\$157,933	
Footpath Renewals	\$220,643		\$220,643	\$264,228	\$30,554	
Total Walking and Cycling	\$338,666		\$338,666	\$338,666	\$191,843	57% of ADC budget
Road Safety Promotion						
Road Safety Promotion	\$78,000		\$78,000	\$78,000	\$44,774	
Total Road Safety Promotion	\$78,000		\$78,000	\$78,000	\$44,774	57% of ADC budget
Local Road Improvements						
Bridge and Structures Renewals	\$250,000		\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	
LCLR Roding Improvements	\$0		\$0	\$600,000	\$0	
Total Local Road Improvements	\$250,000		\$250,000	\$850,000	\$0	
TOTAL SUBSIDISED ROADING	\$12,822,316		\$14,334,816	\$18,411,666	\$10,209,077	71% of ADC budget
NZTA Subsidy 51%	\$6,539,381		\$7,310,756	\$9,389,950		
Unsubsidised Roding						
Ashburton Second Urban Bridge	\$4,900,000		\$4,900,000		\$1,593,551	
	\$4,900,000		\$4,900,000		\$1,593,551	
Unsealed Road Metalling	\$512,500	-\$512,500	\$0		\$0	now subsidised
Replace Concrete Streetlight Poles	\$220,000		\$220,000		\$0	

New Streetlights - Power Undergrounding	\$225,000		\$225,000	\$107,189	
Sealed Road Resurfacing	\$1,000,000	-\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	now subsidised
Drainage Improvements	\$100,000		\$100,000	\$97,357	
Curve Warning Signs	\$50,000		\$50,000	\$43,691	
Road Marking	\$150,000		\$150,000	\$0	
Footpath Maintenance	\$50,000		\$50,000	\$0	
Road Safety Promotions	\$20,000		\$20,000	\$0	
Additional structural refurbishment	\$365,000		\$365,000	\$0	
	\$2,692,500		\$1,180,000	\$248,237	
Street Cleaning	\$205,000		\$205,000	\$135,471	
NZTA State Highway	\$112,750		\$112,750	\$112,526	
	\$317,750		\$317,750	\$247,997	
TOTAL UNSUBSIDISED ROADING	\$7,910,250		\$6,397,750	\$2,089,785	
TOTAL ROADING	\$20,732,566	Total Roading	\$20,732,566	\$12,298,862	59% of ADC budget

2.4.2 2025/26 Work completed as at 28/02/2026

- 5,624 km of unsealed grading completed
- 37,837 m³ of maintenance metal placed
- 6,234 potholes repaired
- 10,463 m² of sealed dig out repairs
- 69.2 km of reseals completed (82%)

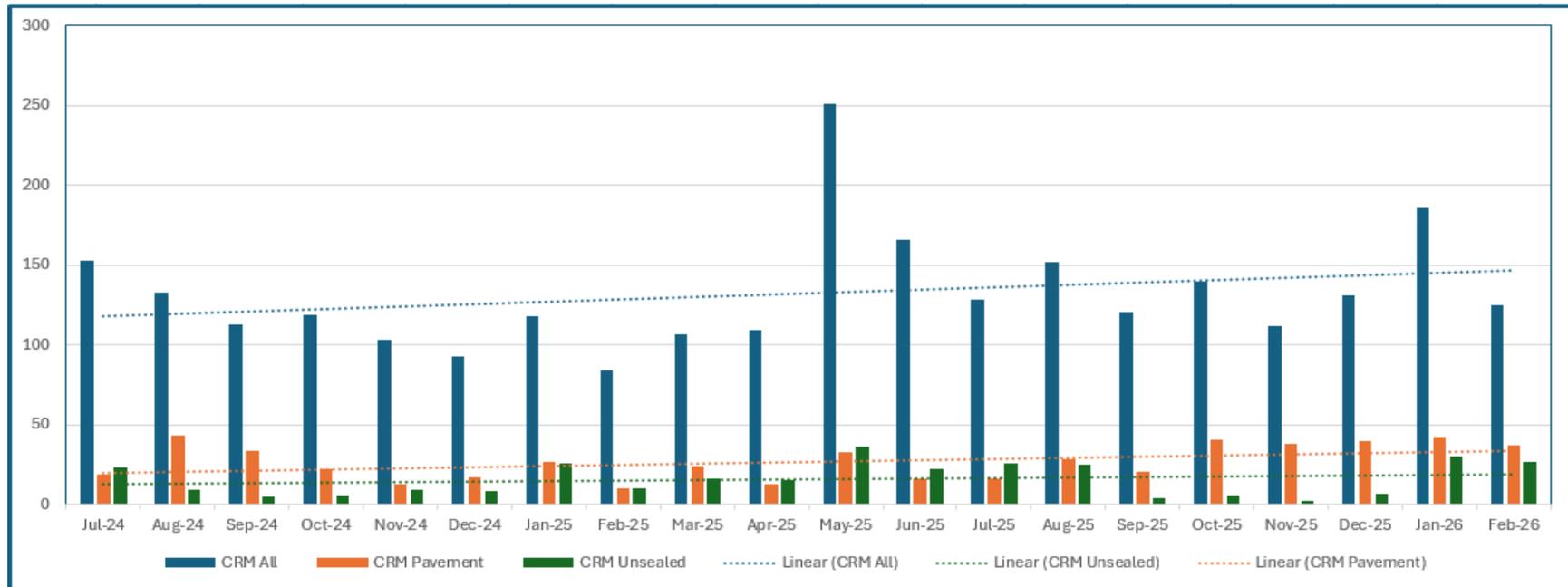
2.4.3 Main areas of work

- Responding to the effects of the wet weather in the new year particularly on unsealed roads.
- Other routine work continuing.
- Last of the pre reseal repairs being completed.
- The replacement of the Springburn Bushside Rd culvert to match the siphon under the RDR is programmed for completion in April. This is approved for funding as part of LCLR Local Improvements resilience work.

- The resilience work approved for where Dry Creek affects the road network is now programmed to be completed next financial year following discussion and input for the Stormwater Engineer.

2.4.4 Roothing CRM data – July 2024 to February 2026

Roothing CRMs showing the fluctuations through the year (All 2,652 - Pavement 536 - Unsealed 312).



2.4.5 Corridor access data

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Corridor Access Requests	70	45	64	88	76	64	67	97	89	66	89	100	102	56	54	70
Traffic Management Plans	30	27	22	37	52	45	48	33	53	51	44	67	28	52	19	39

2.4.6 Forward works programme

Sealed roads work (resealing, rehabilitations and heavy maintenance) for the next three years and the initial unsealed roads maintenance metalling for 2025/26 are shown on the forward works programme on the Council website:

<https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/transport/road-and-footpath-programmemes>

2.4.7 Sealed road rehabilitation

Sites scheduled for the 2025/26 financial year are:

- Thompsons Track (RP32028-33158m)
- Thompsons Track (RP22250m-24040m)
- Seafield Road (RP9150-10250m)
- Fairfield Road (RP2275-3132m)
- Ealing Montalto Road (RP18150-18625m)
- Ealing Montalto Road (RP21575-23260m)
- Fords Road (RP9635-10250m)
- Longbeach Road (RP7700-8000m)
- Longbeach Road (RP12050-13320m)

Contract ROAD0446 includes both the Ealing Montalto Rd sections, both Longbeach Rd sections and Fords Rd. This contract was awarded to Grant Hood Contracting. Fords Rd and the Longbeach Rd sites have been sealed. Rework will be needed on the Fords Rd site because of the uneven surface and depth of basecourse. Construction is in progress on Ealing Montalto Rd sites.

Contract ROAD0424 includes both the Thompsons Track sections, Fairfield Rd, and Seafield Rd. This contract was awarded to Fulton Hogan. The Thompsons Track sites have been sealed, and work is in progress on Fairfield Rd and Seafield Rd.

2.4.8 Road closures for motorsport events

There have been no issues with damage to the pavement from previous motorsport events. Organisers have been requested to supply information on numbers of participants and attendees. No information received to report for this briefing.

2.4.9 Ashburton second urban bridge

The project is on the NZTA Waka Kotahi website <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/second-ashburton-bridge/>

2.4.10 Wills Street rail footbridge

Tenders have closed and a report will be considered by Council on 18 March 2026.

2.5 Contracts – Tenders

Current Contracts/Tender	Closing Date
REFU0496 Green waste and Sorting bunkers	17 March 2026

Awarded Contracts	Awarded to	Value	Estimate	Tenders received	TTM
ROAD0500 Harrison St Roundabout Rehabilitation	Fulton Hogan	\$179,565.75	\$182,500	two	\$25,992 (14%)

2.6 Lake Hood

The scientific trials began in the first week of February with products being applied to the mesocosm experiments in the containers, and the sonic devices in the three sites (two canals and water-ski area) turned on.

The trials are planned to continue to the end of April, and council will receive a presentation on the preliminary results in June/July.

The bathymetric survey data was completed by the University of Canterbury and the hydrodynamic modelling work has started.

This work will be undertaken by Lincoln University in conjunction with Earth Sciences New Zealand (previously NIWA).

The most recent Lake Hood water quality test result is 0.5 mm³/L (down from 1 mm³/L the week before).

This means that the lake remains in the Amber alert level for planktonic cyanobacteria in recreational freshwaters.

3. Compliance & Development

3.1 Building Services

3.1.1 Building consents / amendments

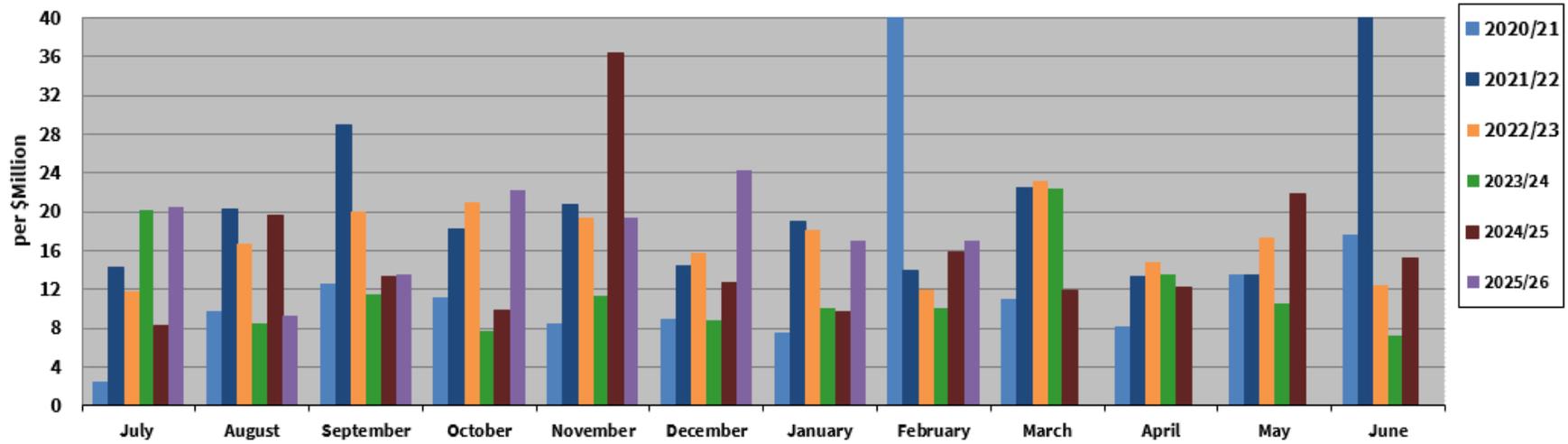
Month	Building Consents				% Processed within 20 Days	Average Processing Days	Inspections Carried Out (80% within 3 working days)	CCC Issued within 20 Days
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD				
July 2025	50 (62)	50 (62)	65 (50)	65 (50)	98.5%	15.4	387 (94%)	95.2%
August	55 (50)	105 (112)	40 (55)	105 (105)	100%	15.3	425 (96%)	100%
September	57 (41)	162 (153)	54 (48)	159 (153)	92.6%	17.3	406 (98%)	99%
October	69 (57)	231 (210)	66 (38)	225 (191)	86.4%	16.8	387 (98%)	100%
November	76 (40)	307 (250)	56 (51)	281 (242)	92.9%	15.5	386 (99%)	98.3%
December	58 (24)	365 (274)	60 (32)	341 (274)	81.7%	16.6	378 (99%)	100%
Jan 2026	43 (40)	408 (315)	54 (45)	395 (319)	81.5%	13.5	259 (98%)	99%
February	67 (49)	475 (364)	47 (36)	442 (355)	85.1%	16.7	356 (99%)	97%
March	(75)	(438)	(41)	(396)				
April	(50)	(488)	(53)	(449)				
May	(83)	(570)	(89)	(538)				
June 2026	(60)	(630)	(61)	(599)				

Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.

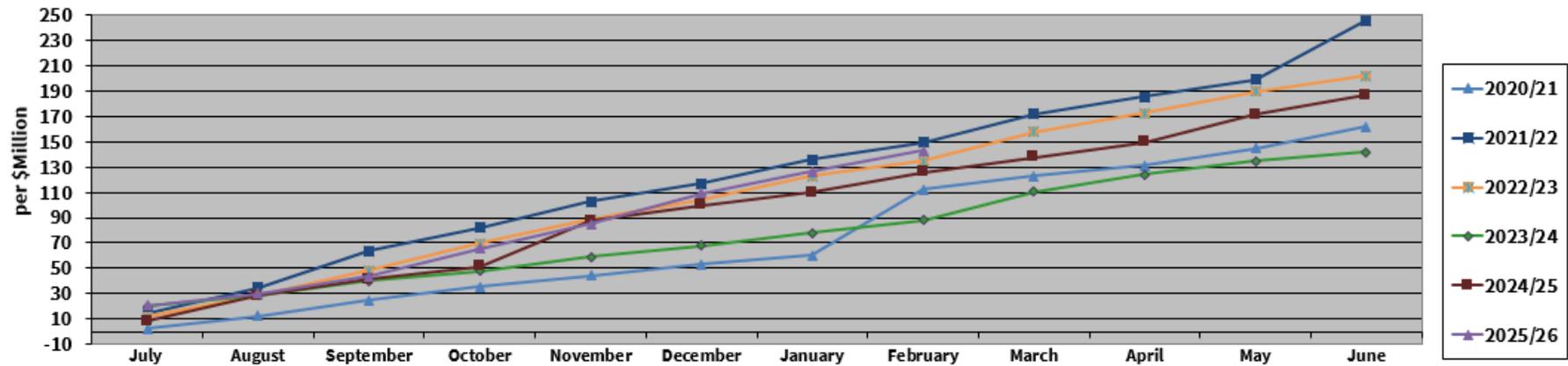
Month	BC Value of Work			
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD
July 2025	\$10,421,600 (\$13,258,955)	\$10,421,600 (\$13,258,955)	\$20,595,200 (\$8,284,275)	\$20,595,200 (\$8,284,275)
August	\$14,065,800 (\$35,950,457)	\$24,487,400 (\$49,199,412)	\$9,256,600 (\$19,649,100)	\$29,851,800 (\$27,933,375)
September	\$19,534,255 (\$12,819,396)	\$44,021,655 (\$62,018,808)	\$13,623,700 (\$13,237,786)	\$43,475,550 (\$41,171,161)
October	\$27,492,400 (\$17,967,800)	\$71,854,255 (\$79,986,608)	\$22,217,455 (\$9,879,454)	\$65,693,005 (\$51,050,615)
November	\$39,744,830 (\$10,425,350)	\$110,574,885 (\$90,411,958)	\$19,416,271 (\$36,348,600)	\$85,109,276 (\$87,399,215)
December	\$20,067,561 (\$12,247,950)	\$130,982,646 (\$102,659,908)	\$24,358,571 (\$12,725,573)	\$108,467,847 (\$100,124,788)
January 2026	\$9,859,900 (\$12,465,350)	\$140,842,546 (\$116,125,258)	\$16,952,299 (\$9,752,450)	\$125,420,146 (\$109,877,238)
February	\$21,020,500 (\$17,146,000)	\$161,863,046 (\$133,271,258)	\$17,047,000 (\$15,809,850)	\$142,467,146 (\$125,687,088)
March	(\$17,197,917)	(\$149,671,175)	(\$11,837,300)	(\$137,524,388)
April	(\$11,364,300)	(\$161,435,475)	(\$12,193,217)	(\$149,717,605)
May	(\$20,492,831)	(\$181,593,306)	(\$21,851,400)	(\$171,569,005)
June 2026	(\$14,231,250)	(\$195,919,371)	(\$15,218,696)	(\$186,737,701)
Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.				

Month	Building Amendment				% Processed within 20 Days
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD	
July 2025	11 (13)	11 (13)	10 (8)	10 (8)	100%
August	19 (10)	30 (23)	12 (9)	22 (17)	92%
September	17 (9)	47 (32)	16 (4)	38 (21)	100%
October	6 (14)	53 (46)	8 (15)	46 (36)	100%
November	7 (10)	60 (56)	9 (8)	55 (44)	100%
December 25	8 (2)	68 (58)	8 (5)	63 (49)	88%
January 26	6 (9)	74 (67)	4 (10)	67 (59)	100%
February	17 (12)	91 (79)	13 (11)	80 (70)	100%
March	14 (24)	93 (247)	7 (26)	77 (226)	100%
April	8 (22)	101 (269)	12 (18)	89 (244)	100%
May	9 (22)	110 (291)	8 (18)	97 (262)	100%
June 2026	14 (10)	124 (301)	13 (7)	110 (269)	100%
Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.					

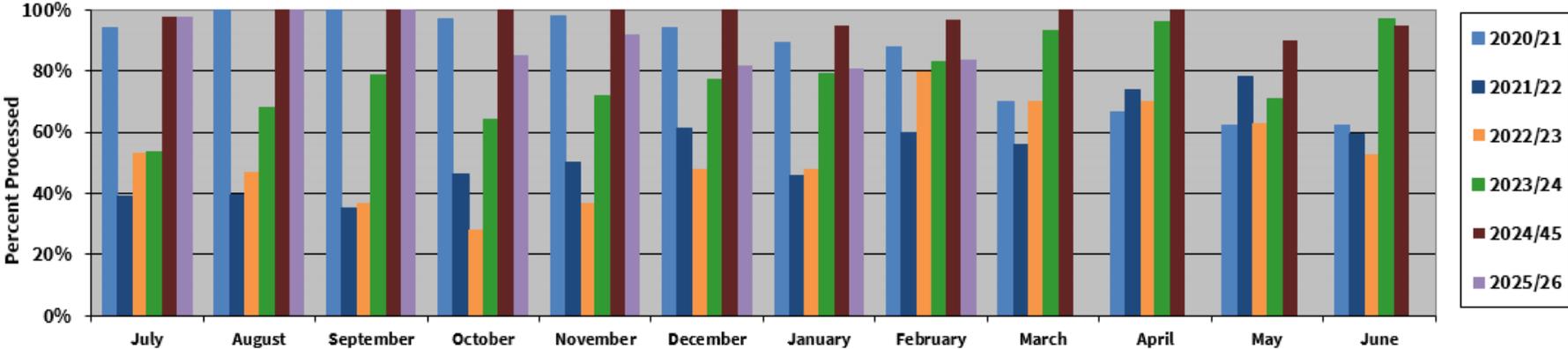
Building Consent Values By Month



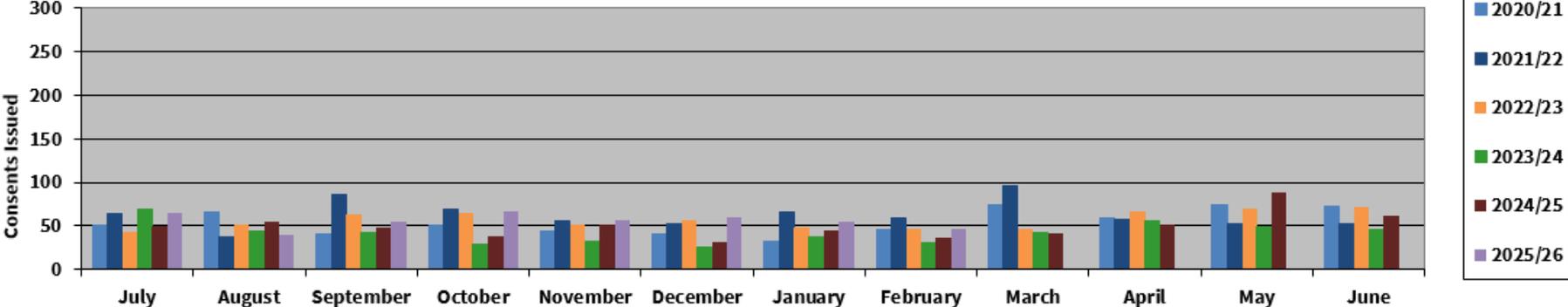
Building Consent Values Accumulating



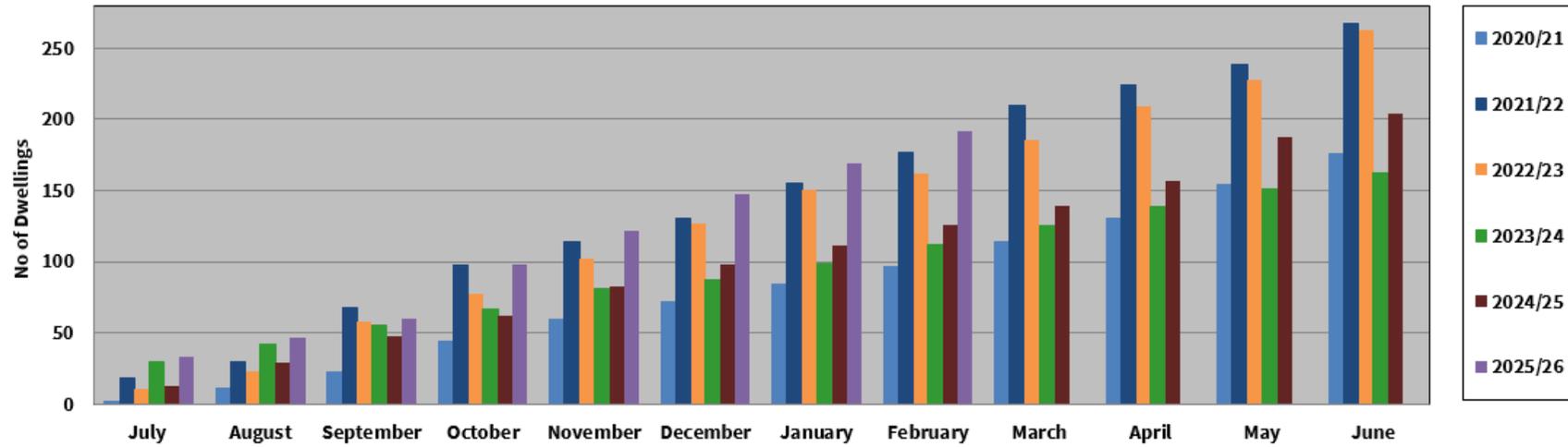
Building Consents Processed Within 20 Day Statutory Time Frame



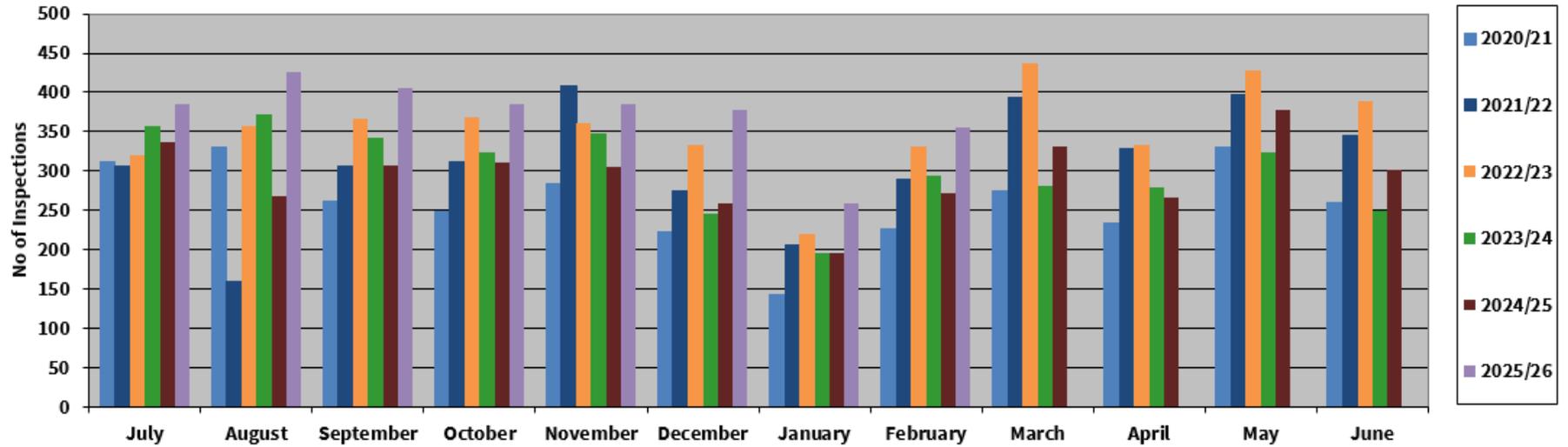
Number of Consents Issued By Month



Number of Dwelling Consents Accumulating



Number of Inspections Completed



3.1.2 Consent volumes

High volumes of consents trend continue with 442 this year versus 355 last year at the end of the reporting period (February). The main difference comparing the numbers is that we have issued 192 new house consents compared to 126 same period last year, so the trend of high housing numbers continues. Another interesting fact is that we have also issued ten dairy sheds this financial year compared to two for the last three financial years. As previously reported, our compliance levels have dropped due to the high number of new houses and other consents that were received in the reporting period. Until this backlog is cleared we will have a flow on effect into the coming months (we have signed on another contracting firm and have doubled the amount of consents we send out for them to process).

3.1.3 Legislative change.

We are preparing for the proposed changes in legislation regarding liability changes and self-certification but at this early stage while there will be changes it appears there will also be other responsibilities arising in terms of administration and monitoring (more data collection for MBIE). The granny flat legislation came into effect on 15 January 2026. While it makes building accessory dwellings easier in certain situations, the allowance won't be universal and people will have to follow certain steps through their design and build process to comply as Council will have less oversight. So far we have issued two PIMs in relation to granny flats, while nation-wide there have been 57 PIMs issued. We understand anecdotally that the majority of local builders/designers do not want to be involved in the process due to the liabilities placed on them.

The [ADC Website](#) provides information for the public on the granny flat legislation including links to central government guidance.

3.2 Civil Defence Emergency Management

3.2.1 January 2026

- The EMO returned to work on 5 January, with much of the first week spent preparing for the submission on the EM Bill (No.2). This involved reading a number of documents, comparing the Bill to the CDEM Act 2002 and working out what the changes will mean in terms of delivery of CDEM. On 13 January the EMO attended an online workshop with CDEM stakeholders from across Canterbury, hosted by Canterbury CDEM Group to prepare a Group submission to the draft bill.
- Other activities undertaken included a review of the Ashburton District CDEM Standard Operating procedures (SOP's). This annual review ensures that the SOP's are current to ensure contact details, phone tree's, and personnel to man the Operations Centre are current.
- With the pending wind and heat warnings the EMO took the opportunity to prepare a Heat and Wind Response Plan for the district. This plan outlines tactics, techniques and procedures that CDEM and ADC can use to prepare for and respond to any wind warnings or heat alerts issued by MetService.
- The EMO attended the Canterbury CDEM Group monthly multi agency briefing and monthly Recovery online meeting, which allows CDEM, Emergency Services, and Lifelines Utilities partners a chance to provide updates on what is happening within the sector in our region. The EMO also made contact with our local Fire Brigade chiefs to catch up for the New Year and to maintain the excellent relationships we have with one of our key local partners.
- The EMO went on leave offshore at the end of January. This provided an opportunity to test our duty arrangements with another member of staff providing duty cover for the EMO during his absence.

3.2.2 February 2026

- The EMO returned to work from overseas leave on 4 February and attended meetings with Connect M2M regarding the installation of Starlinks on halls around the district. This work will commence in the final week on February and be complete the second week of March. This will increase our resilience and back up communication ability in a number of halls within the district. The first Starlink to be installed was at the Hakatere Marae.
- The EMO finalized a plan with Canterbury Communications to effect repairs to the analogue radio repeater on Mt Hutt. This work will be completed by the end of February. At the same time the EMO requested a quote from them to provide dual band radios into a number of fire stations within the district to increase our resilience in terms of back up communications with our emergency services partners.
- The EMO has obtained quotes to have generator plugs installed onto a number of halls within the district and is working through options for funding this work which will add resilience to these halls as potential Welfare Hubs during emergencies.
- The EMO plus several officers from Council attended a district Flood Controllers field trip with ECan Flood Control and River engineering staff. This trip was hosted by ECan and allowed the chance for Council staff involved in emergency management to visit know "hotspots" on our river system and see the risk reduction work that ECan have undertaken or have planned for our rivers. It was also a fantastic opportunity to strengthen the excellent relationships we have with the Regional Council rivers staff.

- The EMO met with staff from the Raukapuka (Geraldine) office of Department of Conservation. This was another chance to gain an understanding of DOC's operations within the region and our district and to strengthen our relationship. DOC staff will attend the Coordinated Incident Management System training here in Ashburton in early May as a result of this meeting and we have undertaken to work closely together on CDEM planning activities going forward.
- The EMO provided a presentation on the risks we face in Ashburton District to the Ashburton Strollers club and provided a tour of the EOC for this group. This was well received.
- The EMO met with three new volunteers who have decided to join our volunteer group and met with a transfer from Christchurch who has been volunteering in CDEM for some time and will enhance the capability of our volunteers. The monthly training for our Volunteer group was also conducted on the third Tuesday of the month. The monthly stand-up and training for our Emergency Operations Centre staff occurred late in the month and focused on training on our incident management software D4H.
- The EMO and Senior Comms Advisor met with an ECan scientist regarding the proposed changes to the Tsunami Zones for the Ashburton District. It has been decided by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) that New Zealand will transition from the current three zone representation (Red, Orange, Yellow) to one blue tsunami zone which must be complete by the end of 2031. What this means for Ashburton District is that our current two zones (Red and Orange) will combine into one zone and Canterbury CDEM Group have decided that this transition will occur no later than November this year.
- The EMO hosted staff from across the region in Ashburton to continue work on the Canterbury Impact Assessment project. This work based around ArcGIS and Survey 123 products allows for data gathered by field operations to be displayed instantly in a common graphics format in the Emergency Operations Centre and will be a huge leap forward in providing up to date situational awareness to CDEM staff. This project work will continue for the remainder of this year.
- The EMO attended a meeting of the Canterbury Training Advisory Group. This project team are working to standardize training across the CDEM Group, including implementing a training pathway for council staff who volunteer in Civil Defence. Once again this project work, which has been running for 18 months, will continue throughout 2026.
- The EMO and one of our Recovery Managers attended a Social Recovery hui hosted by South Canterbury CDEM in Timaru. This meeting provided important information and a chance to workshop what this Recovery Environments Sector Group work during Recovery from a natural disaster would encompass.
- The EMO attended the first of the Emergency Management Forums for 2026, hosted by Christchurch City EM at their Kilronan Place Response Base in Wigram. This two day forum allows EM staff from across the region to come together and conduct workshops, training and receive presentations on topics pertinent to the sector.
- On the final day of the month the EMO attended a Hauora Day at the Hakatere Marae. This wellbeing focused activity brings together organisations to provide health, wellbeing and emergency services information to community members. There are two of these days held annually and the EMO tries to attend both to provide awareness and readiness information to the attendee's.

3.3 Alcohol Licensing

Month	On/OFF/Club new applications	On/Off/Club renewal application	Special Licence applications	Managers Certificates (new and renewal)	Temporary Authority
July 2025	0	1	15	11	2
August	3	1	6	23	0
September	1	1	11	20	1
October	1	5	9	17	4
November	1	4	4	16	0
December 2025	2	5	8	14	0
January 2026	0	0	2	1	0
February	1	1	3	7	4
March					
April					
May					
June 2026					

3.3.1 **Withdrawn or Opposed applications:** Nil

3.3.2 **Licence Applications Processed:** One **new** application for an **ON licence** premises and one **renewal** application for an **ON licence** premises

3.4 Animal Control

The following is a breakdown of animal control activities for the reporting period:

Month	Dogs currently registered	Known un-registered dogs	% of dogs registered	Dogs Impounded	Dogs Euthanized	Dogs rehomed	Infringement
July 2025	5310	1409	79.00%	2	0	0	1
August	6165	409	93.7%	3	0	1	1
September	6243	338	94.8%	8	0	0	50
October	6314	237	96.3%	7	0	2	70
November	6376	164	97.5%	9	0	0	74
Dec 2025	6387	133	98%	2	1	0	10
Jan 2026	6411	127	98%	4	0	1	9
February	6416	114	98.2%	3	0	0	1
March							
April							
May							
June 2026							

The following is a breakdown of total **number of complaints received** (CRMs)

Month	Attack	Fouling	Barking	Wandering /Lost	Welfare	Rushing	Other*	Reports of wandering stock
July 2025	3	1	18	27	0	5	8	2
August	6	0	16	32	1	1	6	0
September	4	1	27	40	0	3	1	1
October	4	1	6	33	0	1	15	7
November	7	0	12	44	0	1	9	1
December	9	0	16	42	0	1	13	0
Jan 2026	4	0	16	26	0	3	5	4
February	1	0	26	33	1	3	11	1
March								
April								
May								
June 2026								

* Covers complaints without a legislative basis, such as missing or damaged signage.

3.5 Food Safety

3.5.1 Breakdown of food licensing activities for the reporting period

Month	Food Premises Audited	Mobile shops inspected
July 2025	14	0
August	17	0
September	2	0
October	15	0
November	11	8
December 2025	18	10
Jan 2026	12	0
February	4	0
March		
April		
May		
June 2026		

3.6 Planning

Resource Consents	January 2025	January 2026
No. of resource consent applications decided ₁	10	10
No. of resource consents decided within statutory timeframe	10	10
Resource consent KPI Compliance (accumulating)	99%	100%
Notified/ Limited notified applications decided	0	0
Other:		
No. of 223 Certificates processed	2	3
No. of 224 Certificates processed	5	1
No. of building consents reviewed against District Plan ₂	12	10

Land information memoranda	January 2025	January 2026
LIMs Produced	70	73
LIMs Produced within 10 working days	70	73
LIMS (accumulating)	554	672

Resource Consents	February 2025	February 2026
No. of resource consent applications decided ₁	14	18
No. of resource consents decided within statutory timeframe	14	18
Resource consent KPI Compliance (accumulating)	99%	100%
Notified/ Limited notified applications decided	0	1
Other:		
No. of 223 Certificates processed	4	6
No. of 224 Certificates processed	4	7
No. of building consents reviewed against District Plan ₂	15	32

Land information memoranda	February 2025	February 2026
LIMs Produced	75	95
LIMs Produced within 10 working days	75	95
LIMS (accumulating)	476	767

3.6.1 Notified Consent Decided

In February the decision for Midland Seeds proposed seed and plant research facility on Racecourse Road was granted. This application followed a public notification pathway and a hearing was held where Hearings Commissioner Andrew Willis heard submissions and made a decision on the application.

3.6.3 Reform work underway

The Planning team has begun work preparing for the implementation of the replacement Resource Management legislation. This has involved work at the Canterbury Planning Manager Group undertaking stock takes to identify areas of priority, meeting with the South Canterbury councils to discuss ways to work collaboratively and officers working at understanding the implementation and transition phases of the reforms.

3.7 Economic Development

3.7.1 Events

Events Programme 2025/26

Council events in the reporting period:

- **ANZ Business of the Year Awards:** Held on Friday 20 February, the ANZ Business of the Year Awards took place at the Ashburton Aviation Museum, celebrating excellence across a range of Mid Canterbury businesses. The event attracted a strong turnout, with an increased attendance compared to the 2024 event. The 2026 award winners can be found [here](#), with the Supreme Award presented to Greg Donaldson Contracting. Overall, the evening was well-received and continues to be a key event for recognising, supporting, and showcasing local businesses.

Upcoming Council Events:

- **Citizenship Ceremony:** The first Citizenship Ceremony of 2026 was scheduled to be held on Thursday 5 March. A total of 52 people representing 14 different countries will be receiving their Citizenship at the ceremony. The new Citizens come from American Samoa, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, India, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Samoa, South Africa, Tonga, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.
- **EA Networks Kids TryChallenge:** Scheduled to be held on Sunday 15 March 2026 at the EA Networks Centre. The triathlon/duathlon event is for children aged 5-12 years in the Mid Canterbury region.
- **[Live on the Lawn:](#)** Scheduled for Saturday, 28 March from 11am to 4pm in the Ashburton Domain. The event will feature live performances from local talent across various genres, entertainment, and a variety of food vendors.
- **ANZAC Services:** Planning is underway for the three services on Saturday the 25 April.
- **Glow in the Park:** Scheduled for Friday 29 May to Sunday 31 May in the Ashburton Domain. Planning is underway, including securing sponsors and initiating marketing activities.

Community events and activities within the reporting period (January to February)

- Run and Walk Ashburton 5km Run/Walk Series, 20 January to 24 February
- Waitangi Day Market, 6 February

- Summer Challenge, 6 February
- Annual Rakaia River Fishing Competition, 26 February – 1 March
- Upper Downs Shingle Sprint, 28 February

Applications received for upcoming Community events and activities:

At the time of writing staff were working on 8 upcoming events outside the reporting period:

- Ashburton River Trail Marathon, 6 – 7 March
- Multi-Cultural Bite: Autumn Food Festival, 7 March
- Mid Canterbury Dog Training Club Obedience and Rally, 13 March
- Wakanui Bent Sprint, 15 March
- New Brighton Power Boat Club Inc Regatta, 21 March
- Weber Bros Circus, 24 April
- Ashburton Street Sprint 2026, 8 May
- Ashburton College Ball, 26 June

3.7.2 Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Category	Criteria	MSD Main Benefit Clients (Target 30)	Non-MSD Clients - NEET or at risk (Target 5)
• Permanent Full-Time Employment	30+ hours per week	29	13
• Permanent Part-Time Employment (Jobseeker Support)	>=15 hours per week	1	
• Permanent Part-Time Employment (Sole Parent Support)	>=20 hours per week	0	
TOTAL		30/30	13/5

Reporting on outcomes may be updated as processing times between agencies (MSD and MTFJ) continue to improve.

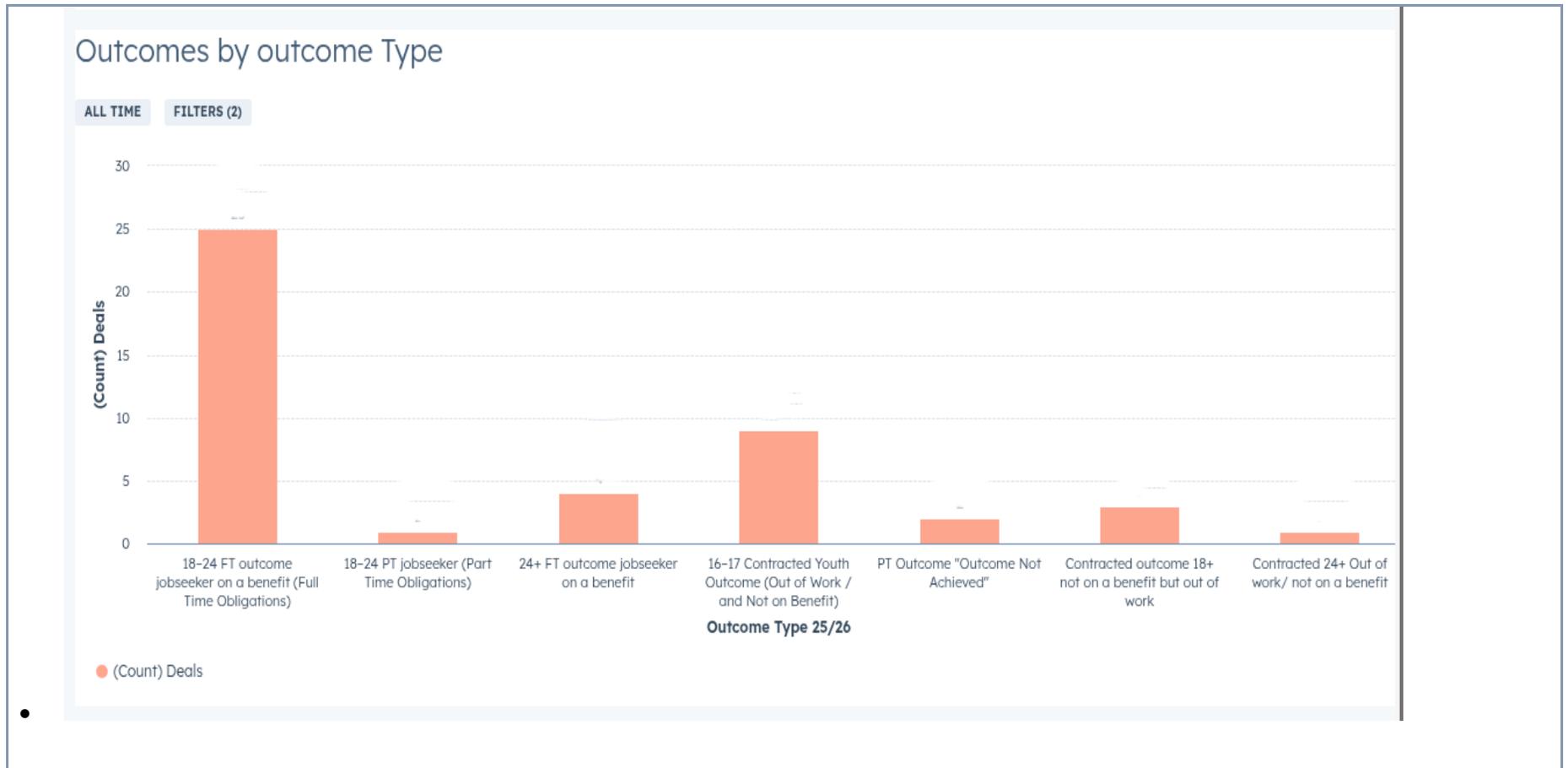
This month The Kings Trust came to Ashburton and had a 2-day workshop for 18–30-year-old budding entrepreneurs. The event had 22 people register. Three local entrepreneurs came to speak on the second day which was a highlight. The Kings Trust are planning to be back for another 2 day workshop before the end of the year.

Placements

- There were another 5 clients with interviews underway at the end of the period
- Several local businesses are offering unpaid work experience placements that are successfully leading participants into paid employment.

Driver Licensing

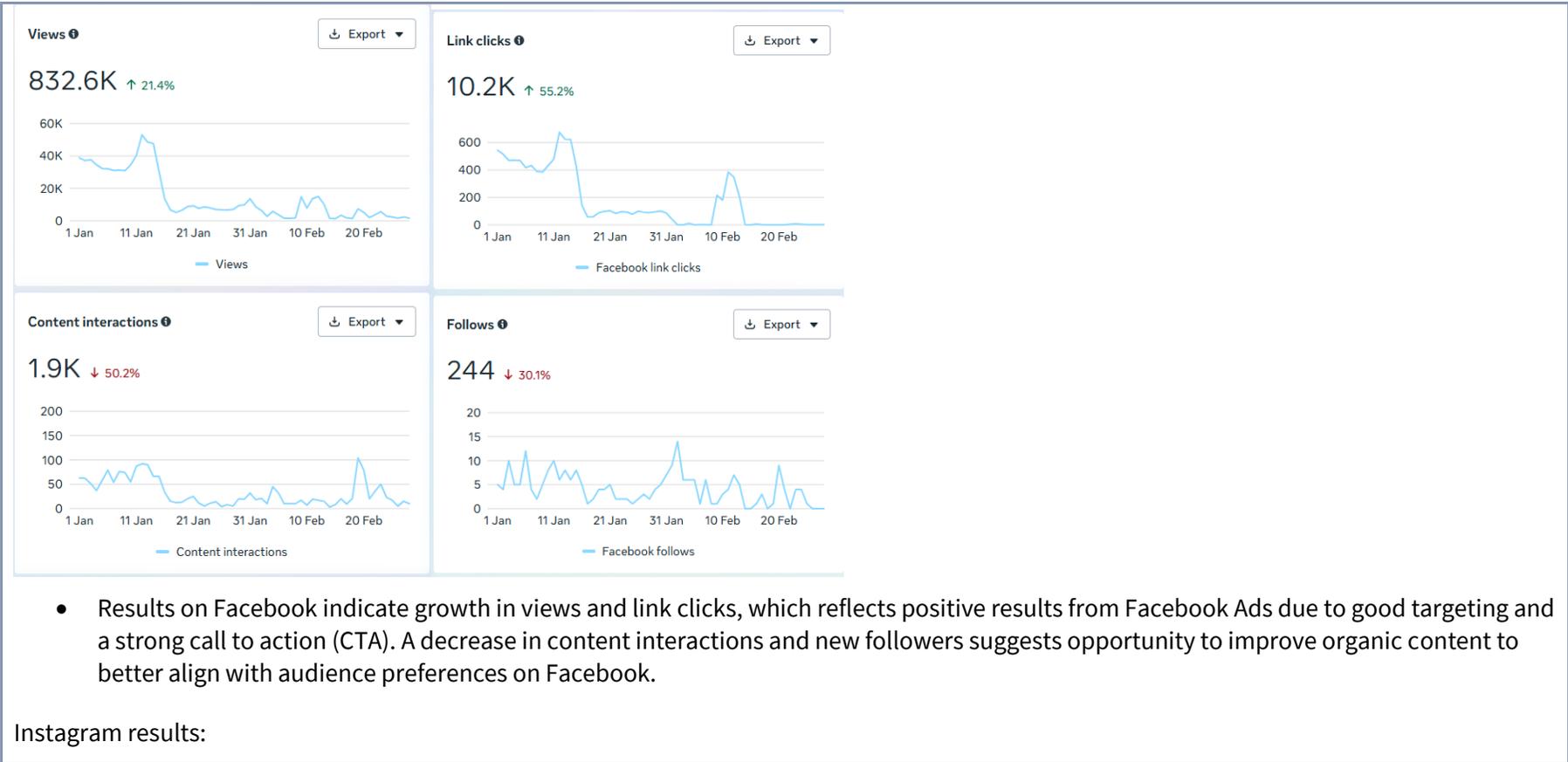
- Seven people have obtained licenses in this period and multiple others have received lessons to improve their skills for additional licensing applications.
- Training has taken place for Forklift endorsements, a Wheels Track and Rollers (WTR) course, and one Class 2 license



3.7.3 District Promotion

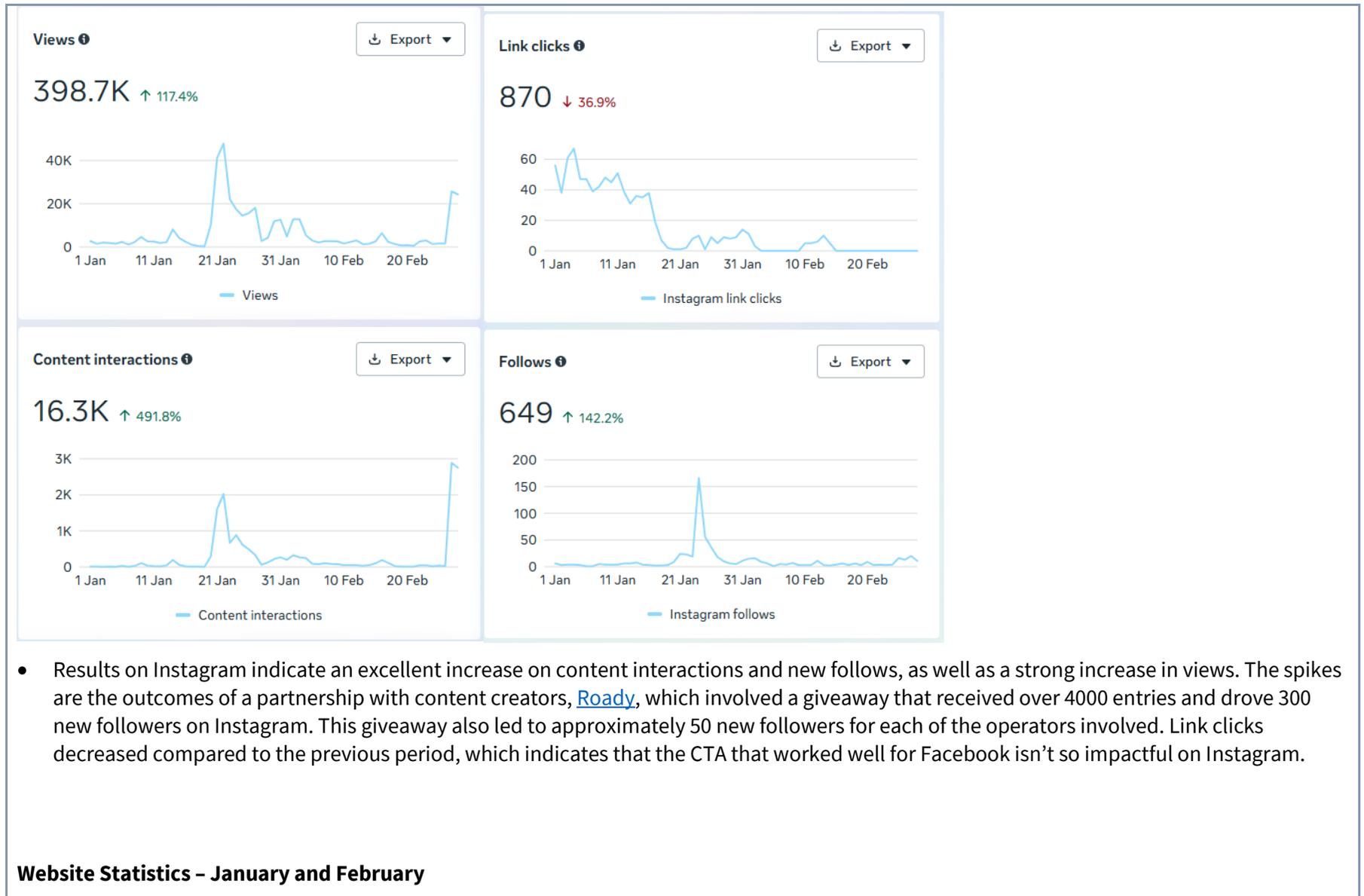
District Promotion – January and February

Facebook results:



- Results on Facebook indicate growth in views and link clicks, which reflects positive results from Facebook Ads due to good targeting and a strong call to action (CTA). A decrease in content interactions and new followers suggests opportunity to improve organic content to better align with audience preferences on Facebook.

Instagram results:



- Results on Instagram indicate an excellent increase on content interactions and new follows, as well as a strong increase in views. The spikes are the outcomes of a partnership with content creators, [Roady](#), which involved a giveaway that received over 4000 entries and drove 300 new followers on Instagram. This giveaway also led to approximately 50 new followers for each of the operators involved. Link clicks decreased compared to the previous period, which indicates that the CTA that worked well for Facebook isn't so impactful on Instagram.



Note: the above graph focuses on Views. Google Analytics has updated to include a benchmark reflecting the median results for peers within Travel Guides & Travelogues. Despite only having paid advertising on specific dates within the period, Experience Mid Canterbury results are above the industry average. The *Nowhere, Worth Going* campaign had a strong impact on peak times, followed by Facebook/Instagram ads that were live in late January and mid-February (as shown by spikes in graph) leading to additional increases in views.

The most popular page of the site during this period was the campaign page, “Nowhere, Worth Going” which received 16, 298 views.

General

- Highlights include:
 - Brand campaign *Nowhere, Worth Going* continued on airport carousels in Christchurch and Auckland, on roadside billboards in Christchurch and along SH1 in Ashburton and Timaru, and ads on Meta platforms. The website received 60k views during the campaign time (15 December – 18 January), which was a 124% increase compared to the same time period a year prior.
 - Collaboration with Rody rolled out across Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. View the [full summary here>](#)

- Owner of Chertsey Café reported hiring two new casual employees due to increase in visitors following Experience Mid Canterbury reel promoting the business.
- Earned media:
 - [Mike Yardley: Outdoorsy treats in Mid-Canterbury](#)
 - [Saturday Morning with Jack: Mike Yardley: The great outdoors in heartland Mid-Canterbury](#)
 - [This South Island town is the reset you didn't know you needed](#)

Operator Engagement

- Officer engaged with at least 74 operators via email, phone call and in person interactions.
- Delivered two Operators Update email newsletters. The email in January had an open rate of 61% out of 189 deliveries, and the email in February had an open rate of 63% out of 199 deliveries.
- Officer hosted a networking event for operators at Mount Hutt Memorial Hall, which had approximately 25 attendees and ChristchurchNZ representatives attended to share about their role as our Regional Tourism Organisation, and an introduction to tourism trade.

Additional Notes

Officer engaged Rascal Media to conduct research via their partnership with Pure Profile, and report on Brand Perception of the Ashburton District to get a baseline read of key brand metrics to establish benchmarks.

Survey details:

- 327 sample made up of Males (42%) and Females (58%) aged 20-70 in key regions:
 - Auckland (36%)
 - Canterbury excluding Ashburton (31%)
 - Otago (33%)
- With an interest in travelling to the South Island (either have done previously or open to in the future).
- Survey in market 21 November – 1 December 2025 (before *Nowhere, Worth Going* was in market)

Summary inserted below, [full report available here](#)>

Summary

With 70% awareness and only 18% consideration, Ashburton District has a clear opportunity to grow visitation by increasing awareness of what there is to see and do, and by strengthening reasons to stay longer.

Ashburton is most strongly perceived as a convenient, affordable and easy-to-visit destination, with very high agreement that it is:

- Easy to get to
- Good value
- Well suited to day trips and short visits

This reinforces Ashburton's current perceptions as a practical, low-stress regional destination, particularly for Canterbury-based visitors.

The research validates Ashburton's key strengths as:

- Family-friendly and welcoming
- Relaxed and laid-back
- Scenic in parts, especially lakes, gardens and surrounding countryside

Customer feedback consistently describes Ashburton as:

- Friendly and community-focused
- A place to slow down, unwind and spend time with family and friends
- Easy and pleasant, rather than busy or crowded

However, Ashburton is less strongly associated with aspirational or stay-over experiences, with lower agreement that it offers:

- World-class experiences
- Romantic getaways
- Strong accommodation and food & beverage options

Overall, the opportunity is to build on Ashburton's strong functional foundations and shift perceptions from "a convenient stop or day trip" to "a place worth staying a night or two", by better showcasing experiences, accommodation and reasons to visit beyond passing through.



3.7.4 Economic Development General

Reporting

- From the 3 providers that submitted proposals for the CBD Feasibility Study, First Retail Group (FRG) was appointed. Two of the provider’s team were in Ashburton in early March to meet with key stakeholders and begin the work for the study. Appointments included; 3 media channels/outlets interviews, 2 x stakeholder workshops and meetings with approximately 20 local business owners, developers, investors, landlords and tenants within the CBD. The study will be completed by mid-June at the latest. A survey was developed and sent to businesses within the CBD for action. The survey ran from late December until 25 February. 24 responses were received and have been shared with FRG along with other economic and demographic information on the district. The main objectives identified in the scope are:
 - Assess the current performance role and function of the CBD,
 - Identify key challenges and opportunities impacting visitation, investment and business confidence,
 - Identify practical, evidence-based strategies to reinvigorate the CBD as a place to shop, socialise and spend time,
 - Focus on initiatives that can be delivered with limited public funding and/or through partnerships
 - Build business and stakeholder buy-in and ownership of outcomes,
 - Provide parties with a clear, prioritised and realistic pathway for CBD success.
- A subscription with Grant Guru was signed and began 1 January 2025. Training was provided to several staff across the Council and the site; [Mid Canterbury Fund Finder](#) was launched in early March. Grant Guru acts as a comprehensive search engine for government (national, regional, local) and private grants, helping businesses, community groups, and individuals find and apply for funding by offering alerts, saving favourites, and providing tips.
- Learning sessions that will be free to attend and open to the public as part of the Council’s Learning Network programme are continuing. The sessions will be held at Te Whare Whakatere. All presenters will be provided and/or coordinated by Ashburton District Council. Remaining topics this financial year are:

Digital Marketing 101 for Businesses, How to Run an Event with Council, and Entering or Re-Entering the Workforce.

3.7.5 Pedestrian Counters

Reporting

Pedestrian Counter – 14 Month Display of Pedestrians



The pedestrian counters now have over 12 months of data which will provide useful for comparisons, trends and insights into the CBD patronage and foot traffic. A full 12 months has helped to establish a solid baseline, enabling meaningful year-on-year comparisons. This will give a more complete picture of the CBD’s overall health and provide elected members and staff with greater confidence when planning future projects to support CBD activity.

The number of pedestrian movements over the past 14 months is just over 1 million people with an increase in people over summer months, during warmer weather and a slight (1%) increase through December 2025 compared with December 2024)

Graphs for January



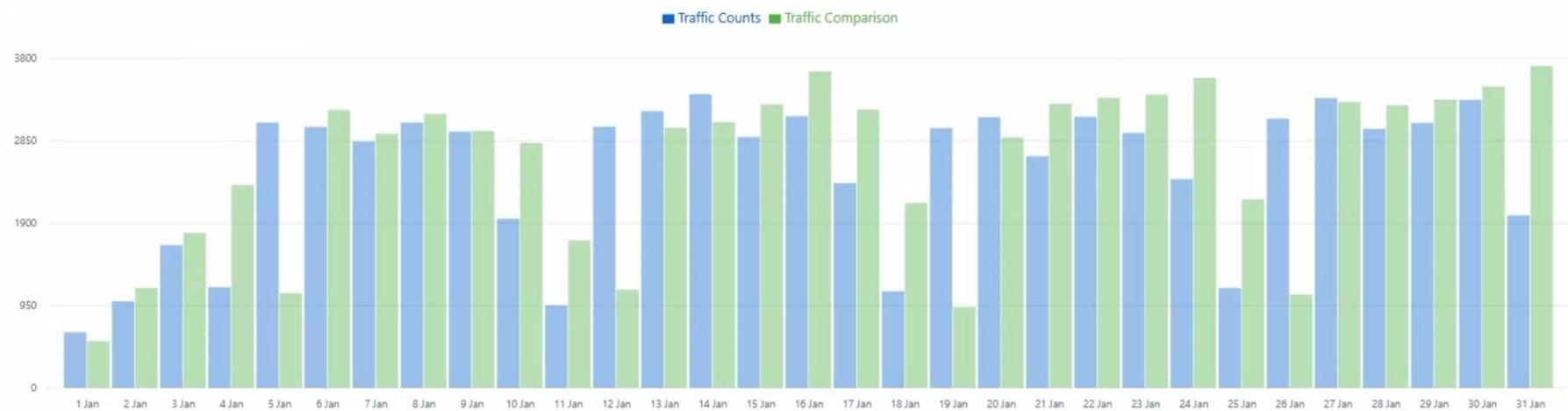
- This graph shows traffic count of pedestrians through January by day of the week with associated rainfall and temperature.
- 120mm rain recorded in January 2026 vs 92mm in January 2025.
- The average temperature in January 2026 was 15 degrees C, compared with 14 degrees C in 2025.



Displaying 1 months from Thu, 1 Jan 2026 to Sat, 31 Jan 2026 in day buckets for all sites and all cameras and all counters
 Comparing Wed, 1 Jan 2025 to Fri, 31 Jan 2025

Chart Table Map Camera Details Counter Details

Expand view



The graph above shows the year-on-year comparison of pedestrians for the month of January

- Green bars above indicate data from January 2025, blue bars are for 2026.
- There is a 4% reduction in foot traffic year on year reflected in the count above.

Graphs for February



Displaying 1 months from Sun, 1 Feb 2026 to Sat, 28 Feb 2026 in day buckets for all sites and all cameras and all counters



- This graph shows traffic count of pedestrians through February 2026 by day of the week with associated rainfall and temperature.
- 110mm rain was recorded in February 2026 vs 32mm rain in February 2025.
- The average temperature in February 2026 was 15 degrees C, compared with 17 degrees C in 2025.



The graph above shows the year-on-year comparison of pedestrians for the month of February

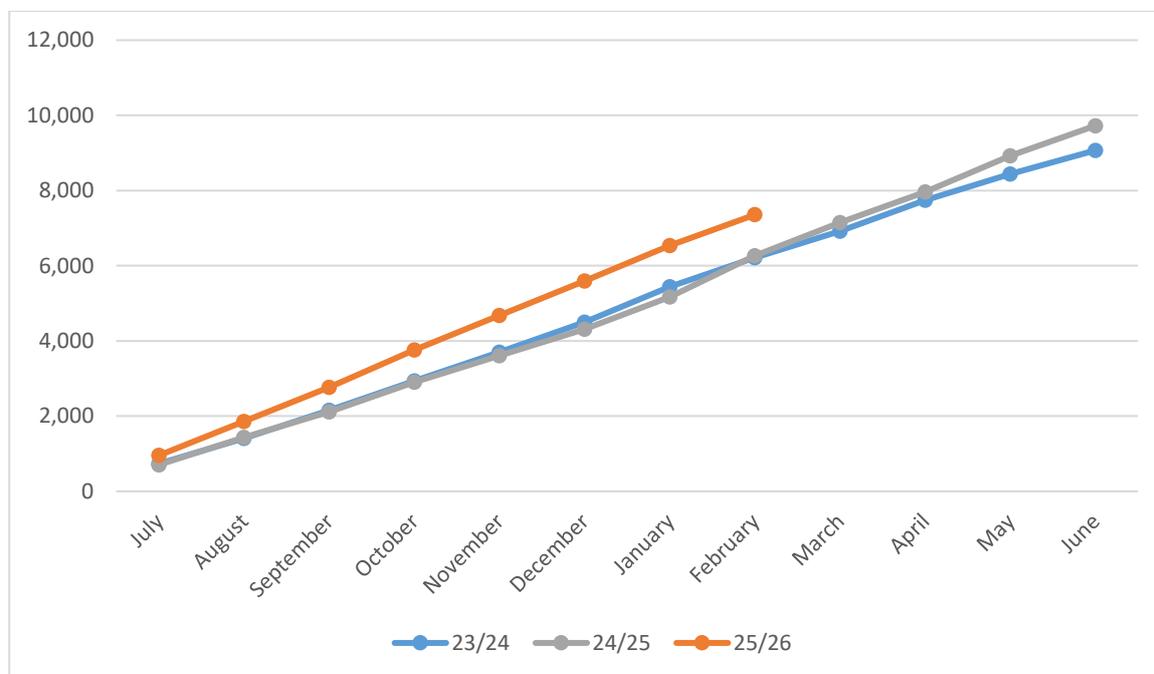
- Green bars above indicate data from 2025, blue bars are for 2026.
- Data shows a reduction in foot traffic year-on-year in February by 8%.

4. People & Facilities

4.1 Council Services

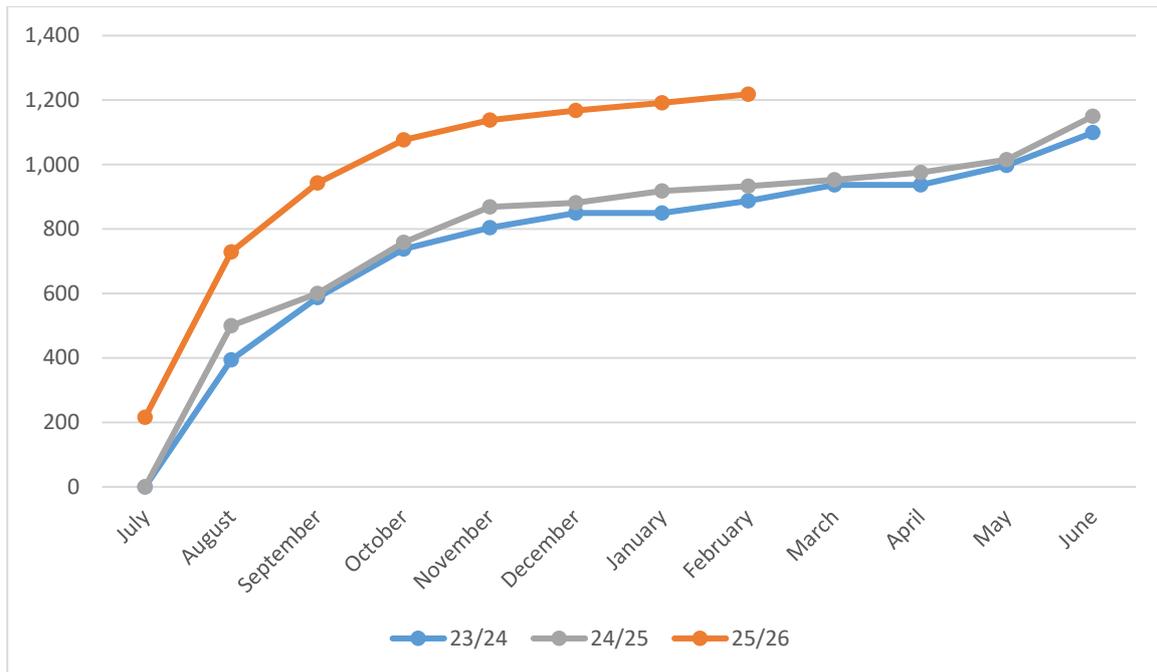
4.1.1 Key Performance Measures

a) Customer Requests Raised



25/26	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Kerbside	340	332	285	343	268	276	298	240				
Roading	161	173	154	167	160	191	157	165				
Water	120	147	165	182	174	192	199	134				
Animal	65	65	83	68	72	81	59	75				
Info Req	127	67	92	61	72	33	73	91				
Noise	34	33	26	27	47	53	52	32				
Property	14	25	20	29	19	18	30	10				
Other	95	63	84	112	108	69	77	74				
Total CRMs	956	905	909	989	920	913	871	821				

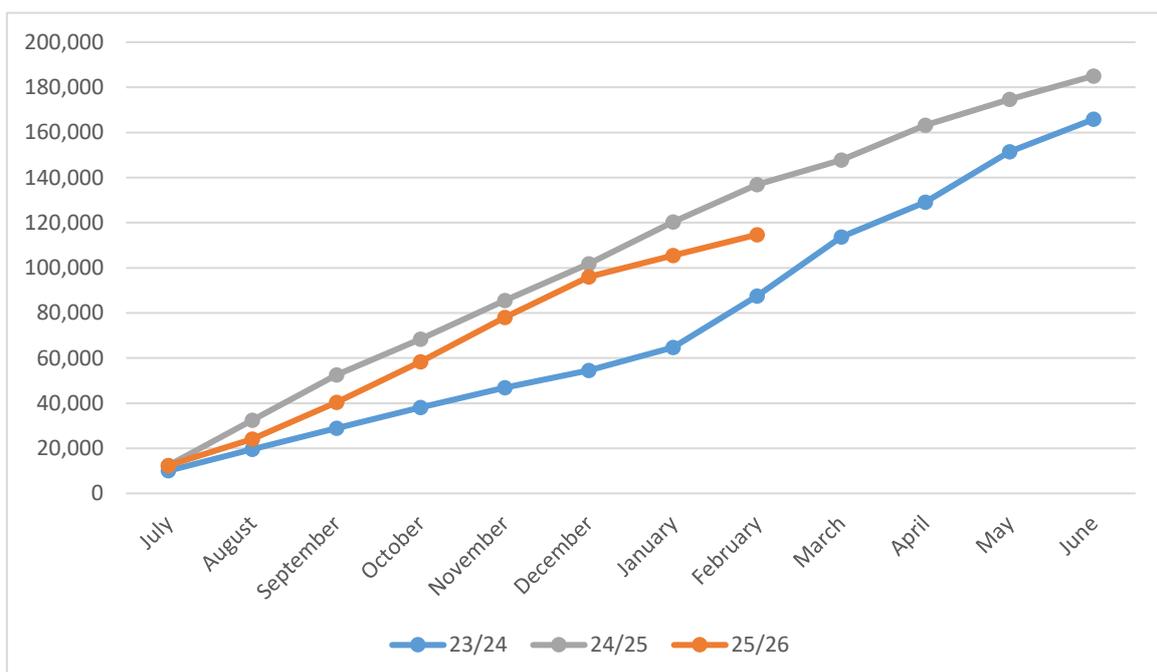
b) Rates Rebates



4.2 Library

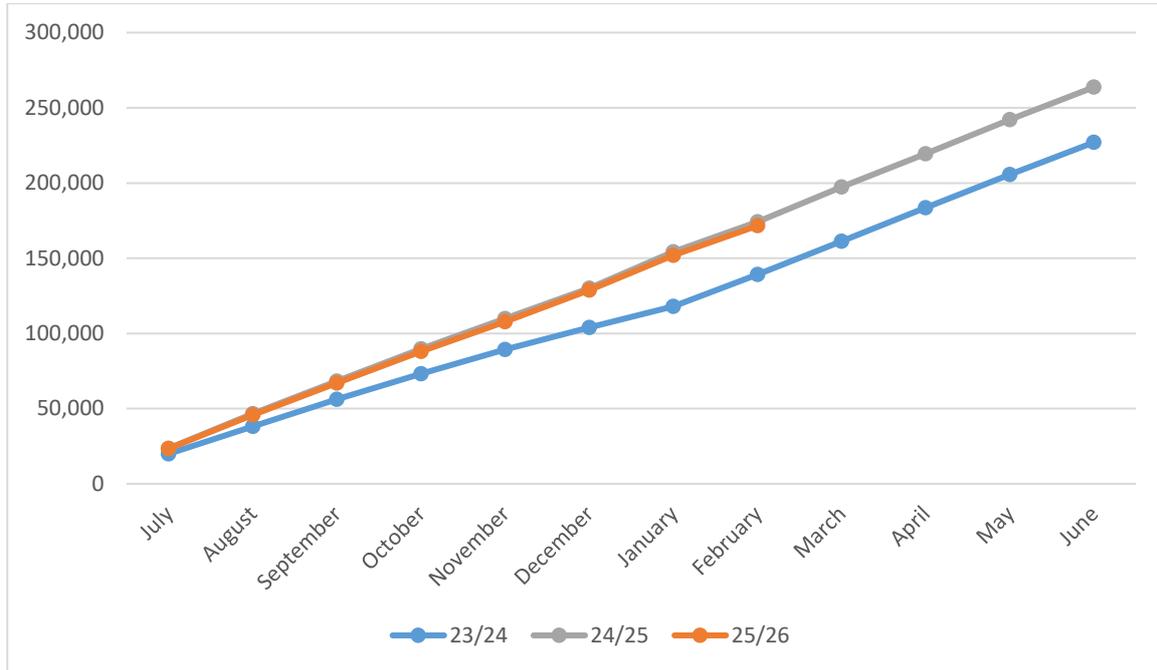
4.2.1 Key Performance Measures

a) Te Whare Whakare Visitation*

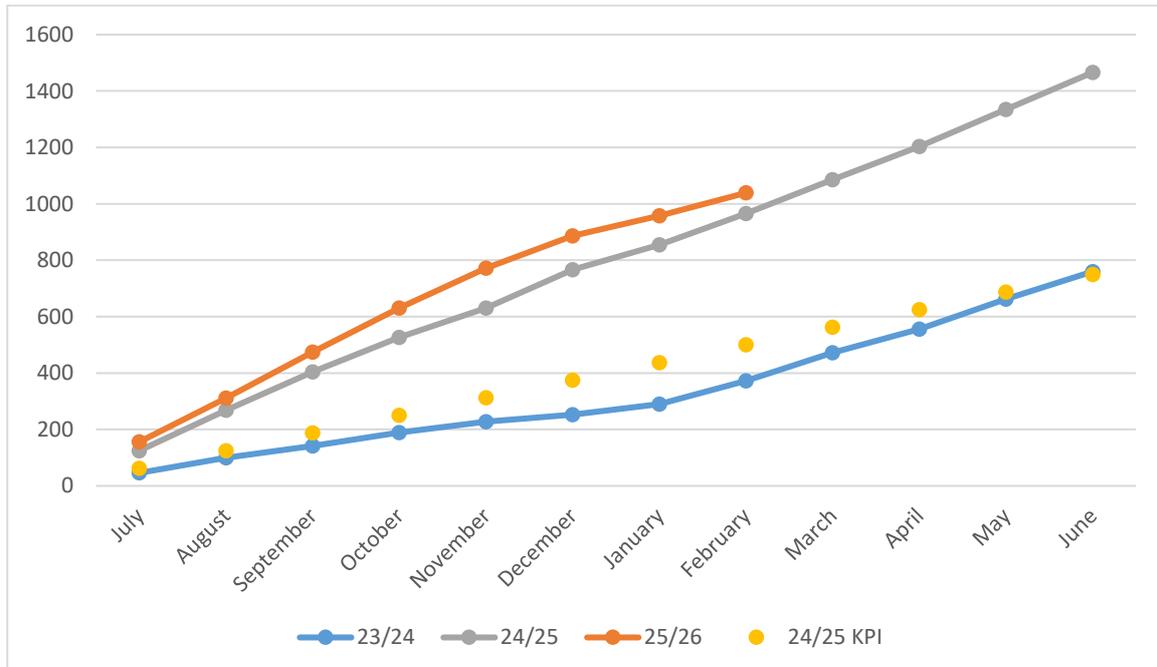


* June to December 2023 data is visitation numbers from the previous Library.

b) Number of Books Issued



c) Activity & Programme Sessions



d) Other Activity Measures

<i>25/26</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
Memberships - Child	2144	2137	2152	2137	2129	2136	2136	2151				
Memberships - Teen	1306	1320	1324	1319	1312	1306	1319	1325				
Memberships - Adults	7300	7327	7424	7453	7412	7505	7494	7523				
APNK Sessions	4589	4092	4881	3981	4121	3691	3684	3547				
Paid Meeting Rooms	46	18	31	21	28	12	9	38				
Approved free Meeting Rooms	32	34	35	31	44	11	4	2				
Adhoc Meeting Rooms	263	280	252	296	310	220	229	242				

4.2.2 Activity/Programme Attendees January and February

		<i>Child</i>	<i>Teen</i>	<i>Adult</i>
Knitting Group 6 sessions	A weekly social group which encourages people to knit alongside others instead of sitting knitting at home alone.			94
Crafting with Dies 2 sessions	A fortnightly session where participants can create cards using elements created with a die cutting machine			6
Adult Craft Club 2 sessions	A monthly session where adults come to be creative with a different activity each month			20
Spinner Drop in 6 sessions	In partnership with Ashburton Creative Fibre. These sessions provide an opportunity to spin in a social environment, new spinners are encouraged to come and learn from members of Ashburton Creative Fibre.			48
Garden Conversation Group 3 sessions	In partnership with Connecting Mid Canterbury. Meetings twice a week to discuss gardening and get tips.			43
Makerspace Equipment Class 17 sessions	Training all ages to use the equipment in the Maker Space with varying lesson lengths and group sizes	3	26	25
AV Studio 11 sessions	3-hour individual or group sessions that cover training in audio engineering and mastering & 30-minute open demo drop-in sessions	4	1	12
Digi Coaching 18 Sessions	Drop in sessions to help the community with digital help related to phones and electronics		1	55
Book Club 2 sessions	Monthly community book club			37
BookTok Book Club 2 sessions	Monthly community book club that meets in the evenings to discuss the popular books on social media			5
Steady As You Go 6 sessions	Age Concern's peer-led exercise initiative designed to help older people reduce their likelihood of having a fall. The exercises are like those learned from a physiotherapist.			84
Elderly Outreach 2 sessions	Literacy based activities for groups of elderly living in rest homes or attending a daycentre.			31
Sign Language Course	A course designed to teach the basics of sign language to members of the community.			116

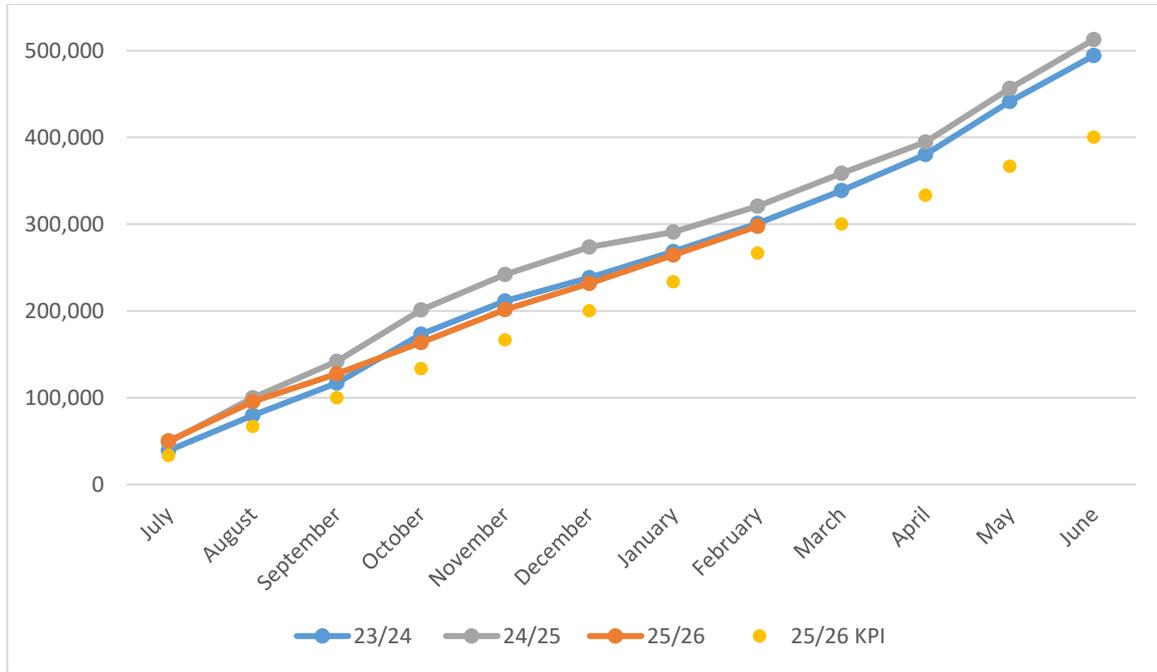
10 sessions	Participants will be able to communicate in sign language on simple everyday matters			
English Language Drop In 4 sessions	A weekly drop-in session with a trained and experienced teacher to practice English.			24
CV Help 10 Sessions	This drop-in service is available when required.			10
Next Chapter 1 Session	A monthly programme of literacy-based activities designed for those living with a diagnosed dementia			9
NFP Workshops 1 session	Governance workshops for sports clubs, halls, and general NFP committee groups. Held in partnership with LEAD, Community Trust Mid and South Canterbury, Volunteering Mid and South Canterbury, Sport Canterbury, and Keep Learning Mid Canterbury.			17
Shut Up and Write 2 sessions	A weekly space for people who want to put their head down and work in peace			3
Books on Wheels 4 deliveries	A fortnightly service to library users who are housebound or who find it difficult to get to the library. Books are curated by library staff and delivered by volunteers from Altrusa.			140
Recycle a Device 3 sessions	Training young people to refurbish devices, diverting them from landfill and donating them to families in need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed 9 laptops • 3 people added to the waitlist. • 61 people on the wait list 		17	
Teen Sub box 1 issue	Each teen subscription box consists of three books, a craft, and snack and are based on a theme. Available to teens aged 12 -18 years and are issued monthly.		20	
Juicy Reads	Teen Summer reading challenge 12- 18 year olds. Let us know favourite quotes for 3 books over summer. Return the form and receive a Juicy.		4	
Retro t-shirts 2 Sessions	We had students from Ashburton College come and play board games in the Wakanui Room.		2	
Makerspace Mondays 4 Sessions	Teens 12-18 years can come and use the equipment in the makerspace. Each week there is a different project to do. Sessions are held during term time. One of these sessions was a Retro t-shirt session.		16	

Design and Print – teens 1 Session	Teens could book a slot and come and create on the ipad to then print their design onto vinyl. This was a charge for this session.		3	
Brilliant Moves chess club 4 Sessions	This chess club is open to all who know how to play chess and want to have a game or two.		6	
Dungeons & Dragons for teens 4 Sessions	This session is run by teens and is for teens aged 13-18 years.		45	
RAD Club 6 Sessions	This club is for teens 12 – 18 years to refurbish laptops that go out to the community. We currently have 55 people on our waiting list. We gave out 6 laptops in Jan/Feb. Teens also attended a reboot afternoon to refresh and learn how to fix the laptops.		51	
Create Explore Discover 7 Sessions	STEM learning through play	60		39
Minecrafters 3 sessions	Mine Craft Club	30		
Build – Lego Club for kids 3 sessions	Build – Lego Club	30		12
School class visits 6 sessions	Schools that visited the library included Ashburton Christian School, Saint Joseph’s, and Allenton School.	257		30
Wriggle and Read 7 sessions	Movement to music for ages 0-3	131		115
Summer Reading Challenge 1 activity	Completed entries	64		
Christmas I-Spy 1 activity	Thanks to Michael Wong for creating such an imaginative Lego Christmas themed display.	324		
Outreach programmes 2 sessions	Methven and Mayfield	44	10	22
164 Sessions/ Activities	Totals	947	202	997

4.3 EA Networks Centre

4.3.1 Key Performance Indicators & Activity Updates

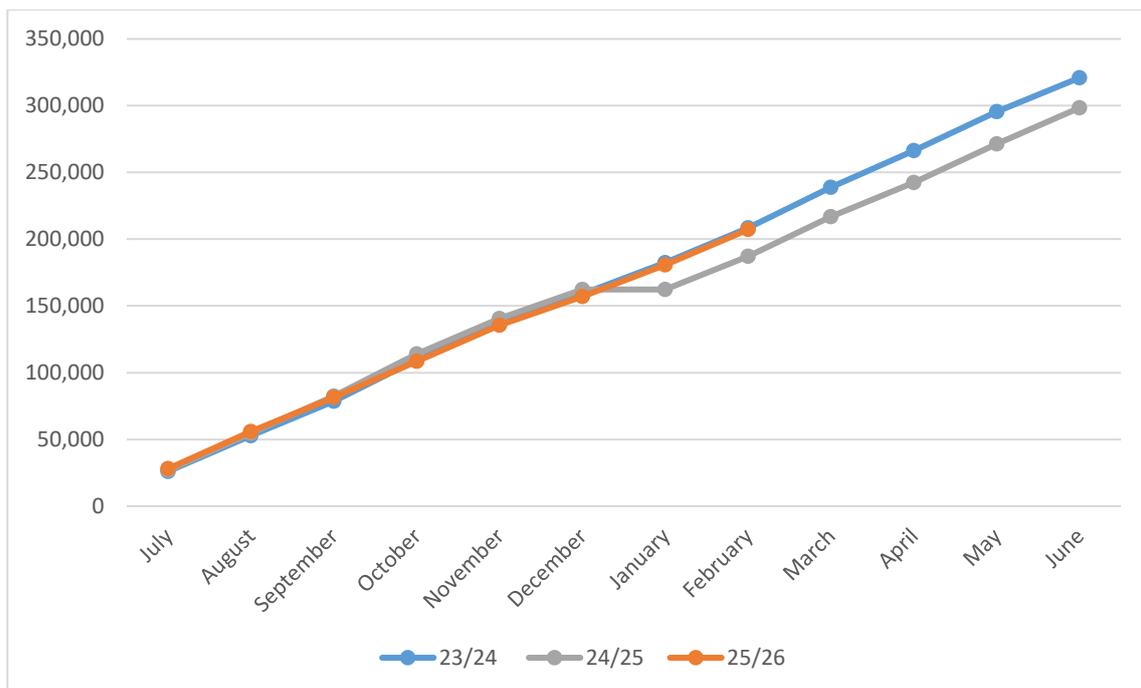
a) Facility-Wide Visitation



Comments:

- Visitation is steady with the new term beginning.

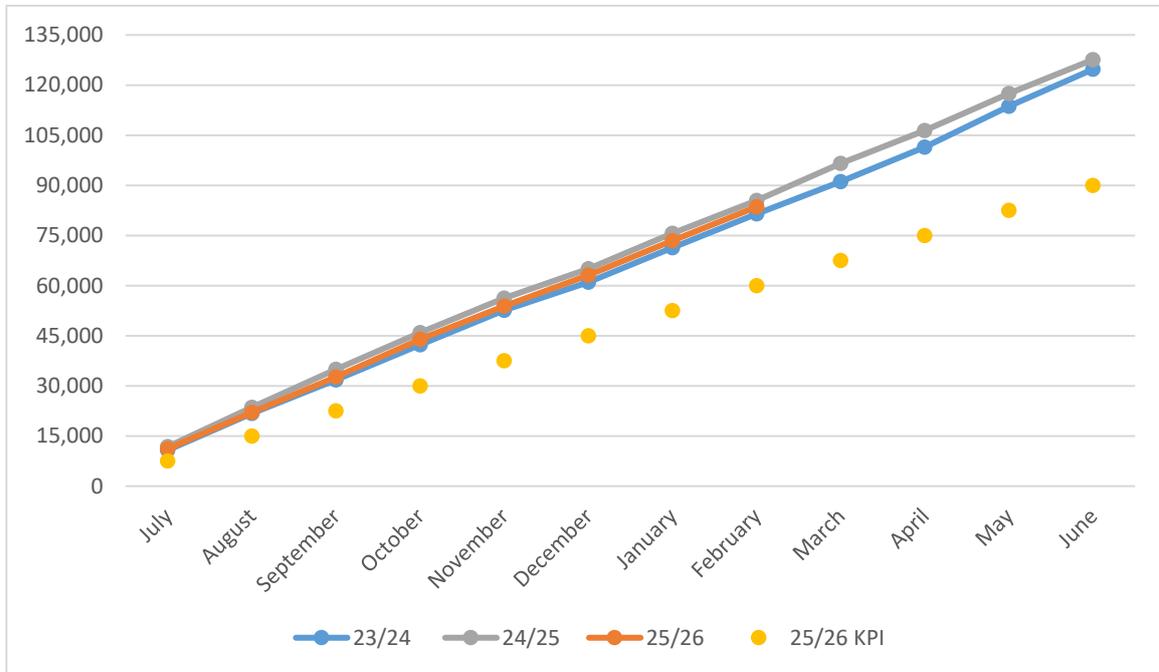
b) Pool Visitation



Comments:

- February saw the Centre host the swimming sports for a range of local schools. This year saw an increase in the number of schools using the Learn to Swim Pool, as well as the Main Pool, which meant that children of a lower skill level or confidence could still participate.

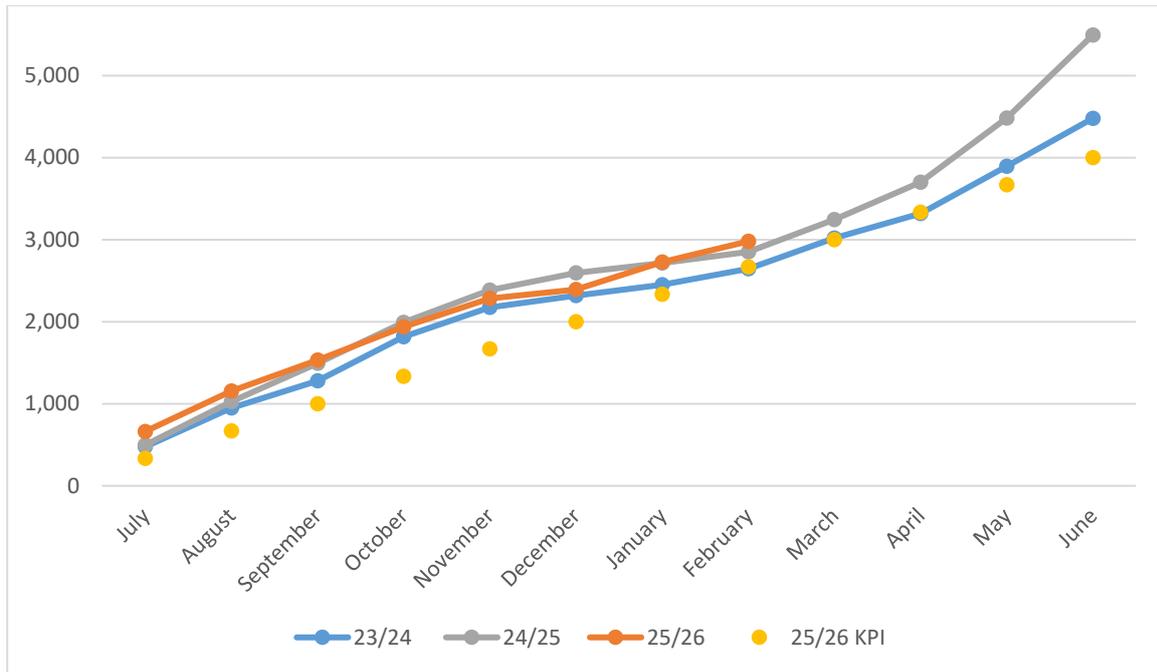
c) Gym & Fitness Visitation



Comments

- Community health programmes including Couch to Wellness, O2Go, Parkinson’s, Prost-Fit, Evolve, and Daffodil Wahine resumed successfully, with consistent participation across sessions.
- Yoga and Les Mills Pilates classes continued to experience high demand, supporting overall class utilisation and providing additional wellbeing-focused options for members.
- Work progressed alongside Active Canterbury to support the rollout of the Move Happy initiative for people with diabetes, aimed at encouraging inclusive participation and reducing barriers to physical activity within the community.
- Ongoing collaboration with ANZCO Foods continued toward establishing a membership pathway to support employees managing high risk health concerns to safely engage in exercise.

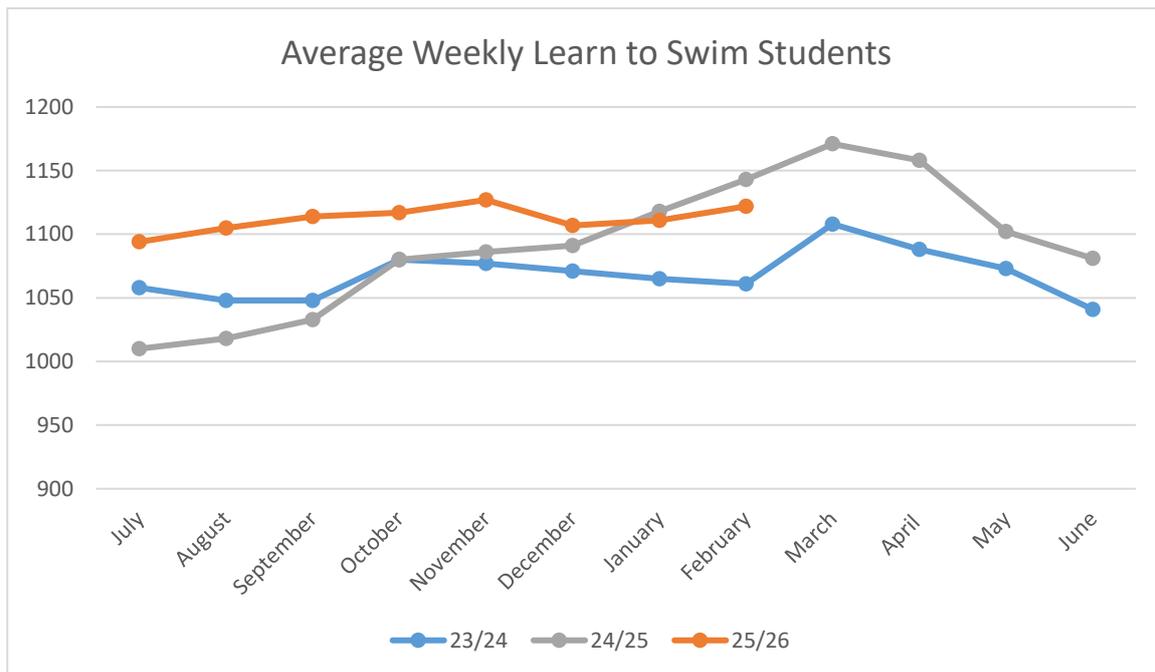
d) Stadium Booked Hours



Comments:

- Stadium bookings began to increase during January and February.
- Netball New Zealand also returned for the 4th consecutive year for their national development camp. This saw players, as well as umpires and officials, from around the South Island come to Ashburton for a 3-day camp.

e) Swim School



Comments:

- Our LTS numbers have been largely holding steady throughout the first half of the financial year. Our swim school started back up on the 2nd of February.
- In January we offered 2 family pop ups, and 3 weeks of Holiday Swim lessons.
- Our pop ups included a scavenger hunt and obstacle course in the Learn to Swim pool. And a family fun day which was a combo of an adapted obstacle course and a game of mini golf. Both sessions encouraged water safety and tested swimming skills.
- Our holiday swim lessons included group lessons of Minnows & Seahorses (Level 1 & 3 Preschool), Funky Frogs, Starfish, Goldfish, Pesky Penguins & Super Salmons (Level 1 - 5 School Aged). We also had a targeted Breaststroke clinic and a targeted Dives, Starts and Turns sessions to help those leading into swimming sports in term 1.
- The Lion Foundation funding (which subsidises our School Swim Programme) enabled 514 students from six schools to benefit from swimming lessons during February.

4.3.2 Activities/Programmes (November/December)

Attendees		Child	Teen	Adult
Couch to Wellness 3 Sessions	Runs During term in 10-week blocks Designed to get people active again			45
Daffodil Wahine 8 Sessions	Every Wednesday at 12.15, this special population class is designed for women to build healthy bones after cancer treatment			61
Prostfit 7 sessions	Every Monday at 11 am, this special population class is designed for Men as part of their rehabilitation from prostate cancer			126
O2go 8 Sessions	Every Wednesday at 10.30am, this special population class is designed to support people with significant breathing Issues like COPD & asthma.			162
Parkinsons Play 8 Sessions	Every Thursday at 1.30 pm, this special population class is designed for people diagnosed with Parkinsons to slow progression and build control of the condition.			64
Fitmums 6 Sessions	Runs during term on Thursdays at 10.45 am - this special population class is designed for new mothers to improve their general strength and fitness in a safe environment, with your baby. – Not held this term			60
Hospice – Offsite programme 22 Sessions	Every Tuesday Wednesday and Friday at 10am – this special population class is designed to maintain movement and mobility.			198
Squad 153 sessions	The current number of squad members as of the end of February		55	
Active Adventures 2 sessions	Fortnightly 2-hour toddler play session in the stadium.	39		
Learn to Swim 948 group sessions & 159 individual sessions	Total number of private swimming lessons over 4 weeks between week 1 to week 4 of Term 1 2026	4,497		
School Swim Lessons 103 group sessions	This programme is co-founded by schools and the Lion Foundation. Lesson delivery at EANC. Numbers reflect 4 weeks between week 1 to week 4 Term 1 2026.	514		
Learn to Swim Holiday Block Courses	Total number of block private swimming lessons over 3 weeks of January school holidays	22		

71 Group sessions & 35 Individual sessions				
Learn to Swim Holiday Pop Up Sessions	Two x 2 hour sessions of the Family Fun morning were ran over the course of January	18		
January School Holiday Programme 20 sessions	15 full day and 18 day sessions. The week of 26 th Jan – 30 th Jan were day sessions only.	804		
2,374 sessions	Totals	5894	55	716

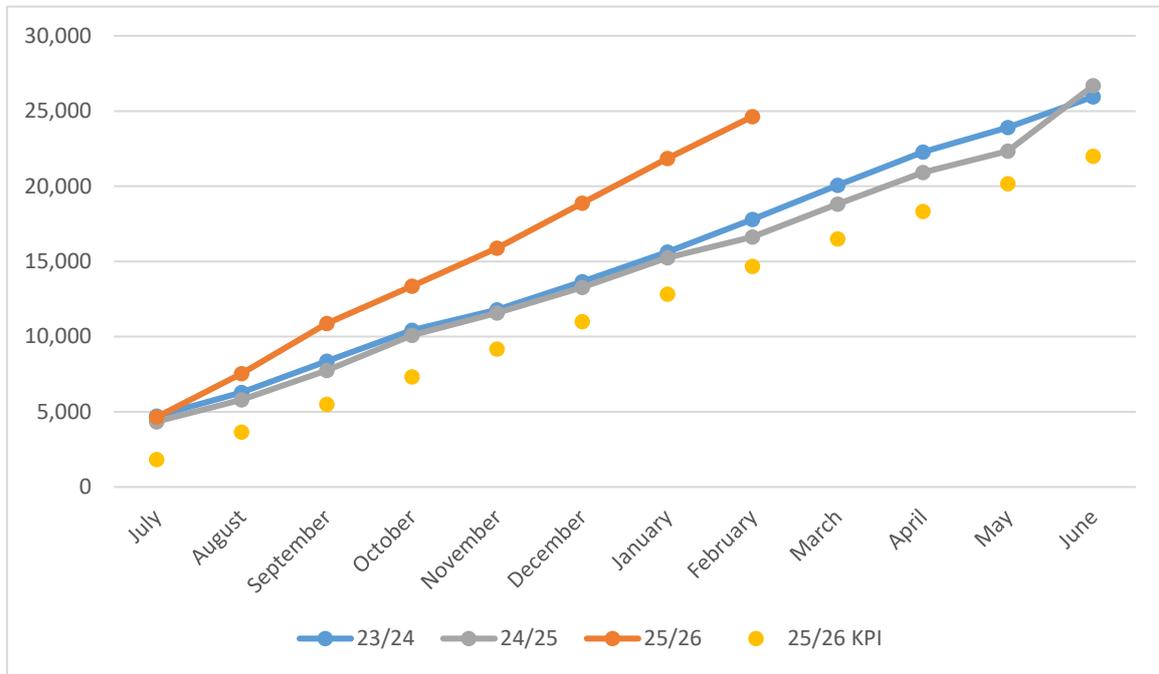
4.3.3 Mini Golf Update

- Mini Golf has proved extremely popular over the holiday break – with 3115 booked players in the reporting period (1 January to 28 February) plus additional ad hoc players.
- Officers are working with the contractor to finalise remedial works including a rebuilt Rakaia salmon and other minor repairs.

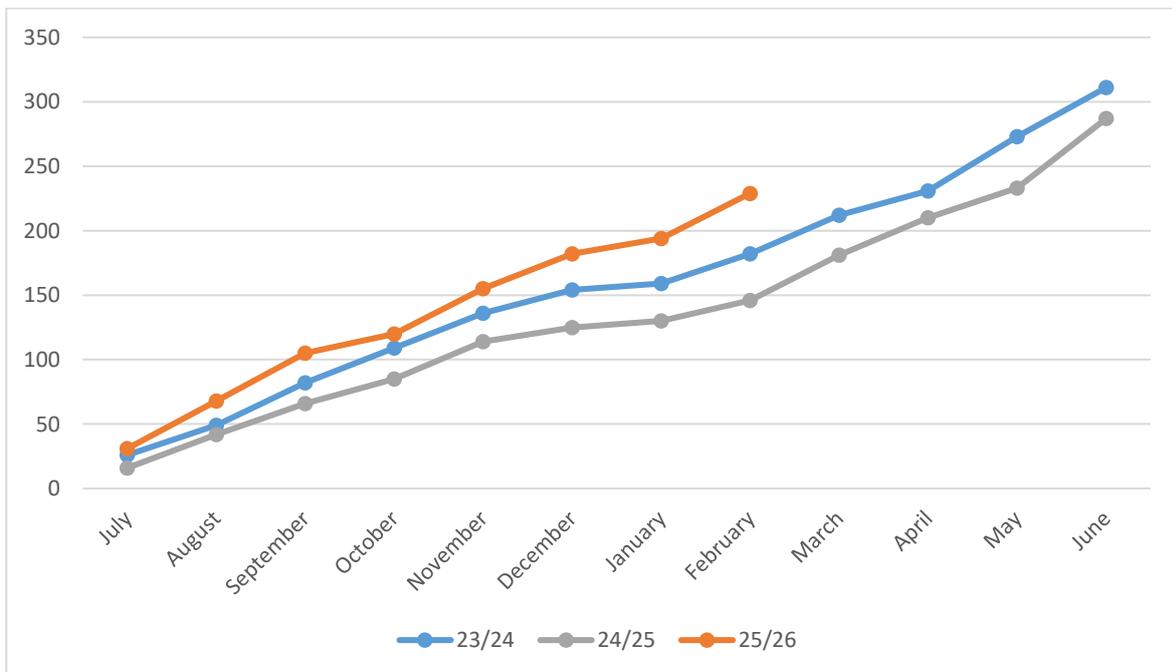
4.4 Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

4.4.1 Key Performance Measures

a) Visitation



b) Activity & Programme Sessions



c) Other Activity Measures

25/26	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Exhibitions - Local	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0				
Exhibitions - National	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0				
Exhibitions - Touring	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0				
Programmes - School Classes	8	22	20	2	24	13	2	18				
Programmes - Community	23	15	17	13	11	14	10	17				

4.4.2 Operational Activities January and February

	Description	Date
Research Enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2026, 21 research enquires were responded to, 18 of which were from the public. In February 2026, 26 research enquires were responded to, 25 of which were from the public. 	Jan-Feb 2026
Collection Development and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition of new items, cataloguing and rehousing projects, environmental monitoring and pest management continues. Ashburton District Council's historical archives are being re-catalogued in order to make the collection more accessible to council staff and to the public, in line with Public Records Act obligations. Ashburton Museum & Historical Society collections and Ashburton District Council historical archives continue to be made available to researchers on Whakare Heritage Collections Online. https://whakareheritage.catalogaccess.com/ 	Jan-Feb 2026
Articles/Blog Posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2026, five articles were written on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1908 fire in Zouch's dentist office History of the Hakatere river bridge "Miss Tuppy" 1920s dance teacher History of locking mechanisms / lock in our collection Joseph Ivess (Newspaper founder and local politician) In February 2026, four articles were written on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kellihan family of Mayfield 	Jan-Feb 2026

	Description	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weather forecasting/barometers – Jean Livingston, Methven's first female pharmacist – WW1 conscriptions and exemptions 	
Reviews/Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dearly Beloved</i> featured in council brief in <i>Courier</i> • <i>Dearly Beloved</i> featured on <i>Arts Canterbury</i> website • <i>Dearly Beloved</i> featured on the <i>Scoop</i> • <i>Duologue</i> in <i>Press</i> Top 10 Exhibitions • <i>Courier</i> article about <i>Dearly Beloved</i> bride Helen Hanrahan 	Jan-Feb 2026

4.4.3 Exhibitions opened in January and February

Description	Date
<p><i>Peregrination: A Sub Antarctic Odyssey</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the summer of 2021 Tasman-based printmaker Kathy Reilly travelled to the islands on a research expedition, and for thirteen days trained her artist's eye on these dramatic, isolated environs scattered south-east of the mainland in the vast Southern Ocean. • The outcome of this voyage can be seen here in works ranging from detailed etchings and cyanotypes of endemic plant species; installations pushing the print medium through sculptural form; and studies of the Toroa Royal Southern Albatross in prints and a video work. 	14 December – 15 February
<p><i>Duologue</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printmaking, photography and drawing works by Ōtepoti Dunedin based artists Marc and Inga Doesburg. • Trained as a printmaker, Inge's works explore the landscapes and sensations of her adopted home through print, painting, photography and drawing – the lowering skies of southern lands looming large in her consciousness. • Marc's photography looks for the formal arrangements within a scene, by following a line, or capturing the incidental compositions afforded by architectural elements; often looking to spaces traversed during the course of daily activities, but otherwise discounted. 	14 December – 15 February
<p><i>Contemporary Printmaking of Aotearoa: A Kōrero of Thoughts and Ideas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A touring member exhibition by Print Council Aotearoa New Zealand exploring the various techniques and technologies of the medium of printmaking. 	14 December – 22 February
<p><i>Dearly Beloved 100 Years of the Wedding Dress</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This exhibition features a selection of bridal wear from the AM&HS collection, representing wedding fashion from the late 1800s and through the twentieth century. • Displayed across two exhibition spaces, <i>Dearly Beloved</i> also presents the Ashburton Bride of the Year 1970 winner's gown – an unusual, though at the time, very 	14 December – 8 March

contemporary wedding dress – alongside related objects and photographs from the Gordon Binsted negatives collection.	
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4.4.4 Activities & Programmes – January and February

Attendees		Child	Teen	Adult
<p>Talks, workshops and exhibition openings</p> <p>3 events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An artist talk with Kathy Reilly was held in January to coincide with her exhibition, <i>Peregrination: A Sub Antarctic Odyssey</i>. In February, a special heritage talk was hosted by Dr Jane Malthus exploring the history of the traditional bridal gown, and a hands-on workshop was delivered by staff on how to store and care for heirloom textiles. 	5		124
<p>Able Art Collective</p> <p>1 session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able Art Collective is a monthly programme that provides a supportive space for individuals with disabilities to explore, learn, create, connect and express themselves through art. These sessions are delivered in collaboration with The Chris Ruth Centre Ashburton. 			11
<p>In Colour</p> <p>2 sessions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Colour is a monthly group that supports mental health, mindfulness, and social connection through creativity. Classes are relaxed and art activities are guided by the interests of the group. 			12
<p>Art Addicts</p> <p>3 sessions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Addicts is a weekly after school art space for tamariki and whānau. Classes encourage exploration and experimentation with different artists, themes, materials and techniques. 	110		65
<p>Kōwhai Kids</p> <p>1 session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kōwhai Kids is a monthly group for parents/carers with tamariki aged 0-5 years. These sessions are delivered with support from Hippy and Toy Library and have an emphasis on engaging newcomers to Whakatere Ashburton. 	36		22
<p>Island Breeze</p> <p>1 session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island Breeze is a monthly programme for Pasifika and Māori wāhine in Whakatere Ashburton to come together for traditional arts, crafts, singing, socialising and kai. These sessions are delivered in partnership with Tangata Atumotu Trust and Plunket. 	2		13
<p>Artzheimers</p> <p>1 session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artzheimers is a monthly session delivered in collaboration with Dementia Canterbury, designed to provide a meaningful community-based art experience for people living with dementia. 			8

Cultural Awareness Talk 1 session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Awareness talks are monthly sessions delivered in partnership with Hakatere Multicultural Council that explore the history and customs of people from different cultures living in Whakatere Ashburton. • In the February session we explored the culture and customs of Afghanistan. 			21
Sunday Studios 1 session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new monthly weekend art group for adults to explore art techniques and learn new skills while socialising and building connections. 		2	20
Community visits/outreach 7 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January, holiday outreach sessions were delivered in Methven and Mayfield. • In February, outreach was delivered to the Elizabeth Street Daycare, and to the Ng King Gardens. • Rosebank, Coldstream Home and Elizabeth Street Day Centre were provided with guided visits to exhibitions. 	44	10	96
School visits/outreach 20 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January two classes from My Hutt College and the Home Education network took part in sessions • In February, eighteen classes from Mayfield School, St Joseph's School, Allenton School, Ashburton Christian School, Geraldine High School, Mt Somer's Primary School and the Home Education network took part in sessions. 	420	73	88
January School holiday programmes 3 activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various family-friendly activities were delivered as part of the summer school holidays in January. The programmes were Cake Construction, Design a holiday wardrobe and Pawtraits. <i>Numbers captured in the overall visitor stats.</i> 			
Workshops for teens 3 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January we ran three holiday sessions for teenagers with a focus on printmaking. Sessions covered Block Printing, Intaglio and Mixed Media printmaking techniques. 	2	33	1
47 sessions	Totals	619	118	481

5. Community & Open Spaces Group

5.1 Communications

5.1.1 Overview

Area	Activity	Community impact / why it matters
Strategic overview	Communications during this period focused on council planning, infrastructure, and essential services including water management, budgeting and major projects. We also highlighted local economic and community development including the Business of the Year Awards, plus grants and funding.	Provides elected members with context on how council activity is being communicated and discussed publicly.
Building trust and understanding	Over December and January we promoted engagement on the Dog Control Bylaw to gather community feedback. The feedback will help inform the draft bylaw ahead of formal consultation later in the year.	Helps residents understand council decisions and encourages participation in council processes, supporting trust and confidence.
Media and public information	Responded to queries from local, regional and national media outlets and issued regular news stories on Council activities.	Ensures accurate public information and supports balanced media coverage of council activities.
Digital communications	Continued enhancements to our website, email newsletters and digital marketing, helping improve accessibility to online engagement. This included set up for Methven Community Board livestreaming.	Provides accessible information and engages residents through channels they use most frequently.
Professional design and branding	Continued to improve consistency of visual identity across council communications,	Builds trust and confidence through a professional, cohesive, and recognisable council image.

Area	Activity	Community impact / why it matters
	including signage, templates, publications and digital materials.	
Internal communications	Shared regular updates with staff on key projects across the organisation.	Ensures staff stay informed and engaged with council priorities.
Reputation and risk management	Monitored social media, news coverage, and public sentiment. Prepared tailored community information to address emerging concerns. We note that issues happening in other councils have reputational spillover effects in our district.	Enables proactive communication to maintain trust and respond to community concerns where required.

5.1.2 Community Insights

During this period, we observed and heard community discussion around council budgeting and rates with residents wanting clarity on affordability and prioritisation of spending. Key topics were around the Rakaia Salmon Statue, Lake Hood, the Mount Somers Campground and interruptions to the transport network including the Tinwald Viaduct. There was also strong interest in the second Ashburton River bridge and connecting road. There were also broader discussions around regional reform. Local safety was also a topic and dog control also featured in media and social media channels.

5.1.3 Key Metrics

Metric	Current Period	Notes
Website visits	143,581	First benchmark measure. Only for ashburtondc.govt.nz site pages (excludes subsites)
Social media reach	1,502,852	First benchmark measure. Includes organic and paid reach across channels.
Media enquiries handled	38	Typical volume for this period. Excludes phone queries.
Campaign engagement	339	Number of responses to Dog Control Bylaw early engagement.

5.1.4 Upcoming Communications

Upcoming communications activity will focus on Annual Plan communication, several consultations, and promotion of upcoming community events and activities.

5.2 Strategy & Policy

5.2.1 Current projects

Planning and Reporting					
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Stage	On Track	Comments
Annual Residents Survey 2025/26	Aug 2025	July 2026	In progress	Yes	The second wave of surveying for the 2025/26 survey have been received with third wave of surveying underway.
Annual Plan 2026/27	Oct 2025	June 2026	In progress	Yes	Several Council workshops have been held on the draft annual plan over February/March, with the Council to formally adopt the final Annual Plan on 30 June. Following Council consideration, the plan will not be the subject of consultation. A separate consultation will be held on RMA fees (planning) as required by law.
Annual Report 2025/26	April 2026	Nov 2026	Project planning	Yes	Initial planning conversations have been held and audit timeframes established.
Long Term Plan 2027/37	Jan 2026	July 2027	In progress	Yes	A report on the overall LTP 27 project plan, workstreams and timetable to June 2027 is planned for the Audit, Risk and Finance committee (as per their terms of reference) in April. Work is underway on initial tasks associated with the LTP process, including workstream planning, timelines, and the environmental scan.
Bylaw or Policy Development/Review					
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Stage	On Track	Comments
Bylaws project	June 2025	Sept/Oct 2026	Tranche 1 Consultation	Yes	The Open Spaces and Brothel Location bylaw (Tranche 1) workshop was held in January with the draft bylaw being adopted for consultation at the February 25 Council meeting.

			Tranche 2 - workshops		Tranche 1 is now being consulted on - Open Spaces and Brothel Location Bylaw Review until 7 April. Workshops are planned for the Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry bylaw (March 31) and Dog Control bylaw (April 8). Consultation on Tranche 2 is planned for May/June. 338 early engagement responses were received on the Dog Control Bylaw/Policy.
Development Contributions/Levies Policy Work Programme	January 2025	June 2027	In progress	Yes	The three stage Development Contributions Policy programme review was discussed at the workshop held in December 2025. Work is progressing on Stage 1 which focuses on policy updates, updating DC schedules and introduction of a roading DC. Workshops have been held on Stage 1, with a formal report to go to the 8 April Council, and the policy changes to be consulted on during April/May.
Communications Policy	Nov 2025	April 2026	In progress	Yes	The policy review is nearly complete and will likely go to a Council meeting in April.
Privacy Policy	Feb 2026	June 2026	In progress	Yes	Policy review is progressing, including working with internal stakeholders, identifying any policy gaps and/or adjustments required.
Sportsfields and Domains Policy	May 2025	Dec 2026	In progress	Delayed	Work on this is taking longer than expected, alongside other priorities. This includes assessing what still remains relevant in the policy following the development of the Reserve Management Plans. The revised policy will come in 2026.
Rates Remission Policy	April-May 2025	Mid 2026	Delayed	Delayed	Work is being rescheduled to coincide with the LTP 2027-37 development, so that remissions and their rating impact, can be considered alongside other rating changes.
Strategy or Plan Development/ Reviews					
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Stage	On Track	Comments

Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy	July 2025	June 2026	Council workshop	Yes	A workshop on the drafted strategy is planned for March 31 with consultation planned for May 2026
Forestry Strategy	August 2024	June 2026	In progress	Ongoing	A workshop (PE) on the Forestry Strategy is planned for April 7 to provide an overview of the draft strategy.
Open Spaces Strategy 2026	June 2025	June 2026	Consultation	Yes	The Draft Open Spaces Strategy was workshopped with Council January with the draft strategy being adopted for consultation at the February 25 Council meeting. This is now being consulted on - Open Spaces Strategy until 7 April.
Airport review	November 2025	June 2026	In progress	Yes	A workshop (PE) with Council is planned for 25 March to outline the current activity, challenges and opportunities and consider potential future management options.
Other Projects/Work					
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Stage	On Track	Comments
Elderly Housing	January 2025	TBC	Council Workshop	Ongoing	A further options workshops (PE) was held with Council in March with next steps to be progressed via report to Council.
Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan – Action 7	July 2024	July 2027	In progress	Yes	Ashburton is the lead agency for Action 7. This relates to integrating climate change considerations into Council processes. Work has been scoped and the next stage of work is underway.
Section 17A Reviews	Ongoing			Ongoing	Work not currently progressing on Section 17A reviews. The report back on the LG Systems Improvements Bill has confirmed that Section 17A requirements will be removed.
Aoraki Environmental Consultancy (AEC)	Ongoing			Yes	Officers continue to meet regularly with AEC.

5.2.2 Completed projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Completion Date	Comments
Half Year Performance Report 2025/26	Dec 2025	Feb 2026	Report was considered by Council on 25 February.

5.2.3 Upcoming projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Comments
Policy reviews	Ongoing	Ongoing	Some overdue	Several policy reviews are due over the next 12 months, including Property Holdings, Corporate Risk and Asset Disposal.
Strategy/Plan Reviews	Ongoing	Ongoing	Yes	Various strategies are due for review/development over the next 12 months, including Walking and Cycling.

5.2.4 External Submissions/Reports of interest

Submissions made:

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
Department of Internal Affairs	Simplifying Local Government Proposal to replace regional councils with combined boards of Mayors and to require those boards to produce a reorganisation plan for the region.	Council	20 February	Lodged
Department of Internal Affairs	Rates Capping The government have announced a proposed rates target model (rates cap). This would introduce a mandatory range within which councils must set rates increases, excluding water charges and other non-rates revenue like fees and charges.	Council	4 February	Lodged

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
Environment Select Committee	<p>Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill</p> <p>Two Bills to replace the current Resource Management Act. The Planning Bill focuses on planning to enable development and infrastructure while the Natural Environment Act is focused on managing the natural environment. new legislation will narrow the scope of the resource management system and the effects it controls, with the enjoyment of private property rights as the guiding principle.</p>	Council	13 February for both Bills	Lodged
Department of Internal Affairs	<p>Development Levies Consultation and Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill</p> <p>Material engages on the replacement of development contributions with a system of levies. It includes a consultation document, a partial exposure draft of the Bill, and asks for views on the Commerce Commission as the regulator.</p>	Council support of submission	20 February	Submitting via National body
Governance and Administration Select Committee	<p>Emergency Management Bill</p> <p>The Government seeks to ensure a whole-of-society approach to emergency management through the following objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the role of communities and iwi Māori in emergency management 2. Provide for clear responsibilities at the national, regional, and local levels 3. Enable a higher minimum standard of emergency management 4. Minimise disruption to essential services 5. 5. Ensure agencies have the tools to do their jobs effectively when an emergency happens 	Council support of submission	3 February	Submit via Regional CDEM group

Consultations underway or considering

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
Environment Canterbury	ECan Annual Plan 2026/27	Council	31 March	Drafting

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
	Ecan AP sets out what Ecan will deliver in the coming year and how it will be funded, including key Waitaha Canterbury services across environmental regulation, public transport and community resilience.			
Justice Select Committee	<p>Data and Statistics (Census) Amendment Bill</p> <p>The Census Bill supports Stats NZ's shift to an annual census and the publishing of critical population and housing statistics every year from 2030</p>	Council	15 April	Assessing

Future Submission opportunities (once full details are known).

The information has been provided by Taituara and other sources.

Organisation	Name of initiative	Expected Timing ¹
TBC	<p>New Waste and Litter legislation</p> <p>Cabinet has now agreed to amend the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and replace the Litter Act 1979. It will provide a fit-for-purpose legislative framework aimed at reducing waste, cutting emissions and improving environmental outcomes. The proposed legislation will focus on five key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changing how the waste levy is allocated to territorial authorities and what it can be spent on, to give them more flexibility in how they use the funding, while also recognising the costs faced by smaller councils • creating a framework for extended producer responsibility, ensuring producers remain accountable for their products throughout their lifecycle • strengthening the tools available to monitor and enforce waste legislation and regulations • enabling more effective controls for littering and mismanaged waste, including illegal dumping • clarifying roles and responsibilities across central government, local government and the waste sector. 	TBC

¹ Timing based on latest available information received via various sources and subject to change.

Organisation	Name of initiative	Expected Timing ¹
	The Government intends to enact the new legislation before the general election in 2026.	
TBC	<p>Building Act Amendment Bill</p> <p>More comprehensive changes to Building consenting making it easier for private BCAs, address barriers to voluntary consolidation, national consenting body, ensuring national consistency, strengthening roles and responsibilities, new consent pathway for commercial buildings, new assurance pathways more self-certification – further streamlining, risk and liability.</p>	Early 2026?
TBC	<p>Climate Adaptation Bill</p> <p>Bill sets the legal framework for powers and responsibilities with respect to climate adaptation. If there is a climate adaptation fund it will be in this Bill.</p>	Early 2026

5.3 Memorial Halls & Reserve Boards

5.3.1 Activities – items of importance

Memorial Hall and Reserve Board Meetings

Dorie Reserve Board

- The Dorie Reserve Board’s membership remains strong, with familiar faces returning alongside some new representatives. It’s also great to see the tennis courts on the Reserve being actively used by the community, highlighting the value of this shared space.

Highbank Reserve Board

- The Highbank Reserve Board’s membership remains strong, with familiar faces returning alongside some new representatives. The Board is also preparing to apply for grants to support the ongoing upgrades to the hall, ensuring it remains a well-maintained and valuable community facility.

Mayfield Reserve Board & Memorial Hall Committee

- The Reserve Board had planned a working bee in preparation for the Mayfield A & P Show, which was held on 14 March.
- The Play Centre, located within the Reserve, recently sought help with keeping the surrounding grounds tidy. The Reserve Board was pleased to step in and has agreed to take care of spraying the edges around the Play Centre on an ongoing basis, helping maintain a clean and welcoming space for families.

Mt Somers Reserve Board

- The Mt Somers Domain campground will stay open until 13 April, before closing for winter while the Mt Somers Reserve Board reviews future operating options.
- During the winter closure (13 April–24 September), the Board will use the time to plan long-term improvements, consider community feedback, and explore ways to increase efficiency and reduce costs. Council has been supporting the Board through these changes, including progressing the decision to discontinue the part-time caretaker role.

Methven Reserve Board

- The Board was delighted to welcome a representative from Methven Netball as its newest member, strengthening the Board's connection with local sports groups and bringing fresh perspectives to its decision-making

Hinds Reserve Board

- The Board has agreed on a new location to reinstate the war memorial plaques within the Memorial Pool area. The plaques will be positioned so they are visible from the footpath, ensuring they can be appreciated by visitors year-round. In time, the fence line will be adjusted to allow direct access to the plaques for future ANZAC memorial services, further honouring their significance to the community.

Tinwald Reserve Board

- Four trees have been removed along the railway track in Heritage Park, clearing the area for the proposed installation of the Peter Lynn sawmill. This space will provide a suitable and accessible location for the sawmill display, enhancing the park's heritage features.

Ealing Reserve Board

- The Ealing Reserve Board's membership remains strong, with familiar faces returning alongside some new representatives. The Board is preparing to apply for grants to support ongoing hall upgrades and is also getting the hall ready for the upcoming ANZAC service.

Ashburton Forks/Greenstreet Reserve Board

- The Ashburton Forks/Greenstreet Reserve Board's membership remains strong, with familiar faces returning alongside some new representatives. The Board is continuing with its programme of ongoing hall upgrades, helping ensure the facility remains well-maintained, welcoming, and valuable to the community. These improvements reflect the Board's commitment to preserving the hall's role as a gathering place and enhancing its usability for a wide range of local events and activities.

Tinwald Memorial Hall Board

- The Board and hall user groups are very pleased with the refurbished timber flooring, which has given the hall, and the Board itself, a fresh new lease on life. To help protect the upgraded floor and ensure it remains in excellent condition, new feet have been fitted to all 250 chairs. This practical step reflects the Board's commitment to caring for the hall and preserving it for future community use.

Rakaia Memorial Hall Board

- The Rakaia Memorial Hall Board’s membership remains strong, with familiar faces returning alongside some new representatives. The Board’s commitment to the hall’s future remains steadfast, with members continuing to work collaboratively to maintain and enhance this valued community asset.
- A new library drop-box will also be installed at the front entrance. This will include creating a secure wooden entry slot, allowing books to be returned safely outside opening hours and providing added convenience for the community.

Triennial Reserve Board meetings

- Seafield has now confirmed their triennial meeting date. Chertsey is still to confirm their date.

5.3.2 Grants and Funding

Council’s Community Grants, Creative Communities Scheme, and Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund are all currently open, and applications are slowly trickling in. This is not unusual, as the majority of applications typically arrive toward the end of the month.

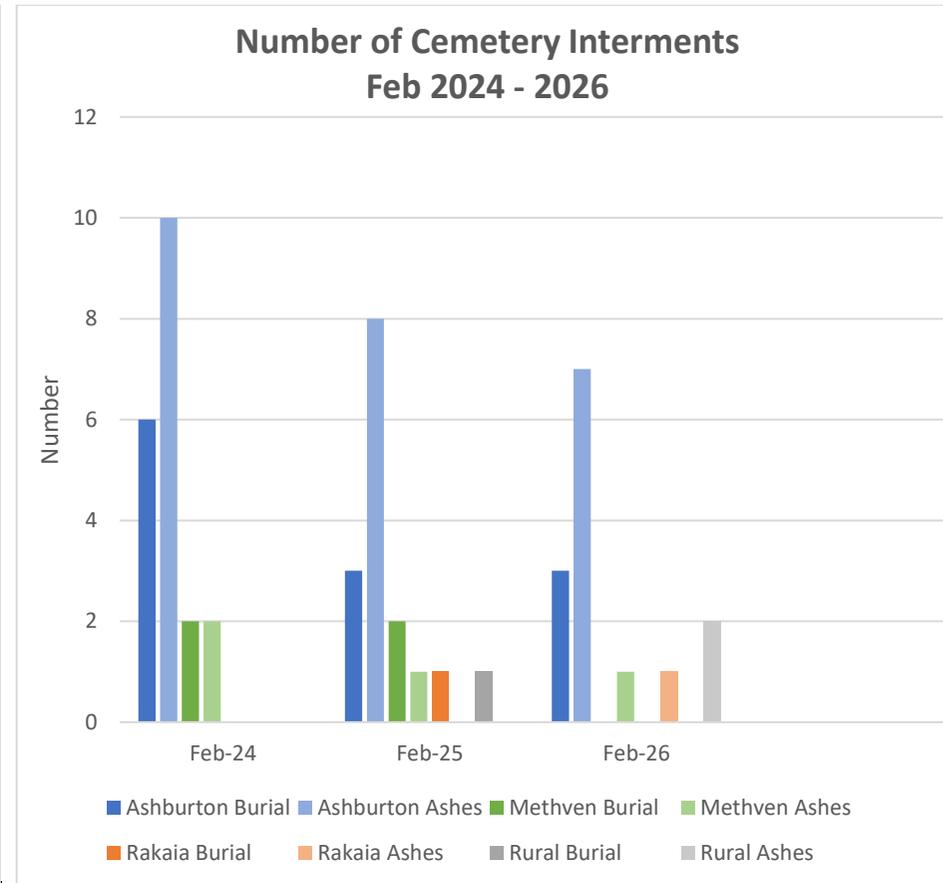
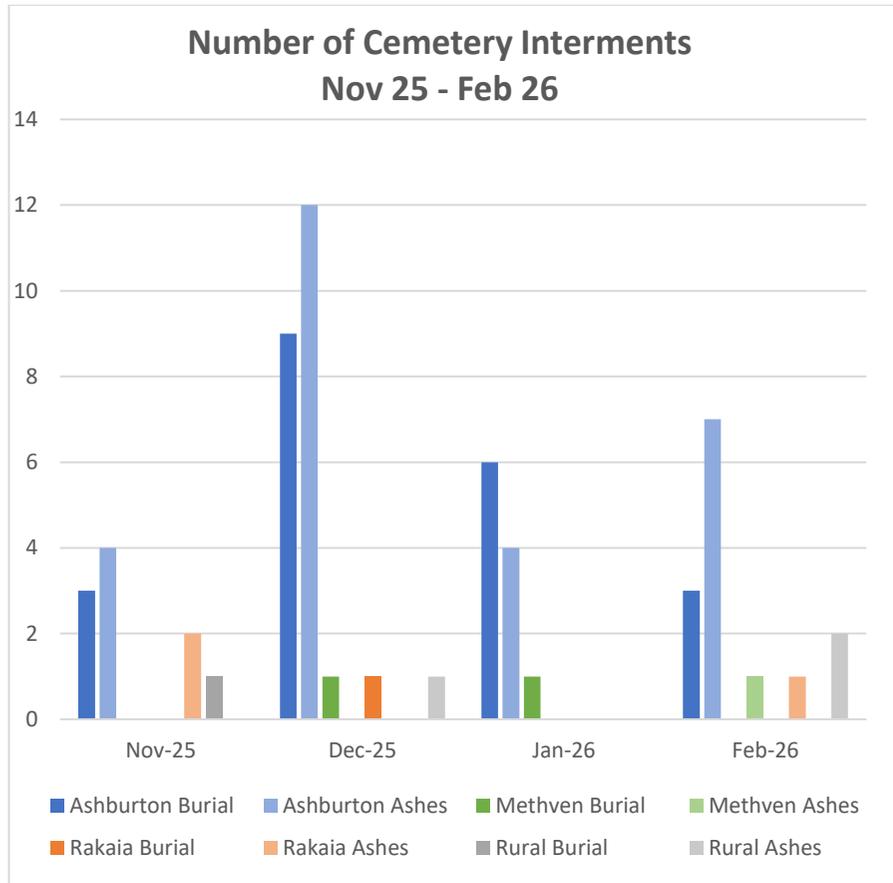
5.4 Welcoming Communities

- The Kateb Mid Canterbury Trust’s (Afghani Community) registration is well underway. Welcoming Communities and Safer Mid Canterbury have been supporting them with the legal aspects of the process and nominations. There are 11 members of the community involved, two of them part of the youth group.
- Welcoming Communities is looking at governance training by a specialist with experience in teaching governance to migrants and people with English as their second language and, alongside Safer Mid Canterbury, has found a mentor to work one-on-one with the Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. These expenses are covered by the Meaningful Refugee Participation Fund, provided by MBIE.
- We are researching Christchurch-based economic development models for former refugee communities to establish a scalable local framework. The registration of the Kateb Trust will make it easier to support community-led initiatives.

- On the 10th of March, we had the first Employment Essential Workshop and had 14 people attending (sold out). In the first session, people will learn how to create a CV and will hear from recruiters about what they look for in a CV or an application. 72% of registrations are from a migrant background.
- The Cultural Awareness Talk showcased Afghanistan. It was led by one of the Refugee Resettlement Service health navigators, who shared useful information with the emergency services, health, and Plunket staff, as well as ESOL teachers from Ashburton College. The next one will be on the 21st of April, and it will be about Fiji.
- We hosted the "First Home Buyers" seminar in partnership with ASB and legal experts. While 12 of 24 registrants attended, the high level of engagement showed a significant interest in asset building and permanent settlement.
- Welcoming Communities is organising a Crowded Spaces Strategy Training session with the support of the NZ Police. The strategy aims to protect people in locations where large numbers of people congregate, such as events, stadiums, shopping malls, and places of worship, while ensuring these places remain open and enjoyable for the public. The session is for community organisations, event organisers, and emergency services.
- On the 22nd of April, Welcoming Communities Ashburton has been invited by Welcoming America to present our model for Welcoming Week 2025 and share insights into the Hakatere Noodle Festival and its improvements.
- Starting to plan Welcoming Week 2026. It will start on September, Saturday 4th and finish on Sunday 13th. Welcoming Communities is thinking about collaborating with other Council departments to host a series of interactive events during the week.
- Welcoming Communities Ashburton is participating in the Global Peer Connection programme, where Coordinators get paired with someone in a relatively similar area around the world, and they can share information, strategies, ideas, events, etc.
- Organising a "Meet and Greet our Elected Members" event with the former refugee community and the Ethnic Leaders. This is an opportunity to connect and to find out what projects and events are being planned, who the leaders are, and who the families arriving in the district are.
- With ADC Grants opening, the number of enquiries from the migrant communities has increased, as they are interested in applying for funds for initiatives and events.

5.5 Open Spaces

5.5.1 Cemeteries



5.5.2 Activities – items of importance

Cemeteries

- Cemetery staff are now into Autumn maintenance mode.
- Main focus is on grass and vegetation control around trees and edges. This is challenging with the current weather pattern continuing on with the summer growth cycle evident this year.
- Interment activity has quiet over the past month, so Cemetery maintenance has been the staff focus.
- Staff continue to have regular contact and dialogue with undertakers on various cemetery matters.
- Regular cyclical maintenance continues to occur at closed district cemeteries.
- Chertsey Cemetery has had a dead tree removed along with other maintenance pruning undertaken.

Open Space Management

- Customer service requests are being closely monitored for timely resolution – as they may impact upon the non-financial performance measures.
- Work is ongoing on updating the Open Spaces Asset Management Plan (AMP). Development will incur a significant amount of time for Open Spaces management/planning and supervisory staff.
- Open Spaces management staff continue to work on the Open Spaces asset inventory dataset with consultants. We are still working with Information Services department staff to get the dataset embedded, visible and editable in the Canterbury Maps system.
- Work continues with staff collaborating with Policy and Strategy on updating the Open Spaces Strategy and Bylaw. Both are currently out for public consultation and feedback.
- Rakaia Salmon Sculpture. Refurbishment has been completed with the assistance of 15 different contractors and a number of Council staff. In addition to the complete refurbishment of the sculpture (sanding, epoxy repairs, detailed paint work, and application of a clear coat to provide further protection) the salmon was lifted another 400-500mm in height to future proof it against vandalism. Flanges were also added to the base pole to simplify future take downs. Once all invoices are received, a summary of the full cost of the project will be provided at the next activity briefing. Sadly wilful damage occurred soon after the reinstatement and Police are involved in holding those responsible to account.
- Tarbotton Ride Smart Park. Fundraising is almost complete thereby allowing construction to begin. This is being kicked off with a sponsors event/photo opportunity at the site on 12 March 2026.

- Subdivisions/Development. A number of large subdivisions are under construction or have neared completion and staff are inspecting assets and liaising with developers to ensure future open spaces assets (street trees, entrance plantings, reserves, parks and playgrounds) have been constructed and maintained to our standard prior to handover.

Ashburton Domain

- The Domain has been busy so far over summer. Recently some large events have been hosted with out-of-town participants adding to the local economy while in Ashburton. One event was an over 70's Cricket tournament in late February.
- The Domain annual beds have been looking great but with the variable weather conditions, some are now in decline.
- Road marking of the Domain Driveway after resealing is now complete.
- Ashburton Domain Playground (Project 2 Ashburton Domain Development Plan) Tenders for this project closed 18 March 2026. The Council has procured the required equipment due to timing challenges procuring items from overseas, particularly Europe. It is expected physical works shall begin in April. Completion scheduled prior to the end of this financial year.
- Renewal lighting from the central Domain carpark to West Street is scheduled to commence soon.
- The Oval trees have had maintenance pruning undertaken along with one large Poplar tree extraction. The Poplar was in very poor and declining health.
- Trees at the Waireka Croquet Club have had a maintenance prune and lifting.

General Parks and Reserves and Gardens

- All turf and garden areas are feeling the pressure of a very growthy summer. Growth is rampant across the entire District with areas closer to the inland hills wetter than nearer the coast. Staff are focused on keeping up, but in a lot of areas the growth is outstripping our capacity. As a result, you will see bulk grass left onsite after mowing operations and areas usually sprayed out, such as fencelines showing lush weed growth. Persistent winds during are also compromising team ability to undertake chemical control. Again, this is more prevalent the nearer you get to the hills.
- Playground weekly and monthly safety checks and maintenance continue throughout the district.
- The Methven CBD lighting project is ongoing. Staff are informed by the contractors representative at EA Networks that remedial actions and work will occur and be concluded prior to this coming winter – when staff and the community expect the display to be live and visible.
- Annual beds in Methven and Rakaia have now passed their best and are being refurbished. The next cycle of bedding plants are growing on in the nursery. They are four to six weeks away from going out into the plots around the District.

- Various tree works are occurring around the Parks. Argyle Park has had trees de-suckered and some branches lifted over paths. Turton Green trees have been mulched and lifted. Oak Grove trees de-suckered and younger trees mulched. Some West Street trees have been lifted off the carriageway and footpaths. McDonald Street and Patching Park trees also de-suckered along with various street trees in Rakaia.
- The Ashburton skatepark is to have new lights fitted to replace the existing lights – none of which were working. These will be rectified by the Council streetlighting contractor.

Public Conveniences

- All facilities are generally working well.
- Playground toilets in Ashburton Domain were found to have a damaged drain causing blockage, a five-meter section has been replaced.
- There was a break in at the Awa Awa Rata toilet block service bay. The toilets suffered damage similar to that of Taylors last month with theft of the air extraction/ventilation system solar panel and batteries.
- With the Hinds Domain septic system and disposal field finding favour to date, with the Council through the Annual Plan process, staff are now considering the implementation and consenting processes of ultimate delivery before next years busy summer season.
- Lake Heron and Rakaia South River-mouth replacement public conveniences have been constructed in the North Island factory in Gisborne. We are currently awaiting their arrival to the installers yard – pre-install, onsite. The timeline is still for onsite changeover is Autumn. Site visits of staff and the installer are occurring at the time of writing.

5.5.3 Biodiversity

Recent/Ongoing Activity

- Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor continues to provide input into the land use change consenting process and applications with “more than minor” adverse environmental effects.
- Support for the management of the Harris Scientific Reserve continues, with efforts focused on understanding the current management’s vision for the site.
- Plants labels for rare and threatened plants at the Harris Scientific Reserve have been produced with funding from the Council biodiversity operational fund and pending installation by the ACCT team. Next phase will be an interpretative panel to highlight the biodiversity values within the Scientific Reserve.
- Conservation restoration plan for Harris Scientific Reserve development is underway to support the ongoing project at the Harris Scientific Reserve. The aim is to capture the intent of the founders and ensure that future work programs align with the original

purpose of the reserve. The writing may be done by an external consultant or by the Council Ecologist in collaboration with the Ashburton Community Conservation Trust.

- As part of Biodiversity Strategy implementation, Council Ecologist is developing research project brief on “Characterising biodiversity values and threats within New Zealand agricultural landscapes”, with a particular focus on the Mid-Canterbury region. Once finalised, the project brief will be sent to both the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University to seek a suitable student to undertake the research. Funding for the project is expected to come through the respective university scholarship schemes.
- Voluntary conservation covenant is being explored to protect sites that do not meet QEII criteria and in meeting with the Biodiversity Strategy action implementation. Report will be sent to the Council when it’s ready.
- Collation of information and photographs of rare and threatened biodiversity values (both plant and animal species) found in Mid-Canterbury is ongoing. The information will be developed into a booklet and published online on the Council website when completed.
- Ō Tū Wharekai Integrated Management Plan is close to being finalised by the working group, but currently on hold following a request from the catchment group due to limits on available capacity for the project. The purpose of the plan is to manage and address the declining water quality and biodiversity values within the basin. The Ō Tū Wharekai Working Group is also developing digital dashboard to display water quality results.

Completed and Planned Projects

Completed Projects

- Due to the wet summer season we experienced, more weed control projects were completed early this year, along with some pre-plant spraying for the upcoming autumn plantings. Weed spraying on existing planting sites included the Rakaia Gorge planting area, Ashton Beach significant vegetation slope, Smallbone Drive Reserve planting, Taylors Stream Reserve planting, and the Wakanui Beach restoration planting sites.
- Community workshop was held at the Rakaia Recreation Centre on pest control and managing biodiversity values on February 11, 2026. This was hosted by the Rakaia Lions and up to 30 community members attended the event.

Planned Plantings Projects for 2026

- EA Network Centre drainage channel and slopes- progressive planting until 2028.
- Ashburton Dog park adjoining the riverbank- Weed Spray in progress for additional area. Planting postponed till 2027 or until the sprayed blackberries break down.
- Mill Creek Riparian Planting- Allens Road and Pages Road area- March/April 2026.

- Hinds' septic soakage field planting- Scheduled for September 2026, after the Hinds Domain septic system project is complete.
- Stage 2 Taylors Stream Reserve planting- Bridge side slope and infill planting – in planning phase.
- Stage 2 Bowyers Stream planting. Wet areas beside the plantation that are difficult to mow – in planning phase.

Planned Community Volunteering Events for 2026

- World Biodiversity Day Planting 2026 is proposed to be held at the Wakanui Beach Reserve restoration site on Sunday, 24 May 2026. This event will involve Council staff, and the wider community.
- Planting at the EA Network Centre drainage channel scheduled for early April 2026 and to be undertaken by a community group, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Saturday 11th April 2026.
- Lake Camp/Clearwater Wilding Pine Removal – Sunday 26th April 2026.
- Annual Harris Scientific Reserve Planting – 2nd weekend in September (annually- collaborative event with Ashburton Community Conservation Trust).