

# Ashburton District Council

## AGENDA

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### Notice of Meeting:

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

**Date:** Wednesday 3 September 2025

**Time:** 1pm

**Venue:** Hine Paaka Council Chamber  
Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

### Membership

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

## Meeting Timetable

Time	Item
<b>1.00pm</b>	Council meeting commences
<b>1.30pm</b>	Key Research – Michael Hooker

### 1 Apologies

### 2 Extraordinary Business

### 3 Declarations of Interest

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

### Minutes

<b>4</b>	Council – 20/08/25	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	Methven Community Board – 11/08/25	<b>7</b>

### Reports

<b>6</b>	Water Races Bylaw 2025	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy 2025	<b>25</b>
<b>8</b>	Annual Residents' Survey 2024-25	<b>82</b>
<b>9</b>	End of Year Non-financial Performance Reporting	<b>85</b>

### Business Transacted with the Public Excluded

<b>10</b>	Council – 20/08/25		<b>PE 1</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People &amp; Capability report</li> <li>Land purchases</li> <li>ACL report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons</li> <li>Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities</li> <li>Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities</li> </ul>	
	[Now in open meeting]		
	EA Shareholders Committee appointment		
<b>11</b>	Methven Community Board – 11/08/25		<b>PE 3</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methven &amp; Foothills Birdsong Initiative</li> </ul>	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	
<b>12</b>	Cycle Trail Feasibility	Section 7(2)(b) Protection of trade or commercial information	<b>PE 4</b>
<b>13</b>	Award of ROAD0400 Road network maintenance & ops 25-30	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	<b>PE 11</b>
<b>14</b>	Three Waters resourcing	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	<b>PE 50</b>
<b>15</b>	Stormwater resourcing	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	<b>PE 56</b>
<b>16</b>	ACL Director Appointments	Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons	<b>PE 63</b>

## **4. Council Minutes –20 August 2025**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 20 August 2025, commencing at 1.00pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

### **Present**

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

### **In attendance**

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

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Tania Paddock (General Counsel), Jacqui Watson (Senior Legal Counsel), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager) and Erin Register (Finance Manager).

### **Presentations**

NZTA – 1.05pm-1.25pm

Tuia – 2.05pm-2.15pm

ACL – 3.48pm-4.15pm

#### **1 Apologies**

Nil.

#### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

#### **4 Confirmation of Minutes – 6/08/25**

**That** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 August 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

#### **5 Audit & Risk Committee – 30/07/25**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 30 July 2025.

Cameron/Ellis

Carried

- **Bancorp Treasury Report**

1. **That** Council receives the Bancorp Treasury report for the June 2025 quarter.
2. **That** Council approves the establishment of a line of credit facility to meet liquidity requirements required by Council's Treasury Policy for the most favourable option available.

Cameron/Lovett

Carried

## 6 **Three Waters Committee – 30/07/25**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 30 July 2025.

Ellis/McMillan

Carried

- **Keenans Road watermain extension**

**That** Council approves:

1. the construction and initial funding of a water network extension in Seafield Road, Southpark Road and Keenans Road, as shown in the plan in Appendix Three to this report;
2. the part recovery of the construction cost through lump sum contributions from the connecting landowners (totalling an estimated \$45,990 exclusive of GST); and
3. recovery of the balance of the construction costs from each property as they connect to the watermain in future (estimated at \$9,198 exclusive GST, and to be indexed to inflation), with this charge to be incorporated into the 2026-27 Annual Plan.

Lovett/McMillan

Carried

## 7 **Biodiversity Advisory Group – 4/08/25**

**That** the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 4 August 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Braam/Wilson

Carried

## **NZTA – Second Ashburton bridge (2AB)**

Rich Osborne and Albert Chan provided an update on second Ashburton bridge project, the key issues being –

- Procurement –preferred early contractor involvement process is to be completed by September and the design and construct contract to be awarded at the end of the calendar year at which time there will be more detail on timelines and where costs will fall.
- Environmental – resource consent and DOC obligations are being met in respect to the braided river nesting birds and lizard protection and archaeological authority has been granted for both parts of the project. The regional resource consent will be lodged over the next two weeks and alteration to the designation will be undertaken by the end of the year (with input from the preferred ECI contractor).
- Geotechnical – around 20 boreholes completed in and around the river with samples being tested. Testing existing roads and paddocks was completed in May.
- Upcoming – working through principal requirements and remaining statutory approvals, finalising property acquisition and will work with preferred ECI contractor to find ways to accelerate the work programme such as early or enabling work.
- Community information session –Thursday 11 September between 3.30pm – 6.30pm at the Event Space, Te Whare Whakatere, Ashburton Library & Civic Centre.

## 8 Water Services Delivery Plan Adoption

Officers tabled an update to page 8 of the Plan, noting additional comment that there will be continued outsourcing of projects for design to external consultants, and that day to day operations of water services will continue to be contracted out.

**That** Council:

- a) Notes the Chief Executive agrees to certification of the Water Services Delivery Plan; and
- b) Adopts the attached Water Services Delivery Plan for submission to the Secretary for Local Government.

Todd/Braam

Carried

The Water Services Delivery Plan was adopted unanimously and will now be submitted to the Secretary of Local Government for review and acceptance.

## 9 Grant of Easements on Reserve – Bridge Street, Ashburton

1. **That** Council approves the granting of a right of way easement and a right to convey water easement over Lot 8 Deposited Plan 13457 (being Local Purpose (Road) Reserve) at Bridge Street, Ashburton in favour of Lot 1 Deposited Plan 614133 (Record of Title 1224085) subject to section 48 of the Reserves Act 1977.
2. **That** Council agrees that the notification of the intention to grant the easement is not required, as the statutory test in section 48(3) of the Reserves Act 1977 is met, for the reasons set out in the report.
3. **That** Council exercises the authority delegated to administering bodies by the Minister of Conservation for the granting of an easement over reserve land.
4. **That** Council authorises the Chief Executive to sign all documentation in connection with the registration of the easement.

Lovett/Hooper

Carried

## 10 Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club Gravel Bent Sprint

Following public notice of the road closure, no objections were received.

**That** Council permits the temporary closure of a portion of Le Bretons Road and Chertsey Road on Saturday, 13 September 2025 from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm to allow the Gravel Bent Sprint Meeting to be held.

Cameron/Ellis

Carried

## 11 Financial Variance Report – (Preliminary) 30 June 2025

- Parks – officers to provide a break-down of what the \$5.8m borrowing relates to.

**That** Council receives the Preliminary 30 June 2025 financial variance report.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

## Ashburton District Tuia

The Mayor welcomed Tayla Argyle, the current Tuia representative for Ashburton district, and invited her to talk about her experiences on the programme, including wānanga (courses) she attended this year in Hamilton and Rotorua.

Tayla spoke positively about the Tuia leadership programme which has helped her identify her strengths and weaknesses and has given her a sense of connection and purpose. Tayla concluded by thanking the Mayor and Council for the support she has been given in the role.

### Welcome to staff – 2.15pm

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager, introduced new staff – Richard Ward (Property Maintenance Officer) and Gordon Cruickshank (Financial Performance Manager).

Council also acknowledged the long service of Community Liaison Officer Ann Smith (10 years).

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 2.18pm to 3pm.

### Business transacted with the public excluded 2.18pm.

**That** the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
12	Council 6/08/25 • RDRML Land [Now in open meeting] • Reserve contribution – green strip at 61 Albert Street • Financial systems & reporting resource	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
13	Audit & Risk Cmte 30/07/25 • Health & Safety report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
14	Three Waters Cmte 30/07/25 • Tradewaste	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
15	People & Capability Report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
16	EA Shareholders Committee	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
17	Land purchase	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
18	Land purchase	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
19	ACL quarterly update	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

### Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- EA Shareholder Committee appointment**

**That** Council reappoints David Ward to the Electricity Ashburton Shareholders Committee for a further three year term expiring at the Company's annual meeting in 2028.

Braam/Todd

Carried

Council concluded at 4.25pm.

Confirmed 3 September 2025

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MAYOR

## **5. Methven Community Board – 11/08/25**

Minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 11 August 2025, commencing at 9.00 am, in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room, 160 Main Street, Methven.

### **Present**

Kelvin Holmes (Chair), Allan Lock, Richie Owen, Robin Jenkinson and Cr Rob Mackle

### **In attendance**

Toni Durham (GM Democracy and Engagement), Linda Clarke (Communications Advisor) and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support).

### **1 Apologies**

Mayor Neil Brown, Megan Fitzgerald and Cr Liz McMillan.  
Sustained

### **2 Extraordinary Business**

**That** pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business and considered with item 4:

- E-mail from the Methven Area Security Enhancement Trust seeking clarification to their grant conditions

Owen/Jenkinson

Carried

**That** pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following items be introduced as extraordinary business and considered with the public excluded in accordance with Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities:

- Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Report

Owen/Jenkinson

Carried

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

### **4 Confirmation of Minutes**

**That** the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 30 June 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Owen/McMillan

Carried

### **Extraordinary Business – Methven Area Security Enhancement Trust**

- The Methven Security Trust have confirmed that 4/5 of their cameras are installed within the Methven town boundary.

### **5 Matter for decision**

Nil

## 6 Activity Reports

**That** the reports be received.

Owen/Lock

Carried

### 6.1 Infrastructure & Open Spaces

- **Open Spaces**

The Methven CBD lighting project was due to be completed at the end of June but has not yet happened. A date for the turning on of the lights was requested.

CRM2300092/25 – Trees on Cushmor Drive

The Chair is to follow up with the Open Spaces Manager as to whether it is possible for the trees on Cushmor Drive to be thinned.

- **Solid Waste Management and Collection**

The growing number of gross contamination warnings and collection bin confiscations were discussed. A request was made to look into whether the breaches are happening at the same properties and if these properties are any of the known Air BnB's.

### 6.3 Compliance & Development

- **Environmental Monitoring**

There were a number of noise complaints recorded for the period. A request as made as to whether these were all from the same property and if these properties are any of the known Air BnB's.

### Business transacted with the public excluded – 9.35am

**That** the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
7	MCB Minutes – 30/06/25 Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8	Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Report	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Owen/Jenkinson

Carried

The Board resumed in open meeting and the meeting concluded at 9.53am.

Confirmed 22 September 2025

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Chairman



## 6. *Adoption of Water Races Bylaw 2025*

Author	<i>Richard Mabon, Senior Policy Advisor</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Neil McCann, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Open Spaces</i> <i>Mark Low, Strategy &amp; Policy Manager</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham, Group Manager, Democracy &amp; Engagement</i>

### Summary

- The purpose of this report is present the Water Races Bylaw 2025 (“Bylaw”) for adoption. The Bylaw is enclosed as Appendix 1.
- Council discussed, debated and decided various issues highlighted in consultation material and the 2 submissions received. This material is summarised in paras 6-10.
- Officers have added an explanatory note to the draft Bylaw to reflect Council’s deliberations on the Bylaw.
- All changes proposed to the Bylaw from the document that was consulted upon are highlighted in yellow in Appendix 1.
- Officers recommend the adoption of the Water Races Bylaw 2025 per Appendix 1.

#### Recommendation

1. **That** Council adopts the Ashburton District Council Water Races Bylaw 2025 (as set out in Appendix 1) effective from 12 September 2025.
2. **That** Council advises submitters of the outcome of the consultation process and deliberations feedback.

### Attachments

**Appendix 1** Ashburton District Council Water Races Bylaw 2025 (including proposed amendments at 30 October 2024)

## Background

1. The Water Races Bylaw 2019 was made by Council resolution on 26 September 2019, becoming effective on 27 September 2019.
2. As it was a new Bylaw, statutory review was required within five years. As this did not occur, section 160A Local Government Act 2002 provides that the 2019 Bylaw will expire on 26 September 2026.
3. Council considered a range of options in relation to the future of the Water Races Bylaw. On 21 May 2025, it resolved to consult on making a new Water Races Bylaw 2025 to "substantially roll-over" the 2019 Bylaw while making minor but beneficial improvements that support network management. Council favoured this "95% status quo" option because:
  - Council would retain the full suite of enforcement opportunities available to it.
  - Council's ability to recover the costs of maintenance done on behalf of landowners would be retained.
  - Minor errors in the Bylaw would be corrected.
  - A Bylaw that replicated what is already in place should help to retain community buy-in, as council worked through the Stock water Exit Transition Plan ("SETP").
4. This would not impact any aspects relating to the SETP.
5. The proposal opened for consultation on 30 May 2025 and submissions closed on 29 June 2025. Two submissions were received. Neither submitter asked to appear in support of their submission.

## Submissions and Hearings

6. Council held a hearing and deliberations on 13 August 2025. The sole issue that was raised by submitters related to the existing 6 metre requirement to allow for water race maintenance.
7. Officers noted that owners have discretion over the cleaning method for their cleaning of local races. The 6 metre clearance applies to all races as landowners may decline to clean local races, at which the responsibility falls back to Council to clean at the cost of the landowner. Officers also noted that suction cleaning itself presents environmental challenges.
8. The Bylaw allows Council and landowners to contemplate other approaches to race cleaning. Having considered the matters raised, Council opted to maintain the 6 metre clearance rule, and add an explanatory note particularly relating to race cleaning methods.

## Options analysis

9. The following options are available.

### **Option One – Adopt the amended Bylaw as attached in Appendix 1.**

10. Under this option, Council would adopt the bylaw appended as Appendix 1.
11. Appendix 1 has been amended to include the explanatory note related to the 6 metre clearance for water race cleaning.

<b>Advantages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It addresses the original objectives of the Review.</li><li>• It reflects Council's consideration of the views expressed by submitters.</li></ul>	<b>Disadvantages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council has not viewed the changes to the explanatory note prior to this report.</li><li>• This option presumes that Council would not wish to make changes to the explanatory note.</li></ul>
<b>Risks:</b> <p>There is a LOW reputational risk to Council if submitters are not satisfied with the decisions made by Council.</p>	

### **Option two – Make further amendments to the Bylaw and adopt with additional amendments**

12. Under this option, Council may choose to make further amendments to the Bylaw detailed in Appendix 1 arising from the discussions.
13. At this stage of the process, amendments need to be explicitly worded for clarity as a change to the Bylaw.

<b>Advantages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It reflects Council's consideration of the views expressed by submitters or other matters raised in debate.</li><li>• It may enable Council to refine the Bylaw to better reflect its wishes</li></ul>	<b>Disadvantages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The risk of an amendment that is materially different from the draft Bylaw as consulted upon. In the worst-case scenario Officers would advise Council to defer adoption of the bylaw and take further written advice on such an amendment.</li></ul>
<b>Risks:</b> <p>The risks are that 1. Council finds that the adjusted explanatory note requires changes; or 2. Council decides to amend the Bylaw for any reason. This is normal democracy in action and can be managed under normal rules of debate. This is LOW risk. There would be greater risk if Council proposed an amendment which was materially different from the scope of the original draft Bylaw as consulted upon. This is normally managed through the provision of officer advice enabling informed decisions. Depending on the nature of the amendment, this is LOW-to-MODERATE risk.</p>	

## Legal/policy implications

### Local Government Act 2002

14. Council has made the Bylaw within the statutory timeframes set out in the Local Government Act 2002 (“the Act”). In making the bylaw, Council has made the determinations set out in section 155 of the Act. Council has also complied with the consultation and procedural requirements in sections 155 and 156 of the Act.
15. The matters addressed within the Bylaw are within Council’s bylaw-making powers under the Act.
16. Section 157 of the Act requires Council to give public notice of the making of the bylaw, as soon as practicable after a bylaw is made, with the public notice stating:
  - a. The date on which the bylaw will come into operation; and
  - b. That copies of the bylaw may be inspected and obtained at Council’s office.
17. If Council adopts the officer’s recommendation, officers propose to give this public notice on 12 September 2025.
18. The draft Bylaw has had internal legal review, as has the explanatory note changes.

### Climate change

19. As noted in the 21 May 2025 report to Council, one of the purposes of the Bylaw is “to ...provide for the ... ecological values of identified parts of the network.” Those ecological values include supporting biodiversity values, including those associated with adaptation to climate change, by preserving habitat and supporting blue-green corridors.

#### Review of legal / policy implications

Reviewed by General Counsel

Tania Paddock; General Counsel

## Strategic alignment

20. The recommendation relates to Council’s community outcomes as set out in the table below:

Community outcome		Reasons why the recommendations have an effect on this outcome.
Residents are well-	✓	Public consultation on the Bylaw gives residents a say and the

represented, included and have a voice		conduct of Council business in public contributes to open, transparent and democratically accountable local government.
A district of great spaces and places	✓	The water race network contributes to the quality of open spaces in rural areas.
A balanced and sustainable environment.	✓	The water race network supports ecological values, including biodiversity.
A prosperous economy based on innovation, opportunity and high quality infrastructure	✓	The water race network supports farming operations in the district and agriculture is the cornerstone of the economy.

21. The recommendations relate to the four well-beings as set out in the table below:

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	An efficient and effective water race network supports the agricultural economy.
Environmental	✓	The water race network supports ecological values, including biodiversity.
Cultural	✓	The water race network supports cultural values, such as mahinga kai.
Social	✓	Public consultation on the Bylaw contributes to open, transparent and democratically accountable local government.

## Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Officers note that the Bylaw consultation and implementation of the adopted bylaw is expected to be delivered within operating budgets. No additional expenditure is required.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Operating budgets for Strategy and Policy will cover the direct costs of consultation. Implementation (including enforcement) is covered by operating budgets for stockwater management.
Are there any future budget implications?	No.
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register, Finance Manager

## Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	The overall impact of the recommended decision is minor updates to the current bylaw, consistent with maintaining current levels of service, and minor updates for changes in the operating environment and to correct errors.
Level of engagement selected	3 Consult – formal two-way communication using consultation under s.82 of the LGA02
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	Consultation is always required for bylaws, and s.82 is required for bylaw matters that are not of significant interest to the public. This has now occurred and assuming Council adopts the revised bylaw will complete the bylaw review.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low, Strategy & Policy Manager

## Next steps

Date	Action / milestone	Comments
3 September 2025	Council to formally adopt Bylaw	
12 September 2025	Amended bylaw becomes effective.	Bylaw must be publicly notified after adoption.

# Bylaw

## WATER RACES

<b>TITLE:</b>	Ashburton District Council Water Races Bylaw 2025
<b>TEAMS:</b>	Assets
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	Group Manager, Infrastructure and Open Spaces
<b>DATE ADOPTED:</b>	3 September 2025
<b>COMMENCEMENT:</b>	12 September 2025
<b>NEXT REVIEW DUE:</b>	3 September 2030 (as required by LGA s.158 and 159)
<b>RELATED DOCUMENTS:</b>	Ashburton District Council Explanatory Bylaw 2016 Ashburton District Council Stormwater Bylaw 2022 Ashburton District Council Wastewater Drainage Bylaw 2021 Ashburton District Council Water Supply Bylaw 2016 Ashburton District Plan Ashburton District Surface Water Strategy 2018-2028 Health Act 1956 Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 Local Government Act 2002 Resource Management Act 1991

### 1. Title

The title of this bylaw is Ashburton District Council Water Races Bylaw 2025. This bylaw revokes and replaces the Ashburton District Council Water Races Bylaw 2019.

### 2. Purpose

- The purpose of this bylaw is to:
- a. Ensure the water race network is managed appropriately to maintain water quality and quantity for stockwater;
  - b. Provide for the cultural and ecological values of identified parts of the network; and
  - c. Provide for the safety of water race users and the public.

### 3. Contents

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## 4. Application

This bylaw applies to the water race network within Ashburton District managed by the Ashburton District Council. This bylaw is to be read in conjunction with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. Where a conflict occurs the provisions of that Act take precedence.

## 5. Definitions

**Affected parties:** means, in the context of an application to alter or close a section of race, the property owner or occupier who use that section of race or whose land the race channel runs through or is adjacent to a roadside race.

**Animal:** means stock, poultry and any other animal that is kept in a state of captivity or is dependent upon human beings for its care or sustenance and those that are not.

**Appointed crossing:** means any location at which there is a culvert or bridge to allow for animals to cross over the water race.

**Authorised Person:** means any person to whom authority is delegated by Council to take action in relation to this bylaw or to undertake the duties of a Council officer under this bylaw, including a contractor or agent of the local authority.

**Bylaw:** means the Ashburton District Council Water Races Bylaw 2025.

**Council:** means the Ashburton District Council or any Authorised Person

**District:** has the meaning provided in the Ashburton District Council Explanatory Bylaw 2016.

**Local race:** means a race that sources its water from a main race and is maintained by the occupiers/landowners whose land the race runs through or is adjacent to a roadside race.

**Owner or occupier:** means the person or persons who use/s the race or whose land the race channel runs through or is adjacent to and includes their agents.



animal

**Main race:** means a race that sources its water directly from an intake point for distribution through local races. Main races are operated and maintained by Council.

**Maintenance:** means ensuring channels and banks are maintained and kept clear from obstructions to allow water to flow freely.

**Pollution:** means the discharge, whether directly or indirectly into a water race, which will contaminate that water so as to change the physical condition in such a manner as to:

- a. Make the water unclean, noxious or impure; or
- b. Be detrimental to the health, safety or welfare of persons using the water; or
- c. Be poisonous or harmful to animals, birds or fish around or in the water; and

Includes any other action or inaction which renders the water in the water race to be classified as all or any of the points above.

**Service:** means a pipe, pond, trough, tank or reservoir or other service connected to the water race. Council no longer rates specifically for services.

**Stock:** has the meaning provided in the Ashburton District Council Explanatory Bylaw 2016.

**Water race:** has the meaning given in the Local Government Act 2002, and in general means the land occupied by a constructed water channel, including its sides and banks, under the authority of a local authority to be used for farming purposes. It can include other waterworks, buildings and machinery relating to or used in connection with a water race. For the purposes of this bylaw, it includes both local races and main races.

## 6. Use of water race network

- 6.1 The water race network's primary purpose is to supply water for stock consumption.
- 6.2 The water race network is not intended to supply water for drinking or domestic use.
- 6.3 The Council may prevent the use of any water from the water race network if the owner or occupier of the land receiving the water fails to comply with provisions of this bylaw or fails to pay the annual charges for the supply of water from the water race network.
- 6.4 No owner or occupier of any land or other person shall direct, consume or use any water from any water race without the permission in writing of the Council and without having first paid the appropriate charges.
- 6.5 No owner or occupier responsible for a local race shall cause or permit water to run to waste from any water race or service.
- 6.6 For the avoidance of doubt, water running to approved discharge points (including soak pits, drains and rivers) is not considered waste for the purposes of clause 6.5.

## 7. Responsibilities of owners or occupiers

- 7.1 The owners or occupiers are responsible for ensuring all necessary fees are paid and permissions obtained for any use of the water race network.
- 7.2 The owners or occupiers responsible for a local race shall, at their own cost, keep and

- maintain the local race in good condition to ensure a continuous flow and prevent any overflow, leakage or wastage of water to land or roads.
- 7.3 Where the local race is located on or about the common boundary between lands in different ownership, the responsibilities of owners or occupiers lie between them in equal shares.
- 7.4 The owners or occupiers shall clean and maintain the local race in good order and repair and allow easy access to race cleaning machinery.
- 7.5 The owner or occupier shall ensure that any damage to the local race bank is promptly and properly repaired and ensure that the local race is maintained in its original condition in relation to its depth and width following any maintenance and or repair, unless otherwise authorised.
- 7.6 The owner or occupier may, at the written direction of an Authorised Person, be required to erect an appropriate fence to allow animal access to the water race for drinking purposes only.
- 7.7 The owner or occupier shall maintain and keep all on-farm local race bridges and culverts in proper repair and condition.
- 7.8 The owner or occupier of the land through which any local race runs shall remove or dispose of all matter or debris dislodged as part of cleaning and/or maintenance of that local race, and shall:
- 7.8.1 Ensure that removal or disposal occurs at the time that cleaning and/or maintenance occurs or as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 7.8.2 Bear the cost of the removal and disposal of that matter and debris.
- 7.9 The owner or occupier will allow access to machinery used for race cleaning (as per clause 10.1.15.2 d. and Figure 1) and take all reasonable steps to prevent any matter or debris removed from the local race from re-entering the race.
- 7.10 The owner or occupier must make a Corridor Access Request in writing to the relevant road controlling authority for any work within a road reserve. The person undertaking the work shall then comply with all the requirements of the subsequent Works Access Permits.

## **8. Powers and responsibilities of Council**

- 8.1 Council sets annual rates under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and may impose fees and charges under the Local Government Act 2002 for the ability to use the water race network on all properties with a water race running through or adjacent to it.
- 8.2 Rates are levied on a property served by the water race network regardless of whether the water is used or not.
- 8.3 Fees and charges shall be set in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 and this bylaw.
- 8.4 Nothing contained in this bylaw shall restrict Council's ability to manage its water race network and infrastructure associated with it.
- 8.5 Council is responsible for the cost of network operation and the management and maintenance of main water races, control structures, flow measurement facilities and road crossings (including associated culverts).
- 8.6 Where a water race has been altered, diverted or closed, Authorised Persons and/or Council's appointed agents shall have rights of unrestricted access to the water race and

- other occupied land for the purposes of construction, maintenance, alteration and inspection of water races, associated structures and closure works.
- 8.7 Council may impose restrictions on taking water from the water race network from time to time.
  - 8.8 Council does not guarantee an uninterrupted or constant supply of water to any property or its quality.
  - 8.9 Council is not responsible or liable to any person or body for the total or partial failure of any part of the water race network.
  - 8.10 Council may stop the flow of water in any water race for the purposes of:
    - 8.10.1 Carrying out repairs, maintenance, alterations, or any other purpose deemed necessary by the Council;
    - 8.10.2 Managing the distribution of water; and/or
    - 8.10.3 Permanently closing the race (see Schedule 1)
  - 8.11 Council may carry out fencing, cleaning, maintenance or repair of a local race in the event that the owner or occupier fails to do so satisfactorily.
  - 8.12 Council may recover the cost of works carried out under clause 8.11 of this bylaw from the owner or occupier. Where the work involves two or more owners or occupiers, Council shall recover its costs **either:**
    - 8.12.1 By equal shares; **or**
    - 8.12.2 By allocating each owner or occupier a fair and just proportion of the total costs of the work where this will produce a fairer outcome than equal shares.

## 9. Alterations to the water race network

- 9.1 Alterations to the water race network include:
  - 9.1.1 Diverting an existing section of water race;
  - 9.1.2 Constructing a water race in a road reserve or under carriageways;
  - 9.1.3 Installing a pipe service, pump service or pond service as described in Schedule 2 to this bylaw; or
  - 9.1.4 Permanent closure of a water race.
- 9.2 Assessment of an alteration to the water race network is triggered by application in writing to Council from
  - 9.2.1 Any owner or occupier; or
  - 9.2.2 An Authorised Person
- 9.3 An application under clause 9.2 shall include:
  - 9.3.1 Any applicable fees and charges
  - 9.3.2 A completed "Application for Alterations to Water Race" form, and
  - 9.3.3 "Affected Parties Consent" form signed by affected parties
  - 9.3.4 The information necessary to enable assessment under the criteria in Schedule 1
- 9.4 Council will assess the application against the criteria in Schedule 1.
- 9.5 Council has the right to decline any application.
- 9.6 Council may grant permission for any application subject to conditions.
- 9.7 Works cannot begin until Council has provided written permission.

## 10. Non-permitted uses of the water race network

### Explanatory Notes:

#### Stock Exclusion

Clause 10.1.7 is intended to reinforce regulatory and voluntary efforts to protect water quality from the activities of larger animals including cows, deer, horses and pigs that will stand, wallow, urinate and/or defecate in water races. Environment Canterbury has developed stock exclusion rules for the same purpose and our intention is to align our enforcement approach with the position set out in the stock exclusion rules.

#### Race maintenance, plantings and the 6 metre requirement

Clause 10.1.15 is intended to enable efficient and effective maintenance of the water race network and to prevent inappropriate plantings that reduce the efficiency of that work. This needs to be read alongside clause 7.9 of the Bylaw and Schedule 3, Figure 1. In particular, Council notes that riparian plantings may occur within 3 metres of the sides of a water race, so long as there is a six metre strip available on one side.

It should also be noted that there is flexibility in clause 10.1.15.3 of the bylaw to accommodate alternative effective cleaning methods on main races at the request of the owner, provided that methods are allowed under our resource consents and additional costs are recovered from the owner. Where the race is a local race, the adjoining landowner (or owners) is responsible for race cleaning. A 6 metre clear strip is recommended on one side of local races as this is appropriate for cleaning with mechanical diggers.

- 10.1 The owner or occupier or any other person shall not:
  - 10.1.1 Allow any pollutant to enter a water race.
  - 10.1.2 Do anything that will increase or decrease the flow of water in the water race without the consent of the Council
  - 10.1.3 Obstruct the flow of water in any water race by any means whatsoever
  - 10.1.4 Remove, displace, alter or interfere with any gauge, meter, weir, dam, reservoir, crossing, culvert, pipe, headworks, gate, screen, building or other structures which form part of the water race network.
  - 10.1.5 Obstruct or interfere with any person employed by Council in connection with the water races in the discharge of their duties.
  - 10.1.6 Widen or deepen any water race or alter its course without the consent of the Council
  - 10.1.7 Allow any animals to enter a water race, except that a drinking station may be provided outside the water race.
  - 10.1.8 Wash or cleanse any vehicle, plant, equipment, animal carcass, hide or skin or any other substances in any water race, or place or allow to remain, any animal dead or alive in any water race or on the bank of the water race.
  - 10.1.9 Obstruct any crossing over a water race.
  - 10.1.10 Ride, drive or lead any animal into or through any water race other than at an appointed crossing.
  - 10.1.11 Ride or drive any vehicle or machine across or through any water race other than at an appointed crossing.
  - 10.1.12 Allow any person to bathe in any water race, reservoir or pond.
  - 10.1.13 Allow domesticated ducks, geese or exotic fish access to the water race.

- 10.1.14 Allow the disposal of cuttings or clippings from any plant or hedge to remain in a water race, culvert, channel or within 3 metres of the banks of any water race, culvert or channel.
- 10.1.15 Sow, plant or allow to grow, any tree, hedge, shrub or other plant of any kind within a distance of 3 metres of either side of a water race except for:
  - 10.1.15.1 Crops and pasture are permitted; and
  - 10.1.15.2 Shrubs or plants forming a live fence are permitted provided that :
    - a. They are maintained to less than 1.5 metres in height;
    - b. They are sown or planted on one side of a water race only;
    - c. They are at a distance of not less than 1 metre from the edge of the water race; and
    - d. A strip of not less than 6 metres wide (adjacent to one side of the water race) is left unplanted to enable access to the water race for machinery used for cleaning;(as per Figure 1) or
  - 10.1.15.3 As otherwise approved by Council.
- 10.1.16 Direct, divert or cause or permit direction or diversion of the water of any stream, water course, pond, swamp or stormwater runoff from its natural flow into any water race, associated structure or piece of equipment without written permission of the Council.
- 10.1.17 Permit a person who does not pay any water race rates to take water from a water race.
- 10.1.18 Pitch or erect, or cause to be pitched or erected, any tent, building or other structure, whether of a permanent or temporary nature, or shall tether or fasten any animal, or shall drive or fix any post, stake, hurdle or other thing, within the limits of a water race.
- 10.1.19 Place any boat, or other craft, in any water race.
- 10.1.20 Use a water race in any other manner contrary to the provisions of this bylaw or of the Local Government Act 2002 and any regulations.

## **11. Amendment by resolution**

Council may, by resolution publicly notified, amend any matter relating to Schedules 1 and 2 of this bylaw.

## **12. Offences and penalties**

Every person who breaches this bylaw commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or such other amount as may be provided for under the Local Government Act 2002.

## **Schedule 1 – Criteria to assess proposals and/or applications or proposals for alterations to water races (including closures)**

The criteria below will be used to assess proposals and/or applications to make alterations to water races (including closures). Council will consider all relevant criteria. The final decision will reflect the overall merits of the application as a whole.

1. Criteria to be considered
  - a. Length and location of section of race to be altered or closed
  - b. Number of properties that will be affected
  - c. Current use of the section of race proposed to be altered or closed
  - d. Percentage of landowners/occupiers in support of closure
  - e. Economic analysis of race closures and alterations, including the operating and capital costs and benefits for all affected parties, and the equitable distribution of those costs and benefits.
  - f. Cost-effective alternative water sources available to properties, including costs of in-farm infrastructure, such as wells, pumps, tanks and reticulation
  - g. Whether the race is a main race or a local race
  - h. Cultural values affected by the alteration or closure
  - i. Ecological values affected by the alteration or closure
  - j. Land/stormwater drainage values affected by the alteration or closure
  - k. Fire-fighting values affected by the alteration or closure, such as the availability of water within that section of race to provide a source for fire-fighting
  - l. Physical effects of closure on other network infrastructure
  - m. Impacts of mitigation measures that may reduce the effects of race closures or alterations
  - n. Achievement of the objectives of the Surface Water Strategy, the Ashburton Water Zone Implementation Programme, and the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and the Council meeting its obligations under the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

## Schedule 2 – Specification for services

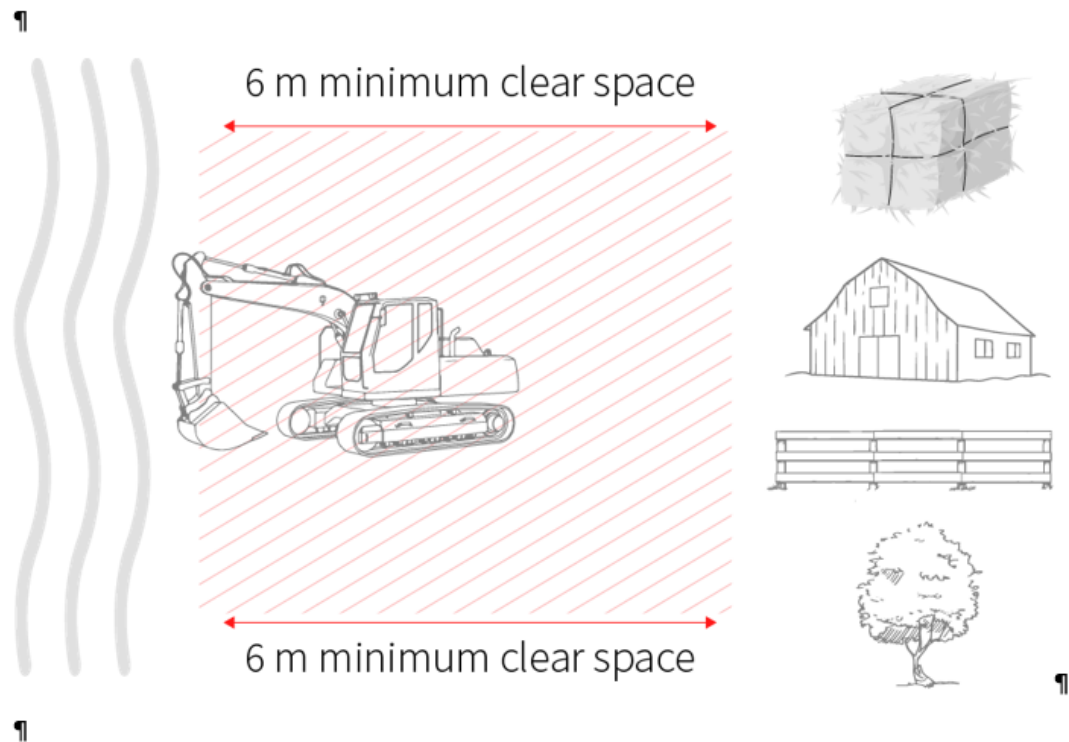
An application to Council is required for the installation of the following permitted services:

1. Pipe service consists of a pipe of internal diameter less than or equal to 40mm used to convey water under gravity flow from a water race via a standard “take off” to a storage tank or trough.
2. Pump service consists of a suction pipe fitted to the outlet of a standard “take off” cylinder. The cylinder is fed from the water race via a 40 mm internal diameter pipe with the cylinder capacity sufficient to match the pump performance. The suction pump may be used to convey water from the cylinder to a storage tank. Dwellings, outbuildings or water troughs may be supplied from the storage tank.
3. Pond service consisting of a pond of:
  - a. A maximum depth of 0.6 m
  - b. A maximum surface area of 35 m<sup>2</sup>
  - c. A maximum capacity of 21 m<sup>3</sup>
4. The pond is to be constructed of impervious material and connected to a water race via a small loop race having adjustable control gates fitted at the intakes and outlet at the junctions with the principal race. The supply of water to any pond service may be temporarily closed during drought or be terminated in writing by the Council at any time.
5. Extension services apply to pipe and pump services and require the approval of the Council. Where approved each extension service shall permit the supply of water to one additional trough.

## Schedule 3

**Figure 1 – Access for Race Cleaning Machinery**

Figure 1.1



Minimum of 6-metre set-back required from the water-race edge to allow digger access from trees, sheds, fences, hay and baleage and any other materials that can prevent a digger from cleaning the water-race.



## 7. *Adoption of Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2025*

Authors	<i>Femke van der Valk; Policy Advisor Richard Mabon; Senior Policy Advisor Tracey Dickinson; Compliance &amp; Sustainability Advisor Christian Chukwuka; Ecologist &amp; Biodiversity Advisor</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager</i>
Executive Team Members	<i>Toni Durham; GM Democracy and Engagement Neil McCann; GM Infrastructure and Open Spaces</i>

### Summary

- The purpose of this report is to present the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2024 for adoption following the public hearings and deliberations on the draft in June and August this year.
- When adopting the Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy, Council revokes the existing Council's Climate Change Policy 2022 and Climate Resilience Plan 2022.
- Council has the following options:
  - Adopt the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2025 as presented in the Appendix 1 (recommended option)
  - Adopt the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2025 strategy with amendments.

### Recommendation

- 1. That** Council adopts the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2025, revoking the Climate Change Policy 2022 and Climate Resilience Plan 2022.

### Attachments

**Appendix 1** Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2025

## Background

### The current situation

1. Council adopted its first Climate Change Policy in 2019, in response to a request from Elected Members at the time. The policy outlines key goals and guiding principles for Council's climate change response.
2. During the review of the Climate Change Policy in 2022, it was identified that there was no framework for meeting the goals contained within the policy. In response to this, the Climate Resilience Plan was developed and adopted in 2022.
3. The Climate Resilience Plan outlines a number of actions that Council plans/planned to take in regard to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The plan has a focus on Council's internal business, as the aim was to get our own house in order before developing a community focussed plan.
4. In 2024 Council also committed to being a part of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, which was adopted by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum in September.
5. Council's Climate Change Policy and Climate Resilience Plan were both due for review in 2025.
6. Instead of reviewing both documents, officers recommended to develop a Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy to:
  - Have better coordination of actions across Council activities
  - Have the two separate documents consolidated to one
  - Take sustainability into account
  - Enable community input
7. On 30 October 2024, Council adopted the recommendation to proceed with the development of the Ashburton District Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy.
8. Early engagement with the community and stakeholders on the strategy content took place from 20 January to 23 February 2025.
9. Council was presented with the engagement feedback and proposed strategy structure during a workshop on 27 March and later confirmed the proposed vision, goals, objectives and action plan during the 30 April workshop.
10. Te Runaka o Arowhenua has reviewed the draft strategy and provided feedback which has been incorporated in the draft.

## **Draft Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy**

11. The strategy purpose is to:
  - Share what our over-arching vision and objectives are;
  - Allow a long-term vision for a challenge that will affect current and future generations;
  - Explain why we are involved in these inter-related areas;
  - Create a clear connection between our existing plans and strategies;
  - State detailed actions for how Council and the community can aim to reach the goals and known estimated costs.
12. The strategy includes a vision statement, guiding principles, background information on climate change and sustainability and the identified priority areas, goals, objectives and an action plan including estimated costs for implementation. Except for existing actions already underway or budgeted for, new actions are to be approved via a business case through the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan budget process.
13. The draft strategy incorporates the relevant parts of the existing Climate Change Policy and Climate Change Resilience Plan. By adopting the strategy, the Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy will replace both documents.
14. The priority areas identified during the engagement and included in the draft strategy are:
  - Sustainable water management
  - Nature-based solutions
  - A resilient, engaged and informed community
  - Waste reduction and minimisation
  - Resilient Infrastructure
  - Transition to a low carbon future

## **Consultation, hearing and deliberations**

15. Public consultation on the Draft Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy was held from Monday 26 May to Wednesday 18 June, with the closing date later extended till Sunday 22 June. A total of 32 submissions were received.
16. Considering previous interest in the topic at the Youth Forum and the relevance of the topic for future generations additional youth engagement with teenagers was arranged and Councillors and staff engaged with 27 students during three school visits (Ashburton College, Ashburton Christian School and Mt Hutt College in Methven).
17. The hearings were held on Thursday 26 June and seven submitters presented to Council.
18. On 7 August Council deliberated on all the submissions and draft strategy. During the process Council considered proposed updates to the draft strategy and provided direction to staff on

further changes. These are referenced in the strategy using track-changes and include (but are not limited to):

- clarification on the reference to the shift in global average temperatures (p. 5)
- clarification on the emissions numbers and facts in the 'Did you know' text box (p. 13)
- a reference to the electric truck trial at Kate Valley (p. 16)
- change the action plan review cycle to match the Long Term Plan (p.25)

19. Changes to the action plan include:

- clarification on the estimated new costs if they are an annual expense (*per annum* -p.a.) or a one-off investment (action plan p. 28-44)
- added reference to water storage at a high level in action 1.1A (p. 28) and locally, in action 1.3D (p.30)
- additional action for Council to advocate for gravel extraction in rivers 5.1D (p. 40)
- Glossary: updated definitions of carbon dioxide (p. 46) and methane (p. 47).

## Options analysis

### **Option one – adopt the final Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy 2025 (recommended option)**

- 20. The project team has incorporated the changes in the final strategy that were indicated by Council at the deliberations on 7 August 2025.
- 21. With the adoption of the strategy it will replace Council's Climate Change Policy 2022 and Climate Resilience Plan 2022. Both documents will get officially revoked as stated in the resolution.

<p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This option will provide direction for the community, stakeholders, partners and Council working on climate change and sustainability.</li> <li>• Action across Council is well co-ordinated and includes sustainability.</li> <li>• Several documents merged and linked to one strategy, leading to clarity and efficiency.</li> <li>• Council shows leadership in preparing our district for the impacts of a changing climate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None identified</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As there are different views on the changing climate within our community, some community members will not support Council affirming the science the strategy refers to.</li> <li>• New funding is not committed through adoption of the strategy which means the goals of the strategy could not be achieved if the business case for the funding through the Annual and/or Long Term Plan is not successful.</li> </ul>	

### **Option two – Adopt the final strategy with amendments.**

22. If Council feels that further changes are necessary, Council could decide to adopt an amended version of the strategy.
23. Depending on the nature and significance of the changes, further community consultation could be required.
24. With the adoption of the strategy it will replace Council’s Climate Change Policy 2022 and Climate Resilience Plan 2022. Both documents will get officially revoked as stated in the resolution.

<p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council could make further changes if they were considered to improve the strategy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on the nature of the changes, additional resourcing could be required for further consultation.</li> <li>• The strategy development process would be prolonged and this would have an impact on work programmes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p>	

If the changes are significant and require extra consultation or resourcing there is the reputational risk for the community to challenge Councils efficiency of the strategy development process.

## Legal/policy implications

### Local Government Act 2002

25. Council is legally obligated to take community wellbeing, future generations and sustainable development into account when making decisions ([sections 10](#) and [14](#), Local Government Act 2002). This can be interpreted as a legal obligation to consider the environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts of climate change on the community. Under section 14(1)(h) in *“taking a sustainable development approach, a local authority should take into account—*
- (i) the social, economic, and cultural well-being of people and communities; and*
  - (ii) the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment; and*
  - (iii) the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.”*
26. For this reason, a large number of Councils throughout the country have developed policies, plans and strategies for addressing sustainability and climate change, and taken proactive steps to implement them.

### Climate Change Response Act 2002

27. Council is legally required to report on climate change risks and adaptation planning upon request of the Minister of Climate Change or Climate Change Commission, as part of its contribution to national climate risk assessment and adaptation planning ([Section 5ZW](#), Climate Change Response Act 2002, “the CCRA”).
28. Section 5ZW(1) of the CCRA states that the Minister or Commission may request any or all of the following information:
- (a) a description of the organisation’s governance in relation to the risks of, and opportunities arising from, climate change;
  - (b) a description of the actual and potential effects of the risks and opportunities on the organisation’s business, strategy and financial planning;
  - (c) a description of the processes that the organisation uses to identify, assess and manage the risks;
  - (d) a description of the metrics and targets used to assess and manage the risks and opportunities, including, if relevant, timeframes and progress;
  - (e) any matters specified in regulations.
29. The government has also signalled a Climate Adaptation Bill is being progressed following the cross party Finance and Expenditure Committee [report](#) into climate adaptation released in October 2024.

## Other duties

30. Council has duties under other enactments that are affected by climate change or will be in future. We also have duties to ensure sustainable development within the district. These include duties under the Resource Management Act 1991, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, the Building Act 2004, the Water Services Act 2021, and the Health Act 1956, amongst others.

## Long Term Plan 2024-34

31. The Long Term Plan 2024-34 notes Council's commitment to increase resilience against climate change impacts and to reduce our carbon emissions.

## Climate change

32. The purpose of the development of a Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy is to better co-ordinate Council's actions in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation and to involve the community in the process of doing so.

### Review of legal / policy implications

Reviewed by In-house Counsel

Tania Paddock; General Counsel

## Strategic alignment

33. The recommendation relates to all four of Council's community outcomes because taking climate action and increasing our sustainability will have a positive impact on all aspects of the community.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	<p>Climate change and sustainability is likely to have an impact on our:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>economy through impacts on our infrastructure, the agricultural industry and other parts of the economy</li><li>environment through increasing temperatures and increased severity and frequency of adverse weather events,</li><li>culture through impacts on mahika kai and connections to whakapapa, and</li><li>social wellbeing through impacts on society and inequities.</li></ul> <p>While some impacts will be a mix of negative and positive, unmitigated climate change is expected to be more negative than positive. Taking climate action and increasing our sustainability will have a positive impact on wellbeing. Planning and adapting to climate change will be important to protect these well beings.</p>
Environmental	✓	
Cultural	✓	
Social	✓	

## Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	The actions in the strategy will require funding. As indicated in the action plan some of the actions are funded through existing budgets, while others will come with a 'new' cost. These costs will be presented to Council in a business case for the relevant Annual or Long Term Plan budget process.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes for the actions where there is indicated 'existing budgets' (see comment above).
Where is the funding coming from?	Various budgets for the different actions (see budget column in action plan draft strategy page 28-44)
Are there any future budget implications?	Some actions in the action plan have future budget implications which will be assessed as part of the Annual Plan / Long Term Planning process, when actions are included in our forward planning.
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager.

## Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Medium
Rationale for selecting level of significance	N/A
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform – inform the community on the adoption of the strategy. Community feedback on the strategy has been considered throughout the entire strategy development process via initial engagement and in a more formal process through submissions and hearings.
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The draft strategy development process has been outlined in this report, including engagement and consultation with community, Te Runaka o Arowhenua, stakeholders and via Council workshops. Adoption of the strategy will conclude the strategy development process.
Reviewed by Strategy and Policy	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager



## Next steps

Date	Action / milestone
Following adoption	Implementation of Short Term and 'ongoing' actions that are funded through existing budgets
Ongoing / following adoption	Maintaining link with regional climate action through the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan
November - December 2025	Development of business case for the Annual Plan 26-27 budget with an overview of the funding needed for the short term actions indicated as 'new' in the strategy action plan.

# ***DRAFT Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy***

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## From the Mayor

The Ashburton Domain was once renowned as an ice-skating destination but fast forward a hundred years to the present day and the idea of seeing people ice skating on the ponds is hard to imagine, as the ponds no longer freeze. And although our district has dealt with serious rainfall before, the intense heavy rain causing our rivers to flood on those grim days in May 2021, was unprecedented. While these are local events, we see across New Zealand and the globe, many more examples of a changing climate. And even though we might not all agree on the causes of climate change, Council has a responsibility to look after our district, prepare our core infrastructure for the future, help our community understand what to expect and show how we can be more sustainable.

This strategy is considered as an overarching document that considers all the existing work, ensuring we do not duplicate actions but integrate and align across the existing strategies, policies and plans. A goal of this strategy is to improve what we know about climate change, how our essential services will be affected, and how each of us can play a role in reducing negative effects.

In the document we describe how our district will be impacted by a changing climate and how we're planning for it. We're focused on strengthening our district's resilience with the strategy's six priority areas, goals and actions. These include nature-based solutions, making sure we use our water in a sustainable way and our shared effort to reduce waste.

Alongside preparing for the future, the strategy intends to reduce our input to the changing climate, including reducing greenhouse gases.

The strategy also celebrates the sustainable efforts our community are committed to and highlights the work Council is currently doing to contribute to a more sustainable future. It also acknowledges the opportunities that a changing climate might bring to the district.

As a medium-sized district on a small island in a remote corner of the world, what impact do we think we have on the changing climate of the world? We believe every small action counts, we are all in this together, and all have a part to play. We believe we have a responsibility to look after our place, to protect the prosperity of our district for future generations, providing the opportunity for them to enjoy living in our place, our district – just as we do now.

## Part 1 – The Strategy

### What is Climate Change?

Not sure about some terms in the text?  
Check out the Glossary for an explanation.

Climate change is described as a change in the average climate conditions that we experience, such as temperature and rainfall, over a long period of time. While the earth's climate has varied naturally over millions of years, recently, the dramatic changes of the past 200-300 years can be linked to human activities, like burning fossil fuels that emit greenhouse gases into Earth's atmosphere.<sup>1</sup> When these gases are released into our atmosphere, they create a barrier so that when the heat from the sun comes in, it gets trapped (like heat gets trapped in a greenhouse), slowly warming our planet.

In 2015, New Zealand and 195 other United Nations members signed the Paris Agreement to prevent global warming from exceeding 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, ~~(13.7°C pre-industrial level to degrees 15.7°C)~~. The average global temperature at pre-industrial times was about 13.7°C which means the goal is to stay under 15.7°C on average. This agreement commits signatory countries to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change by reducing national greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with Nationally Determined Contributions<sup>2</sup>.

There are two main approaches to addressing or minimising the impacts of climate change. These work hand-in-hand, and both are part of our draft strategy:

**Mitigation:** Some actions can be taken to reduce the amount of these gases (e.g. we can replace fossil fuels with clean energy sources, carbon dioxide can be absorbed/sequestered by trees etc).

**Adaptation:** We can take action to adjust to or minimise the impacts of climate change (e.g. we can manage our stormwater networks to prepare for increased volume and frequency of rainfall, we can build higher stop banks around rivers to minimise chances of flooding nearby properties etc).

**ADD VISUAL TO SHOW LINKS:** [Paris Agreement](#) -> [NZ Government signature](#) -> ['Its time Mid Canterbury'](#) -> [ADC Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy](#)

Early engagement with the community on the strategy highlighted that there are differing views on the science referencing human responsibility for the changing climate. This strategy is based on the facts and science presented by New Zealand institutes like NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research), and government departments like the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Primary Industries. The international standard is the work produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). For more details on this, please visit:

- [NIWA - Climate change and possible impact for New Zealand](#)
- [Ministry for Primary Industries - Climate change and primary industries](#)
- [Ministry for the Environment - Climate change](#)
- [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)

<sup>1</sup> <https://itstimecanterbury.co.nz/about>

<sup>2</sup> *Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan 2024-2027*, p 15.

## The impact of a changing climate on our district

*“Climate change in Ashburton District may have a variety of impacts, from higher sea level to more intense rainfall, warmer temperatures and droughts. The effects may include increased frequency of flooding and coastal erosion, and changes to the sorts of crops that can be grown. Worldwide sea levels, could rise by up to 0.28 metres by 2050, affecting some coastal areas more than others. Increased coastal erosion is likely to impact rural and hut settlements near our river mouths. Water quality could be impacted by reduced access to natural water sources in drought times, and turbidity in flood times”<sup>3</sup>.*

Global warming has different impacts around the world and even within our district we are noticing a variety of impacts. For the Canterbury region, this varies from **higher temperatures** leading to an increasing likelihood of **drought** and in combination with more or **stronger winds**, a higher **wildfire risk**. It may also lead to more **severe storms**. Although the changes of **rainfall** will differ within the region, a combination of **drier summers** and **wetter winters** is expected for Canterbury.

As a district bounded by two large rivers on a flat plain, we know all too well about the risk of **flooding**, but the changes in seasons are likely to have real impacts on the region’s agricultural economy. A **rising sea level** will not affect our district as much as other areas in New Zealand, but will impact our coastal communities with changes to the coastline and coastal erosion. A **warmer ocean** will impact on a rising in sea level but also make our oceans more acidic and impact aquatic life.

For a more detailed description of the impacts on the Canterbury region visit: [itstimecanterbury.co.nz](https://itstimecanterbury.co.nz)

Locally, the district features a diverse range of landscapes, including the Canterbury Plains, the Southern Alps, coastal cliffs, rivers and wetlands. Our major urban centre is Ashburton with smaller centres including Methven, Rakaia, Hinds, Mayfield and Mount Somers. Each area faces its own climate risks.<sup>4</sup>

### Urban centres

For all communities, risks from climate hazards generally include damage to infrastructure from flooding and disruption to transport routes and supply chains. Our district experienced this firsthand when the bridge closed during the 2021 floods. Changing climate conditions also pose a risk to supporting utilities such as landfills and power supply e.g. heavy rain fall events can cause erosion of soil in a closed landfill causing exposure of waste which can lead to environmental contamination and warmer temperatures can place extra demand on power supply-

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<sup>3</sup> <https://itstimecanterbury.co.nz/ashburton>

<sup>4</sup> Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan 2024-2027, p 17.

### Alpine

Higher temperatures, decreases in snow and ice, and changing rainfall will create risks to alpine biodiversity. These changes are likely to impact our major tourist attraction, the Mt Hutt ski field, and other alpine tourism.

### Montane/high country

Temperature increases are likely to be even greater in the mountains and high country, if by 2090 no action is taken, average spring and summer maximum temperatures could soar as much as 6°C higher than today's average. Increased temperatures, drought, and fire weather will increase erosion, and impact forestry, tourism, and unique ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity stress. Remote communities in the district may face increased disruption and isolation if greater flooding or landslide events take out roads or bridges as we have seen in Northland and Hawkes Bay.

### Plains

The fertile lowlands of the Canterbury Plains are highly important to agriculture. An increasing temperature poses risk of increased heat stress in stock, as well as increases in the occurrence of pests and invasive species. Increased drought potential may amongst others impact on water availability. Increased storms, wind, and flooding may increase erosion, and damage crops, pasture, stock, and infrastructure. In 2021, severe floods in the Ashburton District left many hectares of productive farmland under silt and river gravel.

### Coastal

As a result of sea level rise, transport connections, coastal ecosystems, unique wetlands, and communities at the coastal fringe will be exposed to increasing risk of coastal flooding, salinity stress, and erosion. Changes in temperature and ocean chemistry will impact marine ecosystems.

### Water resources

Increased temperatures, drought potential, and changing rainfall patterns pose risks to the reliability of water supply, with impacts on agriculture, other water users and biodiversity. Increasing flooding, sediment transport, water temperatures, and low flows pose a risk of damage to aquatic ecosystems, irrigation and hydropower systems. The unique rivers, lakes, and streams are also significant to mahika kai (food gathering) for mana whenua.

### Biodiversity

Biodiversity is affected by every aspect of climate change which includes more frequent and intense droughts, storms, heatwaves, rainfall, increasing bushfires, changes in ocean currents and water temperatures, estuary and ocean acidification and sea level rise. These events can result in changes to ecosystem services and species biology. We're noticing changes in nature both locally and worldwide, such as animals moving to different places, birds migrating at unusual times, plants blooming and leaves appearing earlier than usual, and some animals having shorter or longer pregnancies. Climate



change can also encourage changes in predator behaviour, weed proliferation<sup>5</sup> and increased pest problems, including more insect infestations and the spread of existing pests.

In New Zealand, 94% of reptile species, 82% of bird species, 76% of freshwater fish species, and 46% of vascular plant species are facing extinction or are at risk of being threatened with extinction.<sup>6</sup>

## What is sustainability?

Sustainability revolves around the idea of balancing environmental, social, and economic needs to ensure long-term well-being for both present and future generations. In 1987, the United Nations Brundtland Commission defined sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”<sup>7</sup>

A year prior to the Paris Agreement, in 2015, the United Nations adopted 17 sustainable development goals<sup>8</sup>. These are legally non-binding policy objectives agreed by governments, including New Zealand. Some of the goals are relevant to the work of local government including aspects of good health and wellbeing, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation, technology and infrastructure, reduced inequality, responsible consumption and production, climate action, and partnerships for the goals.

### How is Climate Change linked with sustainability?

Climate Change is a major threat to achieving sustainability, impacting resources, ecosystems, and human wellbeing. While climate change is a threat to sustainability, sustainability also offers a range of solutions to combating climate change. By taking more sustainable actions, we will also reduce our emissions and better prepare us for the impacts of climate change.

#### *Climate Change as a threat to sustainability:*

- Climate change, with its effects like rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and sea-level rise, directly impacts the availability and quality of essential resources like water, food, and energy, which are crucial for sustainable development.

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<sup>5</sup> Ashburton District Biodiversity Strategy 2024 – Our Natural Place, p19

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/still-vanishing>

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Brundtland Commission 1987, Our Common Future

<sup>8</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

- Climate change causes extreme weather events, habitat loss, and shifts in ecosystems, threatening biodiversity and the services ecosystems provide, such as pollination, water purification, and carbon sequestration.
- Climate change can lead to displacement, conflict, and economic losses, undermining social stability and economic growth, which are key pillars of sustainable development.

#### *Sustainability as a solution to Climate Change:*

- Sustainable development emphasises the transition to renewable energy sources, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, the primary drivers of climate change.
- Sustainable practices promote efficient resource use, waste reduction, and the development of a circular economy, minimising environmental impacts and resource depletion, which are crucial for long-term climate stability.
- Sustainable land management practices, such as reforestation, soil conservation, and sustainable agriculture, can help remove carbon from the atmosphere (carbon sequestration) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from land use.
- Sustainable development also involves adapting to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, building resilience in communities and ecosystems to withstand extreme weather events and other climate-related risks.

## **What have we done so far?**

In 2019, Council adopted its first Climate Change Policy, in response to a request from elected members. The policy outlines key goals and guiding principles for Council's climate change response. When the policy was reviewed in 2022, it was identified there was no framework for meeting the goals it contained. In response to this, the Climate Resilience Plan was developed, which outlined several actions that Council proposed to take on climate change adaptation and mitigation. It was mainly focused on Council's internal business, as the aim was to get our own house in order before developing a community focused plan.

Through the Climate Resilience Plan, Council has reduced emissions by significantly reducing electricity use at the EA Networks Centre, supported planting through the biodiversity grants, considered the impacts of larger rainfall for new stormwater pipes and developed Community Response Plans to prepare communities for natural disasters as a result of the changing climate.

In 2024, Council also committed to being a part of the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan. This regional plan, developed by all 11 councils in Canterbury,

sets out ‘how councils will work together and with others to support our transition to a thriving, climate-resilient, low-emissions region’<sup>9</sup>.

With the Climate Change Policy and Climate Resilience Plan both due for review in 2025, it was proposed to Council to consolidate this work into a Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy and in October 2024 Council adopted this recommendation.

There are many initiatives that show our community cares about sustainability and climate change. From our local farmers planting large stretches of native plants on their properties to the volunteers committing their time to ‘litter free Ashburton’ this shows the community in action. From shopping local produce at the farmers market to the parent encouraging their child to ride their bike to school rather than dropping them off in the car, these are all examples of Climate Change mitigation.

## Why do we need a strategy?

We value the people and places of the Ashburton District, and we know the community does too. Adopting more sustainable practices and taking appropriate, effective collective climate action within our capability and resources is a responsible path to choose. The changes in climate are already impacting our infrastructure, communities and local ecosystems with future projections of worse storms, floods and droughts happening more often, sea levels continuing to rise, and changes in the diversity of plants and animals in our region. This means that climate change and sustainability are subjects that require a long-term vision and a long-term commitment.

### Economy and the environment are inter-dependent

Our government, business partners and stakeholders have also encouraged us to take action and prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change. These will be physical and potentially financial. Insurance costs are rising because of climate change impacts. Our businesses, including our dairy industry, driven by international market requirements, are expecting farmers to have an emissions reduction plan and rewarding those financially who do this best. Mt Hutt, the major tourist attraction of our district whose existence depends on cold winters and sufficient snowfall, committed to be carbon neutral by 2030 and is inspiring others to make similar commitments.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://itstimecanterbury.co.nz/climate-partnership-plan>

### Impacts on council activities

*ADD VISUAL TO SHOW HOW STRATEGY INTERACTS WITH OTHER ADC DOCUMENTS AND ACTIVITIES*

A changing climate affects many Council activities, that

have strategic documents and plans, requiring a coherent approach across Council. Therefore, this strategy is considered as an overarching document that considers all the existing work, ensuring we do not duplicate actions but integrate and align across the existing strategies, policies and plans, making the most effective use of time and money. The strategy also provides the opportunity to become more energy efficient as a district.

Council also has statutory responsibilities, or a legal duty, when 'considering the effects of climate change when making decisions, including those related to natural hazards, civil defence, emergency management, and community resilience.'

### Our economy and greenhouse gas emissions

In a district whose economy is reliant on agriculture, the transition to a lower carbon economy can be confronting. Council believes that the future prosperity of Ashburton District will be influenced by the ability of our business, including agriculture to reduce emissions and maintain profitability. The expectations of our international markets may mean that our long-term profitability is compromised without emissions reduction.

At the same time, the impacts of climate change in terms of increased flooding, increased drought, loss of biodiversity and so on, will all impact negatively on agriculture. We are seeing this already in terms of more intense storm events. Failure to respond responsibly damages our reputation internationally and raises the prospects of greater trade barriers for our produce.

What is true for the economy in New Zealand is true for the economy in Canterbury and here in Ashburton. Our outcomes will be heavily influenced by decisions made elsewhere. That reality is not a reason for inaction, as we believe there is value in acting collectively to do what we can, with what we have, where we are, to ensure the best future we can for the people and the places we call home. In Canterbury, regional work is underway to help identify pathways for moving to a lower carbon economy that support the ongoing and long-term prosperity of Canterbury.

### Enduring & resilient infrastructure

Also, although it requires serious financial commitments, as a country, we have learnt the hard way that investing in climate resilient infrastructure is cheaper in the long run than having to rebuild entire infrastructure networks following severe climate impacts - making it the responsible thing to do. With impacting events expected to increase in frequency and severity, making wise decisions now will reduce further disruption later.

The effects won't all be negative. We refer to the challenges and impacts of a changing climate on our district, but in Councils' Economic Development strategy there is also a reference that changes may bring opportunities to our district, such as opening up new agricultural or horticultural opportunities and adjusting growing seasons, [allowing for a larger variety of crops to be grown over longer periods.](#)

Our aim is a strategy that provides guidance for investment, helps to understand a complex issue, that educates and motivates. It explains what Council is doing and why. The community is already doing a lot and asking for Council to take more action. This document is to show community leadership and, as one of the largest organisations in the district, to lead by example.

Sustainability and Climate change are interrelated. Sustainable actions and practices help to reduce our impact on a changing climate, enable efficient use of our resources, and help harness the power of a community.

We intend this strategy to be a living document that identifies the challenges facing our district and the opportunities to tackle these challenges. It includes stakeholder, Manawhenua and community input, and contains measurable and achievable actions that will help to prepare the district for the impacts of a changing climate and creating a sustainable future.

### **Funding and Costs**

Action requires funding and that is why we have indicated **estimated** costs for each of the actions that are not currently included in existing budgets. You will see this in detail in the action plan in part two of the strategy. Please note that these are estimates and would be confirmed via a business case to Council when they make the decisions on Annual or Long Term Plan budgets.

The resilience of infrastructure will require some significant investment in the coming years, but experience has told us that the costs of recovering from unprepared infrastructure will be much higher. These costs are not shown in this strategy but will be part of our infrastructure budgets.

Finally, this strategy relies upon partnership with the community for its success. While we understand that we can't address everything and some efforts may seem minor, it's crucial to do what we can.

Did you know?

New Zealand's contribution to global emissions of 81,08 megatonnes of greenhouse gases (2023) is only 0.15% of global emissions, compared with a country like China with 14,17 megatonnes (25.68% of global emissions). However, per capita NZ's gross emissions of 15.49 tonnes is high in comparison with somewhere like China at 9.9 tonnes per capita (data used from climatechangetracker.org, see links below). This shows how looking at emissions per person can show that smaller, wealthier countries can still have a disproportionate impact on climate change and everyone has a part to play. China's total emissions are high because of its large population and industry, but New Zealand's high emissions per person show the difficulties developed countries face with emissions heavy sectors like agriculture.

Other major sources of emissions for New Zealand include the energy sector—particularly transport and manufacturing—industrial processes such as cement production, and waste management activities like landfilling and wastewater treatment.

The good news is, for the past year (referencing data till 2022) there has been a slight decrease in New Zealand's national emissions which -according to the Ministry of the Environment was 'largely because there was more renewable electricity – mainly hydroelectricity – on the grid which meant we used less coal and gas, decreasing emissions'.

Read more here:

<https://climatechangetracker.org/nations/greenhouse-gas-emissions/new-zealand>

<https://climatechangetracker.org/nations/greenhouse-gas-emissions/china>

<https://environment.govt.nz/news/new-zealands-annual-emissions-decreased-in-2022/>

## How has this strategy been prepared?

Following Council's decision to create a Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy in October 2024, early engagement with the community on the content of the strategy took place in January-February 2025. This included a public workshop with community members and a stakeholder workshop, with local businesses and organisations joining the session. The engagement highlighted the need for:

- The district to be made more resilient (investment)
- Clear and transparent communication from Council
- Community engagement and education
- Better water management
- Nature-based solutions

- A plan to reduce greenhouse emissions
- Improvement of waste management

Council was presented with this feedback during the preparation of the draft, and it has been incorporated in the draft where agreed. Consultation on the draft strategy will provide the opportunity for the community to provide feedback.

## **What does this strategy include?**

The strategy contains a 20-year action plan setting out how goals will be achieved, who will be involved in achieving them and how much they are estimated to cost.

The document is divided into two sections: Part 1 provides the background information on strategy topics, the strategy development process, and the strategic framework, while Part 2 outlines the strategy vision, principles, goals, objectives and the action plan.

For a comprehensive understanding of the goals, it is recommended to read the background information on the priority areas described in the upcoming chapter.

## **The priority areas this strategy will focus on**

Building on our prior climate change policy and resilience plan, our regional collaboration and the recent strategy engagement, we identified six priority areas for the strategy. These areas touch on all the services we provide as a council. The goals, objectives and actions linked to each priority area can be found in Part 2 of this document.

### **1. Sustainable water management<sup>10</sup>**

Water is the lifeblood of Ashburton District. The district is surrounded by water on all sides, from unique braided rivers to crystal clear alpine lakes to the rolling Pacific Ocean. Water has enormous value and is critical for the district – drinking water to sustain life and health, water to support our economy and agricultural sector and water to play in – our lakes and rivers. Alongside that water is an integral part of our landscape, it sustains our biodiversity, it is strongly connected to our identity. Climate change will impact water in multiple ways. It may lead to more intense and harsher droughts. It will mean more

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<sup>10</sup> Management of Water resources such as rivers, streams, natural lakes, and wetlands is regulated via the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, which falls under the responsibility of Environment Canterbury. This means that any action related to these waterbodies, will have to be a collaborative effort, as you will see in the action plan

rainfall at greater intensity falling over shorter timeframes. While we cannot stop these climate effects, we must prepare for them. We must value the water we have, be proactive and positive stewards and seek to sustainably manage its use, while enhancing water quality for current and future generations.

## **2. Using nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change and enhance sustainability**

Nature-based solutions (NbS) are approaches that use natural processes to address societal challenges and improve biodiversity. These approaches harness the power of nature to provide benefits for both the environment and human wellbeing. For instance, nature-based solutions such as green roofs, rain gardens, or constructed wetlands can minimize damaging runoff by slowing and absorbing stormwater, reducing flood risks and preserving freshwater ecosystems.

A key aspect and reflected throughout the strategy goals for this priority area, is the nature-based solutions ability to mitigate climate change effects. For example, planting small scale native forest within 1km distance from each other (micro forestry) and restoring existing forests can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and reducing greenhouse gas levels. Wetlands and blue-green networks act as natural buffers against storms and flooding, protecting communities along the river channels. These ecosystems also store carbon, helping to regulate the climate.

Wetlands – whether natural or constructed, can store huge amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Although they naturally release methane, healthy and undisturbed wetlands absorb more carbon than they emit, making them valuable for climate change mitigation. Research has also found that rewetting drained wetlands, as seen in Mid Canterbury, could reduce emissions by storing more GHGs. However, the overall climate benefit depends on protecting existing wetlands and restoring degraded ones so that stored GHGs will not be released to the surface.

NbS also promote sustainability by enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services. Other aspects of NbS includes protecting and restoring natural areas to provide climate resilience to reduce floods and minimize risks from extreme weather events, creating green infrastructure such as green spaces in urban environments and urban forests, and promoting sustainable land use practices. Food forests also can mimic natural forest in removing carbon from the atmosphere while at the same time producing sustainable and organic food. These actions can improve air and water quality, reduce urban heat islands, and enhance the quality of life for communities.

## **3. A resilient, engaged and informed community**

Our community is our main partner in this strategy. A lot of the work we do to prepare the district for climate impacts affects all ratepayers and many of the proposed actions are a collaborative effort. For this strategy we consider the community to be ‘everyone’ in the district.

Both sustainability and climate change are complex and sometimes contentious matters. Exposure to climate-related events, either directly or through news media, has been linked to climate anxiety, especially in younger people. At a community level, Council is keen to give people access to good



information and enable collective community action on things we can control. This means we will continue to help people prepare for natural events through our response plans, host educational community events and campaigns and celebrate the sustainable actions our community already undertakes.

#### 4. Waste reduction and minimisation

Waste reduction and minimisation can improve sustainability, climate adaptation and emissions reduction outcomes. Councils have provided waste services in the district for many years and Council has a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) that sets out how Council plans to minimise and manage the waste in our district. Council has a key role in collecting, sorting and transferring waste and work in partnership with our community, businesses and industry to achieve our goals.

This Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy aims to highlight existing sustainability and climate change links to waste management and capture improvements that have emerged since the WMMP was last reviewed in 2022. More detail is provided in the action plan in part two of this strategy.

Reducing the amount of waste to landfill reduces the overall costs to ratepayers and extends the life of existing infrastructure. Reducing the amount of organic waste to landfill reduces the amount of methane generated in landfills. Composting of organic waste generates carbon dioxide and is generally accepted as creating less emissions than landfilling. Compost itself helps to build soil structure which enhances carbon sequestration. Council will be introducing a food organic/garden organic collection from September 2026.

Council disposes of its residual waste to Kate Valley landfill, which is a comprehensively engineered and modern landfill facility that operates to the highest international standards. Kate Valley also generates electricity from the biogenic methane (methane produced from biological sources e.g. plants) created in the landfill. Today it generates enough electricity to power 2,000 homes. Kate Valley will continue to capture methane for energy generation well after the landfill is at capacity. [At the time of writing, Kate Valley's owner, Transwaste Canterbury Limited, presented unveiled a new electric truck which is part of a trial to decarbonise the fleet with the ultimate goal to use landfill gas to charge the truck.](#)

Closed landfills are threatened by the potential for flooding to scour landfills in the vicinity of waterways. The southwest slope of the closed Ashburton Landfill faces the Ashburton River and over time has been affected by weather and water runoff. To prevent future damage Council allocated funds (2024-29) for capping remediation and adding material to the slope to make it less steep and less prone to erosion. Council will also undertake annual monitoring and maintenance of the closed landfill in Mt Somers, which has been remediated after scouring in 2021.

#### 5. Resilient Infrastructure

Climate change is making weather patterns more unpredictable and introducing new risks to areas that previously had none. As floods, extreme heat, and

wildfires become more severe, we need to ensure both existing and future infrastructure will withstand future climate challenges. Climate-resilient infrastructure is developed with these evolving climate impacts in mind carefully planned, designed, built, and managed to endure extreme conditions. Resilient infrastructure must also be capable of rapidly recovering from disruptions.

The effects of climate change are putting significant strain on infrastructure in various ways, such as:

*Heavy Precipitation and Flooding:* As we experienced firsthand in 2021, flooding can cause rivers to overflow, threatening nearby communities and causing widespread damage to our roading infrastructure<sup>11</sup> and productive farmland. Environment Canterbury, responsible for the riverbank repairs following the floods, stated that wherever possible, the expected effects of climate change were assessed and design solutions modified to incorporate this as part of the recovery work, rather than simply replacing the flood protection infrastructure that was in place. This included repairs and strengthening of stop banks, tree planting and installation of anchored tree protection.<sup>12</sup>

*Heat:*

Rising temperatures can cause roads to soften and melt, while also leading to the buckling of railroad tracks. In both the northern and southern hemispheres, thawing permafrost is contributing to infrastructure damage, including deteriorating roads and weakening building foundations.

*Drought:*

Decreasing precipitation and rising temperatures are increasing the risk of drought, putting strain on water supplies as increased evaporation reduces reservoir levels. Lower water levels can deplete aquifers essential for drinking water and irrigation.

*Wildfires:*

Rising temperatures and prolonged drought can lead to an increase in wildfires. These warmer, drier conditions are also extending wildfire seasons. Wildfires not only destroy homes, buildings, and infrastructure but also harm ecosystems and habitats.

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<sup>11</sup> In June 2024 flood damage repairs were completed at a total cost of \$22.6 million (funded through Environment Canterbury loans and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/river-and-drain-management/canterbury-flood-recovery>

## 6. Transition to a low carbon future

New Zealand's Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 sets a framework for the country to develop and implement climate change policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Act establishes a target to reduce net emissions of all greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050 and sets specific reduction targets for biogenic methane.

Read more about Green House Gases in the Glossary or the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan [here](#)

Understanding the concept of 'net zero' is key to this transition. Net zero refers to a balance between the amount of greenhouse gases emitted and the amount removed from the atmosphere. However, because of the vast accumulation of emissions over the past two centuries—primarily due to human activity—reaching net zero requires more than just offsetting; it demands deep reductions in emissions at their source.

With agriculture<sup>13</sup> being our main industry, the per capita greenhouse gas emissions for our district (66 tonnes per capita) are significantly higher compared nationally (15 tonnes per capita<sup>14</sup>). Council has no authority and intention to intervene, however, as stated in the action plan, we aim to reduce our own emissions and see our role as to provide clear information and engage with and educate the community on greenhouse gas emissions.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://tools.summaries.stats.govt.nz/places/TA/ashburton-district#business-demography>

<sup>14</sup> <https://rep.infometrics.co.nz/ashburton-district/environment/greenhouse-gas-emissions/per-capita?compare=new-zealand>

## **How this strategy links to other strategies, plans and policies**

Council sees this Strategy as having a role in bringing together planned actions in other Council strategies, plans and policies including regional documents like the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan.

### ***Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan***

All 11 councils in Canterbury have worked together to develop the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP) which sets out how we intend to work together and with others to support Canterbury's transition to a thriving, climate-resilient, low emissions region. This does not prevent individual Councils from taking extra, local, actions on climate change. It sets out the things we believe can best be achieved by working together.

Ashburton District Council has committed funding of \$50,000 per year for three years beginning in 2024/25, plus staff time to support regional work. Where actions in this Strategy reflect content in the CCPP, these are cross-referenced.

### ***Council strategies and plans***

Council has other strategies and plans that touch on themes related to sustainability and climate change. These include the Biodiversity Strategy 2024, the Economic Development Strategy – Rautaki Whanake Ohaoa – 2023, the Open Spaces Strategy 2016, the Surface Water Strategy 2018, the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2020, the Long Term Plan 2024-34, Infrastructure Strategy and the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2022. Each of these has been developed and adopted after public consultation.

Where actions in this Strategy reflect content in any of these strategies or plans, these are cross-referenced.

### ***Relevant legislation***

Council has statutory duties in relation to sustainable development and climate change under various pieces of legislation including the Climate Change Response Act 2002, the Local Government 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991, and the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. These duties are reflected in council's operating budgets and many of the strategies and plans referred to above.

## Part 2 – Vision, Goals and Action plan

We want to make Ashburton District the district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity – te rohe ka whiria mō te āhua noho, me te hapori. This strategy plays an important role in achieving this. Sitting underneath our vision for our district, are community outcomes. All outcomes are of relevance to this strategy, particularly: *A balanced and sustainable environment, A prosperous economy built on innovation, opportunity and high-quality infrastructure and a district of great spaces and places.*

### Our Vision and Community Outcomes | Tā mātau Matawhānui me kā Putaka ā-Hapori



## What is our strategy vision?

Our vision:

***“Working together for a sustainable and resilient future for the Ashburton District: empowering our people, supporting our businesses, fortifying our infrastructure and protecting our environment”***

The vision links to Council’s vision for the district and all four Community outcomes as envisioned in our Long Term Plan 2024-34.

## What are the strategy principles?

In making decisions that can impact on (or are impacted by) climate change and sustainability, Council will consider the following principles, alongside other decision-making considerations:

**a. Manaakitaka** – Council shares in a collective duty of care to safeguard the natural environment and the communities it supports. Policies and decisions on climate change and sustainability need to be flexible and enabling to allow for local decisions and empower organisations and individuals to reduce emissions and improve the sustainability of community activities. Our work also needs to be focussed on pragmatic local and regional actions that will move us forward.

**b. Anticipatory governance** – Council will think and act with the long-term in mind to provide clear and consistent plans towards a sustainable, low emissions economy, environment, and society.

**c. Equity/Inclusion/Kauawhi** – Council will consider the needs and contributions of all partners and stakeholders including the most vulnerable and those without a voice – including future generations – as it responds to climate change and sustainability opportunities. This includes recognising and advocating for the needs of communities and individuals disproportionately affected by climate change and unsustainable practices.

**d. Informed decision-making** – Council will use the best available information to understand the potential impacts of climate change and sustainability issues. It will also use the best available information on options for responding to those impacts – including their costs and benefits. Council will make this information available to engage in meaningful conversations with communities and be clear with each other and communities on what we don't know and where there are limitations or uncertainties with our information.

**e. Work as one/Mahi Tahi** – Wherever practicable, Council will work co-operatively and collaboratively with partner organisations and communities, including our manawhenua in the District and the wider Canterbury region. Council will also strive to ensure greater alignment and integration of its activities relating to climate change including the maximising of co-benefits wherever practicable and affordable.

**f. Resilience** – Some impacts of the changing climate are already inevitable. Council will work with communities and businesses to improve their understanding of climate change risks and sustainable practices and what they can do to manage risks and apply practices to continue to thrive.

**Note:** For a good understanding of the goals, please refer to the background information on the six priority areas, referencing the expected impacts and specific challenges for each area, as described in part 1 of the strategy.

## What are our goals and objectives?

### Priority Area 1: Sustainable water management

**Goal 1:** *Attain sustainable and resilient water management, ensuring reliable access, environmental stewardship, and improved water quality*

This means to (objectives):

- Ensure a forward-thinking approach to the sustainable management of water resources in the Ashburton District.
- Promote and engage in initiatives to maintain and enhance water quality in district water bodies
- Foster a culture of water conservation and efficiency within the community.
- Track and communicate water usage and quality data to ensure transparency and informed decision-making.

### Priority Area 2: Nature-based solutions

**Goal 2:** *Encourage nature-based solutions and support our communities to help understand how nature-based solutions to climate disruption will work.*

This means to (objectives):

- Support blue-green networks development for Mid-Canterbury
- Continue biodiversity restoration and ecosystem health enhancement (Biodiversity Strategy)
- Build a climate-resilient environment in the district
- Continue to promote sustainable land use and soil conservation

### Priority Area 3: A resilient, engaged and informed community

**Goal 3:** *Build a community that is well-informed about the changing climate and actively engaged in sustainable practices and resilience efforts.*

This means to (objectives):

- Improving Council understanding of the impacts of a changing climate and sustainable responses and advocate on behalf of the district in climate change matters
- Engage with and educate the wider community to improve understanding of climate change and sustainability practices
- Support the community to be prepared/ on resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts
- Encourage and promote sustainable good practice in Council operations and activities.
- Promote and connect community and stakeholder groups working on sustainable projects and establish partnerships and initiatives to engage the community and promote collective action.



Priority Area 4:  
**Waste reduction and minimisation**

**Goal 4:** *Enable responsible waste management that reduces waste and protects community and environmental wellbeing.*

This means to (objectives):

- Implement methods to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill or other disposal
- Lower waste management costs and increase economic benefits to ensure financial sustainability
- Reduce the risk of environmental damage and protect public health through sustainable waste management
- Engage and involve our community to achieve waste management goals and objectives

Priority Area 5:  
**Resilient Infrastructure**

**Goal 5:** *Prepare our infrastructure for the long-term impacts of climate change to ensure resilience and safety for our community.*

This means to (objectives):

- Ensure all critical infrastructure within the district is assessed and upgraded for climate resilience
- Incorporate climate resilience and sustainability in new infrastructure projects and subdivisions
- Make greater use of durable, low-carbon materials for infrastructure projects

Priority Area 6:  
**Transition to a low carbon future**

**Goal 6:** *Identify pathways for reducing greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring a prosperous and sustainable community.*

This means (objectives):

- Set an emissions reduction target for Council activities
- Continue to measure Council's greenhouse gas emissions, and adopt and implement emissions reduction plan
- Promote and encourage sustainable transport in the community
- Increase carbon sinks in the Ashburton District
- Engage with and educate the community on greenhouse gas emissions
- Support regional work on emissions reduction that enables the region to thrive

## How will we reach these goals?

### Implementation timeframe

The lifespan for the strategy is expected to be 20 years. However, some actions may be achieved sooner. Achievement is also dependent on financial availability, legislative changes and commitment. As a guide, we have split the timeframes into the four categories below. Actions that run for the entire life of the strategy are designated as “ongoing”.

<b>Short-term (ST)</b>	<b>: 1-3 years</b>
<b>Medium-term (MT)</b>	<b>: 3-10 years</b>
<b>Long-term (LT)</b>	<b>: 10+ years</b>
<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>: Actions that are already happening and that are expected to run throughout the life of the strategy.</b>

### Reporting and review

We will report annually on the progress of the Action Plan’s implementation through the end of year strategy report to Council (note this is at the end of the financial year, which means in July). A full review of the action plan, to ensure it remains current and meets the needs of our community is to be undertaken every three years prior to every Long Term Plan budget cycle.

A full review of the entire Strategy will be undertaken every five years or sooner if considered necessary.

### How are we going to know the strategy is working?

Reporting on the strategy will show which actions have been accomplished, if we did it on time and within the provided budget. To know if the actions achieve the goals of each priority area, we need to monitor the results. Specific measures and data sources (for example from ADC performance reports, Infometrics, emissions data and the Annual Resident Survey) will be used in the first instance to monitor progress against the strategy. These measures and relevant sources will be identified after the strategy gets adopted and included as a separate section in the annual reporting.

### Role of Ashburton District Council

The role of Council in the Strategy and Action Plan is defined in broad terms below. For some actions, Council may have more than one role.

- **Advocate** – collecting and sharing community views with government, agencies or organisations to help improve the district. This can be locally-driven advocacy for local concerns or reactive advocacy in response to draft legislation, plans or proposals.
- **Influence** – educate and work to change people’s perceptions or behaviour to provide positive community outcomes.
- **Support** – support agencies leading the work (e.g. research, funding or bringing stakeholders together).
- **Plan and Resource** – take direct lead and involvement to achieve specific outcomes (e.g. developing plans, consultation, funding, resourcing, staff time). Resourcing may include funding and staff time. Funding may be full or partial.
- **Plan** - take direct lead and involvement to achieve specific outcomes, with budget to be approved through Annual Plan or Long Term Plan processes.

### Partners and organisations involved

The “Who” column in the Action plan table indicates the organisations involved in the action with the first named organisation being the lead agency. This strategy uses teams across Council with the Strategy & Policy Team considered the driver of the strategy. When there is a specific team that will be working on the action within Council, the team will be specified.

The strategy is intended to be delivered through a community council partnership and Council will be seeking the views of, and hoping to work with, collaborating with other interested stakeholders.

Manawhenua were consulted in the development of the draft strategy.

## Resource and Funding

Resourcing will come from a range of sources, with contributions to the success of the strategy coming from other agencies and the community. Funding is available within the existing Council operations or budgets (staff time or operational budget) or may come from specific central government support to local councils, external contractors or other sources.

Where the Action Plan refers to new budget, these sums are preliminary estimates and are intended to highlight that some of these actions will require more resources, and the likely extent of those resources. For every 'new cost' in the budget column, it is indicated if it is a recurring annual cost 'per annum' (p.a.) or a 'one-off' investment. This funding will be required to pass normal budget scrutiny through Long Term Plan/Annual Plan budget processes, including the preparation of business cases, scrutiny by elected members, public consultation and submissions.

There will also be a potential to seek external grants/funding from other agencies involved with climate change and sustainability. As part of the strategy, it is the intention to also inform the Community of the grants/funding that are available for community projects.



Actions with this tag are also part of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP)



Actions with this tag are also part of another Ashburton District Council Strategy, Plan or Policy

## The Action plan

**Note:** For a good understanding of the goals, please refer to the background information on the six priority areas, referencing the expected impacts and specific challenges for each area, as described in part 1 of the strategy.

### 1. Sustainable Water management

<b>Goal 1: Attain sustainable and resilient water management, ensuring reliable access, environmental stewardship, and improved water quality</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1.1 Ensure a forward-thinking approach to the sustainable management of water resources in the Ashburton District.	A. Foster, support, advocate for or lead strategies or plans to ensure the sustainable management of water resources <a href="#">and storage opportunities where appropriate</a> .	Advocate, Plan and Resource, Influence, Support	ADC, Environment Canterbury, Irrigation companies, Stakeholder groups, Community, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua via Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited (AECL) <sup>15</sup>	Ongoing	Existing budgets
	B. Involve local communities and manawhenua in water management decisions and encourage stewardship of water resources.	Advocate, Support	ADC, Environment Canterbury, AECL	Ongoing	Existing budgets

<sup>15</sup> Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited (AECL) are mandated to represent Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua (Arowhenua).

<b>Goal 1: Attain sustainable and resilient water management, ensuring reliable access, environmental stewardship, and improved water quality</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	C. Strengthen governance frameworks to support sustainable management of water resources.	Advocate, Plan and Resource, Influence, Support	ADC, Environment Canterbury, AECL	Ongoing	Existing budgets
	D. Regularly review and adapt water management strategies based on new data and changing conditions	Advocate, Plan and Resource, Influence, Support	ADC, Environment Canterbury, AECL	Ongoing	Existing budgets
1.2 Promote and engage in initiatives to maintain and enhance water quality in district water bodies.	A. Encourage use of nature-based solutions to improve water quality (see Goal 2)	Plan and resource	ADC	ST	See goal 2
	B. Support community education programmes on water quality (see Goal 3.2C)	Plan	ADC (Comms, Infrastructure services), Environment Canterbury	ST-MT	Funded in 3.2.C
1.3 Foster a culture of water conservation and efficiency within the community.	A. Launch educational and public awareness campaigns to educate residents and businesses about water conservation and storage.	Plan	ADC (Comms, Infrastructure services)	ST-MT	Funded in 3.2.C
	B. Implement water metering throughout the district for leak detection and water conservation	Plan	ADC	ST-MT	\$5M <a href="#">(one off)</a> estimated budget in Infrastructure Strategy for capital costs of installing meters

<b>Goal 1: Attain sustainable and resilient water management, ensuring reliable access, environmental stewardship, and improved water quality</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
					in Ashburton and Rakaia– no money in LTP for this and no operating budgets (approx \$100K per annum)
	C. Continue the ongoing renewal programme focused on reducing water leaks	Plan and resource	ADC (Water Services)	Ongoing	TBC
	D. <a href="#">Promote the adoption of water storage – both domestic and commercial – and investigate implementation of residential rainwater tanks through the District Plan.</a> <del>Promote the adoption of residential rainwater tanks in urban areas and investigate implementation through the District Plan</del>	Plan and resource	ADC (Building & Planning)	MT	Existing budgets
	E. Ensure all new Council facilities are designed and built including water-saving technologies	Plan and resource	ADC	Ongoing	To be incorporated into future facility budgets
	F. Audit existing Council facilities for water saving capability and retrofit with water saving technologies over time	Plan and resource	ADC	Ongoing	Incorporated into future budgets
	G. Explore other opportunities for Council activities to maximise water saving in delivering their services	Plan and resource	ADC	Ongoing	Existing budgets

<b>Goal 1: Attain sustainable and resilient water management, ensuring reliable access, environmental stewardship, and improved water quality</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1.4 Track and communicate water usage and quality data to ensure transparency and informed decision-making. <sup>16</sup>	A. Continue to monitor and manage water demand on Council operated water supplies and make information available to community.	Plan and resource	ADC	Ongoing	Existing budgets
	B. Improve visibility of residential and business water usage	Plan and resource	ADC	ST	Considered incl. in OPEX to be added to 1.3B

<sup>16</sup> Drinking water measures are part of Councils performance measures that are reported on via the mid-year and end of term performance report to Council.



## 2. Nature-based solutions

Goal 2: Encourage nature-based solutions and support our communities to help understand how nature-based solutions to climate disruption will work.					
Objective	Action	Role of ADC	Who	When	Budget
2.1 Support blue-green networks development for Mid-Canterbury	A. Develop a District Spatial layer to support CCPP blue-green network (BGN) and ecological connectivity model in Mid-Canterbury, including investigation of potential Council land use for ecological connectivity model.	Plan	ADC (Open Spaces, GIS & Planning), Environment Canterbury, Community, AECL	ST	NEW \$40,000 ( <a href="#">one off</a> )
	B. Support the blue-green network project implementation across Canterbury (Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan Action 4.2).	Plan and resource	ADC	Ongoing	LTP 24-34 – commitment of \$50,000 per year Y1-10
	C. Support climate risk assessments for the Mid-Canterbury ecosystem. (Canterbury Partnership Plan Action 4.1).	Plan and resource	ADC		LTP 24-34 – commitment of \$50,000 per year Y1-10
2.2 Continue biodiversity restoration and ecosystem health enhancement	A. Support the development of micro forestry projects	Support	Community, ADC	ongoing	Existing budgets
	B. Support the development of food forests and community gardens (See Goal 3)	Support	Community, ADC	ongoing	Existing budgets (refer community to ADC grants)
	C. Advocate for extensive native plantings to reduce runoff and hold stop banks along the major rivers and streams where native species are fit for purpose.	Advocate	ADC, Community	ongoing	Existing budgets

**Goal 2: Encourage nature-based solutions and support our communities to help understand how nature-based solutions to climate disruption will work.**

Objective	Action	Role of ADC	Who	When	Budget
2.3 Build a climate-resilient environment in the district	A. Manage external donations through an Ashburton District Natural Environmental Fund to support adaptation projects.	Plan	ADC (Open spaces)	Ongoing	NEW \$15,000 <a href="#">p.a.</a> (promotion and admin of fund)
	B. Advocate for river stop banks strengthening and shingle extraction to enhance flood resilience.	Advocate	ADC	Ongoing	Existing budgets
	C. Advocate and support the development of constructed wetlands around the district.	Advocate, Support	ADC, ADBAG, Community, Environment Canterbury, AECL	MT-LT	LPT 27-37
	D. Develop consistent stormwater design with nutrient filters and provide native planting opportunities.	Plan and resource, Support	ADC, AECL	Ongoing	Existing budgets
2.4 Continue to promote sustainable land use and soil conservation	A. Educate and inform the community about scientifically proven methods on sustainable land use and soil conservation (e.g. regenerative farming, sustainable burn off alternatives, the use of natural fibres for grass bales and on-farm activity, nitrate removal techniques from soil and wetlands using denitrifying bacteria etc.)	Support, Plan	ADC (Comms, Open Spaces) Community, AECL	ST	Funded in 3.2.C
	B. Continue to apply and investigate other methods for sustainable land use on council land including forestry (e.g. mulching grass clippings into land to add to soil fertility and maintaining vegetation cover in open spaces etc).	Plan and resource	ADC, Community, AECL	ongoing	Existing budgets

### 3. A resilient, engaged and informed community

<b>Goal 3: Build a community that is well-informed about the changing climate and actively engaged in sustainable practices and resilience efforts.</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
3.1 Improving Council understanding of the impacts of a changing climate and sustainable responses, and advocate on behalf of the district in climate change matters	A. Continue to support regional collaboration in response to climate change through the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP)	Plan and resource	ADC	Ongoing	LTP 24-34 – commitment of \$50,000 per year Y1-10
	B. Undertake a Local Climate Change Risk Assessment of the impacts identified as a priority by the community (e.g. flooding, fire, heavier rainfall, drought and severe storms or e.g. risk to agriculture, economic risk)	Plan	ADC / consultancy, AECL	ST – MT	NEW \$50,000 <a href="#">every 5 years</a>
	C. Provide information and training to staff and elected members on climate change issues. (Include in Council & staff induction)	Plan and resource	ADC (S&P)	Ongoing	Existing budgets
	D. Advocate on behalf of the district in climate change matters e.g. by responding to Government agencies when they seek feedback on climate related proposals	Advocate	ADC (S&P)	Ongoing	Existing budgets
3.2 Engage with and educate the wider community to improve understanding of climate change and sustainability practices	A. Actively be part of and spread awareness of the 'It's Time Canterbury' campaign.	Plan and resource	ADC (Comms, S&P)	Ongoing	Existing budgets
	B. Ensure Council's climate change webpage is kept up to date.	Plan and resource	ADC (Comms, S&P)	Ongoing	Existing budgets
	C. Establish and support community education programmes on strategy goals, focusing on different stakeholder groups e.g. youth/schools, businesses, farming community, general public (events and/or campaigns, approx. 4 per year)	Plan	ADC (relevant topic team, Comms, S&P), Community, AECL	ST-MT	NEW \$60,000 <a href="#">p.a.</a> events and/or campaigns




**Goal 3: Build a community that is well-informed about the changing climate and actively engaged in sustainable practices and resilience efforts.**






Objective	Action	Role of ADC	Who	When	Budget
3.3 Support the community to be prepared on resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts	A. Continue the development of community response plans (response to all natural events, including climate change impacts) for all Ashburton communities and review existing plans.	Plan and resource	ADC (Emergency Management), AECL	Ongoing	Existing budgets
	B. Develop adaptation plans for areas at highest risk based on the outcome of the local risk assessment described in 3.1.B.	Plan and resource	ADC, AECL	MT	NEW \$50,000 (every 5 years) LTP 27-37
	C. Economic Development Strategy Objective 2.B 'Our businesses have access to the expertise, knowledge and skills to make informed decisions that enable them to successfully adapt to the changing business environment' - Action 3: Develop a plan for addressing risks and utilising opportunities for the objective	Support	Business Leadership Group	ST (2-4Y in 2023)	Existing budget (Economic Development strategy)
3.4 Encourage and promote sustainable good practice in Council operations and activities.	A. Council to demonstrate sustainable actions in its own operations.	Plan and resource	ADC	ST-MT	Existing budgets
3.5 Promote and connect community and stakeholder groups working on sustainable	A. Council to research incentives, financial benefits or set requirements that encourage sustainable action within the community (e.g. building consents, green roof, passive housing, solar panels, water tanks etc)	Plan and resource	ADC (Building, property, roading, waste)	ST	Existing budget



**Goal 3: Build a community that is well-informed about the changing climate and actively engaged in sustainable practices and resilience efforts.**

Objective	Action	Role of ADC	Who	When	Budget
projects and establish partnerships and initiatives to engage the community and promote collective action.	B. Promote sustainable projects and initiatives, such as community clean-up events, tree planting drives and sustainability fair (Council involvement)	Plan and resource	ADC (Comms, S&P, relevant ADC team), Community	Ongoing	Existing budget
	C. Establish a volunteer Community Sustainability Advisory Panel with Council support	Plan, Support	ADC	ST	NEW \$5,000 <a href="#">p.a</a>
	D. Establish a sustainability grant to support community projects that address climate change and sustainability objectives and targets.	Plan	ADC	MT	NEW \$20,000 <a href="#">p.a</a>
	E. Establish an 'ADC gift a native tree' project	Plan	ADC (Open Spaces), Community	ST	Existing funding

#### 4. Waste reduction and minimisation

<b>Goal 4: Enable responsible waste management that reduces waste and protects community and environmental wellbeing</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
4.1 Implement methods to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill or other disposal	 A. Implement the food organic/ garden organic (FOGO) kerbside collection service and extend the service to businesses on a user-pays basis (Waste Management & Minimisation Plan, p 12)	Plan and resource	ADC (Projects and Operations)	ST (Service in place by September 2026)	Existing Budget
	 B. Work with Council's contractors and other providers to encourage uptake of green waste collections (WMMP, p 11)	Plan and resource; Influence	ADC (Projects and operations, Communications); Contractors	Ongoing	Existing Budget
	 C. Implement the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (WMMP, p 11)	Plan and resource	Projects and Operations; Environmental Services	Ongoing	Existing Budget
	D. Continue to work regionally and lobby central Government	Advocate	ADC	Ongoing	Existing Budget
	E. Continue to seek ongoing improvements that reduce waste to landfill across all facets of waste management.	Plan and resource, Influence, Advocate	ADC (Projects and Operations, Communications, Strategy and Policy)	Ongoing	Existing Budget
	F. Continue to reduce waste to landfill from all council activities (e.g. Office waste).	Plan and resource	ADC (all activities)	Ongoing	Existing Budget
	G. Investigate the economic feasibility of a local composting operation for food organics/garden organic and other compostable materials.	Plan	ADC	LT	NEW \$60,000 <a href="#">(one-off)</a>
	A. Collect data through regular surveys and weighbridges. Continue recording and	Plan and resource	ADC (Projects and Operations)	Ongoing	Existing Budget

<b>Goal 4: Enable responsible waste management that reduces waste and protects community and environmental wellbeing</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
4.2 Lower waste management costs and increase economic benefits to ensure financial sustainability	 analysis to enable public reporting and performance monitoring over time. (WMMP, p 12)				
	 B. Use data collection, analysis and research to ensure Council and the community know where District waste is going. (Based on WMMP, p. 11)	Plan and resource	ADC (Project and Operations), Waste contractors	ST	Existing Budget
	 C. Revise rates and charges for waste management services on an ongoing basis, having regard to user-pays principles. (based on WMMP, p12)	Plan and resource	ADC (Project and operations, Finance), Waste contractors	ST	Existing Budget
4.3 Reduce the risk of environmental damage and protect public health through sustainable waste management	 A. Improve processes to consider the environmental impact of all reuse, recycling and recovery options and seek to choose options with the least overall environmental impact.(Based on WMMP objective 8, p5)	Plan and resource	ADC (Projects and Operations, Strategy and Policy, Executive Team, Council Elected Members), AECL	ST	Existing Budget
	 B. Improve processes to consider the public health impacts of all waste management options and seek to choose those options which protect human health. (Based on WMMP objective 9, p5)	Plan and resource	ADC (Projects and Operations, Strategy and Policy, Executive Team, Council Elected Members), AECL	Ongoing	Existing Budget
4.4 Engage and involve our community to achieve waste	A. Improve existing levels of communication, and carry out one-off campaigns where necessary, such as the FOGO service or other significant service change.	Plan	ADC (Projects and Operations, Communications); Community partners	Ongoing	Existing Budget + Funded in 3.2.C

<b>Goal 4: Enable responsible waste management that reduces waste and protects community and environmental wellbeing</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
management goals and objectives					
	 B. Establish a working group with waste companies and building businesses to facilitate improved and targeted services for construction and demolition waste. (based on WMMP, p12)	Support	ADC, Waste businesses, Building & construction businesses	ST (establishment of working group) MT	Existing Budget
	 C. Support and work with local community initiatives. (Based on WMMP, p.12)	Support	ADC (Projects and Operations), Community, Stakeholder groups	ST, MT, LT	Existing Budget
	D. Continue the promotion and requirement of sustainable waste management at Council or Council funded events	Plan and resource	ADC (Events, Waste)	Ongoing	Existing budget



## 5. Resilient infrastructure

<i>Goal 5: Prepare our infrastructure for the long-term impacts of climate change to ensure resilience and safety for our community.</i>					
Objective	Action	Role of ADC	Who	When	Budget
5.1 Ensure all critical infrastructure within the district is assessed and upgraded for climate resilience	A. Continue to assess and monitor critical infrastructure for its capacity to deal with the effects of climate disruption.	Plan and resource	ADC (Infrastructure Services, Open Spaces)	Ongoing	Existing budgets / LTP 27-37
	B. Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure to deal with the effects of severe weather events and climate disruption.	Plan and resource	ADC (Assets Team, Roding Team, Projects & Operations Team)	Ongoing	Existing budgets / LTP 27-37
	C. Manage climate change risks to existing infrastructure, particularly water supply, wastewater and key lifeline utilities (e.g. bridges, roading, electricity)	Plan and resource	ADC (Infrastructure Services, Open Spaces)	Ongoing	Existing budgets / LTP 27-37
	<a href="#">D. Advocate gravel extraction from rivers to manage risk of flooding to community infrastructure</a>	<a href="#">Advocate</a>	<a href="#">ADC, Environment Canterbury</a>	<a href="#">Ongoing</a>	<a href="#">Existing budgets</a>
5.2 Incorporate climate resilience and sustainability principles in new infrastructure projects and subdivisions	A. Integrate climate resilience and sustainability principles into the planning phase, including consideration of options, for all new Council infrastructure projects and infrastructure to be vested in Council.	Plan and Resource, Advocate, Influence	ADC (Infrastructure Services, Open Spaces)	Ongoing	LTP infrastructure commitments (roading, stormwater, wastewater, drinking water)
	B. Integrate climate resilience and sustainability principles into the design, and construction of all new Council infrastructure projects and infrastructure to be vested in Council	Plan and Resource, Advocate, Influence	ADC (Infrastructure Services, Open Spaces), AECL	Ongoing	LTP Budgets current and future

**Goal 5: Prepare our infrastructure for the long-term impacts of climate change to ensure resilience and safety for our community.**

Objective	Action	Role of ADC	Who	When	Budget
	C. Investigate sustainable funding and financing opportunities for Councils infrastructure investments.	Plan and resource	ADC (Finance, Assets, S&P)	Ongoing	Existing budgets
5.3 Make greater use of durable, low-carbon materials for infrastructure projects	A. Investigate different types of construction materials and prioritise the use of durable, low carbon alternatives in all new designs and builds where possible. Measure outcomes and report to Council to assess whether the investment has realised the expected benefits	Plan	ADC (Infrastructure Services, Open Spaces), AECL	MT	NEW \$25,000 <del>(one-off)</del> <del>(future budget provision)</del>

## 6. Transition to a low carbon future

<b>Goal 6: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change and create a more sustainable future.</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
6.1 Set an emissions reduction target for Council activities	A. Research and present emission reduction scenarios to Council.	Plan & Resource	ADC	ST (within 6 months)	Existing budgets
	B. Adopt an overall emissions reduction target for council greenhouse gas emissions that is achievable.	Plan & Resource	ADC	ST (by 30 June 2026)	Existing budgets
	C. Set interim emission reduction targets to ensure we are progressing to our overall reduction target	Plan and resource	ADC	ST, Ongoing	Existing budgets
6.2 Continue to measure Council's GHG emissions, and adopt and implement emissions reduction plan	A. Continue to measure Council's GHG emissions annually and audit the inventory	Plan	ADC (Infrastructure Services)	Ongoing	NEW: \$9,000 <a href="#">p.a.</a> (audit)
	B. Make use of the emissions reduction plan to reduce ADC's emissions and report progress to the community	Plan	ADC (Comms, Infrastructure Services)	Ongoing	Majority in existing budgets NEW: \$30,000 for EV chargers ( <a href="#">one-off, spread over 2 years</a> LTP 27-37)
	C. Publish the annual emissions report detailing Council's progress, key sources of emissions, and reduction achievements	Plan and resource	ADC (Infrastructure Services)	Ongoing	Existing budgets
	D. Develop an emissions dashboard that the public can access online that displays real-time or regular updated emissions data, trends and targets	Plan	ADC (Infrastructure Services)	ST and ongoing	NEW \$2,000 <a href="#">p.a.</a>

Goal 6: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change and create a more sustainable future.					
Objective	Action	Role of ADC	Who	When	Budget
6.3 Promote and encourage sustainable transport in the community	A. Invest in walking & cycling infrastructure to reduce emissions through the Walking & Cycling Strategy 2020 – 2030.	Plan and resource	ADC (Roding)	Ongoing	Existing budgets (when funding available)
	B. Encourage community to make use of sustainable ways of transport as stated in goal 4 Walking & Cycling Strategy ( <i>Goal 4: A district committed to walking and cycling for health, well-being, safety, <u>environmental</u> and economic reasons</i> )	Plan and resource	ADC (Roding, Comms)	ST	Existing budget
	C. Advocate for the implementation of public transport services in Ashburton (town) and other parts of Canterbury.	Advocacy	ADC, Environment Canterbury	ongoing	Existing budget
	D. Investigate implementation of workride benefit programme for ADC and promote to other organisations	Plan and resource, Support	ADC (Comms, P&C)	ST	Existing budget
6.4 Increase carbon sinks in the Ashburton District	A. See Goal 2.3.C – ‘Investigate and support the development of constructed wetlands around the district.’ (This also includes planting trees) + acknowledge the existing carbon sinks in the district	Support	ADC, Community, Environment Canterbury, AECL	MT-LT	See 2.3.C (LPT 27-37)

<b>Goal 6: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change and create a more sustainable future.</b>					
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Role of ADC</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Budget</b>
6.5 Engage with and educate the community on greenhouse gas emissions	A. Launch an education and outreach program, aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of greenhouse gas emissions among community members and local businesses, with the goal of fostering sustainable practices and reducing emissions.	Plan	ADC (Infrastructure Services, Comms)	ST	Funded in 3.2.C
6.6 Support regional work on emissions reduction that enables the region to thrive.	A. Support regional collaboration to collate data and develop models to prepare greenhouse gas emissions inventories and identify emissions reduction pathways for Canterbury to support New Zealand's national greenhouse gas commitments	Resource and support	Canterbury Mayoral Forum	ST and ongoing	Existing budget
	B. Support regional collaborative work to undertake a regional transition risk and opportunities assessment, considering social, cultural, environmental, and economic impacts, to inform an equitable and inclusive transition to a low-emissions region.	Resource and support	Canterbury Mayoral Forum	ST and ongoing	Existing budget
	C. Support regional collaborative work with partners, communities, and key stakeholders to build a regional low-emissions transition strategy that supports equitable, inclusive local pathways to a thriving, climate-resilient region meeting emissions reduction targets.	Resource and support	Canterbury Mayoral Forum	ST and ongoing	Existing budget
	D. Support the implementation of equitable, inclusive local pathways to a thriving, climate-resilient region meeting emissions reduction targets	Resource and support	Canterbury Mayoral Forum	MT and ongoing	Future budget to be considered in 2027 LTP

**Draft Action plan estimated NEW costs (note: costs are to be approved through the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan budget process)**

	LTP 24-34	LTP 27-37								
Objective / Action	Year 3 (26-27)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
1.2B	3.2C									
1.3A	3.2C									
1.3B		\$5M	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
2.1A	\$40,000									
2.3A	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
2.4A	3.2C									
3.1B	\$50,000					\$50,000				
3.2C	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
3.3B				\$50,000					\$50,000	
3.5C	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
3.5E				\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
4.1G				\$60,000						
4.4A	3.2C									
5.3A				\$25,000						
6.2A	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
6.2B				\$15,000	\$15,000					
6.5A	3.2C									
6.6B	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000

## Glossary

Below is a glossary of terms in the context of this Strategy.

**Adaptation** - in human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities in natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects

**Biodiversity** – is a short term for “biological diversity”. Biodiversity describes the level of diversity in natural life. This includes the variety of different species (micro-organisms and fungi, trees, plants and animals), the genes they comprise, and the ecosystems they are a part of.<sup>17</sup>

**Blue Green Network (BGN)** – Blue-green networks are a planning approach that focuses on creating a network of interconnected waterways, wetlands, parks, greenways, and other natural areas to provide multiple benefits, including flood management, stormwater management, climate change resilience, improved water quality, protection of biodiversity, and opportunities for recreation, tourism and community engagement.

**Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** is a gas present in the atmosphere, required for plant growth. Plants take in carbon dioxide from the air. They keep the carbon to help them grow and let the oxygen back out into the air. It is also an important greenhouse gas, contributing to global emissions as the gas traps heat in the atmosphere for: long-lived greenhouse gas that stays in the atmosphere for 300 to 1000 years<sup>18</sup>. or more This means further emissions will increase its concentration in the atmosphere (see Greenhouse Gases).

**Carbon sequestration** is the process of capturing and storing carbon dioxide. It is one method of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with the goal of reducing global climate change.

**Carbon sink** - a natural or artificial system that absorbs more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere than it releases, effectively storing it. Examples include forests, oceans, and soils. Carbon sinks play a vital role in the carbon cycle by helping to regulate the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

**Climate Change** - a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

**Denitrifying bacteria** are microorganisms that convert nitrates in the soil into nitrogen gas. This is essential for preventing its accumulation in the soil and maintaining the balance of the nitrogen cycle.

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<sup>17</sup> Ashburton District Biodiversity Strategy, p 9.

<sup>18</sup> <https://environment.govt.nz/guides/methane-and-other-major-greenhouse-gases/>

**Ecosystem** is a community of living organisms (plants, animals and microbes) interacting with each other and their environment in a particular area.

**Food forest** - A food forest, also called a forest garden, is a garden of diverse planting of edible plants that attempts to mimic the ecosystems and patterns found in nature.

**Fossil fuel** - a non-renewable, natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed from plants and animals that existed in the geological past (for example, millions of years ago).

**Greenhouse Gases (GHG)** – these are also known as GHGs and are gases in the earth’s atmosphere that trap heat. The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons.

**Infrastructure** is the basic structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, water supplies, power supplies) needed for the operation of a community or organisation.

**Manaakitaka** an outward-looking behaviour, demonstrating a genuine desire to care for the well-being of a person, area or environment

**Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)** is a powerful but short-lived greenhouse gas. It stays in the atmosphere for about -10-20 years ~~decades~~, where it traps heat more effectively than carbon dioxide.<sup>19</sup> (see Greenhouse Gases).

**Microforestry** - the practice of creating small, dense, and biodiverse forests in urban and rural areas. This method involves planting a mix of native tree and shrub species very close together, which encourages rapid growth and high biodiversity values.

**Mitigation** - a human intervention to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

**Nature-based solutions** – see Blue-Green network.

**Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)** has a lifetime between those of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane. In the context of achieving the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, it can be considered a long-lived gas<sup>20</sup> (see Greenhouse Gases).

**Nutrient filters** - any mechanism or process that removes or reduces the concentration of nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, or other essential elements, from water or soil. In soil, for example, riparian buffers and other vegetation can act as filters, reducing nutrient runoff into waterways.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://environment.govt.nz/guides/methane-and-other-major-greenhouse-gases/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://environment.govt.nz/guides/methane-and-other-major-greenhouse-gases/>



**Paris Agreement** - an international agreement signed by New Zealand and other United Nations members to prevent global warming from exceeding 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial level.

**Precipitation** - rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to or condenses on the ground.

**Regenerative farming** - a holistic approach to agriculture that aims to rebuild and enhance soil health and biodiversity, ultimately creating more resilient and productive farms. Key aspects of regenerative farming include focus on soil health, reducing synthetic inputs, restoring biodiversity, carbon sequestration, improved water cycle and increased resilience.

**Resilience** - the capacity of social, economic and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation.

**Salinity stress** – negative impacts, including impaired plant growth and development, caused by excessive salt accumulation in soil or water. This can be caused by rising sea-levels in coastal areas.

**Sediment transport** -. is the movement of solid particles (sediment), typically due to a combination of gravity acting on the sediment, and the movement of the fluid which carries the sediment. For example, the transport of sediment in river flows. See also wheelbarrow

## 8. 2024/25 Annual Residents' Survey

Author	<i>Emily Reed; Corporate Planner</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Mark Low; Strategy &amp; Policy Manager</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham; GM Democracy and Engagement</i>

### Summary

- The purpose of this report is to receive the 2024/25 Annual Residents' Survey.
- The survey was conducted quarterly across 2024/25 by Key Research and received a total of 754 responses.

### Recommendation

1. **That** Council receives the 2024/25 Annual Residents' Survey report.

### Attachment

**Appendix 1**    2024/25 Annual Residents' Survey Report    *[Supplementary document]*

## Background

1. The Annual Residents' Survey was run this year on Council's behalf by Key Research.
2. This survey collected data at four time points throughout the year by postal invitations to an online survey, supported by email invites to those who have completed the survey in past years. A paper survey is sent out to those who have not responded after the first week.
3. Data collection took place in four waves:
  - 9 September - 16 October 2024 (Wave 1)
  - 3 December 2024 - 14 January 2025 (Wave 2)
  - 3 March – 14 April 2025 (Wave 3)
  - 2 June – 7 July 2025 (Wave 4).
4. Residents are randomly selected to receive an invitation from the electoral roll – 754 residents responded, compared with a goal of 800 responses. The cost of the survey this year was \$37,370.
5. The survey collects resident responses to a range of questions about Council facilities, infrastructure and services and the district as a whole.

## Research objectives

- To provide a robust measure of satisfaction with Council's performance in relation to service delivery.
- To establish perceptions of various services, infrastructure and facilities provided by Council.
- To assess changes in satisfaction over time and measure progress against its long-term objectives.

## Legal/policy implications

6. Council is required (Local Government Act 2002) to report against the performance targets set for each activity in the Annual Report. Many of the results contained within this survey are used to monitor these measures.

## Climate change

7. There are no direct impacts on climate change from receiving this report.

## Strategic alignment

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	This report relates to all four wellbeings as the questions relate to all activities of Council.
Environmental	✓	
Cultural	✓	
Social	✓	

## Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	The survey is funded from approved operating budgets for Strategy & Policy. The cost is \$37,370.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Strategy and Policy is funded as an overhead across a wide range of Council activities, each of which are funded in accordance with the Revenue and Financing Policy.
Are there any future budget implications?	Only normal inflation adjustments, which are included in LTP budgets.
Reviewed by Finance	

## Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The Annual Residents' Survey results will be published on the Council website with specific results also reported through the Annual Report and the Summary Annual Report.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	<i>Mark Low; Strategy &amp; Policy Manager</i>

## 9. *End-of-year non-financial performance reporting*

Author	<i>Emily Reed; Corporate Planner</i>
Manager	<i>Mark Low; Manager Strategy &amp; policy</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham; GM Democracy &amp; Engagement</i>

### Summary

- The purpose of this report is:
  - to provide the end-of-year non-financial reporting against the performance measures set for Year 1 of the Long Term Plan 2024-34; and
  - to provide an update on our progress towards achieving the actions included in our strategies and plans.
- The results are for the 2024/25 financial year, from 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 for the performance measures. Progress towards completing the strategy and plan actions are cumulative – they have been updated for the work undertaken over the past 12 months, but all past work is also included.

### Recommendation

1. **That** Council receives the End-of-Year Non-Financial Performance Report 2024/25.
2. **That** Council receives the Strategy & Plan 2024/25 Progress Report.

**Appendix 1** End-of-Year Non-Financial Performance Report 2024/25

**Appendix 2** Strategy & Plan 2024/25 Progress Report

## Background

### The current situation

1. Council monitors its non-financial performance through two reports:
  - End-of-year Non-financial Performance Report, and
  - Strategy & Plan Progress Report.
2. The performance report monitors progress towards achieving the non-financial performance measures that are set through the long-term plan.
3. Performance measures enable Council and the community to assess whether the levels of service agreed through the long-term plan are being delivered to the community. Targets for each performance measure show the level of achievement Council is aiming for each year. The report includes the relevant results of Council's resident survey for 2024/25.
4. The performance measures are reported to Council mid-way through the financial year and again at the end of the financial year. They are also included in council's Annual Report.
5. At the time of reporting, performance measure results have not undergone final audit. Some adjustments may be made for the final Annual Report 2024/25 once the audit process is completed.
6. The strategy and plan progress report monitors council's progress completing the tasks set out in Council's strategy and plans. An updated review schedule was adopted in February 2025, with the majority of these being reported on annually.
7. At the start of each report is an overall summary, illustrating how well Council has performed during the year (for the performance report) and overall progress against actions (for the strategy and plan progress report).

### Legal/policy implications

8. Council is required (Local Government Act 2002) to report against the non-financial performance targets set for each activity in the Long Term Plan in each year's Annual Report. It is not a requirement to report against progress towards its strategies and plans but is good practice.

### Climate change

9. There are no direct impacts on climate change from receiving this report. However, the Strategy and Plans report does report progress against the Climate Resilience Plan.

## Strategic alignment

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	The reports relate to all four wellbeings as the questions relate to all activities of Council.
Environmental	✓	
Cultural	✓	
Social	✓	

## Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Monitoring Council's performance is met from within existing budgets.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	284 Strategy and Policy.
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager.

## Significance and engagement assessment

- The progress reporting of Council's achievement towards its non-financial performance measures and strategies and plans is not considered significant and is of low significance to the community.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low; Not significant
Level of engagement selected	1 – Inform the community
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The community will be informed of Council's non-financial performance through relevant media channels. The performance measures will also be reported through the Annual Report 2024/25, to be completed by 31 October 2025.
Reviewed by S&P	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager



*End-of-year  
Non-Financial  
Performance Report*  
2024/25

*August 2025*

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## 1. Introduction

This report sets out Council's achievement or otherwise of a number of performance measures for the 2024/25 year – the first year of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.

The setting of performance measures is required under the Local Government Act 2002, with the primary purpose being to provide a way for the public to assess the level of service provided by local authorities.

A number of measures are mandated by the Department of Internal Affairs within the drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and transportation activities (noted within the table by an \*). All other measures, and their associated targets, are set every three years by Council through the Long Term Plan.

The performance results are collated and reported to Council in February through the mid-year performance report, and again here, at year end. The results are also included in the council's Annual Report, where they are also audited.

## 2. Summary results

The following figures show the overall performance for all 109 of Council's performance measures. This does not include the 51 DIA drinking water supply measures in relation to the drinking water quality assurance rules. These are reported separately.

When reporting performance, we have indicated whether the measure was in one of the following categories:

- **Met** (at or exceeding target)
- **Almost met** (within 10% of meeting the target)
- **Not met** (greater than 10% from meeting the target)
- **Not measured**

This is the first year of performance reporting against the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. A number of performance measures were not included in the previous Long Term Plan and are therefore included in the 'not measured' category when comparing with the previous year. This means there are a total of 89 measures when comparing performance with the previous year.

**98 out of 109**

Performance measures were met or almost met this year

**13 out of 15**

Compliance measures were met or almost met this year

**over 90%**

Of our community satisfaction and expectation measures were met this year

**39 out of 89**

Performance measures show improved performance this year (25 reduced)

## 2.1. Summary of performance

The following graphs and charts provide an overview of the overall performance for all 109 performance measures.

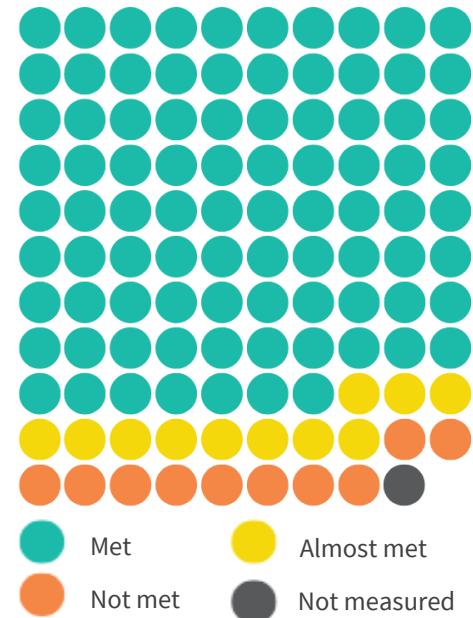
Council achieved a result of 90% of performance measures being met or almost met (98 out of 109).

When looking at the performance measures that met or almost met their target:

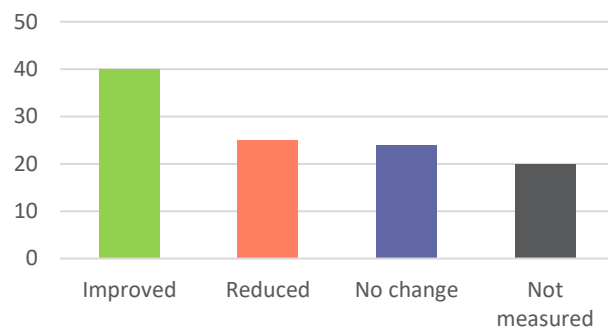
- 87 met or exceeded their target
- 11 are within 10% of meeting their target
- 36% (35) had improved performance over last year's result
- 22% (22) had a reduction in performance.

Overall, 36% of measures have improved since last year compared with 24% that had a reduction in performance.

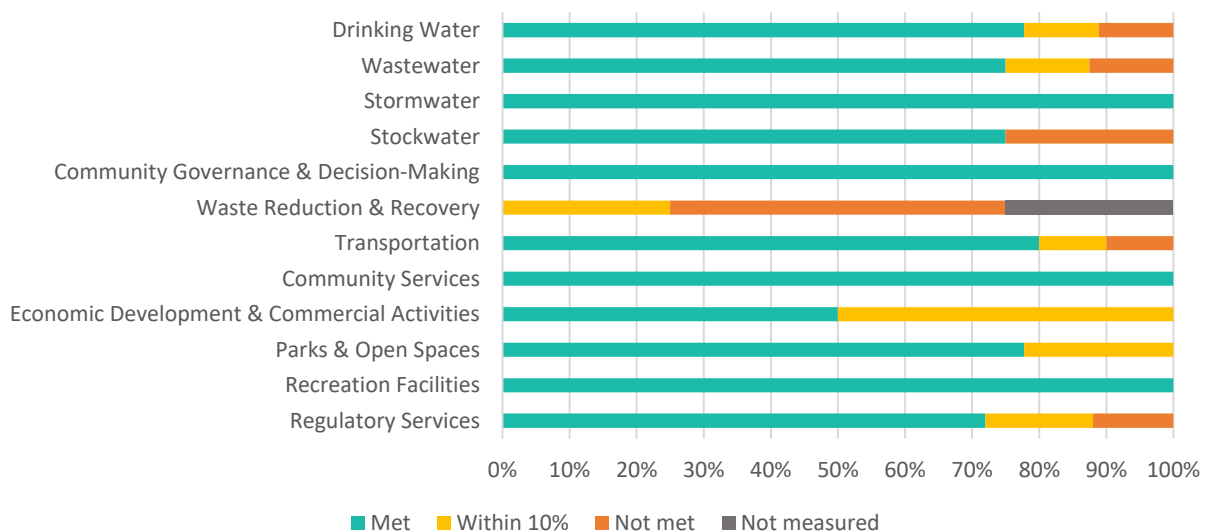
**Figure 1. 2024/25 overall performance - total**



**Figure 2. 2024/25 performance vs 2023/24**



**Figure 3. Performance by activity area**



The following table shows Council's performance measures across the following dimensions of service:

- **Compliance** - such as meeting our consent conditions for wastewater, stormwater and stockwater, assessing swimming pool fences, monitoring of licenced premises
- **Satisfaction** - based on data collected through the Annual Residents' Survey
- **Customer expectations** – activities we do that have an expected provision, such as the number of playgrounds across the district, activity sessions delivered by our recreation facilities, community response plans developed etc
- **Utilisation** - for example, occupancy rates of commercial tenancies and the number of visitors at our recreation facilities
- **Timeliness** - our response times to issues raised and consent approval times
- **Sustainability** – volumes of recyclable material.

Service dimension	% met or almost met target	Total number of measures	Compared with 2023/24			
			Improved	Reduced	No change	Not measured in 2023/24
Compliance	87%	15	2	2	11	0
Satisfaction	96%	23	9	10	3	1
Customer expectations	97%	33	11	6	5	11
Utilisation	92%	12	4	3	0	5
Timeliness	87%	23	11	5	5	2
Sustainability	0%	3*	2	0	0	1

\* 1 measure not measured as it relates to the delivery of the food and organic waste collection due to begin in 2025/26

Overall, the Council performed well, with high results in five out of six areas. However, none of the sustainability measures met or almost met their target. This dimension contains only three measures, all of which relate to the Waste Reduction and Recovery activity, which was impacted by a significant reduction in glass being recycled in the last few years resulting in the targets not being met.

Most of the compliance measures did not change across the two years, with those not meeting the target this year relating to abatement notices on the wastewater and stockwater network.

The only satisfaction measure to not meet target or be within 10%, is satisfaction with sealed roads, although this has improved by six percentage points on the previous year.

Only one of our customer expectations performance measures was not met or within 10% of the target: number of touring exhibitions held at the Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum, although the overall target for exhibitions held was met. The target is for three touring exhibitions across the year, but only one was held due to budget constraints and availability of exhibitions.

Many of the customer expectation performance measures improved compared to last year, including:

- Wastewater - dry weather overflow incidents
- Transportation – sealed local road network is well maintained, volume of metal replaced on unsealed roads and reductions in fatalities and serious injury crashes
- Community Services – public conveniences per residents
- Parks & Open Spaces – hectares of neighbourhood reserve and number of playgrounds, per residents
- Ashburton Library - number of activity and programme sessions - with a total of 1,499 sessions delivered compared to 760 the previous year.

The only utilisation measure to not meet or be within 10% of the target was the percentage of real water loss from reticulated systems. Improvements were seen with higher utilisation of the Ashburton Library, internet sessions at the library and EA Networks Centre – which surpassed 500,000 visitors across the year for the first time. There was also a reduction in the average water consumption per resident per day.

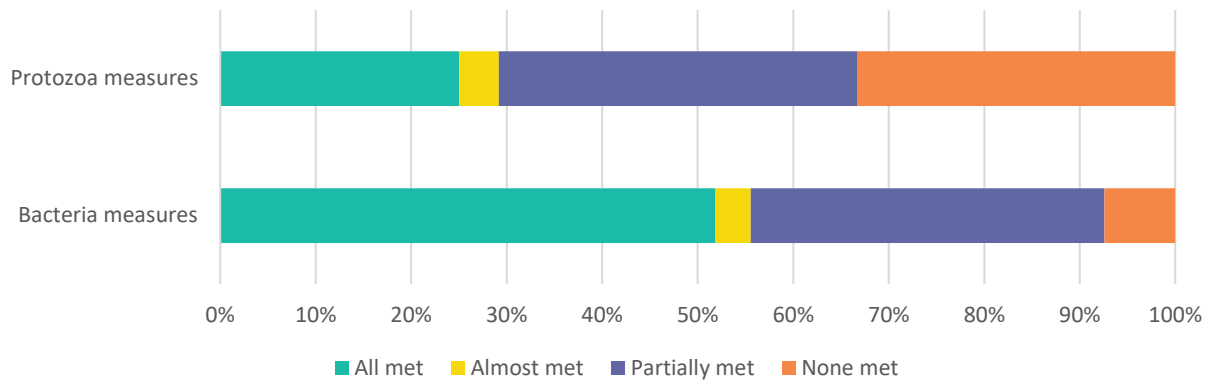
For timeliness, response times for subdivision plan approval certificates, as well as response times for urgent incidents and found, wandering or barking dog incidents, were below target. Improvements were seen in our response times to drinking water and wastewater callouts, along with a number of response times in the environmental services when compared to the previous year.

## 2.1. Compliance with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules

The categories of performance are defined by the Department of Internal Affairs as:

- All met                100%
- Almost met        95-99%
- Partially met      1-94%
- None met            0%

The following chart summarises the extent to which our drinking water supplies complied with the relevant drinking water quality assurance rules across the year. The following table displays the results by water supply and bacterial / protozoa measures.



Water supply	Population size	Bacterial measures					Protozoa measures			
		Bacterial Rules	Microbiological Monitoring Rule	Treatment Monitoring Rules	Chlorine Rules	Distribution System rules	Protozoal Rules	Treatment Monitoring Rules	Filtration Rules	UV Rules
Ashburton	20,450	None met	All met	-	-	-	All met	-	-	-
Methven	2,670	Partially met	Partially met	-	-	-	All met	-	-	-
Rakaia	1,340	Almost met	All met	-	-	-	All met	-	-	-
Chertsey	210	-	-	Partially met	All met	All met	-	Partially met	Partially met	None met
Dromore	100	-	-	Partially met	All met	All met	-	Partially met	Partially met	None met
Hakatere	270	-	-	All met	Partially met	All met	-	All met	None met	Partially met
Hinds	340	-	-	Partially met	Partially met	All met	-	Partially met	None met	None met
Mayfield	150	-	-	Partially met	None	All met	-	Partially met	None met	None met
Montalto	90	-	-	Partially met	All met	All met	-	Partially met	Partially met	None met
Mt Somers	330	-	-	All met	Partially met	All met	-	All met	All met	Almost met

### 3. Non-financial performance results for 2024/25

The following tables set out what we're working towards – the level of service we intend to provide and how we'll measure progress towards this - the performance measure. They also include the result from last year, along with a ✓ or ✗ to indicate whether the result met the relevant target for that year. The target for last year will not always be the same as this year's target so please refer to the symbols for whether the performance met the target or not. The next two columns are the target for this year along with this year's result.

#### 3.1. Infrastructure Services

##### 3.1.1. Drinking Water

**What we're aiming for:** To promote the health and safety of the community through the provision of an efficient, safe and reliable water supply.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress			
Level of service	Performance measure			
We provide quality drinking water to connected properties	<p>The extent to which the local authority's drinking water supply complies with the following parts of the drinking water quality assurance rules:<sup>* 1</sup></p> <p>(a) 4.4 T1 Treatment Rules;</p> <p>(b) 4.5 D1.1 Distribution System Rule;</p> <p>(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules;</p> <p>(d) 4.7.2 T2 Filtration Rules;</p> <p>(e) 4.7.3 T2 UV Rules;</p> <p>(f) 4.7.4 T2 Chlorine Rules;</p> <p>(g) 4.8 D2.1 Distribution System Rule;</p> <p>(h) 4.10.1 T3 Bacterial Rules;</p> <p>(i) 4.10.2 T3 Protozoal Rules; and</p> <p>(j) 4.11.5 D3.29 Microbiological Monitoring Rule.</p>	<p><i>*The results for this measure are presented in the following table. Results have been calculated based on the guidance provided in June 2025 by the Department of Internal Affairs.</i></p> <p><i>The two measures included in the Long-Term Plan 2024-34: 'All Council drinking water schemes achieve bacterial/protozoal compliance' have been superseded by this new measure.</i></p> <p><i>Results for 2023/24 are not presented as they were calculated using a different method and are therefore not comparable.</i></p>		
Supply <sup>2</sup> and relevant drinking water quality assurance rules	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Explanation of result	
Bacterial measures				
Ashburton	(h) 4.10.2 T3 Bacterial Rules	All met	None met	UV installation not yet completed.
	(j) 4.11.5 D3.29 Microbiological Monitoring Rule.	All met	All met	
Methven	(h) 4.10.2 T3 Bacterial Rules	All met	Partially met (90%)	8 Monthly UV sensor checks not carried out.
	(j) 4.11.5 D3.29 Microbiological Monitoring Rule.	All met	Partially met (75%)	Methven-Springfield Zone samples not at correct frequency.

<sup>1</sup> New DIA water supply compliance was issued in August 2024, with guidance provided in June 2025. The two measures included in the LTP 'All Council drinking water schemes achieve bacterial / protozoal compliance' have been superseded by this measure. Results for 2024/25 have not been included as they were not calculated using a comparable method due to the timing of the guidance.

<sup>2</sup> Populations on each supply are as follows: Ashburton, 20,450; Methven, 2,670; Rakaia, 1,340; Chertsey, 210; Dromore, 100; Hakatere, 270; Hinds, 340; Mayfield, 150; Montalto, 90; Mt Somers, 330.



Supply <sup>2</sup> and relevant drinking water quality assurance rules		2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Explanation of result
Rakaia	(h) 4.10.2 T3 Bacterial Rules	All met	Almost met (99.8%)	7 days WTP turbidity >1.00NTU for >5% of day.
	(j) 4.11.5 D3.29 Microbiological Monitoring Rule.	All met	All met	
Chertsey	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (83%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency.
	(f) 4.7.4 T2 Chlorine Rules	All met	All met	
	(g) 4.8 D2.1 Distribution System Rule	All met	All met	
Dromore	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (83%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency.
	(f) 4.7.4 T2 Chlorine Rules	All met	All met	
	(g) 4.8 D2.1 Distribution System Rule	All met	All met	
Hakaterere	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	All met	
	(f) 4.7.4 T2 Chlorine Rules	All met	Partially Met (67%)	4 days WTP FAC <0.5mg/L.
	(g) 4.8 D2.1 Distribution System Rule	All met	All met	
Hinds	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (75%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency. Upgraded WTP Turbidity, FAC & pH data not readily available.
	(f) 4.7.4 T2 Chlorine Rules	All met	Partially met (33%)	Upgraded WTP FAC & pH data not readily available.
	(g) 4.8 D2.1 Distribution System Rule	All met	All met	
Mayfield	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (73%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency. Upgraded WTP Turbidity, FAC & pH data not readily available.
	(f) 4.7.4 T2 Chlorine Rules	All met	None met	Upgraded WTP FAC & pH data not readily available.
	(g) 4.8 D2.1 Distribution System Rule	All met	All met	
Montalto	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (80%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency.
	(f) 4.7.4 T2 Chlorine Rules	All met	All met	
	(g) 4.8 D2.1 Distribution System Rule	All met	All met	
Mt Somers	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	All met	
	(f) 4.7.4 T2 Chlorine Rules	All met	Partially met (68%)	9 days WTP FAC <0.5mg/L.
	(g) 4.8 D2.1 Distribution System Rule	All met	All met	
<b>Protozoa measures</b>				
Ashburton	(i) 4.10.2 T3 Protozoal Rules;	All met	All met	
Methven	(i) 4.10.2 T3 Protozoal Rules;	All met	All met	
Rakaia	(i) 4.10.2 T3 Protozoal Rules;	All met	All met	
Chertsey	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (83%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency.
	(d) 4.7.2 T2 Filtration Rules	All met	Partially met (50%)	Cartridge Filtration not yet completed.
	(e) 4.7.3 T2 UV Rules	All met	None met	UV installation not yet completed.
Dromore	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (83%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency.
	(d) 4.7.2 T2 Filtration Rules	All met	Partially met (50%)	Cartridge Filtration not yet completed.
	(e) 4.7.3 T2 UV Rules	All met	None met	UV installation not yet completed.

Supply <sup>2</sup> and relevant drinking water quality assurance rules		2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Explanation of result
Hakaterere	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	All met	
	(d) 4.7.2 T2 Filtration Rules	All met	None met	Cartridge Filtration not installed for full year.
	(e) 4.7.3 T2 UV Rules	All met	Partially met (80%)	UVT samples not at correct frequency.
Hinds	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (75%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency. Upgraded WTP Turbidity, FAC & pH data not readily available.
	(d) 4.7.2 T2 Filtration Rules	All met	None met	Cartridge Filtration not installed for full year.
	(e) 4.7.3 T2 UV Rules	All met	None met	UV disinfection not installed for full year.
Mayfield	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (73%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency. Upgraded WTP Turbidity, FAC & pH data not readily available.
	(d) 4.7.2 T2 Filtration Rules	All met	None met	Cartridge Filtration not installed for full year.
	(e) 4.7.3 T2 UV Rules	All met	None met	UV disinfection not installed for full year.
Montalto	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	Partially met (80%)	Turbidity samples not at correct frequency.
	(d) 4.7.2 T2 Filtration Rules	All met	Partially met (50%)	No filtration installed.
	(e) 4.7.3 T2 UV Rules	All met	None met	No certified UV disinfection installed.
Mt Somers	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules	All met	All met	
	(d) 4.7.2 T2 Filtration Rules	All met	All met	
	(e) 4.7.3 T2 UV Rules	All met	Almost met (98%)	Old WTP UVT samples not at correct frequency.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress		2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>					
We provide quality drinking water to connected properties	Median response time (in hours) to urgent and non-urgent callouts*	Urgent call-out attendance	0.82 (49 minutes) for whole of district	Ashburton township: 1 hour	0.59 hours (35m) ✓	
			✓	Rest of district: 2 hours	0.59 hours (35m) ✓	
		Urgent call-out resolution	1.58 hours ✓	4 hours	2.45 hours ✓	
		Non-urgent call-out attendance	2 days (48 hours) X	1 day	0.93 days ✓	
		Non-urgent call-out resolution	2.81 days (67.5 hours) ✓	5 days	1.34 days ✓	

What we're working towards	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>					
We provide efficient and sustainable drinking water services	Reduction in real water loss from the reticulated systems*	59% <span style="color: red;">X</span>	33%	61% <span style="color: red;">X</span>	In the absence of universal metering this measure relies on a very coarse calculation.
	<i>The percentage of real water loss from the networked reticulation system.</i>				
	Reduction in average consumption (per resident per day)*	838 L <span style="color: red;">X</span>	< 735 L	771 L <span style="color: red;">X</span>	Indicates a marginal reduction from the previous year.
	Customer satisfaction with drinking water services*	8.38 <span style="color: green;">✓</span>	< 10	9.51 <span style="color: green;">✓</span>	
	<i>The total number of complaints received by Council expressed per 1,000 connections about:</i> a) clarity b) taste c) odour d) pressure or flow e) continuity of supply f) council's response to any of these issues				
	Residents are satisfied with Council's drinking water supplies	80% <span style="color: green;">✓</span>	80%	83% <span style="color: green;">✓</span>	

\* Mandatory performance measure set by the Department of Internal Affairs

### 3.1.2. Wastewater

**What we're aiming for:** To help protect community health and safety, and the environment, through the provision of reliable and efficient wastewater schemes.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
We provide an efficient and sustainable wastewater service	Dry weather overflow incidents <i>The number of dry weather sewerage overflows from the Council's sewerage systems, expressed per 1,000 sewerage connections to that sewerage system.</i>	1.88	X ≤1.0	0.92 ✓	
	Compliance with resource consents	1	X 0	1 X	Issued in November 2023 for Rakaia WWTP. Cancelled April 2025
	Infringement notices	1	X 0	0 ✓	
	Enforcement orders	0	✓ 0	0 ✓	
	Convictions	0	✓ 0	0 ✓	
	Median response time (in hours) to callouts	0.45 hours (27 minutes) ✓	1 hour	0.19 hours (12 minutes) ✓	
	Call-out resolution	2.47 hours (149 minutes) ✓	4 hours	2.62 hours (157 minutes) ✓	
	Customer satisfaction with wastewater services <i>The total number of complaints received by Council expressed per 1000 connections about:</i>	a) Sewage odour b) Sewerage system faults c) Sewerage system blockages d) Council's response to issues with our sewerage system	11.64 X ≤10	10.93 X	A marginal improvement over the previous year. Current levels of service will be considered as part of the District Wastewater Strategy development.

\* Mandatory performance measure set by the Department of Internal Affairs

### 3.1.3. Stormwater

**What we're aiming for:** To ensure property and the environment are protected, and roads and footpaths continue to be accessible during rain events.

What we're working towards <i>Level of service</i>	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
We provide protection from flooding for private properties	Flooding events from stormwater overflows *	The number of flooding events	0 ✓	0	0 ✓
		The number of habitable floors affected for each flooding event	0 ✓	0	0 ✓
	Median response time (in hours) to callouts *	0 ✓	1 hour	N/A ✓	
We provide efficient and sustainable stormwater services	Compliance with resource consents *	Abatement notices	0 ✓	0	0 ✓
		Infringement notices	0 ✓	0	0 ✓
		Enforcement notices	0 ✓	0	0 ✓
		Convictions	0 ✓	0	0 ✓
	Customer satisfaction with stormwater services * (complaints / 1,000 connections)	3.47 ✓	≤ 5	2.39 ✓	

\* Mandatory performance measure set by the Department of Internal Affairs

### 3.1.4. Stockwater

**What we're aiming for:** To promote the productivity of rural land through the delivery of stockwater as efficiently as possible, while minimising adverse effects on the environment.

What we're working towards <i>Level of service</i>	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>		2023/24 result		2024/25 target	2024/25 result		Comments
We minimise adverse effects of stockwater on the environment	Compliance with resource consents	Abatement notices	0	✓	0	1	X	Issued in March 23. Officers are preparing a formal request at present seeking to cancel the Abatement Notice in full. This request was expected to be lodged on or before 27/08/2025.
		Infringement notices	0	✓	0	0	✓	
		Enforcement orders	0	✓	0	0	✓	
		Convictions	0	✓	0	0	✓	

### 3.1.5. Transportation

**What we're aiming for:** To enable efficient travel throughout the district to support economic and social interaction.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>					
We provide a quality roading network for the district	The sealed local road network is smooth * <i>The percentage of kilometres travelled on the district's sealed roads measured by smooth travel exposure</i>	97% ✓	90%	95% ✓	From RAMM NZTA report. Urban 85% Rural 99%
	The sealed local road network is well maintained * <i>The percentage of the sealed network that is resurfaced.</i>	4.6% ✓	4%	7.7% ✓	8.525km rehabs 110.272km reseals
	Volume of metal replaced on unsealed roads <i>Metal on unsealed roads lost due to weather, usage and other factors will be replaced.</i>	35,684 m <sup>3</sup> ✗	≥48,000m <sup>3</sup>	53,742m <sup>3</sup> ✓	Enabled by the additional \$500,000 of unsubsidised funding
	Residents are satisfied with Council's unsealed roads	55% ✗	70%	63% ✗	30% noted grading is not done soon enough/poor grading, 29% too many potholes and 25% poor maintenance/quality/ roads not designed for heavy trucks.
	Residents are satisfied with Council's sealed roads	32% ✗	55%	38% ✗	63% noted too many potholes, 40% - repairs that need to be fixed again too soon / cheap repairs, 20% - poor maintenance/quality/ roads not designed for trucks.
	Roading service requests are responded to within 5 working days*	98% ✓	75%	97% ✓	
We provide a footpath network that is fit for purpose and well maintained	The footpath network is well maintained * <i>The percentage of footpaths within a territorial authority district that fall within the level of service or service standards for the condition of footpaths that is set out in Council's relevant document (such as annual plan, activity management plan, annual works program or long-term plan).</i>	99% ✓	85%	99% ✓	% of footpaths with a condition of average, good and excellent

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
	Footpath service requests are responded to within 5 working days *	96% ✓	75%	97% ✓	
We provide a transportation network to reduce risk of harm to others	Reduction in fatalities on local roads *	+1 ✗	Decrease from previous year	-4 ✓	Total fatalities: 4 in 2023/24 0 in 2024/25
	<i>The change in the number from the previous financial year.</i>				
	Reduction in serious injury crashes on local roads *	+2 ✗	Decrease from previous year	-16 ✓	Total serious injuries: 23 in 2023/24 7 in 2024/25
	<i>The change in the number from the previous financial year.</i>				

\* Mandatory performance measure set by the Department of Internal Affairs



### 3.1.6. Waste Reduction & Recovery

**What we're aiming for:** To develop a cost-effective range of waste management services to ensure sustainable management, conservation of resources, and protection of the environment and public health.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>					
We provide kerbside collection services to the majority of residents in the district	Increase the volume of recyclable material from kerbside collection services	-1.81% <b>X</b>	+1%	-1.2% <b>X</b>	The volume of glass collected from kerbside decreased by 30 tonnes or 5% from previous year. Weight of glass significantly influence the volume of recyclable materials from kerbside collection.
	Residents are satisfied with rubbish and recycling services in the district	83% <b>X</b>	90%	83% <b>X</b>	35% noted no bins provided for green waste, 24% service comes at irregular times/poor attitude / recycling inspectors rude / recycling centre messy/service is bad, 21% no service available.
We provide waste reduction and recovery facilities throughout the district	Increase the volume of recyclable/recoverable material recovered from the waste stream	-13% <b>X</b>	+1%	-1.78% <b>X</b>	The overall rate of recovery was influenced by the decrease in the volume of glass collected from kerbside.
We provide green waste collection through the district	Divert green waste from landfill	New measure	N/A	N/A	Service starts in 2026/27 year

## 3.2. Public Services

### 3.2.1. Community Governance & Decision-Making

#### 3.2.1.1. Democracy

**What we're aiming for:** To engage in meaningful conversations and lead the community with clear and rational decision-making that is based on robust monitoring, research and analysis.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
The community is informed of, and involved in, local decision making	Residents are satisfied that the Council provides opportunities to have their say	89%	✓ 80%	92%	✓
	Residents are satisfied with the quality of information about Council activities and events	96%	✓ 90%	94%	✓
The community's views are taken fully into account for effective governance by elected members	Residents are satisfied with the performance of the mayor and councillors	89%	✓ 80%	90%	✓

#### 3.2.1.2. Community Grants & Funding

**What we're aiming for:** To support other organisations in the community in areas that are far better serviced by these groups than what we could do.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
Community-led projects are well supported to enhance community development and wellbeing	Residents are satisfied that the Council provides opportunities for grants and funding to support community-led projects	97%	✓ 90%	96%	✓
	Community grant recipients provide completed reporting forms within 1 month of end of financial year	New measure	75%	76%	✓

### 3.2.2. Economic Development & Commercial Activities

**What we're aiming for:** To support the local economy by assisting tourism, economic and business development initiatives.

What we're working towards <i>Level of service</i>	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
Commercial property assets that are financially sustainable	Occupancy of all commercial tenancies	98%	≥95%	96%	
Council builds relationships and collaborates with all sectors in the business community	Resident satisfaction with Council's roles in economic, business and tourism development	87%	90%	89%	26% noted support businesses / small business / business ventures, 19% is not the core business of Council, 12% certain areas have been neglected.

### 3.2.3. Community Services












**What we're aiming for:** To provide community services that meet residents' needs

What we're working towards <i>Level of service</i>	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
Council will provide rental accommodation that meets the specific needs of eligible elderly members of the community	Occupancy rates of available Elderly Persons Housing	98%	95%	96%	
The majority of residents are satisfied with Council-provided public conveniences	Residents are satisfied with Council-provided public conveniences	95%	90%	95%	
The number and location of public conveniences meets the need of local communities and visitors	The provision level of public conveniences per 1,000 residents is above the national median <sup>3</sup>	New measure	>0.7	1.2	
We support the safety of Ashburton District	Residents are satisfied with Council's provision of CCTV, street lighting and security patrols within the district	91%	85%	88%	

<sup>3</sup> National median as measured and defined by Yardstick's annual benchmark survey 2022. Measure is the number of toilet buildings per 1,000 residents.

### 3.2.4. Parks & Open Spaces

**What we're aiming for:** To provide the district with a network of open green spaces that contribute towards the beauty and enjoyment of the area for residents and visitors alike.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>					
We provide residents with accessible, safe and fit for purpose parks and open spaces	Percentage of urban areas within 400 metres of a park or open space.	95% 	95%	90% 	Decrease due to change to methodology for data collection. Expect improvement to 92% when Strowan Fields reserves completed.
	Residents throughout the district have access to sports parks at a rate above the national median <sup>4</sup> (per 1,000 residents)	4.0ha <sup>i</sup> 	≥3.5 ha	4.0ha 	2023/24 result was incorrectly reported as 7.8 ha. Correct figure is 4.0ha.
	The number of hectares of neighbourhood reserve per 1,000 residents	0.6ha - New measure	0.4ha	0.7ha 	Increase due to identification of additional areas through Reserve Management Plan process
	The number of playgrounds per 1,000 residents aged 17 and under is above the national median <sup>3</sup>	3.9 - New measure	≥4	4.6 <sup>5</sup> 	
	The proportion of playgrounds that comply with NZ Safety Standards is above the national median <sup>3</sup>	57% - New measure	59%	57% (2022/23 result) 	The next external audit will be conducted later this calendar year. Anticipate marked improvement since 2022/23. Staff undertake weekly safety audits of playgrounds.
The majority of residents are satisfied with our parks and open spaces	Requests are responded to within ten working days	95% 	80%	96% 	
	Residents are satisfied with Council-provided parks and open spaces	95% 	95%	95% 	

<sup>4</sup> National median as measured and defined by Yardstick's annual benchmark survey 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Note - this result is for residents aged under 15 years as number of residents aged 17 and under cannot be obtained from census data.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
The majority of residents are satisfied with our cemeteries	Requests are responded to within ten working days	100%	95%	100%	
	Residents are satisfied with Council-provided cemeteries	98%	95%	97%	

### 3.2.5. Recreation Facilities

**What we're aiming for:** To provide recreation services that are well utilised and meet the needs of the community.

#### 3.2.5.1. Ashburton Art Gallery

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
We provide a modern Art Gallery and Museum for residents and visitors to the district	The Art Gallery and Museum programmes and services are well utilised	25,951	21,500	26,683	
	Number of exhibitions hosted	New measure	15 exhibitions (minimum 4 local, 3 national and 3 touring exhibitions)	25 (14 local, 10 national, 1 touring)	Overall target met, however touring exhibition numbers not met due to budget constraints and availability.
	Number of unique education and public programmes delivered	New measure	20 sessions (minimum 10 aimed at schools, 8 aimed at the community)	287 (122 aimed at schools, 165 at community)	
	Users are satisfied with Council-provided Art Gallery and Museum services and programmes	New measure	90%	92%	

**3.2.5.2. Ashburton Library – Te Kete Tuhinga**

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
We provide all residents and visitors with accessible library resources for recreation and discovery	Most households in the district utilise the library	60%	60%	66%	
	<i>Measured via the Annual Residents Survey</i>				
	Number of activity and programme sessions delivered in the library / by the library team across the year aimed at:				
	Children	374	450	469	
	Teens	115	100	235	
	Adults	271	200	795	
We will have a library that is a welcoming and community-centred destination	Users are satisfied with Council's library services	96%	95%	98%	
	Free public internet sessions (Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa) are well utilised	33,620	25,000	48,199	
	Use of meeting rooms by external parties <i>Measured as number of bookings.</i>	New measure	300	588	These are bookings, 256 paid, 332 community. There were 2,559 ad hoc uses as well. 3,147 total.

**3.2.5.3. EA Networks Centre**

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
We provide quality gym, pool, and stadium facilities	EA Networks Centre is well utilised	494,329	400,000	512,838	
	<i>Measured as foot traffic through entrances to the facility using electronic people counters.</i>				
	Swim School is well utilised	New measure	≥80%	82%	
	<i>The occupancy rate of the Learn to Swim programme using total capacity of the programme against booked spaces.</i>				
	The gym is well utilised	New measure	≥ 90,000	127,621	

<i>Measured as foot traffic through entrance to gym facility using electronic people counter.</i>					
The stadium is well utilised <i>Measured as a count of total court hours booked in stadium area from booking system.</i>	New measure	≥ 4,000 booked hours	5,494	✓	
Users are satisfied with EA Networks Centre services and programmes	89%	<b>X</b> 90%	90%	✓	

### 3.3. Regulatory Services

#### 3.3.1. Regulatory Functions

##### 3.3.1.1. Building Regulation

**What we're aiming for:** To implement the requirements of the Building Act 2004 fairly and impartially so the public has confidence that buildings in the district are constructed in accordance with the building code.

What we're working towards <i>Level of service</i>	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result		2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
We provide quality building regulation services	Building consents are processed and decisions made within 20 working days	78.5%	X	100%	97.5% X	584 of 599 consents were processed within the 20 working day timeframe at an average of 13 days
	Code of Compliance Certificates are processed and decisions made within 20 working days	97.3%	X	100%	97.9% X	847 of 865 consents were processed within the 20 working day timeframe at an average of 11 days
	Buildings with compliance schedules are audited each year	12%	✓	10%	11.7% ✓	82 out of 698 buildings were audited. The KPI target was 70 buildings.
	A third of known swimming pool fences are inspected every year	120.3%	✓	100%	105.3% ✓	178 pools were inspected. The KPI target was 169.
Council responds to concerns with building regulation services within required response times	Building service complaints are responded to within two working days	100%	✓	100%	100% ✓	We received two written complaints which were responded to on the day they were received

##### 3.3.1.2. District Planning

**What we're aiming for:** To achieve a fit for purpose function which meets statutory obligations and customer expectations, while anticipating and reacting to the changing needs of the district.

What we're working towards <i>Level of service</i>	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result		2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
We provide quality district planning services	Resource consent applications and exemptions are determined within statutory timeframes	96.3%	X	100%	99.4% X	The consent exceeded timeframes due to case management delays. Process improvements have since been made.
	Subdivision plan approval certificates (RMA s.223) are determined within ten working days	87%	X	100%	89.8% X	This has arisen predominantly due to issues with lodged applications and



What we're working towards <i>Level of service</i>	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
					negotiated acceptable solutions as opposed to rejection to comply with timeframes.
Council responds to concerns with district planning services within required response times	District planning service complaints are responded to within five working days	100%	✓ 100%	100%	✓ 6 complaints which were responded to either same day or next working day
	Residents are satisfied with the standard of Council's planning services	82%	✓ 80%	84%	✓

### 3.3.1.3. Emergency Management

**What we're aiming for:** To support the community's ability to respond to and recover from emergency events.

What we're working towards <i>Level of service</i>	How we measure progress <i>Performance measure</i>	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
We support emergency preparedness through community-based emergency management	A community response plan is developed or renewed annually	3	✓ 1	1	✓ Fairton complete, 3 others in review/draft
We maintain effective civil defence response capabilities able to manage emergencies across our district	The EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) capacity and preparation is exercised monthly	New measure	12 per year	12	✓
	Our Civil Defence local arrangements standard operating procedures are reviewed annually	New measure	Annual review	Annual review	✓ Reviewed in February
	Annual training opportunities are provided for staff and volunteers	New measure	100%	100%	✓
	Residents are satisfied with the civil defence services provided by Council	98%	✓ 95%	96%	✓
We foster and maintain relationships with Iwi/Rūnanga/Marae	The EMO attends quarterly liaison meetings along with monthly communication and consultation with Iwi/ Rūnanga/Marae	New measure	4 per year	10	✓

### 3.3.1.4. Land Information Memorandum (LIM)

**What we're aiming for:** To provide an efficient production of Land Information Memoranda (LIM) within statutory timeframes and with a high degree of accuracy.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
We provide quality land information services efficiently	LIM applications are processed within ten working days	100% ✓	100%	100% ✓	

### 3.3.2. Regulatory Compliance

**What we're aiming for:** To improve, promote, and protect public health within the district by the promotion of sustainable environmental practices and the monitoring and enforcement of associated legislation and bylaws.

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
We provide quality alcohol licensing services	All medium and high-risk licensed premises are monitored each year	100% ✓	100%	100% ✓	Seventy licensed premises are classified as medium to high risk and were all appropriately monitored/risk assessed.
	Stakeholder meetings are held each year	13 ✓	10	10 ✓	
	Residents are satisfied with how Council undertakes its role in alcohol licensing	93% ✓	85%	90% ✓	
We provide quality animal control services	Known dogs are registered (includes dogs otherwise accounted for)	99.6% ✓	95%	98% ✓	There are 6,825 known dogs in district: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6,646 dogs were registered</li> <li>Owners of the remaining 179 unregistered dogs are subject to enforcement action.</li> </ul>
	Residents are satisfied with Council's animal control services	89% ✓	80%	88% ✓	
	Urgent incidents are responded to within one hour	93% ✗	100%	85% ✗	73 urgent incidents were reported. In 12 incidents, incorrect or insufficient information was supplied which needed confirmation/clarification before the contractor could attend onsite. Remedial actions have resulted in a notable improvement in results.
	Found, wandering or barking dog incidents are responded to within five working days	94% ✗	100%	89% ✗	760 incidents were reported, of which 85 were either not reported at the time that the incident occurred and/or had details which

What we're working towards	How we measure progress	2023/24 result	2024/25 target	2024/25 result	Comments
<i>Level of service</i>	<i>Performance measure</i>				
					needed clarification by contractors before they could attend.
We provide quality environmental health services	Registered food premises are appropriately risk assessed each year	97%	✓ 80%	98% ✓	112 of 114 food safety risk assessments were conducted.
	Noise complaints are responded to within two hours	82%	✗ 100%	91% ✗	356 noise complaints received, of which 28 incidents were responded to outside the 2 hours. These incidents had similar issues as the urgent/non urgent animal control incidents, where incorrect or insufficient information was recorded during receipt of the request details. Action has been taken in response which has resulted in a notable improvement in results.

# *Strategy & Plan Progress Report*

2024/25

*August 2025*

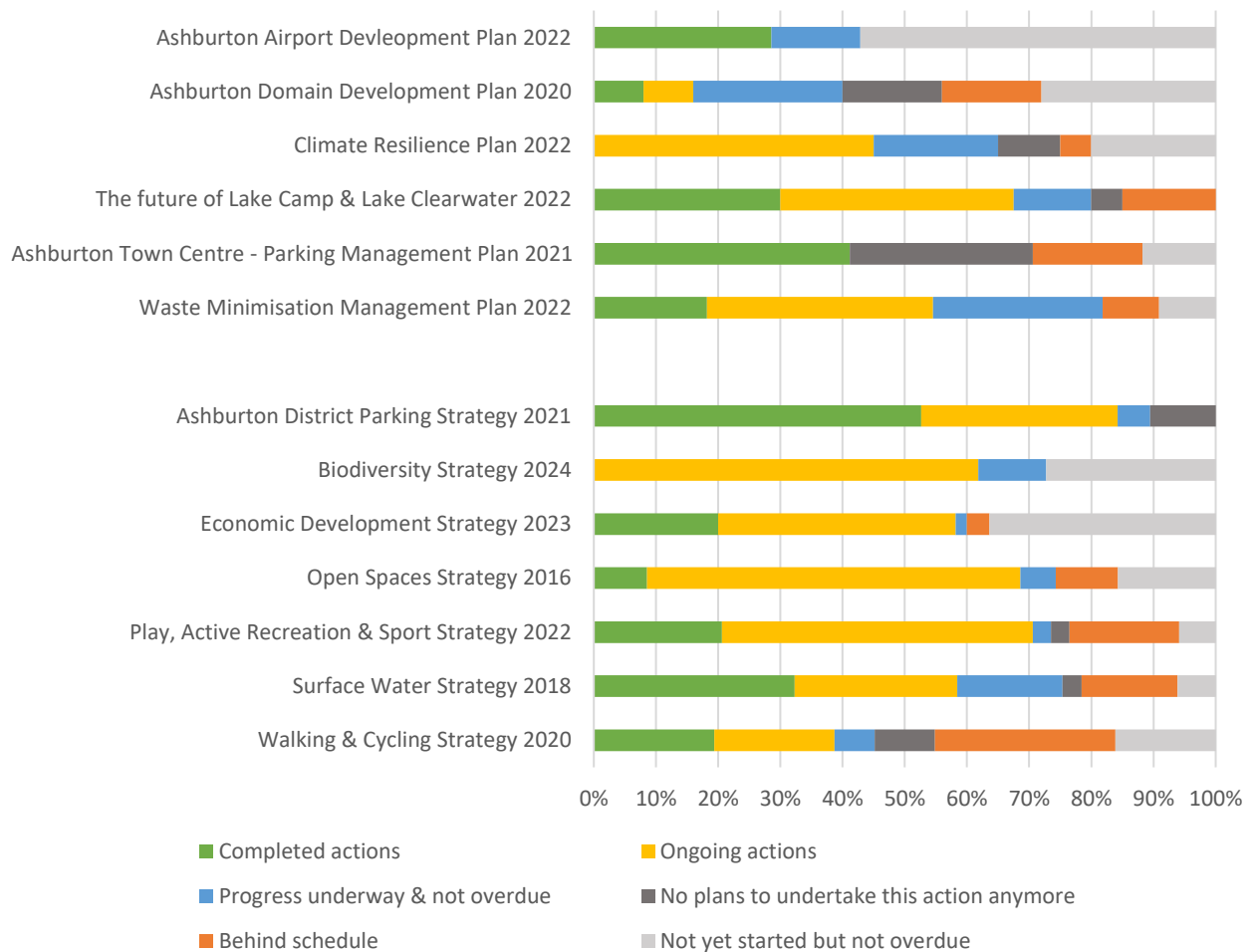
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## 1. Introduction

This report sets out Council's progress in delivering the actions set out in its strategy and planning documents. These documents guide Council's work by defining clear goals, objectives, and the steps needed to achieve them. In turn, these goals support our community outcomes and long-term vision for the district: to be *the district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity*.

## 2. Summary results



● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;  
○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

### 3. Progress update – Council plans

#### 3.1. Ashburton Airport Development Plan 2022-52

**Adopted:** October 2022

**Last reviewed:** N/A

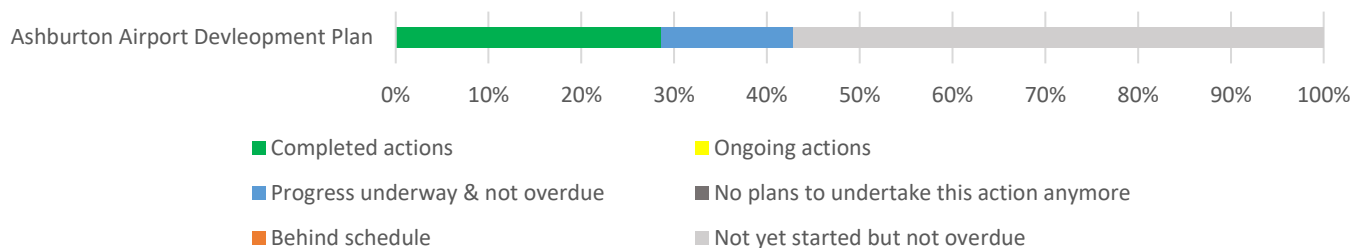
**Next due for review:** Not defined

The Ashburton Airport Development Plan was developed following consultation with airport users and neighbours, and a formal community-wide consultation. The Plan sets out how the Airport will be enhanced over the next 30 years. The goals of the plan are as follows:

1. Ashburton Airport is enabled to become more financially independent.
2. More people are attracted to Ashburton Airport for activities that support the vibrancy and viability of the facility.
3. Ashburton Airport is safely and sustainably managed to support increased use of the facility over the next 30 years.
4. Ashburton Airport remains an appealing, thriving hub for the local community and visiting aviation enthusiasts for the next 30 years.

[Read the full plan here](#)

**Figure 1. Ashburton Airport Development Plan progress**



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1. Investigate connecting power, water and fibre	Property Team with Chorus	By 2052	○		Not yet started
2. Make the western entranceway one-way to improve safety	Property Team with Roding Team providing assistance	By 2052	●	Yes	The western entranceway was made one way in 2023-24. However, in 2024-25 airport users requested Council to reinstate the two way access following

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
					the removal of vegetation which greatly improved visibility. Appropriate signage was also put in place.
3. Upgrade of internal roads to provide defined access to the Ashburton Speedway and Museum, as well as the proposed recreational hangar precinct	Property Team with Roding Team providing assistance	By 2052		Yes	Airside entrance road has been relocated east of the Aviation Museum. Ashburton Speedway also has a separate access.  Work on the internal roads proposed for the recreational hangar precinct will not proceed until development plans have been further refined.
4. Aviation Museum expansion	Aviation Museum	Scheduled (expected by 2030)		Yes	Lease for the expansion was finalised in 2024/25.
5. 1.3 ha on the southern side of the Airport to be developed as a commercial hangar precinct for businesses	Property	By 2052			Not yet started.
6. Develop performance standards to understand the suitability of different activities at the Airport	Property	By 2052			Not yet started.
7. Explore RMA process that would allow people to live at the airport – ie hangar homes	Property / Planning	By 2052			Not yet started.

completed; ongoing; progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

not yet started but not overdue; behind schedule



### 3.2. Ashburton Domain Development Plan 2020

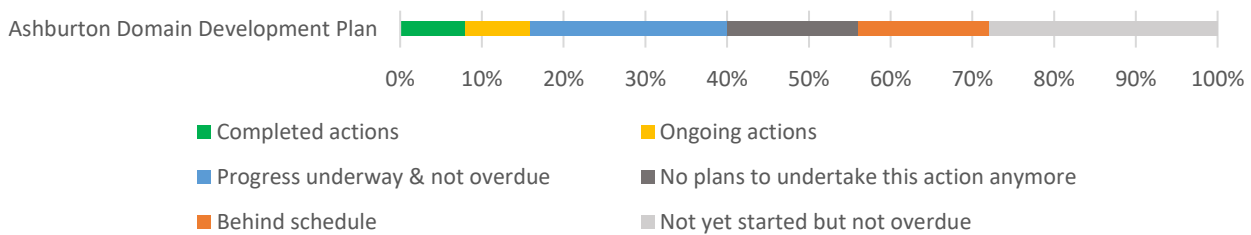
**Adopted:** 2022  
**Last reviewed:** N/A  
**Next due for review:** 2025

The Ashburton Domain Development Plan was developed through consultation with our community. The plan covers improvements to be undertaken over the following 30 years, with the aim to:

1. Celebrate the waterway.
2. Create a cohesive play environment for all ages and abilities.
3. Strengthen connections.
4. Establish a new hub focal point for the Domain.

[Read the full plan here](#)

**Figure 2. Ashburton Domain Development Plan progress**



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1. Central Hub	OS	2024-27	NP		
2. Playground upgrades	OS	2021-27		Yes	New flying fox installed. Concept plans are being drafted for playground upgrade.
3. Water play	OS	2024-27	NP		
4. Wildlife gardens & aviary	OS	2021-24 2042-52		Yes	Largely complete – demolition work and new hard surfaces completed. Planting progressing as per planting plan. Building renovation work underway. Some remaining furniture and fruit trees to be installed/planted this year to complete this phase of the project.
5. New entry and access road	OS	2021-24	NP		Council decided against going ahead with this project due to budget constraints and questions over the necessity.
6. Parks depot	OS	2033-42			

completed; ongoing; progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;  
 not yet started but not overdue; behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
7. Walnut Ave promenade	OS	2021-24	NP		This project was removed by Council due to budget constraints and there are no plans to undertake it.
8. Waterway enhancements	OS	2021-24 2030-33 2039-42		Yes	New replacement pond edging installed along both sides of the pond on the West and Wills Street section. Section of pond edging also completed along south side of oval. Bank stabilisation works completed on section adjacent to old netball courts.
9. New pathways	OS	2021-45		Yes	New pedestrian path installed parallel to West Street connecting Wills Street and Layby. New path installed adjacent to netball courts. Additional paths programmed for this year.
10. Bridges	OS	2024-39		Yes	Safety enhancements to existing bridge completed with another bridge upgraded by community group. Structural assessments on other bridges completed this year.
11. Southern corner plaza	OS	2030-33			
12. SH1 / West Street crossing	OS	2030-33			
13. Waterside shelter	OS	2030-33			
14. West entry & carpark upgrade	OS	2033-36			
15. Curator's house & garden	OS	2033-36			
16. BBQ and picnic area	OS	2021-27		Yes	Tree work (lifting and selected removal) has been undertaken around this area to improve visual and physical connections. Old toilets have been demolished and replaced with new toilets. New barbeque to be installed in northeastern corner of picnic ground.
17. Cricket Pavilion upgrade	P	2021-24		Yes	As at 30 June 2025, negotiations continue for the acquisition and redevelopment of the Oval Pavilion.
18. Fencing enhancements	OS	2024-45		Yes	Old fence near oval has been refurbished. New bollards have been installed along entrance road. Red brick domain wall has been partially refurbished.
19. Park buildings upgrade	OS	2036-39 2042-45			
20. Lighting upgrade	OS	2021-27		Yes	New lighting installed along shared path/cycleway connection through domain from Walnut Ave to Wills Street. Existing lighting along entrance road through car park and out to Elizabeth Street to be replaced this year (also includes section connecting Elizabeth Street to hockey courts.)
21. Sculpture trail	OS	2021-45			Project rescheduled to 2025-26 due to balancing overall Domain Development Plan capex budget.

completed; ongoing; progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

not yet started but not overdue; behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
22. Heritage trail	OS	2021-24	●		Project completed with QR codes and new signs installed.
23. Botanical trails	OS	2021-24	●		Project underway with plant labelling plaques installed.
24. Education	OS	Ongoing	>		
25. Technology	OS	Ongoing	>		

OS = Open Spaces, P = Property

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

### 3.3. Climate Resilience Plan 2022

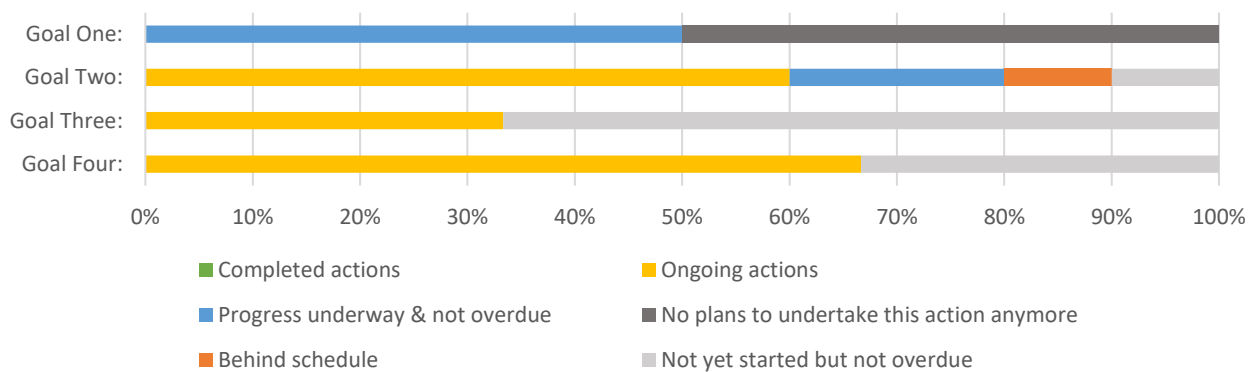
**Adopted:** 2022  
**Last reviewed:** N/A  
**Next due for review:** 2027

Council first adopted the Climate Change Policy in 2019, and it was subsequently reviewed in 2022. During the review, Council identified the need for an action plan, to help meet the goals of the policy. The plan weaves together all of the climate change projects that Council is currently undertaking and plans to take, over the next 10 years.

Short term has been interpreted as within 1-3 years (by June 2025) and medium term as 4-6 years (June 2026-28).

[Read the full plan here](#)


**Figure 3. Climate Resilience Plan progress**






*Goal one: Strive to understand climate change and what it means for the Ashburton District now and in the future and create opportunities to share that knowledge with the wider community.*




ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 1.1 Keep up to date with climate change risks to Ashburton District</i>					
1.1.A Continue to support regional collaboration in response to climate change	Exec Team, Strategy & Policy	Ongoing		Yes	Major regional initiative has been the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP) which was adopted and launched in 2024. The first year of implementation has been completed.
1.1.B Undertake a Local Climate Change Risk Assessment	Led by S&P	June 2025	NP	No	This action will require dedicated funding and has been carried forward into the draft Climate Change &



completed; ongoing; progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;  
 not yet started but not overdue; behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
					Sustainability strategy under consultation. Officers are recommending that this work be targeted at areas of greatest risk and vulnerability and expect to consult with affected parties to identify these.
<i>Objective 1.2 Inform the wider community of climate change updates</i>					
1.2.A Continue to be a part of and spread awareness of the 'It's Time Canterbury' (ITC) campaign	Comms	Ongoing	NP	Yes	Ashburton Communications Team is providing local material for ITC. Work is underway to improve ITC as part of the CCPP, including closer integration with Emergency Management messaging. Council remains a part of the campaign.
1.2.B Ensure Council's climate change webpage is kept up to date	Comms, S&P	Ongoing		Yes	Page has been kept up to date and will be refreshed once the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy is adopted.

*Goal two: Ensure the sustainability of Council assets and services for the present and future wellbeing of the Ashburton District.*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK / COMPLETE?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 2.1 Investigate and implement opportunities for increasing sustainability</i>					
Form an internal Energy Management Group to investigate and implement energy savings	Exec Team	Ongoing		Yes	Group was established in 2021/22 and was involved in energy management projects. The group is now in abeyance while the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy has been developed. The strategy will absorb this action and future approach will be connected to any emissions reduction targets that Council decide upon.
Assess Council buildings and investigate the viability of solar panels	Property Team	June 2026-28			Not yet started.
Continue investment in biodiversity	Open Spaces	Ongoing		Yes	Council has developed a new Biodiversity Strategy in 2024 to guide investment in biodiversity.  Through the biodiversity strategy, Council has allocated up to \$30,500 in the past FY for Strategy implementation.  Council has an annual contestable biodiversity grant of \$15,000 for community biodiversity-focused projects.




 completed;  ongoing;  progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

 not yet started but not overdue;  behind schedule


ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK / COMPLETE?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
					Over 12,000 native plants (trees, shrubs and grasses) were planted around council reserves in the last FY.
<i>Objective 2.2 Investigate and improve resilience of Council assets</i>					
Invest in climate-resilient core infrastructure	Assets, Roding, Projects & Operations	Ongoing	>	Yes	Resilience work on the roading network is usually reactionary to weather events. Resilience improvements are included in the programme of low cost low risk projects. Most are minor works to make isolated improvements (e.g. scour associated with Dry Creek flow).  Recent investments in water treatment facilities at Methven and Mt Somers have improved the resilience of water supply to flood events and improve the ability to treat water of lesser quality to a potable standard, which also increases resilience.
Investigate a requirement for developers to provide climate-resilient infrastructure	Planning, Assets	June 2025	●	Yes	Council officers were working on a subdivision code of practice (COP) when the Three Waters Reform under the previous Government signalled that a National Code would be developed.  While progress on this stalled following the change of government, more recently, it has been announced that the National Engineering Design Standards (NEDS) will fall under the control of Taumata Arowai and be released soon. It is anticipated the NEDS will provide guidance around the use of climate resilient infrastructure.
Use sustainable designs in major projects	Led by Assets & Property	Ongoing	>	Yes	The sustainability and energy-saving features of Te Whare Whakare were recognised at the Property Council NZ awards. Awarded an excellence in the Sustainable Building Property Award and merit in the Civic, Health and Arts Property Awards. The use of mass timber, artesian bore heating and cooling systems and LED lighting system that adjusts automatically are some of the key sustainability features.
<i>Objective 2.3 Ensure that council plans, strategies, policies and bylaws are fit for the future when viewed through a climate change lens</i>					
Incorporate climate change into Council's report template and guidance to report writers	S&P	June 2025	>	Yes	This work was initiated in 2023/24 and a template is in place, together with an amended Community Engagement Policy. Work is also underway at a regional level to share best practice on embedding climate change considerations in council processes




● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;



○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK / COMPLETE?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
					including LTP processes, policies, plans and decision-making. We expect to review our practice going forward.
Provide information and training to staff and elected members on climate change issues	S&P	Ongoing		Yes	Officers believe that more could be done in this space with both staff and elected members. Work on this is taking place at a regional level under the CCPP. Resources for elected members are now available through LGNZ.
<i>Objective 2.4 Advocate on behalf of the Ashburton District in climate change matters</i>					
Respond to Government and other agencies when they seek feedback on climate related proposals	Council, S&P	Ongoing		Yes	Council made submissions to Environment Canterbury on the draft Canterbury Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-35 and to Taumata Arowai on the proposed wastewater environmental performance standards both touched on climate change aspects.  Through the Canterbury Mayoral Forum Council also submitted to Government on "NZ's second emissions reduction plan discussion document", "Natural hazard information in Land Information Memoranda regulations", "Aotearoa New Zealand 2035 International Climate Change Target" & "Strengthening NZ's emergency management legislation".
Pro-actively advocate on issues of concern to the Ashburton district	Council, S&P	Ongoing		Yes	Advocacy to date has been reactive, rather than proactive, but capacity is in place to advocate pro-actively when Council desires.

*Goal three: Enhance the resilience and preparedness of Ashburton households and businesses in the present and for the future*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK / COMPLETE?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.1 Council supports business resilience and preparedness</i>					
Develop a Resilient Business Plan		June 2026-28			

 completed;  ongoing;  progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

 not yet started but not overdue;  behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK / COMPLETE?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.2 Council supports household emergency preparedness</i>					
Develop community response plans for all Ashburton communities and review existing plans	Emergency Management	Ongoing	➤	Yes	
<i>Objective 3.3 We work with our local communities to roadmap local adaption</i>					
Develop a district adaptation plan	S&P	June 2026-28	○		

*Goal four: Reduce the carbon emissions from Council activities*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK / COMPLETE?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 4.1 Understand Council's current emission footprint</i>					
Commission a carbon footprint analysis for Council activities	Exec Team	June 2025	➤	Yes	In 2022/23 CarbonEES undertook our first Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for the 2021/22 financial year (FY). They then completed the GHG inventory for 2021/22 FY. Council's Compliance & Sustainability Advisor has taken over compiling the GHG inventory for 2022/23 FY. An audit for FY23 inventory has been completed and FY23 will be ADC's base year for reducing emissions. Emissions for 2023/24 FY are currently being calculated.
<i>Objective 4.2 Identify and implement measures to reduce emissions from Council activities</i>					
Develop an emissions reduction plan for Council activities	Energy Management Team	June 2026-28	○		Under the draft Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy (under consultation), it is intended that Officers will report back to Council on emissions reduction scenarios by March 2026 and that Council will adopt an emissions reduction plan by 30 June 2026.
Implement the emissions reduction plan and report progress annually	Energy Management Team	Ongoing	➤	Yes	No emissions reduction plan exists at this time.

● completed; ➤ ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule



### 3.4. The future of Lake Camp (Ōtautari) & Lake Clearwater (Te Puna a Taka): 30 Year Plan 2022-52

**Adopted:** 2022

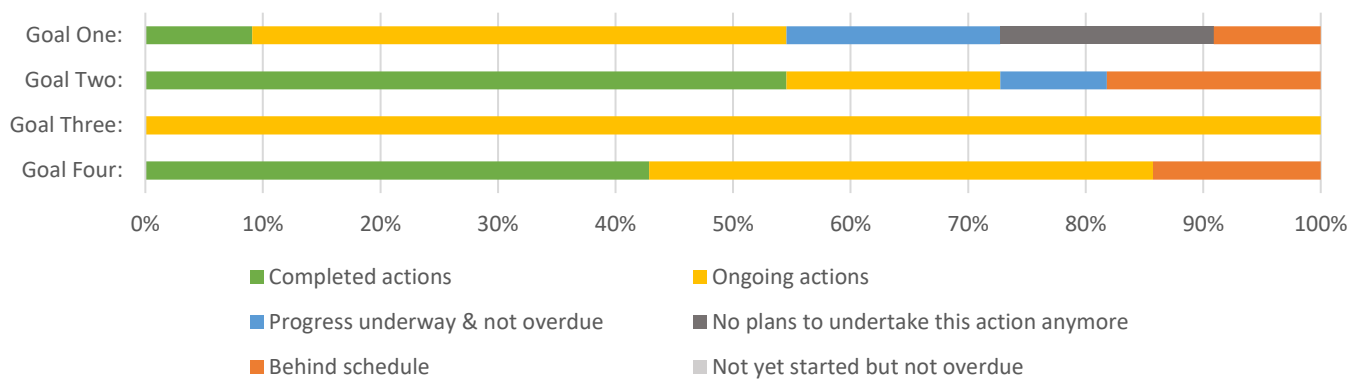
**Last reviewed:** N/A

**Next due for review:** 2027

This plan, developed through consultation with bach owners, key stakeholders and the wider community was put together with the purpose of bringing stakeholders together to regenerate the health of the Ōtautari and Te Puna a Taka area for the benefit of nature, place and people.

[Read the full plan here](#)

**Figure 4. The Future of Lake Camp (Ōtautari) & Lake Clearwater (Te Puna a Taka) progress**



*Goal one: Avoid further degradation and restore the mauri of the natural environment in the Ōtautari and Te Puna a Taka area*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective: 1.1 Stop and remove pollution into the lakes</i>					
1.1.A Ensure all bach owners comply with the requirement to de-commission long drops and have a holding tank, undertake inspections of compliance	Council	June 2023	●	Yes	Completed
1.1.B Investigate the ability to install greywater system at the Te Puna a Taka (Lake Clearwater) Campground, as well as funding options	Council	June 2024	NP	N/A	MfE report on lessons learned released May 23. This identified the direct cause of declining water quality as too many nutrients entering the lakes, referencing research undertaken by the National Institute of Atmospheric & Water

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
					Research. It found over 95% was due to leaching and run-off from land use practices on the adjacent pastoral farms. A suspected 3% of the nitrogen load may be from seepage from lakeside toilets and campsites.
1.1.C Investigate the possibility of requiring bach owners to install greywater systems	Council	June 2024	NP	N/A	Greywater is not creating enough of a problem to warrant further action.
1.1.D Advocate to other bodies such as ECAN to ensure their environmental controls are appropriate in surrounding areas	Council	Ongoing	>		
1.1.E Support further scientific research and water quality monitoring	DoC and ECAN supported by Compliance & Development Group	Ongoing	>	Yes	Support is coming from the Otuharekai working group through co-ordinated action by its participants.
<i>Objective 1.2 Protect and restore the indigenous biodiversity of the area</i>					
1.2.A Review and implement Council's Landscape Management Plan	Council in partnership with mana whenua	June 2024	●	N/A	Planting of first batch of native shelterbelts at the Lake Clearwater campground completed in August 2023. Replacement of dead trees will be undertaken in August 2024.  Implementation of the existing landscape management plan is continuing with Hutholders and Forest and Bird buy-in. However, the proposal to review the plan is on hold pending the wider Ō Tū Wharekai Plan development led by ECAN. The outcome will guide future work at Lake Camp, and we believe it will have wider implications for the site.
1.2.B Prepare and implement an education campaign covering the impact of 4WDs, dogs and other animals	Compliance & Development Group / Open Spaces, in partnership with other relevant agencies	June 2023	>	Yes	Educational brochure produced 3 October 2022 (a visitor's guide to local rules that protect this special environment). This is handed out to members of the public by DoC, ECAN and ADC staff. Copies are also available at key locations and on websites. Articles written for Lake Clearwater Hutholders newsletter. Information signs installed
1.2.C Animal control contractor visits to the area, particularly in peak periods	Compliance & Development Group	June 2023	>	Yes	We are seeing greater compliance than previously. This is not due to increased patrolling but rather improved interactions from the public with our contractors when they are on patrol or approached and bylaws/responsibilities clarified.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1.2.D Investigate an increase in staff/contractor visits to the area to discourage inappropriate 4WD and motorcycle activity	Compliance & Development Group in partnership with DoC and ECAN	June 2023	➤	Yes	Joint monitoring by ADC, DoC and Ecan agreed to in principle.
1.2.E Advocate to Environment Canterbury to include feral cats in the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan	Council	June 2025	🕒	Yes	Conversation ongoing with ECan through the biodiversity champion group on cat issues pending future Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan review.  Council is also considering investigating the potential for wider District cat control policy following a recommendation from ADBAG. The outcome will include the Lake Camp and Clearwater area.
1.2.F Review the District Plan rules in relation to biodiversity and the upcoming National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB)	Council	June 2025	🕒	Yes	Biodiversity Strategy development completed in March 2024 with action to review District Planning rules in relation to biodiversity by 2028- 2030, pending RMA reform by central government. The NPS-IB came in to force in August 2023 with aspects of it changed by the current government (e.g. suspension of SNA identification) and other aspects under review.

*Goal two: Recognise and protect the special character of the area.*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 2.1 Ensure the original purpose of the settlement is retained and protected</i>					
2.1.A Review the zoning and development rules for the area in our District Plan to recognise the special character of the Te Puna a Taka (Lake Clearwater) settlement	Council	June 2025	●	Yes	Review completed. Insufficient need for changes to warrant a Plan Change. No further action required.
2.1.B Investigate establishing clear guidelines on permanent outdoor lights in order to reduce light pollution	Planning / Democracy & Engagement in consultation with Lake Clearwater	June 2023	●	Yes	Initial investigations have occurred, the area is unlikely to be electrified in the near future so network infrastructure like street lights etc are unlikely to be an issue. Further work may be contemplated if a Dark Sky status project for Hakatere Conservation Area is proceeded with in the future.

● completed; ➤ ongoing; 🕒 progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
	Hutholders Association				
2.1.C Complete work on boundary / property encroachment issues within the settlement	Council	June 2024	●		Property and Building Teams are working through this. Some have been resolved, but there are many more remaining. Building inspections occur when officers are on other properties in the area.
<i>Objective 2.2 Ensure our facilities are fit for purpose</i>					
2.2.A Ensure the settlement and surrounding roads are well maintained	Roading Team	Ongoing	●	Yes	Request to raise road level will be addressed when funding is available and routine maintenance is next undertaken.
2.2.B Install additional set of toilets at West end of Ōtautari (Lake Camp) to replace old long-drops that were removed	Open Spaces Team	June 2023	●	Yes	Construction and planting completed.
2.2.C Monitor rubbish facilities and increase collection frequency during peak periods	Projects Team	Ongoing	>	Yes	Rubbish facilities are emptied more frequently during peak periods.
2.2.D Investigate the feasibility of recycling and pay to dump or other types of rubbish systems	Projects / Property Teams	June 2023	●	Yes	Due to the proximity, it is not financially viable for recycling/alternative rubbish systems at Lake Clearwater / Lake Camp. Signs have been installed near the skips to encourage recycling at Mount Somers.
2.2.E Install signs near skips to encourage the use of recycling centre at Mount Somers	Council	June 2023	●		Completed.
2.2.F Restrict freedom camping to areas closer to amenities at Ōtautari (Lake Camp)	Council	June 2023	●		Freedom camping area clearly delineated on the ground via landscaping and new track. Signage restricting freedom camping area installed.
2.2.G Investigate and review camping ground fees and charges	Council (Property Team), in consultation with Lake Clearwater Hutholders Association	June 2024	●	Yes	The MOU with the Lake Clearwater Hutholders Association was finalised in 2024/25 and there is a clause within the agreement relating to camping ground fees and charges.
<i>Objective 2.3 Recognise the importance of the area for Ngāi Tahu Whānui</i>					
2.3.A Work with mana whenua to enable and ensure access and use of sites for mahinga kai	Democracy & Engagement in partnership with mana whenua	June 2023	>	Yes	Included in Reserve Management Plan and NPS - IB implementation.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

*Goal three: Recognise and value the social importance of Ōtautari and Te Puna a Taka*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.1 Recognise the community strength within the area</i>					
3.1.A Work alongside the Ōtautari (Lake Camp) and Te Puna a Taka (Clearwater) community for the betterment of the area	Open Spaces / Property	Ongoing	>	Yes	To be achieved through MOU finalised in 2024-25 and ongoing communication with hutholders. Ongoing joint pest control efforts using automated traps and wilding pine removal are being carried out by the Council and the community.
3.1.B Recognise and acknowledge the work that is done by community groups (e.g. Lake Clearwater Hutholders Association, Forest & Bird)	Open Spaces	Ongoing	>	Yes	Forest and Bird and Hutholders Association are acknowledged in all relevant media releases.
<i>Objective 3.2 Monitor recreational use of the area and undertake action as necessary to ensure use is sustainable and values are protected</i>					
3.2.A Provide an educative approach on sensible driving within the settlement area, and work with partners to ensure consistent messaging	Roading Team in partnership with Police	June 2023	>	Yes	Speed limit reduced within lake area.
3.2.B Investigate restrictions on motorbike and four wheel drive access to key areas including education and signage	Council with DoC, ECAN & hutholders, Aquatic Club	June 2024	>		Signage and barriers have been installed to restrict 4wd access.

*Goal four: Ensure collaboration with mana whenua and between key stakeholders to meet a collective vision*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 4.1 Work with mana whenua to meet goals and vision of the plan</i>					
4.1.A Work with mana whenua to determine ways that mana whenua can express rangatiratanga, undertake their kaitiakitanga responsibilities, and express their cultural heritage within the area	Democracy & Engagement GM in partnership with mana whenua	Ongoing	●	Yes	Yet to commence

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 4.2 Work with key stakeholders to meet goals and vision of the plan</i>					
4.2.A Actively participate in and contribute to the Ōtūwharekai Working Group and Steering Groups	Compliance & Development Group/Open Spaces	Ongoing	●	Yes	Various staff actively involved.
4.2.B Advocate to other key stakeholders for areas that we do not control	Compliance & Development Group	Ongoing	●	Yes	This is the role of the Ōtūwharekai Working Group
4.2.C Develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the Lake Clearwater Hutholders	Property	30 June 2023	●		A Memorandum of Understanding was finalised in 2024-25.
4.2.D Advocate to Central and Regional Government for increased funding for area protection	Council	Ongoing	>	Yes	Government has provided funding via MPI.
4.2.E Work alongside appropriate groups to reduce fire danger in the area	Property	Ongoing	>	Yes	Council grant has funded an irrigation system for a fire break next to the settlement. Hutholders mow and maintain this.
4.2.F Circulate scientific research / monitoring results amongst partners and the public	Council	Ongoing	>	Yes	A number of media releases have been posted detailing research results.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

### 3.5. Ashburton Town Centre – Parking Management Plan 2021

**Adopted:** 2021

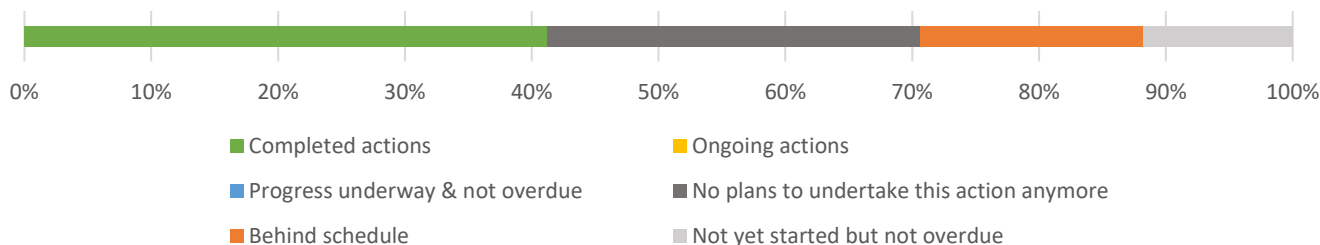
**Last reviewed:** N/A

**Next due for review:** 2026

The adoption of this Parking Management Plan for the Ashburton town centre followed the adoption of a parking strategy for the district. Its purpose is to provide detail on the parking interventions relevant to the town centre.

[Read the full plan here](#)

**Figure 5. Ashburton Town Centre – Parking Management Plan progress**



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1. Review time restrictions in anticipation of the Library & Civic Centre visitor needs	Environmental Monitoring	Before the Ashburton Library and Civic Centre relocations	●	Yes	Completed prior to occupation of Te Whare Whakare.
2. Review time restrictions as per the Precinct Plans (see full report).	Environmental Monitoring	Before the Ashburton Library and Civic Centre relocations	●	Yes	Completed (as above).
3. An extensive survey of the town centre parking should be undertaken. This will help set a base line for ongoing monitoring and inform parking management changes	Environmental Monitoring	After the Ashburton Library and Civic Centre relocations	●		Full review deferred until August 2026 following an interim review in early 2025.
4. Monitor parking occupancy on Victoria Street following the relocation of library and civic centre. If a higher level of	Environmental Monitoring	After the Ashburton Library and	●		Deferred until August 2026 (as above). We are seeing an increased impact on available parking in the Victoria Street area due to progress at Balmoral Hall.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
overflow commuter parking is observed on Victoria Street, consider implementing time restrictions between Cass Street and Wills Street		Civic Centre relocations			
5. Progress the development of a new off-street car park in the West Street rail reserve north of Havelock Street.	Property	Short term By end 2023	NP	N/A	Project discontinued.
6. Review and update District Plan rules requiring cycle parking with development (also an Action in the Walking and Cycling Strategy).	Planning	Short term By end 2023	●	Yes	Completed as part of Plan Change 5 through the District Plan.
7. ADC to facilitate EV charging with providers to determine the optimum commercial opportunity and number of spaces required, and the most appropriate locations.	Environmental Monitoring / Property	Short term By end 2023	NP		Not being actively pursued at this point. Indications are that private sector is filling this demand (chargers at River Crossing, supermarkets, fuel stations etc).
8. Allocate spaces in public car parks as 'campervan / over-sized vehicle spaces' to encourage visitors to the town centre.	Roading	Short term By end 2023	●	Yes	Campervans are parking successfully in the West Street car park
9. Review the wayfinding signage to ensure that visitors are directed to West Street car park so that parking circulation is minimised.	Roading	Short term By end 2023	>		Ongoing monitoring has occurred as part of business as usual activities and existing arrangements appear sufficient at this time.
10. Ongoing monitoring and consultation with the disability sector and aged community be undertaken to ensure that mobility parking is provided in sufficient quantities and in the right locations.	Environmental Monitoring	Short term By end 2023	●		Undertaken and ongoing through Actions 3 and 4 above.
11. Update the Mobility Parking policy to include age-related parking (as proposed in the Strategy Action Plan)	Environmental Monitoring	Short term By end 2023	●	Yes	Completed, provision introduced for over 80s parking permits.
12. Review cycle parking in the town centre and increase provision as required (providing bicycle parking on streets and secure bicycle cages in Council car parks (also an Action of the Parking Strategy and Walking and Cycling Strategy).	Planning	Short term By end 2023	●	Yes	Completed through Plan Change 5 to the District Plan.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
13. Consider the implementation of a system to continuously monitor car park occupancy that is integrated with parking enforcement, and potentially dynamic wayfinding signage using Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) to advise motorists of the quantity and location of parks at key off street locations.	Environmental Monitoring	Medium term 2024-26	○	N/A	Not yet progressed, no demand for parts of this action at this time. Technology is evolving rapidly and potentially emerging issues and solutions are being monitored.
14. Continue monitoring the parking demand.	Environmental Monitoring	Medium term 2024-26	●	Yes	Ongoing
15. Consider the addition of bike cages for all-day parking of bicycles in public car parks	Environmental Monitoring	Medium term 2024-26	NP	N/A	Not progressed, no demand identified. Additional bike stands have been provided.
16. Consider development of a resident's parking policy in anticipation of the possible increase in housing density and first floor CBD living.	Environmental Monitoring	Long term Beyond 2026	○		
17. Consider monitoring the parking demand.	Environmental Monitoring	Long term Beyond 2026	○		

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

### 3.6. Waste Minimisation Management Plan 2022

**Adopted:** October 2022

**Last reviewed:** N/A

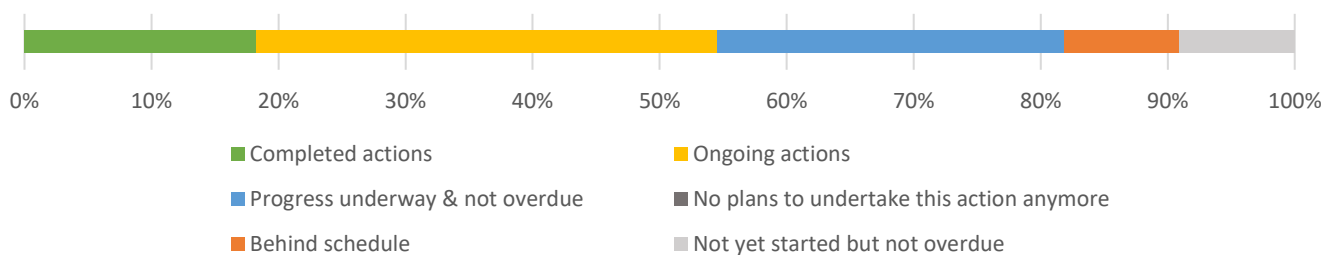
**Next due for review:** 2028

This plan sets out Council's plans to minimise and manage waste in our district. The goals are as follows:

- Engage and involve our community
- Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill or other disposal
- Lower the total cost of waste management to our community, while increasing economic benefit through new initiatives and infrastructure
- Reduce the risk of environmental damage
- To protect public health

[Read the full plan here](#)

**Figure 6. Waste Minimisation Management Plan progress**



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1. Implement the solid waste management and minimisation bylaw, requiring operators to be registered.	Operations	Initiate by June 2026	●	N/A	Section 8.2 of the By-law required that any waste collector who collects and transports waste more than 20 tonnes in any 12-months must register with the Council.
2. Collect data externally through registration (enabled by the bylaw) and regular surveys. Continue recording and analysis of internal data to enable performance monitoring over time.	Operations	Initiate by June 2026	NP	N/A	We do not have staff to manage the registration and collection of data. Existing staff level does not support recording and analysis of internal data to enable performance monitoring over time.
3. Maintain existing levels and carry out one-off campaigns where	Operations	Ongoing	>	Yes	There is an existing contract with EcoEducate to carryout one-off

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
necessary such as a new service, or significant service change.					campaigns. The contract has just been extended for two years with possibility of another two years extension to 2028.
4. Introduce a household kerbside food waste collection and extend the service to businesses on a user-pays basis.	Operations	September 2026		Yes	Full green waste collection service (including food waste) adopted in LTP 2024-34, to be introduced in 2026. The new Solid Waste Management contract awarded to WasteCo includes the roll-out of FOGO starting September 2026.
5. Work with Council's contractor and other providers to encourage uptake of green waste collections.	Operations	September 2026		N/A	This will be initiated together with the roll-out of the FOGO service commencing September 2026.
6. Work with Council's contractor to introduce a user-pays on-property collection of reusable items.	Operations	June 2028		N/A	It is planned to work on this action plan when the new SWM Contract commences in 2026
7. Extend Council's household kerbside recycling collection to businesses on a user-pays basis.	Operations	Ongoing		Yes	We are already extending kerbside recycling collection to businesses on user-pays basis
8. Establish a working group with waste companies and businesses to facilitate improved and targeted services .	Operations	To be initiated by November 2022		N/A	Discussion with companies are ongoing. No working group had been established. Council staff will be working with the new SWM contractor to establish the working group in 2026.
9. Provide a transfer station to Methven	Operations	To be initiated July 2027		Yes	Fund was approved to initiate site investigation on year 2 of the current LTP 2024/34
10. Continue to develop and improve the ARRP as the key facility for the district	Operations	Ongoing		Yes	Improvements are carried out through the solid waste management contract
11. Revise charges at the ARRP on an ongoing basis	Operations	Ongoing		Yes	This is carried out every year
12. Continue to work regionally, lobby central government, and support and work with local community initiatives	Operations	Ongoing		Yes	ADC is member of the Canterbury Waste Joint Committee and the Mayoral Forum

completed; ongoing; progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

not yet started but not overdue; behind schedule

## 4. Progress update - Council strategies

### 4.1. Ashburton District Parking Strategy

**Adopted:** 2021

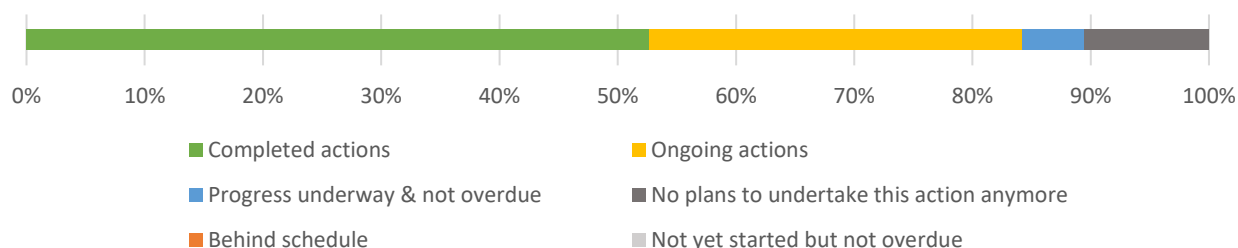
**Last reviewed:** N/A

**Next due for review:** 2031

This strategy, developed through consultation with the community, sets out the desired outcomes for parking across our district.

[Read the full strategy here](#)

**Figure 7. Ashburton District Parking Strategy progress**



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 1. Support placemaking, amenity and good urban design outcomes</i>				
1.A Implement District Plan Policies that highlight the impacts of providing inappropriate levels of parking, both too little and too much parking.	Planning	NP	Y	Overtaken by Government legislation and Plan Change 5 to the District Plan. Minimum parking standards can no longer be required.
1.B Implement District Plan Policies and Rules for town centres to ensure appropriate development outcomes and the relationship with parking (e.g. PC4).	Planning	●	Y	Achieved through Plan Changes 4 and 5 to the District Plan.
1.C Require Integrated Transport Assessments for development of certain scales/ activities showing how parking will be managed.	Planning	●	Y	Achieved through Plan Change 5 to the District Plan.
1.D Implement District Plan Policies and Rules, and design guidelines for new streets,	Planning / Operations	●	Y	Engineering Code of Practice to be developed.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;  
 ○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
providing for good parking design, particularly in town centres.				
1.E Use time restrictions on parking spaces that ensure appropriate turnover to support the surrounding business needs.	Environmental Monitoring	●	Y	Progressed through review of parking in January 2025.
<i>Objective 2. Support the economic development of town centres</i>				
2.A Develop Parking Management Plans (PMPs) for towns and larger settlements (initially Ashburton town centre, then others to follow).	Environmental Monitoring	NP	-	Will be addressed if required.
2.B Provide an appropriate level of off-street parking (long stay visitors).	Environmental Monitoring	>	-	
2.C Use enforcement to ensure appropriate turnover and use of parking spaces occurring.	Environmental Monitoring	>	Y	
2.D Update the Mobility Parking policy to include age-related parking (over 80 years).	Environmental Monitoring	●	Y	Completed.
<i>Objective 3. Support environmental outcomes</i>				
3.A Facilitate the provision of EV charging spaces, carpooling spaces, car sharing spaces in Council car parks/streets and promote these in private parking areas through District Plan policies.	Planning	●	Y	Alternative forms of transport were considered within Plan Change 5 to the District Plan.
3.B Provide bicycle and motorcycle parking on streets and in Council car parks.	Roading	●	Y	Bicycle stands installed in CBD and Baring Square East. Motorcycle parks marked in CBD.
3.C Implement District Plan requirements for bicycle parking.	Planning	●	Y	Considered and provided for through Plan change 5 to the District Plan.
3.D Promote the development of Travel Plans for business and organisations to help reduce demand for parking.	Planning	●	Y	Plan Change 5 makes provision for Travel Plans in certain situations.
<i>Objective 4. Support the Walking &amp; Cycling Strategy</i>				
4.A Provide bicycle parking on streets and in Council car parks.	Roading	●	Y	Bicycle stands installed in CBD and Baring Square East.
4.B Implement District Plan requirements for bicycle parking supply and design	Planning	●	Y	Implemented through Plan Change 5 to the District Plan.
<i>Objective 5. Ensure parking is managed appropriately for the context</i>				
5.A Continue to operate an appropriate enforcement funding model.	Environmental Monitoring	>	Y	

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
5.B Monitor parking demand and regularly review restrictions as well as potential future pricing models.	Environmental Monitoring	>	Y	
5.C Support any new Council off-street parking with assessments of demand/need and cost analysis.	Environmental Monitoring	>	Y	
5.D Implement monitoring and enforcement systems to ensure that parking is responsive to changes in demand.	Environmental Monitoring	>	Y	

## 4.2. Biodiversity Strategy 2024

**Adopted:** 2024

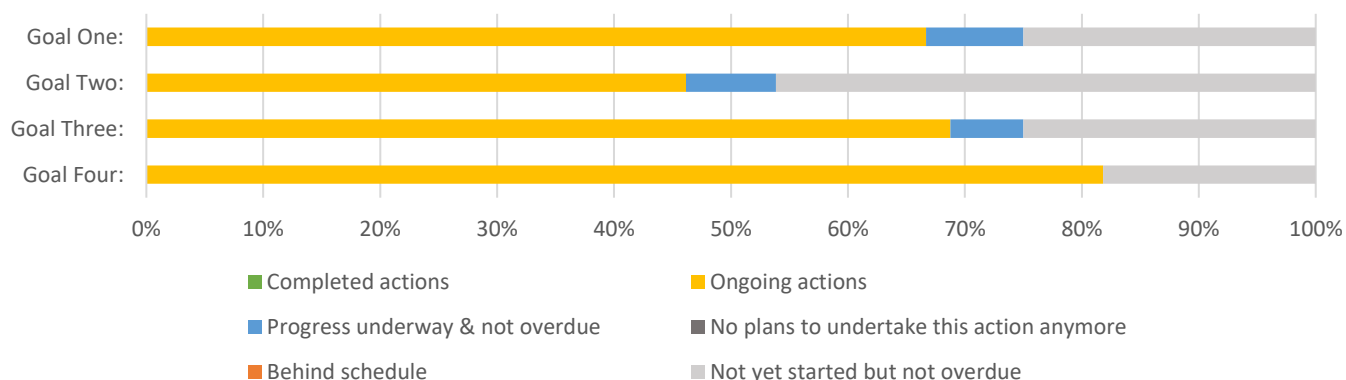
**Last reviewed:** N/A

**Next due for review:** Interim Action Plan review 2025, full review 2027

The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that our current and future biodiversity is protected, restored and enhanced; and to encourage people to value, care and respect it. It was developed as a community-led initiative and contains a mix of what our stakeholders think are important, what Council wants to do and what has to be done under direction from Government.

[Read the full strategy here](#)

**Figure 8. Biodiversity Strategy progress**



● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;






○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule




*Goal one: The remaining indigenous biodiversity (rare, threatened, taoka and other significant species and their habitats) in the Ashburton District are protected and maintained.*



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 1.1 Ecological values within the district are fully identified and protected.</i>					
1.1.A Undertake assessment of the district's ecological values.		2027-34	○		
1.1.B Encourage covenants and other forms of land protection in private properties and Council reserves with ecological values		2034+ ongoing	>	Y	Drafting of the working document is in progress with the Councils legal team to develop in-house covenant process in line with section 77 of the Reserve Act.
1.1.C Identify and protect Ashburton District's special features with ecological values (e.g. coastal dongas)		2025-27	>	Y	Aerial mapping of the coastal dongas by the Council GIS team is ongoing. Contact made with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research team to assess and incorporate coastal dongas into significant ecosystems.
1.1.D Undertake ecological assessment of the drains and make recommendations on protecting the values		2025-27	>	Y	Conversation with Arowhenua to identify drains in Ashburton district that need to be surveyed is ongoing. Only drains that were not featured in Hinds Drain report 2016 will be assessed.
1.1.E Consider, where appropriate, plan changes to protect sites of ecological value and recognise land covenants		2027 onwards	○		
<i>Objective 1.2 Taoka and their habitats are identified and protected</i>					
1.2.A Undertake an assessment of Manawhenua cultural/ heritage sites and determine taoka species present in the district		2025-27	>	Y	Conversation is ongoing with Arowhenua to address how the action will be pursued.
1.2.B Develop a joint plan to ensure the protection and restoration of the cultural sites		2027-34	○		
<i>Objective 1.3 Further loss of indigenous species is prevented by the control, or eradication, of pest species (fauna and flora).</i>					
1.3.A Support pest management approach with other stakeholders to control plant and animal pests.		2025-34	>	Y	ADC representation in external stakeholders project meetings (Staff time). Ongoing funding support for Rakaia Gorge Weed Program - \$7500 pa from 2024-2027 (3 years). Trap loan to community groups undertaking pest control around the district. Forest and Bird (F&B) supports trapping at Maori Lakes and Ashton Beach
1.3.B Continue pest management program in all Council reserves and Open Spaces.		2034 ongoing	>	Y	Active pest control and weed spray projects are underway at the Ashburton Domain, ABE, Taylors Stream, Bowyers Stream, Rakaia Gorge, Wakanui Beach, Harris Scientific Reserve, Ashton Beach, Awa Awa Rata Reserve and Lake Camp/Clearwater settlement.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1.3.C Promote weed prevention, for instance, by engaging with nurseries and garden centres throughout the district.		2025-27			Conversation is ongoing with ECan Biosecurity team to update and review Weedbuster's booklet.
1.3.D Continue implementation of Lake Camp/Clearwater Management plans for the eradication of wilding trees in the area.		2034 ongoing			On hold pending establishment of native trees to the north of Lake Clearwater campground.
<i>Objective 1.4 Impact of use and development and human activity on biodiversity is properly managed</i>					
1.4.A Promote collaborative response to degradation of Ō Tū Wharekai		2034 ongoing		Y	Council Ecologist represented in Ō Tū Wharekai Working group and in the ongoing Ō Tū Wharekai Management Plan development.
1.4.B Review ADC vegetation clearance rule for Rural zones to provide better protection for indigenous biodiversity.		2025-34		Y	On hold pending next District Plan review and RMA reform by the central government.
1.4.C Ensure existing biodiversity is conserved and enhanced in new subdivisions and development projects.		2025-34		Y	Land subject to large scale subdivision and development are assessed for existing biodiversity values. Natives are encouraged for new plantings and are typically standard in all proposed subdivisions and developments where esplanade and recreation reserves are vested in Council. Planting of natives in stormwater basins and ponds (as opposed to grass) is being trialled.

 completed;  ongoing;  progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

 not yet started but not overdue;  behind schedule



*Goal 2: The indigenous biodiversity in the Ashburton District is restored, enhanced and ecologically interconnected for the benefit of the community.*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 2.1 Indigenous vegetation cover has increased over time within the district.</i>					
2.1.A Advocate to increase the indigenous vegetation cover target as set in the NPS-IB or by the regional council at the local level.		2025-34	>	Y	Natives are encouraged for new plantings and are typically standard in all proposed subdivisions and developments where esplanade and recreation reserves are vested in Council. Planting of natives in stormwater basins and ponds (as opposed to grass) is being trialled. F&B and ACCT work with ADC to conserve native plants at Harris Scientific Reserve, Whakanui Beach and at Plantation Road.
2.1.B Promote integration and use of appropriate indigenous species for shelterbelt planting and replacement on private farmland within the district to increase vegetation cover.		2034 ongoing	>	Y	Covered as part of Council staff advice to landowners.
2.1.C Investigate the use of stormwater swales, MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge) sites, rivers and stockwater race networks to improve native vegetation cover in the district.		2025-27	●	Y	At scoping phase pending stockwater business conversation. Planting of natives in stormwater basins and ponds (as opposed to grass) is being investigated and trialled.
2.1.D Encourage the use of native vegetation for council planting projects (street trees, reserves and berms)		2034 ongoing	>	Y	Native plants are used in Council planting projects where needed and required- Robilliard Park, Smallbone Drive, Carters Creek, ABE, Taylors and Bowyers Stream Reserves, Awa Awa Rata Reserve
2.1.E Investigate the ecologically suitable riparian buffer and promote it to the community		2034 ongoing	>	Y	Investigation completed and promotion covered as part of Council staff advice to landowners.
<i>Objective 2.2 Biodiversity sites and threatened species habitats are interconnected.</i>					
2.2.A Investigate and develop a plan to establish biodiversity corridors from the mountains to the sea to sustain its functions <sup>1</sup> .		2027-34	○		
2.2.B Prioritise areas for restoration that provide important connectivity or ecological buffering functions.		2027-34+	○		
2.2.C Support landowners' biodiversity projects that will improve ecological corridors.		2027-34	○		

<sup>1</sup> Linking reserves, stockwater races, 3 major rivers, unproductive farm blocks, MAR sites and irrigation channels

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 2.3 Supporting projects that aim to restore and interconnect indigenous biodiversity sites in the district (support = time / expertise / biodiversity grant / funding)</i>					
2.3.A Investigate incentives to landowners with indigenous native vegetation sites on their farmlands.		2025-34	>	Y	Investigations are ongoing to determine what is applied by other Councils across New Zealand.
2.3.B Provide incentives to landowners with indigenous native vegetation sites on their farmlands.		2027-34+	○		
2.3.C Continue to support biodiversity projects undertaken by other stakeholders in the district		2034+ ongoing	>	Y	Council Biodiversity Grant (\$15,000) is available for stakeholders. Water Zone Committee funding disbursed in 2025 to support biodiversity projects. \$7,500 funding support provided to Rakaia Gorge Weed Control Program.
<i>Objective 2.4 Eco-tourism through biodiversity is encouraged in Ashburton District while ensuring that impacts are avoided, remedied or mitigated (economic benefit of biodiversity).</i>					
2.4.A Investigate and implement how biodiversity can contribute to eco-tourism in the district. (E.g. Harris Reserve, Rakaia Gorge and Ashton Beach)		2034+	○		
2.4.B Address the barriers that could hinder eco-tourism through biodiversity		2034+	○		

*Goal 3: Knowledge on biodiversity is gathered and shared, informing and empowering the stakeholders and the community.*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.1 Research into and collection of data on the state of biodiversity in the district is improved - knowledge gathering</i>					
3.1.A Compile general biodiversity information on the Ashburton District and its characteristic features and make it available to the public.		2034+ ongoing	>	Y	Data collation ongoing for unknown species existing in mid-Canterbury. Information updated on Council website every six months.
3.1.B Investigate climate change implications for Ashburton district Biodiversity to plan for future resilience programs.		2025-2037	●	Y	Considered as part of Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan 2024 - "Action 4.1 Develop a Canterbury-wide natural ecosystem climate change risk and vulnerability assessment. Action 4.2 Develop a blue-green network plan for Canterbury

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
					and accompanying guidance to support locally led implementation.” Council Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor is working with the project team to ensure Mid-Canterbury is captured fully in these two actions above.
3.1.C Undertake a desktop assessment of native species groups within the district and make predictions on their adaptability for future climate change scenarios.		2027-2034	○		
3.1.D Complete GIS mapping of Ashburton District ecosystems and make it available to the public.		2025-2027	>	Y	At scoping phase. Project logged with GIS with 2026 delivery timeline.
3.1.E Initiate and support biodiversity research within Ashburton District to foster relationships and increase the knowledge base and available information.		2027-2034	○		
<i>Objective 3.2 Knowledge of Manawhenua world view /Biodiversity within the district is documented and shared - knowledge sharing</i>					
3.2.A Collate information on sites of cultural/heritage values and taoka and make it available to the community.		2027-2034	○		
3.2.B Promote the mahika kai concept to share knowledge and increase awareness.		2027-2034	○		
<i>Objective 3.3 Knowledge of Ashburton indigenous biodiversity is shared with communities – landowners, industry groups, environmental protection groups, Council local and regional government agencies</i>					
3.3.A Advocate and distribute information to landowners regarding biodiversity values.		Ongoing 2034+	>	Y	Championed through Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective, Synlait Biodiversity team and Fonterra land management advisors. Council staff are working with the stakeholders to ensure information gets to farmers when needed.
3.3.B Initiate citizen science programs to involve communities in data gathering on Ashburton Biodiversity		2025-2027	>	Y	At scoping phase. Action led by Kanuka Trust school program team.  Forest and Bird: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- distributed plant presses to gather specimens for Allan Herbarium.</li> <li>- involved in organization of Winter Bird Count at Ashburton Lakes, and other river bird surveys.</li> <li>- members work with Manaaki Whenua / Landcare Research on survival of <i>Craspedia diversicolor</i>.</li> </ul>
3.3.C Initiate and support regular media publication of Ashburton		Ongoing 2034+	>	Y	Ongoing regular media release on newspapers and Council pages when needed.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
District Biodiversity information on external media channels.					
3.3.D Maintain relevant biodiversity updates on ADC website and use it as an information portal.		Ongoing 2034+	>	Y	Information updated on Council website every six months or when required.
3.3.E Provide accessible knowledge and professional services to landowners when required.		Ongoing 2034+	>	Y	Covered as part of Council staff advice to landowners.
3.3.F Create greater awareness of the importance of biodiversity and native vegetation across the primary industry.		2025-2027	>	Y	Workshop completed in August 2024 for landowners in the Foothills Catchment in collaboration with MPI.  Forest and Bird work with ANZCO Foods at Five Star Beef Feedlot ACCT host planting days and will soon hold an Open Day at the Harris Reserve.
3.3.G Organise seminars and workshops for landowners, stakeholders and primary sectors on environmental issues and outcomes.		2025-2027	>	Y	Workshop completed in August 2024 for landowners in the Foothills Catchment in collaboration with MPI.  Forest and Bird host regular public meetings and field days.
<i>Objective 3.4 School environmental programmes are sustained and improved.</i>					
3.4.A Support and extend school environmental programmes and biodiversity projects to more schools in Ashburton District.		2034	>	Y	Funding support for school programs 2024-2034 LTP.  Forest and Bird members work with schools at Wakanui and Methven.  Kanuka Mid-Canterbury Regeneration Trust works with up to 10 around the District.
3.4.B Celebrate International Biodiversity (22 May) and Conservation Days (28 July) with the schools and community		2027	>	Y	2025 celebration completed with a Volunteer Planting Day at Harris Scientific Reserve. This event was hosted in collaboration with Ashburton Community Conservation Trust.

*Goal 4: Collaboration and participation among Council, Rūnaka and Stakeholders in the wider community for conservation and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity is encouraged.*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 4.1 Cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders are encouraged.</i>					
4.1.A Strategic partnerships with stakeholders and relationships are fostered through regular ADBAG meetings.		2034 Ongoing	>	Y	Work continues in building and maintaining enduring relationships with ADBAG through quarterly meeting.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
4.1.B Maintain appropriate Council representation in stakeholders with an interest in biodiversity.		2034 Ongoing	>	Y	Council staff attend stakeholders' meetings when required.
<i>Objective 4.2 Council takes a leadership role in working together and encouraging conservation and enhancement.</i>					
4.2.A Advocate for biodiversity protection and enhancement within Council as an organisation and communicate these principles regularly to staff.		2034 Ongoing	>	Y	Periodic meetings with Council managers and staff to discuss biodiversity input to projects and work program.
4.2.B Investigate and support the review of project code/standard to reflect biodiversity protection and enhancement (e.g. culvert allowing fish passage and migration, sediment protection and floodplain repairs and enhancement using native plantings)		2025-2027	●	Y	Fish passage research project within Hinds Drains and coastal networks proposed with MHV and UC Canterbury.
4.2.C Foster active partnership with the manawhenua at all levels of decision-making in biodiversity management.		2034 Ongoing	>	Y	An active partnership with Manawhenua is maintained through regular AEC huis.
4.2.D Integrate biodiversity principles across Council activities. For example, increasing the percentage of native planting used in Council reserves, street trees and road berms.		2034 Ongoing	>	Y	Regular meetings with Council managers and staff to discuss biodiversity-related projects and outcomes within their work area are ongoing.
4.2.E Support implementation of Council surface water strategy to improve biodiversity.		2034 Ongoing	>	Y	Planting at Mill Creek and Carters Creek was completed as part of the surface water strategy. Native plants were also added to some stormwater basins around Ashburton to improve ecosystem health.
4.2.F Investigate and develop an urban/residential zone forest plan to increase tree cover for the district as a mitigation for climate change.		2034 Ongoing	>	Y	The investigation is in the scoping phase, pending the ecological connectivity/blue-green network project.
<i>Objective 4.3 General public is encouraged to participate in conservation and enhancement of and celebrate biodiversity</i>					
4.3.A Continue collaboration of stakeholders and volunteer networks for biodiversity projects within the district		2034 Ongoing	>	Y	Work continues in for this action, through stakeholders' and ADBAG meetings, and planting/weed control events.
4.3.B Investigate and establish biodiversity funding/resource pool (Community Natural Environment fund) to support biodiversity and sustainability projects in the community.		2025-2027	○	Y	Work scheduled for 2025/2026 FY.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
4.3.C Introduce the Environment Champions Award to celebrate local biodiversity achievements.		2025-2027	○	Y	Work scheduled for 2025/2026 FY.
<i>Objective 4.4 Community projects that protect and maintain indigenous biodiversity are supported</i>					
4.1.A Support projects that aim to protect and maintain biodiversity in the district.		2034 Ongoing	>	Y	Projects were supported in 2024/2025 FY through biodiversity grant.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;  
 ○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

### 4.3. Economic Development Strategy 2023-33

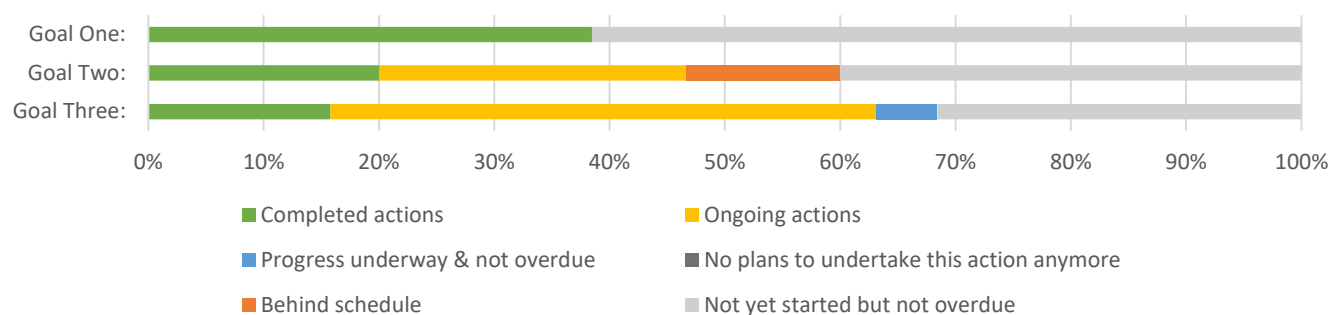
**Adopted:** December 2023

**Last reviewed:** N/A

**Next due for review:** December 2024 (*Action Plan*) & Early 2026 (*Action Plan*). Full Strategy review every 5 years.

Due to resources the 12 month review in December 2024 was delayed. Following a change of manager and the upcoming second review – in early 2026, it has been decided to combine these two reviews and undertake one in 2026 ahead of the Long Term Plan 2027-37 planning process.

[Read the full strategy here](#)



*Goal one: Residents are engaged and invested in our community*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective A. Provide local training solutions relevant to our economy by strategically partnering with formal and informal education providers to meet local learning and training needs</i>					
1.A.1 Formalise strategic partnership between ADC and education providers (formal and informal) to participate in a Learning Hub.	ED Team	June 2024	>	Yes	Meetings were held involving, formal and informal education providers including; MOE, Keep Learning Mid Canterbury, Ashburton College, MSD, Business Canterbury, YMCA & UC.
1.A.2 Establish and run working groups to develop a concept for Learning Hub with operating structure, location, participants, courses etc	ED Team	December 2024	>	Yes	Group discussions and scoping determined the need for a Learning Hub building was less than initially expected. A Learning Network was instead favoured.
1.A.3 Undertake a feasibility study for the creation of an Innovation Centre and Learning Hub. Go/no-go approval required.	ED Team	December 2025	●	NP	Learning Network approach is being explored with the community. Budget is provisioned for year 2 of the LTP.
1.A.4 If feasibility study is approved, develop business case for a Learning Hub where students can learn both virtually and in person with education	ED Team	December 2025	○	N/A	

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;  
○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
and training strategic partners. Go/no-go approval required.					
1.A.5 Subject to approval of business case - Implement business plan.	ED Team	December 2025 onwards	○		
1.A.6 If contained in the feasibility plan and supported by the business plan, commence construction of a learning hub.	ED Team	2029-31	○		
1.A.7 If feasibility study is successful, develop a business case for an Innovation Centre at the Learning Hub, where industry can develop new ideas and make new connections.	ED Team	2029-30	○		
1.A.8 If business case is approved, commence implementation of the case.	ED Team	2030 onwards	○		
<i>Objective B. Create an annual calendar of events throughout the district to connect and engage with our community.</i>					
1.B.1 Create a district-wide events plan.	ED Team	June 2024	● >		An annual calendar of events is held by Council staff, detailing community and Council led events. This is an ongoing action and improvements are being explored currently.
1.B.2 Identify events to be targeted for delivery in our district.	ED Team	December 2024	>		Ongoing
1.B.3 Enable and plan for an iconic event per quarter.	ED Team	December 2025	●	Yes	Four events now in the calendar: Christmas (Light up the Tree), Live on the Lawn, Glow in the Park and Hakatere Noodle Festival are held throughout the year.
1.B.4 Co-ordinate a full programme of events throughout the year, across the district.	ED Team	December 2026	>	Yes	Officers are working alongside community to enable events across the district throughout the year.
1.B.5 Develop and circulate event management resource for local event managers – H&S, ADC liaison and best practice guide.	ED Team	December 2025	●	Yes	Developing updated H&S templates, event planning modules & guidance on working with ADC.
1.B.6 Develop promotional mediums for promoting district events.	ED Team	December 2025	>		The Experience Mid Canterbury website is utilised wherever possible. Additional digital promotion for Council run events occurs via TVs in Te Whare Whakatere, social media and various newsletters.
1.B.7 Engage with new events and integrate into events schedule.	ED Team	December 2026	○		

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective C. Build a community and workforce that recognises and accommodates the diverse needs of residents, newcomers, migrants and former refugees.</i>					
1.C.1 Develop an accredited Stage 3 Welcoming Communities plan.	WC Advisor	31 December 2024	●	Yes	
1.C.2 Implement Welcoming Communities Plan including engagement with ethnic communities and activity schedule.	WC Advisor	31 December 2024 ongoing	>	Yes	
1.C.3 Integrate Welcoming Communities into workforce initiatives.	WC Advisor	31 December 2025	>		
1.C.4 Review effectiveness of Welcoming Communities Plan and integrate recommended improvements.	WC Advisor	31 December 2028	○		

*Goal two: Our businesses are thriving, innovative and resilience to change*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective A. Our business owners and employees are skilled, adaptable and capable</i>					
2.A.1 Develop partnerships between ADC, industry organisations and government organisations.	ED Team	June 2024	>	Yes	Relationship building is ongoing and relationships are being proactively initiated and developed as opportunities arise.
2.A.2 Establish a structured approach to identifying and acting on opportunities.	ED Team	December 2024	●	Yes	Regular internal information sharing across teams helps to identify opportunities in this area. The MTFJ Coordinator takes a leading role in acting on these opportunities.
2.A.3 Using the partnerships developed above, identify and develop plans to deliver business support that address specific skills and talent needs of local industry.	ED Team	December 2026	○	No	
2.A.4 Develop strategies to attract and retain suitably qualified employees.	ED Team	December 2027	○		

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
2.A.5 Establish a development pathway for employees to seek ongoing career development and learning (link with action 1.A.5).	ED Team	December 2025 ongoing	○		Initial survey work has been completed and further investigation is ongoing. A link from this action to the Learning Network is likely to be formalised.
2.A.5 Support local rangatahi (youth) and jobseekers to be retained in employment through the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs.	ED Team	Ongoing	>	Yes	Targets were achieved in the 2024/25 financial year and work continues under the new contract.
<i>Objective B. Our businesses have access to the expertise, knowledge, and skills to make informed decisions that enable them to successfully adapt to the changing business environment.</i>					
2.B.1 Establish a Business Leadership group.	ED Team	June 2024	●	Yes	
2.B.2 Undertake sector analysis of emerging risks and opportunities for the district economy (linked to 2.1.B).	ED Team	December 2024	●	No	No available budget to progress this action formally, however investigative work is ongoing through BAU activities.
2.B.3 Develop a plan for addressing risks and utilising opportunities.	ED Team	December 2027	○		
2.B.4 Partner with Lincoln University and their Centre of Excellence to establish a Centre of Expertise – a virtual network of expertise in land use and water (link to Action 1.A.7).	ED Team	December 2027	○		
2.B.5 Support the distribution of expert knowledge to the business community through the Centre of Expertise.	ED Team	December 2027	○	N/A	
<i>Objective C. Our small to medium businesses (SMEs) are well supported locally to enable them grow and thrive</i>					
2.C.1 Undertake a gap analysis of informal industry capability development offered in the district (linked to Action 2.A.2).	ED Team	December 2024	●		No available budget to progress this action formally, however investigative work is ongoing through BAU activities.
2.C.2 Partner with organisations, such as the Business Canterbury and Institute of Directors (IOD), to increase the number of trainings provided to our SMEs locally.	ED Team	June 2025	>	Yes	Relationships exist and will be maintained. Several trainings were offered and held by Business Canterbury in the District early in 2025.
<i>Objective D. New businesses are well supported when establishing themselves in the district</i>					
2.D.1 Liaise with ADC colleagues to identify ways to lower barriers to businesses interested in setting up in our district.	ED Team	June 2024 ongoing	>	Yes	This is an ongoing continuous improvement process

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
Develop and implement processes within Council to streamline the pathway for potential investors interested in coming to our district.	ED Team	December 2024 ongoing	>	Yes	<p>The following processes/approaches exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Advisory Group – cross Council internal officer group who discuss strategic opportunities and emerging topics across the district on a monthly basis to ensure organisational awareness and promote co-operation.</li> <li>A formal process for pre application meetings with potential investors and developers has been established. This allows direct contact and free information flow between parties, often facilitated by the Economic Development Team.</li> <li>All of Council start up meetings with investors and developers</li> </ul>

*Goal three: Our district is a destination of choice for locals and visitors, with great leisure, entertainment and recreational activities.*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective A. Support the development of the Ashburton CBD into a must-visit destination</i>					
3.A.1 Scope and undertake a feasibility study of the opportunities available to increase foot-traffic in the Ashburton CBD. Go/no-go decision required.	ED Team	December 2025	>	Yes	Scoping will begin in September, followed by RFQ process to third parties.
3.A.2 Following feasibility study approval, develop business case.	ED Team	December 2026	○	N/A	Progression of this objective will be dependent on the outcome of action 3.A.1.
3.A.3 Subject to Business Case approval, implement Business Case.	ED Team	December 2028	○	N/A	
3.A.4 Secure participating businesses and confirm commitment.	ED Team	December 2027	○	N/A	
3.A.5 CBD retail venue design and construction (linked to 3.A.3).	ED Team	December 2030	○	N/A	
<i>Objective B. Develop the 'Ashburton District story'</i>					

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
3.B.1 Undertake research to understand what we are known for and what our district has to offer.	ED Team	31 December 2024	➤	No	Initial research has been completed studying external views on the district.
3.B.2 Based off the research undertaken above, develop a narrative that promotes our district's unique attributes.	ED Team	31 December 2025	➤	No	Consistent messaging and promotion of our district's offerings are woven through all marketing. References to our authentic, raw landscapes and people are emerging as a strong narrative. Alongside cooperation with neighbouring and regional partners, organic brand development is ongoing.
3.B.3 Integrate the Ashburton District Story narrative across the district.	ED Team	31 December 2027	➤	No	The ongoing development of the district's brand and narrative is nurtured through all promotions (advertising, emails, collaborations, newsletters, brochures).
3.B.4 Further development of the story and its execution in the district.	ED Team	31 December 2028 ongoing	○	N/A	
<i>Objective C. Develop promotional strategies and create and distribute promotional material for our district</i>					
3.C.1 Develop a Destination Marketing Plan (DMP).	ED Team	June 2024	●	Yes	Led by ChChNZ the DMP was developed.
3.C.2 Implement the Destination Marketing Plan.	ED Team	June 2024 ongoing	➤	N/A	No budget identified for the implementation plan. Some work is being carried out currently with several councils and ChChNZ. Updates are expected mid-September and this could lead to a new initiative in the strategy based around Food and Beverage.
3.C.3 Establish the Highway 72 collaborative group.	ED Team	June 2024 ongoing	●	N/A	This action is dependent on cooperation between relevant Councils. Initial discussions have occurred.
3.C.4 Promote the inland scenic route as a place of interest for visitors.	ED Team	December 2025	●	N/A	Not achievable without C.3 being completed.
3.C.5 Engage with the Methven business community and scope Destination Methven concepts.	ED Team	December 2026	➤	Yes	
3.C.5 Promote Methven as a unique destination within our district.	ED Team	December 2026 ongoing	➤	Yes	
3.C.6 Investigate strategies to increase bed-nights in Ashburton township.	ED Team	December 2025	➤	No	

● completed; ➤ ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

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ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
3.C.7 Implement strategies to increase bed-nights in Ashburton township.	ED Team	December 2026 ongoing	○	Yes	
3.C.8 Develop and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders	ED Team	Ongoing	>	Yes	

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

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## 4.4. Open Spaces Strategy 2016-26

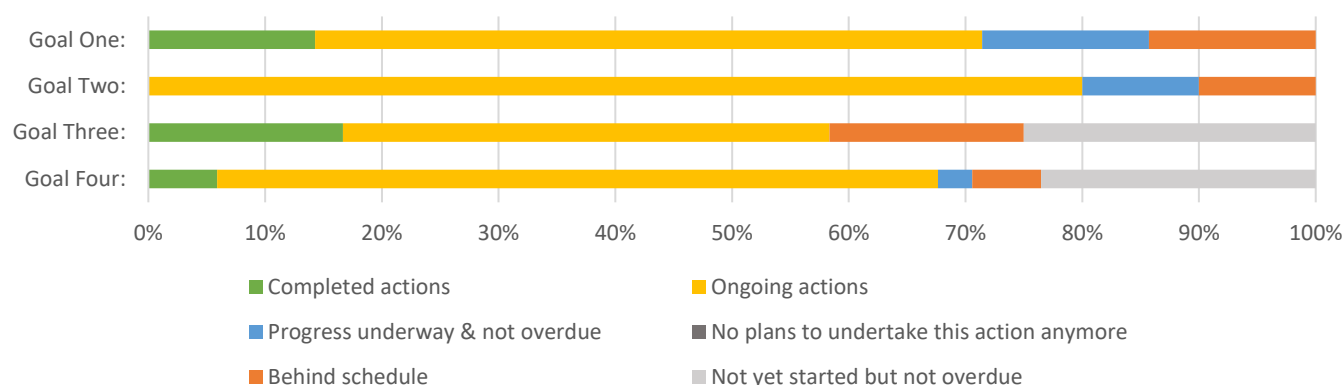
**Adopted:** October 2022

**Last reviewed:** 2022

**Next due for review:** 2026

[Read the full strategy here](#)

**Figure 9. Open Spaces Strategy progress**



*Goal one: Open spaces are equitably distributed and funded*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 1.1 Ensure Council has an accurate and thorough record of the district's open space</i>					
1.1.A Review current information regarding the location, nature, and use of current open space provided by Council and other agencies.	Open Space	2017	●		Areas of Council open space are mapped and categorised and most of the other areas are included in the Recreation Facilities Utilisation Study 2023.
1.1.B The database is maintained on a regular basis.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Work is continuing and is updated as new information comes to hand.
1.1.C Regular meetings are held with other land management agencies, e.g. Ministry of Education to keep abreast of changes to their open spaces.	Open Space	Annually	>		While informal discussions are undertaken, regular formal meetings are not. Officers are investigating the shape and form of such meetings going forward. Recent connection with Department of Conservation has been established and will be ongoing.
<i>Objective 1.2 Shortfalls and surpluses in open space across the district are identified and remedied, where practical</i>					
1.2.A Map residential areas greater than 400m away from open space areas.	Open Space	2017	●		Data is a performance measure in the LTP 2021-31 and 2024-34 and is reported against annually through the Annual Report.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;  
○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1.2.B Mapping is undertaken which identifies any other shortfalls in the provision of open space. The standards in Appendix 4 will be used to define and identify shortfalls.	Open Space	2018-21	●		Maps have been completed and require regular updates.
1.2.C Assess opportunities to remedy any open space shortfalls, taking into consideration spaces provided by other agencies, such as school sport fields.	Open Space	2018-21	>		Work continues in for this action, for example through the assessment of subdivisions.
1.2.D Develop a 20 year program that identifies future land requirements, including priority areas.	Open Space	2018-21	●		Work to investigate Council's role in this action is required. Proposed legislative changes to the RMA may mean this is a lesser role for territorial authorities.
<i>Objective 1.3 The management and provision of open space is responsive to significant changes in the district's demographics, new growth areas, and changes in inner urban areas, such as increases in residential density</i>					
1.3.A Monitor significant changes in either zoning provisions or proposed developments that may place additional demands on open space.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Officers review and provide feedback to zoning changes and proposed developments.
1.3.B The Open Spaces team are involved early in the stages of development to ensure appropriate open space is provided.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Officers regularly attend pre-application meetings and review resource consent applications from an open spaces perspective.
1.3.C Open Spaces team regularly monitor the district's demographics.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		The Strategy & Policy team monitor demographics. This is reported to Council and management and considered when developing strategic planning documents and playground developments.
<i>Objective 1.4 Development contributions and other funding or acquisition mechanisms used to provide and manage open space (parks, waterways and street amenity) are set at the appropriate level to meet the communities open space needs and expectations</i>					
1.4.A Review the adequacy of current funding mechanisms, in particular, whether they are adequately support the demands on open space.	Open Space	2018-21	●		Review of Revenue & Financing Policy in 2024 considered how best to fund open spaces services, with a mix of rates and fees used. Review into the financial contribution adequacy has not been undertaken. To be undertaken as part of next District Plan review.
1.4.B Investigate the necessity and implementation of a development contribution scheme for the development in the rural environment. This could be similar in nature to contribution systems in urban areas.	Open Space	By 2026	●		Council considered establishing development contributions for open spaces in 2020, but during that time the Labour Government reversed previous decision on community infrastructure financial contributions. This meant that Council was better off utilising financial contributions instead of development contributions. Review of the need for open space development contribution/financial contribution in rural areas has not been undertaken. To be considered as part of the next District Plan review.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

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ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1.4.C Allow land, not currently required for the purpose of open space, to be leased on a short term basis with subsequent funds used solely for the maintenance and enhancement of open space areas.	Open Space	Ongoing	➤		Existing leases are reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Commercial Team on behalf of Open Spaces. Reserve Management Plan process has identified a number of additional opportunities.
<i>Objective 1.5 Council is adequately compensated for the use of its open spaces for infrastructure and utilities</i>					
1.5.A Where possible, require compensation for the use of open space by infrastructure and utility providers.	Open Space	Ongoing	➤		This has become a greater focus for Council over the past few years and new practices are being implemented.

*Goal two: Open spaces are provided and managed efficiently throughout the district*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 2.1 Council builds partnerships with community groups and organisations and other land management agencies to create efficiencies in the provision and management of open space</i>					
2.1.A Facilitate regular meetings with Domain Board representatives (as a group) to encourage communication, provide support, and identify potential cost saving opportunities through combined purchasing.	Open Space	Ongoing	➤		Greater focus and attention have been applied to these relationships and good progress has been made e.g. Rakaia Domain Recreation Centre. Council has established a Community Engagement Officer position to assist in this function.
2.1.B Meet regularly with the other open space providers such as the MoE (and school reps), DoC and ECAN to understand each other's work and development programmes with a view to coordinating complementary projects and avoiding unnecessary duplication.	Open Space	Ongoing	➤		Work continues in building and maintaining enduring relationships with key stakeholders.
<i>Objective 2.2 New facilities, or the enhancement of existing facilities, are designed to cater for multiple by both community organisations and the public</i>					
2.2.A Where practicable, allow for maximum usage of open space facilities.	Open Space	Ongoing	➤		The Recreation Facility Utilisation Study 2023 has been completed and provides guidance on opportunities and needs.
2.2.B Opportunities to enhance facilities for public usage will be undertaken where possible.	Open Space	Ongoing	➤		Council achieved good community connection during the Reserve Management Planning consultation phases on future opportunities.

● completed; ➤ ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
2.2.C Allow structures to be established on open spaces provided there is a demonstrated need for the facility and its use can be maximised through multiple use.	Open Space	Ongoing	➤		Council has enabled structures where appropriate and standard practices are being implemented. Open Spaces encourage multiple use of proposed facilities on Council land.
2.2.D Policies are implemented through Reserve Management Plans which require that any new structure or facility is designed to cater for multiple uses.	Open Space	Ongoing	🕒		Reserve Management Plan has been prepared and adopted for all reserves.
<i>Objective 2.3 The most efficient approach to the provision of open space areas is utilised</i>					
2.3.A A review of all playground and sports surfaces across the district is undertaken to determine both the standard of the surfaces, its adequacy, and potential efficiencies in their maintenance and provision.	Open Space	2018-21	➤		An audit of playgrounds was undertaken in 2021 and 2022. A further audit is scheduled end 2025.
2.3.B Identify opportunities for multiple use of open space and other Council land when addressing shortfalls in open space.	Open Space	2018-21	➤		The Recreation Utilisation Study 2023 provides guidance on opportunities. Developments are assessed on an ongoing basis to meet targets.
2.3.C Build relationships with other land management agencies to work collaboratively when addressing shortfalls in open space.	Open Space	2018-21	➤		Work has started in building and maintaining enduring relationships with key stakeholders e.g. Ashburton – Hakatere River Trail Group.
<i>Objective 2.4 Critically assess the value of potential land vestments to meeting the Council's Open Spaces Strategy vision</i>					
2.4.A Establish an assessment criteria framework incorporating all of the Strategy's goals when discussing land vestments to Council from other landowners.	Open Space	2018-21	●		Currently the design guidelines in Appendix 4 serve as a foundation for assessment with further criteria applied on an as needed basis. A full Code of Practice is currently being created for developers.

*Goal three: Open spaces are effective in meeting community needs*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.1 Council builds partnerships and collaborates with other land management agencies to maximise the use of open space</i>					
3.1.A Develop a plan with MoE and school representatives that identifies that opportunities to complement	Open Space	2018-21	●		Work has started in building and maintaining enduring relationships with key stakeholders.

● completed; ➤ ongoing; 🕒 progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
each other's open space activities and avoid unnecessary duplication.					
3.1.B Consult with MoE and school representatives to discuss potential cycleway and walkway linkages.	Open Space	2017	>		Consultation occurred through the Walking and Cycling Strategy development 2021.
3.1.C Work with DoC and ECAN to maximise the connections between areas of open space, and to ensure open space activities are coordinated and not unnecessarily duplicated.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Work has started in building and maintaining enduring relationships with key stakeholders.
<i>Objective 3.2 The use of the open space network for events are encouraged where appropriate</i>					
3.2.A Promote and encourage the use and availability of open spaces in areas across the district for specific events. This includes providing information on the Council's website.	Open Space	2018-21	●		Council has developed an events specific webpage. but it does not yet feature Open Spaces bookings. A Council wide facilities booking system is being developed. Council's website also now contains comprehensive information regarding Open Spaces parks, playgrounds and public conveniences.
<i>Objective 3.3 Public awareness of open space opportunities is improved so that they are seen as a resource for the community to utilise for a range of uses</i>					
3.3.A Review open space signage to determine possible improvements that would raise awareness of open space opportunities.	Open Space	2026	○		Low-priority at present. Current focus is on a signage template to ensure consistency of brand and message. This is underway and being coordinated by the Communications Team.
3.3.B Undertake a comprehensive public awareness programme to promote the open space network, new open space opportunities, and the linkages within this network.	Open Space	2026	○		No formal programme developed – lower priority work at this point.
3.3.C Initiatives focused on providing youth sport and recreation opportunities are supported.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Sports such as cricket have been well supported through pitch maintenance and new cricket nets installed. Installation of Disc Golf has supported Youth activity. Methven Skate Park now vested with Council to maintain. Council is supporting Bike Skills Park initiative. Mini golf course is underway with construction in 2025/26.
<i>Objective 3.4 The management and provision of open space and facilities, meet community needs</i>					
3.4.A Foster relationships with various parties, including sports clubs and community organisations, to understand their long term open space needs.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Recent engagement through the Ashburton Domain Development Plan and the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy, the Recreation Utilisation Study and the EA Networks Masterplan have achieved this.
3.4.B Survey community needs and perceptions of the open space network. This includes consideration	Open Space	2018-21	●		Annual Resident Survey consistently yields high satisfaction scores for Council's Open Spaces services but does not delve into the detail. Achieved through

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
of accessibility, quality, quantity, protection and function and where improvements can be made.					the recently completed Recreation Utilisation Study and the Reserve Management Plan development which has now been completed.
3.4.C Undertake an analysis that identifies recreational activities not adequately provided for within the district. The analysis should identify the potential development(s) of a destination recreational park and potential suitable locations based upon existing open space resources (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	2026	●		Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy started this conversation and was completed with the Recreation Facilities Utilisation Study.
<i>Objective 3.5 Technology is utilised to encourage the use of open space</i>					
3.5.A Explore the use of technological opportunities, such as geocaching, in open space areas to provide recreational opportunities and information on the area.	Open Space	2026	○		Lower priority on work programme.
<i>Objective 3.6 The outcomes of the strategy are monitored and reviewed to ensure it is achieving its goals</i>					
3.6.A Review all open spaces to determine if the strategy's objectives are being achieved.	Open Space	2026	➤		Undertaken annually.

*Goal four: Open spaces enhance the district and environment by providing an attractive community environment and improving recreational opportunities*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 4.1 Each area of open space is managed and developed in a coordinated and consistent manner</i>					
4.1.A Ensure all parks and open space areas have current management and implementation plans.	Open Space	2026	●		Reserve Management Plans have been completed.
4.1.B The enhancement of the Ashburton Domain and Gardens is undertaken in accordance with a development plan (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	2026	➤		The Ashburton Domain Development Plan (ADDP) was adopted October 2020 and sets out a 30 year plan for enhancement. Projects are being implemented as per time frames and as budgets allow.

● completed; ➤ ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 4.2 Coastal, waterway and green corridors provide for pedestrian movement and enhance the visual amenity of these areas in the urban environment</i>					
4.2.A Develop a programme which, each year, identifies a corridor for enhancement. This programme shall have the effect of ensuring one corridor area each year is enhanced. The programme will be developed in consultation with other land management agencies, such as Environment Canterbury and Department of Conservation.	Open Space	2026	>		<p>Following sections waterway corridors have been enhanced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mt Harding creek through Thyme Stream subdivision( Methven)</li> <li>Corridor through Smallbone Drive Reserve</li> <li>Robillard Park corridor</li> <li>Mill Creek corridor between Allens Rd and Turton Green</li> </ul>
<i>Objective 4.3 Land used for purposes other than open space make an important contribution to meeting recreation and open space needs e.g. rest areas beside rivers</i>					
4.3.A A review is undertaken to assess opportunities to improve connections and relationships between waterways and neighbouring towns and villages (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	2026	>		Refer 4.2 above
4.3.B Opportunities to enhance and expand the Mill Creek walkway are promoted and encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Opportunities are taken as and when subdivision consents come into Council. e.g walkway connection between Allens Rd and Turton Green. Other connections in progress.
4.3.C These areas are considered during any potential cycleway studies/investigations (refer to Appendix5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	2026	>		General awareness of this action.
4.3.D Develop a plan that provides for the enhancement of connections with waterways and conservation land. This plan should align with the strategy proposed cycleway objectives and the objectives regarding improving the relationship between urban areas and waterways (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	2018-21	●		General awareness of this action but no plan developed at this stage.
4.3.E Undertake consultation with other organisations, such as the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury, to determine if linkages could be	Open Space	2018-21	>		Work has started in building and maintaining enduring relationships with key stakeholders.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
established to enhance amenity and recreational opportunities.					
4.3.F Opportunities to enhance open space availability in close proximity to the proposed Ashburton Second Urban River Bridge shall be undertaken (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	2026	>		Agreement in place with bridge contractors to enhance river edge of Robilliard Park.
<i>Objective 4.4 Open spaces with scenic, heritage natural and cultural values are made as accessible as possible without comprising their biodiversity values – especially those areas along district waterways, the coast, and lakes</i>					
4.4.A Identify further opportunities to improve access to open space areas.	Open Space	2026	>		Notable work to date includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wakanui beach fencing, signage, weed control planting.</li> <li>Lake Camp – improving access and restrictions where necessary.</li> <li>Awa Awa Rata Reserve – new replacement bridges that are accessibility friendly.</li> </ul>
4.4.B Undertake consultation with other organisations, including the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury, to enhance access to those areas of specific interest.	Open Space	2026	●		Work has started in building and maintaining enduring relationships with key stakeholders.
4.4.C Opportunities to enhance and expand the Mill Creek walkway will be promoted and encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	Ongoing	>		General awareness of this action with opportunities taken as and when they arise.
4.4.D Opportunities to assist in the enhancement of the Lake Hood area shall be encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	2018-21	>		General awareness of this action with opportunities taken as and when they arise.
<i>Objective 4.5 Heritage values, including places of cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu, notable trees, and heritage buildings, places and objects, are protected and retained through the provision and management of public open space</i>					
4.5.A Identify existing and potential heritage features in open space areas.	Open Space	2018-21	>		Notable work to date includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ng King Brothers Chinese Market Garden Settlement</li> <li>Old technical college gate have been restored and are profiled in Ashburton Domain</li> <li>East Street heritage panels</li> <li>Rakaia Salmon Reserve heritage panels</li> <li>RDR pipe shed remedial works</li> </ul>

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
4.5.B Determine how existing and potential heritage features can be managed and enhanced to promote both open space and heritage values.	Open Space	2026	>		Ongoing awareness of heritage features and how to enhance these.
4.5.C Develop a heritage places network that identifies known heritage and cultural features, including cemeteries and historic sites, within open spaces. The heritage network will be updated through routine investigations of open space areas to determine if they contain heritage places not located within open spaces.	Open Space	2026	>		General awareness of this action. Focus on this area was undertaken when creating the suite of Reserve Management Plans.
4.5.D Consult with local iwi to identify areas of open space where there is a direct affiliation of cultural linkage;	Open Space	2018-21	>		Discussed at regular hui with AEC and identified through Reserve Management Plans
4.5.E Involve and partner with iwi regarding the management of areas of open space.	Open Space	2018-21	>		Undertaken through current Reserve Management Plan process.
4.5.F Consult with local iwi when considering the acquisition of an area of open space.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Regular hui with AEC.
4.5.G An emphasis is placed on areas that have recognised heritage values, when considering the acquisition of open space.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		
4.5.H Investigate the potential suitability of the Chinese Settlement on Allens Road as an area of open space.	Open Space	2018-21	●		
<i>Objective 4.6 Open space reinforces a local sense of place and identity through the placement and incorporation of public art and interpretative signage, and the recognition and promotion of heritage values</i>					
4.6.A Review interpretive open space signage to identify potential improvements to promote a local sense of place and heritage values.	Open Space	2026	○		General awareness of this action and will implement as resources permit.
4.6.B Establish a community group, including representation from Council, for the purpose of establishing art in open spaces across the district. This includes the further introduction of sculptural elements, particularly	Open Space	2026	○		General awareness of this action and will implement as resources permit.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

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ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
on a larger scale in rural landscapes.					
<i>Objective 4.7 Open spaces play a significant role in promoting our indigenous biodiversity through native plantings, and by providing habitat areas and ecological corridors</i>					
4.7.A Review all open spaces to identify opportunities available to establish further plantings.	Open Space	2026	>		General awareness of this action. Undertaken on a case by case basis when areas are under review.
4.7.B Native plantings and other plantings will be encouraged in the development and management of open spaces, particularly those that are locally sourced.	Open Space	2026	>		Increasing awareness and use of native planting with dedicated areas becoming more prominent in landscape design, for example Ashburton Cemetery and Strowan Fields Subdivision.
<i>Objective 4.8 Open spaces are protected and preserved for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations</i>					
4.8.A Where resource consent is required for the development of services, infrastructure, and network utilities on open space areas, full consideration of the impact on open space values will be considered.	Open Space	2018-21	>		The new boreheads in the Domain and Argyle Park required to be more aesthetically pleasing were an example of this.
4.8.B Review the zoning of all land in the open space network to ensure it reflects the purpose of the land.	Open Space	2026	>		Zoning inconsistencies are recorded for next District Plan review.
4.8.C Ensure all public land in the open space network is zoned appropriately in the Ashburton District Plan, by either undertaking a plan change or by advocating for changes in the next District Plan review.	Open Space	2026	>		Advocating for changes in next District Plan review.
4.8.D Ensure land used for public open space is correctly classified either as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 or as a park under the Local Government Act 2002.	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Programme of work underway as part of the Reserve Management Plan work.
<i>Objective 4.9 Open space experiences across the district are enhanced through the investigation and implementation of special projects identified in Appendix 5 of the strategy</i>					
4.9.A Investigations are undertaken to assist in the enhancement of cycling opportunities within the district, including the establishment of a	Open Space	Ongoing	>		Walking and Cycling Strategy development 2021.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
series of cycleways (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).					
4.9.B Opportunities to enhance open space availability in close proximity to the proposed Second Urban Ashburton River Bridge shall be undertaken (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	Ongoing	●		Agreement in place with bridge contractors to enhance river edge of Robilliard Park.
4.9.C Opportunities to assist in the enhancement of the Lake Hood area shall be encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	Ongoing	>		New roadside cycle track from Tinwald to Lake Hood constructed 2018.
4.9.D The enhancement of the Tinwald Domain in accordance with the Domain Development Plan is promoted and encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	Open Space	Ongoing	>		The Tinwald Domain Development plan was adopted in 2018 (prepared 2010) and underpins the development of the Tinwald Domain by the Board.
4.9.E Continue to investigate the development of land adjacent to the EA Networks Centre for sports fields (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).	People & Facilities	Ongoing	>		A Masterplan for EA Networks Site has been developed and consulted mid-2024.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule



## 4.5. Play, Active Recreation & Sport Strategy 2022

**Adopted:** July 2022

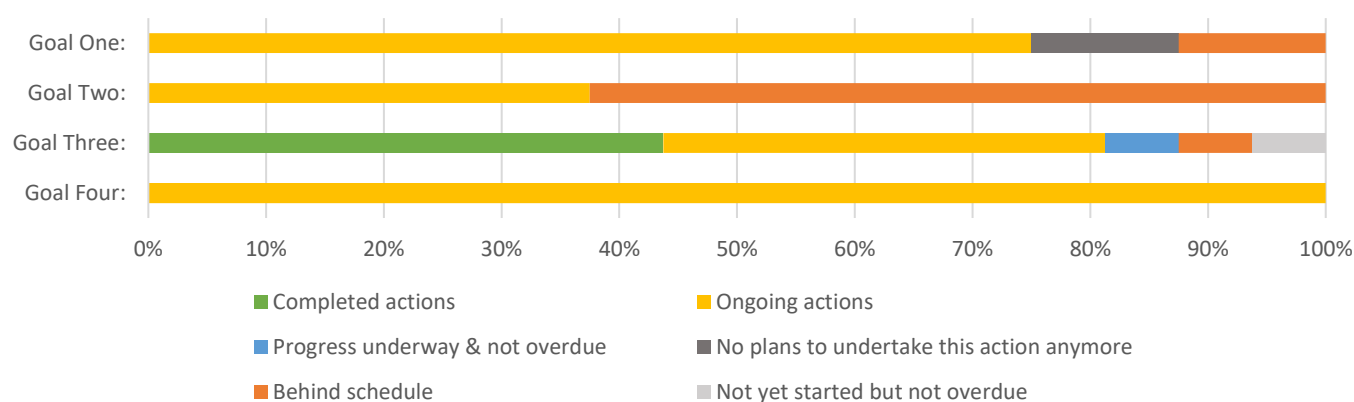
**Last reviewed:** N/A

**Next due for review:** 2027

In developing this strategy, Council partnered with local clubs, teams and organisations to develop a strategy for the future of play, active recreation and sport within the Ashburton district.

[Read the full strategy here](#)

**Figure 10. Play, Active Recreation & Sport Strategy progress**



*Goal one: The whole whānau (family) feels welcome and included to participate*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 1.1 The whole sector recognises barriers to participation of all demographics and has a plan to address the barriers</i>					
1.1.A Conduct research identifying physical activity participation levels and barriers preventing community participation across all demographics	Led by People & Facilities Group with SC	June 2023	>	Y	This is ongoing work primarily undertaken by Sport NZ and Sport Trusts.  Couch to wellness has proven a strong success with 80 participants in the past 12 months..
1.1.B Develop specific actions and monitoring processes to address barriers, in co-design with the community	Led by People & Facilities Group with SC	June 2024	>	Y	Active As continues and officers have supported the implementation of Whakanui Whaikaha Disability Play programme led by Primary Sport Canterbury.  The Youth athlete development programme implemented by Sport Canterbury with Tatai Whetu Waitaha has ended, leaving a district gap.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;  
○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1.1.C Explore ways for Ashburton District Council and EA Networks Centre to nurture relationships with the community ie. Community Development role	People & Facilities Group / EANC	June 2024	NP	Y	Not currently funded nor being investigated.
1.1.D Pilot and promote women's only sessions at the EA Networks Centre	People & Facilities Group / EANC	June 2023	>	Y	Monthly sessions continue of the Women's swim nights.
<i>Objective 1.2 Local rangatahi (youth) continue their involvement in play, active recreation and sports throughout secondary school</i>					
1.2.A Conduct research into identifying participation levels, incentives and barriers to rangatahi (youth) participation throughout secondary school age groups	Led by People & Facilities Group with SC	June 2023	>	Y	This is ongoing work primarily undertaken by Sport NZ and Sport Trusts.  Officers relationships with Sport and Active Recreation groups support this space.
1.2.B Develop specific actions to improve, and measure the improvement of, rangatahi (youth) participation	Led by SC & supports by ADC	June 2024	●	Y	This is work completed by Sport Canterbury and Sport NZ through various methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Article - Youth Activation Fund empowers Canterbury rangatahi to lead the way</a></li> <li><a href="#">Youth Voices in Active Recreation and Sport</a></li> </ul>
1.2.C Explore ways for EA Networks Centre to partner with the community Ashburton Youth Council and other youth organisations eg. YMCA, Hakatere Youth Sports Club	People & Facilities Group / EANC	June 2024	>	Y	EANC partner with many organisations looking to deliver programmes in Mid-Canterbury and support through space provision or equipment lending right across the breadth of PARs activities.
<i>Objective 1.3 More Māori and Pasifika people are active and confident</i>					
1.3.A Explore ways to support Māori and Pasifika people to build the confidence to make healthy decisions	Organisations that work with schools	June 2025	>	Y	Supported Sport Canterbury in delivering the Active Healthy Families expo in June 2025

SC, Sport Canterbury. EANC, EA Networks Centre

- completed; 
 > ongoing; 
 ● progress underway & not overdue; 
 NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore; 
 ○ not yet started but not overdue; 
 ● behind schedule

*Goal two: We have a strong, collaborative sector supporting each other to succeed*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 2.1 Local groups continue to share knowledge and pool resources while finding new ways to achieve common goals</i>					
2.1.A Continue a regular Sports Forum and explore widening its membership	Led by People & Facilities Group with SC	Ongoing	●	Y	The Sports Forum as previous no longer exists, Sport Canterbury are engaged with sport through delivery of topic specific events and partner with EANC where suitable for delivery.
2.1.B Explore potential benefits of combined funding applications	Led by SC & supported by ADC	June 2024	●	Y	Lion Foundation continue to support the delivery of the Schools Learn To Swim programme. Officers have investigated other funding avenues but are limited.
2.1.C Explore the potential benefits of mutually beneficial relationships with private businesses	Sector-wide	June 2025	>	Y	Officers are engaged with Sponsors for the renewal of brand sponsorships within the EANC. Council could consider what to do with the proceeds.
2.1.D Encourage and assist community sports clubs to access the funding, coaching and learning opportunities provided	Led by SC & supported by ADC	Ongoing	>	Y	Officers regularly dialogue with various sporting groups informally and encourage where possible opportunities to engage in funding and professional development.
<i>Objective 2.2 The community maintains a strong pipeline of up and coming volunteers</i>					
2.2.A Explore further where there are low levels of volunteer participation to identify issues.	Sector-wide	June 2024	●	Y	National Issue - ongoing
2.2.B Develop specific actions to improve, and measure the improvement of, volunteer participation	Sector-wide	June 2025	●	Y	Sport Canterbury/Sport NZ are working on this.
2.2.C Continue to promote and celebrate volunteers	Sector-wide, supported by SC & ADC	Annually	>	Y	Volunteers are recognised through the annual sports awards and volunteer awards. Individual Sports are also focusing on weekly volunteer awards. Council can consider additional recognition for significant service through its own Community Awards.
2.2.D Explore ways to tangibly reward volunteers to incentivise volunteerism	Sector-wide	June 2023	●	Y	Sports or clubs reward as appropriate.

SC, Sport Canterbury

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

*Goal three: Community facilities, spaces and places are accessible and well utilised*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.1 The sector understands why some spaces are over or underutilised and has a plan to manage this</i>					
3.1.A Undertake a district wide facility and sport field utilisation study, of Council assets	EANC, Open Spaces	June 2023	●	Y	Completed and presented
3.1.B Develop specific actions to address underutilisation of Council assets	EANC, Open Spaces	June 2024	●	Y	Council's assets are well utilised. Future LTP projects were proposed to increase capacity in the stadium and pool were delayed until future years.
3.1.C Share insights of utilisation studies with community groups to support them to understand their own utilisation concerns.	EANC, Open Spaces	June 2024	●	Y	Completed and presented, report uses Sport NZ insights tool data as a primary source
<i>Objective 3.2 Community facilities, spaces and places to recreate are well promoted</i>					
3.2.A Implement a marketing plan for the EA Networks Centre including exploration of a new fees and charge structure to improve accessibility in a post-Covid-19 environment	EANC	June 2023	●	Y	New Fee structure adopted and new hours effective 19th August. Officers review fees annually and make recommendation where applicable.
3.2.B Consider marketing initiatives for other Council facilities, open spaces and tourism destination	Comms, Open Spaces, Property, ED	June 2023	>	Y	Ongoing dialogue with Economic Development Team to promote Open Spaces. Comms team is working with EA Networks Centre and Open spaces on promoting their areas.
3.2.C Work with Citizens Advice Bureau to update their Community Directory to promote sports opportunities, facilities and community sports clubs	ADC, SC	Ongoing	>	Y	Ongoing information sharing and maintenance between ADC and CAB.
3.2.D Explore more opportunities to provide pop-up play and modified sports, inclusive of rural areas	SC, YMCA, EANC	June 2024	>	Y	Swim School team have been trialling various school holiday pop up activities with good community engagement. Summer will likely see an increase in wider facility usage.
3.2.E Partner with out of district sports organisations to host / promote more activities / events within the district	SC, regional sports groups, EANC, ED, Aoraki schools	June 2025	>	Y	Indoor Bowls National championships was a great success and officers are engaged with sporting organisations to bring national and regional events to EANC.
3.2.F Explore the feasibility of an Open Spaces app.	People & Facilities Group with Open Spaces	June 2025	●	Y	No progress to date.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.3 The district's built environment continues to provide new and unique play, active recreation and sport opportunities</i>					
3.3.A Explore the development of the open space around the EA Networks Centre to enhance opportunities for spontaneous play, as a pathway to recreation and sports at the centre. Eg. playground, scooter track, walkway	EANC, Open Spaces	June 2024	➤	Y	Sand Court has been delivered and Mini Golf is a work in progress. Officers are considering other active recreation activities as next projects.
3.3.B Explore the further development of the EA Networks Centre to enhance opportunities for active recreation and sport ie. Multi use sports fields	EANC, Open Spaces	June 2024	●	Y	EANC Masterplan adopted.
3.3.C Explore ways to support the development of community-led infrastructure projects	People & Facilities Group	June 2027	○	N/A	
3.3.D Support development of a cycle skills park on a reserve	People & Facilities Group, Open Spaces	June 2024	●	Y	Council have approved concept design and resource consent for new Bike Skills Park in the Ashburton Domain. Detailed design has been completed. Is now subject of community fund raising efforts and is being led by the Bike Skills Committee, a group comprised of community service group representatives.
3.3.E Conduct assessment into playground accessibility	People & Facilities Group, Open Spaces	June 2023	●	Y	Completed. Subject to periodic review on ongoing basis.
3.3.F Explore feasibility of sand-based sports facility for the likes of beach volleyball and handball	People & Facilities Group, Open Spaces	June 2025	●	Y	Sand Court delivered with additional grass court, officers continue to look at alternative opportunities/facilities.
<i>Objective 3.4 The district's natural environment continues to provide new and unique play, active recreation and sport opportunities</i>					
3.4.A Explore ways to support development and conservation values of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lakes Camp and Clearwater long term management plan</li> <li>Ashton Beach Motorcycle park</li> <li>Staveley Ice Rink refrigeration project</li> <li>Walkways and cycleways</li> </ul>	Led by ADC	Ongoing	➤	Y	Staveley Ice Rink is a community led project. Ashton Beach Motorcycle park project has been cancelled due to not being able to meet the requirements necessary to obtain Wildlife Permit and subsequent Resource Consent.

SC, Sport Canterbury; ED, Economic Development; EANC, EA Networks Centre.

● completed; ➤ ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

*Goal four: As a community, we are aware of the benefits of play, active recreation and sport*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 4.1 The 'Balance is Better' philosophy is well promoted in the community</i>					
4.1.A Inform the media about the 'Balance is Better' philosophy and connect with them potential stories showcasing local success	SC supported by whole sector	June 2023	>	N/A	This is a Sport NZ campaign promoted through their connections with district sports.
<i>Objective 4.2 The benefits of play, active recreation and sport is well promoted as a tool for wellbeing</i>					
4.2.A Partner with social sector organisations to promote and monitor promotion of play, active recreation and sport	SC supported by whole sector	June 2023	>	N/A	Is a core function of Sport Canterbury
<i>Objective 4.3 Success stories of inclusion, collaboration and utilisation is well promoted in the community</i>					
4.3.A Inform the media about and connect them with success stories of inclusion, collaboration and utilisation	SC supported by whole sector	June 2023	>	Y	Ongoing commitment from ADC and Sport Canterbury

SC, Sport Canterbury

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

## 4.6. Surface Water Strategy 2018-28

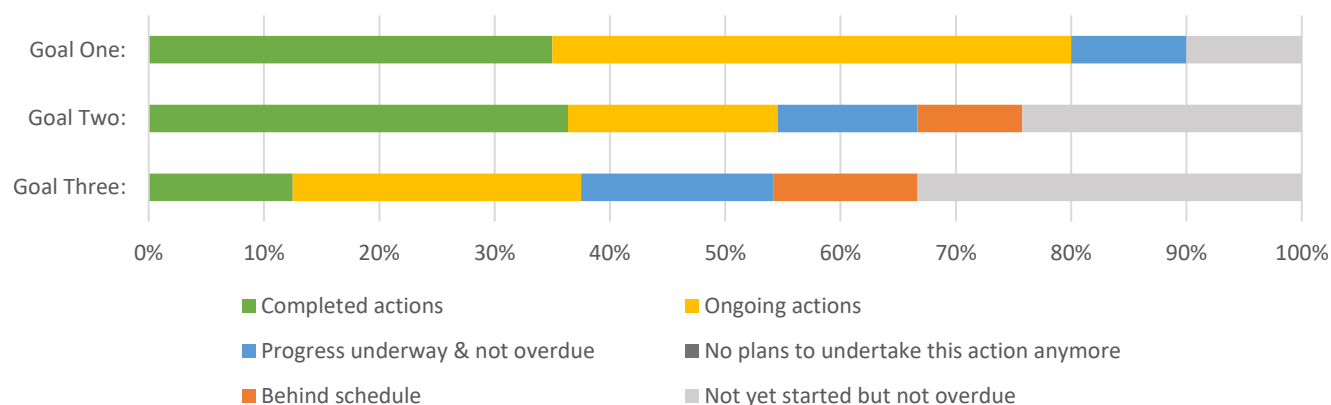
**Adopted:** 2018

**Last reviewed:** 2023

**Next due for review:** 2028

The Surface Water Strategy sets out how Council will work with the many organisations involved in surface water management throughout the district.

[Read the full strategy here](#)



*Goal one: Council will use a collaborative approach to support surface water management*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 1.1 Recognise and support Ngāi Tahu's values associated with surface water resources</i>					
1.1.A Work with Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga to enable them to exercise kaitiakitanga of Ashburton District's surface water resources including the water race network.	Assets	Ongoing	>	Y	Ongoing six weekly hui with AECL to discuss issues of concern.
1.1.B Work with Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga to identify cultural values of the district's surface water resources including those of the water race network.	Assets / Strategy & Policy	March 2019 onwards	>	Y	<p>Council is committed to working with Rūnanga to identify and better understand the cultural values of our surface water resources.</p> <p>In relation to the water race network, our race closure process includes a requirement to seek Arowhenua's views during the process.</p> <p>There is the potential to streamline consideration of cultural values during closure processes by completing a district-wide inventory of cultural values. This has been discussed in a preliminary way</p>

● completed; 
 > ongoing; 
 ● progress underway & not overdue; 
 **NP** – not planning to undertake this action anymore; 
 ○ not yet started but not overdue; 
 ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
					and while Arowhenua is interested, this work requires a level of resourcing that they cannot meet in the short-term.  Since Council's decision to exit the stockwater activity by 30 June 2027, AECL has been engaged to provide separate cultural assessments of each intake network under investigation.  The first of these assessments is available <a href="#">here</a> .
1.1.C Work with Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga to recognise sites of cultural significance in the district's surface water resources including those within the water race network.	Assets	March 2019 onwards	>	Y	Council will work with AECL as and when culturally significant sites are identified to determine what actions are required to provide appropriate recognition.  For the cultural assessments carried out to date under the SETP, and targeted consultation on minor race closures, no such sites have been identified.
1.1.D Identify options with Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga to prioritise and / or protect the values of sites of cultural significance.	Assets / Planning	March 2022 onwards	>	Y	Ongoing six weekly hui with AECL to discuss issues of concern.
<i>Objective 1.2 Work with different agencies, interest groups and community to achieve the best outcomes for surface water management</i>					
1.2.A Identify values of the district's surface water resources including those of the water race network.	Assets / Strategy & Policy	March 2019 onwards	>	Y	As part of the Stockwater Exit Transition Planning, and for each intake network, Council is surveying affected landowners to ascertain what requirements they have for the water race network.  There is also a survey available for the wider public to provide feedback. These surveys are providing useful insight into the many values the community see are present in the water race network.
1.2.B Identify key interest groups already involved in and / or interested in surface water management.	Assets / Strategy & Policy	By June 2019	●	Y	The primary interest groups interested in surface water management are already well known to Council through previous works.  This includes relatively new groups like Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective and the Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes Catchment Group Collective.
1.2.C Develop a Surface Water Strategy communication plan to guide information provision to different agencies, interest groups and community.	Assets / Communications	June- Aug 2019	>	Y	A communication plan was developed as part of the Stockwater Exit Transition Plan (SETP) and is currently being used as part of the execution of the SETP.
1.2.D Work with these groups to identify strategic sites of importance in the district's surface water resources.	Assets	Jan 2020 onwards	>	Y	It is anticipated that the identification of strategic sites will occur as part of the Council's 3-year plan of work to withdraw from the stockwater activity by 30 June 2027.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule



ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
1.2.E Investigate the establishment of a Water Race Network Advisory Group to look at one or more trials for delivery of stockwater through irrigation company infrastructure to improve efficiency of water use, improve water quality and better understand impacts on overall values.	Strategy & Policy	Report with terms of reference to Council before 31 March 2019	●	Y	This task is completed. The composition and membership of the Water Race Network Advisory Group (WRNAG) was resolved on 28/03/2019. It has overseen the operation of one trial with Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Limited.
<i>Objective 1.3 Enable and support the efforts of relevant agencies and interest groups</i>					
1.3.A Share information with key interest groups where possible.	Assets / Communications	Ongoing	●	Y	Council continues to provide information when and where requested. Examples of information sharing include provision of water quality and bore level data for HHWET. Water quality data has also been provided to irrigation companies.
1.3.B Continue to make available Council's Community Grants and Funding.	Strategy & Policy	Ongoing	●	Y	Council continues to operate various community grants and funding schemes. Of those schemes, the Biodiversity Grant is most relevant to stock water races and surface water.
1.3.C Provide and / or share in-kind support where relevant.	Assets	Ongoing	●	Y	Council has been working alongside ECan with the ongoing investigations relating to Carters Creek.  Officers are also participating in a regional climate change working group looking at a detailed climate change risk assessment, which will identify risks to surface water and related habitats.
1.3.D Investigate resourcing requirements to support this work.	Assets	Nov- Dec 2019	●	Y	Biodiversity officer role commenced Jan 2022.
<i>Objective 1.4 Improve understanding of Council resources and how to best use them</i>					
1.4.A Assess cost and Council resources required to maintain the water race network and respond to service requests.	Assets	By Feb 2019	●	Y	The development of operational budgets for the stockwater activity are carried out annually. This process reflects on historical expenditure, significant cost threats from changing practices (e.g. traffic mgmt.) and projected cost increases in the contracting industry.
1.4.B Review all related surface water information and projects currently in progress.	Assets	By June 2019	>	Y	Reviewed annually.
1.4.C Conduct a stocktake of information / resources needed for / available on surface water resource.	Assets	By Sept 2019	>	Y	Ongoing.
1.4.D Identify and / or review work undertaken to improve	Assets	Ongoing	●	Y	Early work on this action led to the decision to carry out district-wide stormwater modelling (refer 3.1.a).

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
stormwater / overland flow management.					The modelling is complete and awaiting results of peer review by ECan. The profile of overland flow management has been lifted through the recent Local Government (Water Services) Bill with specific clauses relating to their ongoing management.
1.4.E Investigate need for additional resources to improve management practices.	Assets	By Sept 2019	●		Recent capacity assessments (as part of the LWDW programme) have identified the need for a dedicated Stormwater Engineer. A business case for this new role is currently in development. This role is considered essential if Council is to meet its existing and increasing responsibilities in the stormwater activity.
1.4.F Commission an investigation into the effects of climate change on the district's surface water resources.	Assets	By July 2020	●		It is now anticipated that this action will be completed as part of actions under the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy (refer 3.1.B), which proposes to undertake a local climate change risk assessment.
1.4.G Monitor and review implementation of Surface Water Strategy objectives and Action Plan.	Strategy & Policy / Assets	Every 3 years	●		This progress report. Annual reporting on Strategy as part of the <i>End of Year Strategy &amp; Plan Report</i> .

*Goal two. The different values of the water race network are recognised and managed*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 2.1 Identify the values of the network</i>					
2.1.A Complete development of Water Race Closures Assessment Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).	Assets	By March 2019	●		The Water Race Closure SOP was adopted by the Leadership Team in October 2019. The SOP was reviewed and further updated in May 2021.
2.1.B Assess the water races using the SOP.	Assets	April 2019 - April 2021	●		The water race closure SOP has been used since its adoption.
2.1.C Review the Stock Water Management Plan (Opus 2016) in light of the Surface Water Strategy and the review of the Water Races Bylaw.	Assets / Strategy & Policy	By April 2020	●		The Stockwater Management Plan was updated to reflect the SWS and the then Water Races Bylaw. This was finalised in Sept 2019. The Water Races Bylaw is now under review and ordinarily this would drive a subsequent update to the stockwater management plan, however given Council's intended aim to withdraw from stockwater provision by 30 June 2027,

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
					the criticality of further updates has reduced and a further update will not be progressed.
2.1.D Identify high value races.	Assets	By April 2021	●		As part of implementing Council's Stockwater Exit Transition Plan (SETP), detailed investigations are being undertaken as each intake is investigated for potential closure. This considers economic, ecological, cultural, historical, environmental and aesthetic values of the network.  It is noted that this range of values may not be applicable in every case and there may be other values identified elsewhere.
<i>Objective 2.2 Understand the needs of network users</i>					
2.2.A Confirm the number of water race rate payers.	Finance	By March 2019	●		The number of water race ratepayers is confirmed annually at the striking of the rate. The total number of water race ratepayers for the 2024/25 year is 1,167.
2.2.B Develop a water race management guidelines booklet.	Assets / Communications	By March 2019	NP		In light of Council's decision to exit stockwater by 30 June 2027 this work will not be progressed.
2.2.C Conduct a needs assessment of water race users.	Assets	April 2020-April 2021	●		As part of the Stockwater Exit Transition Planning, and for each intake network, Council is surveying affected landowners to ascertain what requirements they have for the water race network.
2.2.D Confirm number of properties with access to the water race network.	Assets / Finance	By April 2021	●		The number of properties with access to the water race network varies from year to year as the network changes (reduces). The total number of properties that have a water race intersecting their property boundary is 1,308.
<i>Objective 2.3 Improve management of the network</i>					
2.3.A Complete the review of the Water Races Bylaw.	Strategy & Policy / Assets	By March 2019	●		Water Races Bylaw was reviewed and adopted by Council 26 September 2019.  It is also in the process of being updated at present.
2.3.B Investigate use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and other options to gather updated information on the water race network.	Information Systems / Assets	By June 2019	●		A demonstration of drone survey techniques was carried out a few years ago, and while it provided a very high-quality output, to apply the approach across the entire network would have been cost-prohibitive, so was not progressed.
2.3.C Confirm and update the location of races and drains in the district.	Assets / Open Spaces	April 2020 – April 2021	>		Information gathering on the race network has been in a state of continuous improvement through race location audits, race realignment work, and other BAU activities.  The work being undertaken as part of the SETP is also providing an opportunity to improve network location information.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

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ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
2.3.D Identify options around decommissioning schemes and / or transfer of water race services.	Assets / Strategy & Policy	April 2021- April 2022	>		<p>During 2021/22, following a request from Acton Farmers Irrigation Cooperative (AFIC), Council progressed the legal process to transfer the Acton stockwater scheme to AFIC. This involved a poll of electors in the affected area which achieved the target level of support. The final transfer process has stalled pending final approval on the transfer agreement.</p> <p>Work carried out to date indicates that decommissioning of schemes is best undertaken at intake scale i.e. identify all races served by a single intake and focus on alternate supply solutions for those properties that need stockwater. The example is Pudding Hill Intake Closure investigations where this process was successfully applied.</p> <p>This approach has more recently been adopted for the SETP currently being implemented.</p>
2.3.E Identify other water supply schemes.	Assets	By Dec 2022 or 2023	>		<p>The Pudding Hill Intake Closure investigations have included identifying the infrastructure required to successfully service properties needing stockwater. This work is outlined in the Melius report which was presented to the Stockwater Transition Working Group at the 6 March 2025 meeting.</p> <p>This work proposed to utilise extensions to the BCIL irrigation scheme.</p>
2.3.F Confirm viability of other water supply schemes.	Assets	By Feb 2023 or 2024	>		<p>The work carried out by Melius for the Pudding Hill Intake Closure investigation includes an analysis of the commercial viability of the proposal.</p> <p>Ultimately, given the solution is reliant on another party (i.e. existing irrigation scheme) the viability would need to be confirmed by others.</p>
<b>Objective 2.4 Respond to changes in land use</b>					
2.4.A Identify infrastructure requirements of different developments.	Assets / Planning / Property Developers	Ongoing	>		<p>This work is ongoing and a normal part of our development review process. Officers are applying an increased focus on the opportunities around surface water within developments.</p> <p>In most cases, developers are looking to enhance existing surface water features where present.</p>
2.4.B Work with Planning team to provide input into zone changes.	Assets / Planning	Ongoing	>		<p>This is a key focus for the teams to ensure the underlying infrastructure is available (or at least scalable) for any proposed zone changes.</p> <p>The teams have collaborated previously with the Racecourse Rd Structure Plan, and more recently with potential private zone changes on Farm Rd.</p>

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
2.4.C Work with Roading and Planning teams, and Environment Canterbury to identify impacts of changes in land use on the surface water network.	Assets / Roading / Planning / Environment Canterbury	By Jan 2021	●		Not progressed to date.
<i>Objective 2.5 Fund the management of the network equitably</i>					
2.5.A Review minimum charge rates for water race network.	Assets / Finance	By March 2019	●		The water races minimum charge was the subject of specific consideration during the development of the revenue and financing policy and LTP 2024-34.
2.5.B Update water race rating database.	Finance	By June 2019	●		Following the changes, adopted by Council, the rating database was updated to reflect the new minimum charge structure including the removal of stockwater services rate.
2.5.C Identify options for a rating system that consider the multiple values of the water race network.	Assets / Finance / Strategy & Policy	By June 2023	●		It is anticipated that some parts of the network will be retained for ecological values or drainage. Council will be considering the rating implications for these matters prior to Council's complete withdrawal from the stockwater activity on 30 June 2027.
2.5.D Implement rating changes.	Finance / Strategy & Policy	By June 2024	●		Council's preferred option to increase the minimum charge to \$700/annum prevailed and was implemented in the 2024-25 financial year.

*Goal three. Stormwater and overland flow management is improved*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.1 Improve Council's understanding of the district's drainage network</i>					
3.1.A Commission an investigation of overland flow paths in the district, including effects of the MAR and associated projects on overland flow paths.	Assets	By Dec 2020	●		A district-wide "rain on plane" computer hydraulic model has been developed by DHI Consultants. Before receiving the output from this modelling, ECan reached out and offered to do a peer review to confirm the robustness of the computer model. Officers are in discussions with DHI and ECan staff on the deliverable.
3.1.B Identify which schemes are receiving overland flows.	Assets	By March 2021	●		This action is reliant on results of computer modelling (refer 3.1.a). This action will be completed as part of the intake investigations carried out during the implementation of the SETP.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

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ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.2 Work with Environment Canterbury to identify key infrastructure</i>					
3.2.A Confirm location and responsibility of drainage structures and associated infrastructure.	Assets / Environment Canterbury	By March 2021	●		This action is reliant on results of computer modelling (refer 3.1.a). This action will be completed as part of the intake investigations carried out during the implementation of the SETP.
3.2.B Work with Environment Canterbury to share information and update relevant databases.	Assets / Information Systems / Environment Canterbury	Ongoing	>		Information sharing is ongoing and generally business as usual.
3.2.C Work with Environment Canterbury to develop a coordinated flood response and readiness plan.	Assets / Civil Defence / Environment Canterbury	By June 2023	●		In 2024, ECan were reviewing their Flood Manual. In early July, a workshop was conducted as an opportunity for key ADC staff to input into the updating of flood manual for this district.  While the document has a strong river focus, there will be further opportunity to tailor the document for relevance to the district with inclusion of management practices for key drainage infrastructure.
3.2.D Where necessary, identify options for future management of drainage structures taking into consideration the value provided.	Assets / Environment Canterbury	By June 2023	>		The Group Manager IOS has recently reached out to ECan to open a channel for ongoing dialogue on district stormwater / land drainage issues.  This will also link with similar discussions on stormwater as they arise in our SETP investigations.
<i>Objective 3.3 Identify methods to reduce flood risk to rural land</i>					
3.3.A Work with Planning, Roding and Environment Canterbury teams to identify options to manage flood risk to rural land.	Assets / Planning / Roding / Environment Canterbury	By June 2023	●		This action is reliant on results of computer modelling (refer 3.1.a) and ongoing discussions with Environment Canterbury (refer 3.2.D)
3.3.B Review rating options for areas affected by flood risk.	Assets / Finance / Strategy & Policy	By June 2027	○		Not progressed to date.
<i>Objective 3.4 Implement Council's network wide stormwater consent</i>					
3.4.A Develop and implement stormwater bylaw.	Assets / Strategy & Policy	By June 2021 (propose reset to November 2022)	●		The ADC Stormwater Bylaw was adopted 5 October 2022. It is due for renewal in 2027.
3.4.B Progress network capital improvements including discharge quality improvement projects.	Assets	By June 2021	●		Preliminary investigations have been completed by GHD on the West Street Treatment and Attenuation project. The associated physical works project has been reprogrammed to Year 3 (2026/27) of the LTP.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

## Goal four. Continue to support the implementation of the CWMS

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 4.1 Continue to meet Council's obligations for the Hakatere / Ashburton River</i>					
4.1.A Develop an implementation plan to close sections of the water race network.	Assets	By March 2022	●		This has been completed by the development of the Stockwater Exit Transition Plan (SETP) which is currently being implemented.
4.1.B Identify water race sections what can be closed following assessment.	Assets	By April 2022	>		This is proceeding in accordance with the timeframes set out in the SETP.
<i>Objective 4.2 Continue to make unrequired stock water available for CWMS related projects such as Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)</i>					
4.2.A Support continuation of MAR and associated projects.	Assets	Ongoing	>		Council has continued to support MAR initiatives through the work of HHWET. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to consented but unrequired stockwater</li> <li>• Access to Council controlled land for existing and future MAR sites</li> <li>• Access to water race network for race sharing (Lagmhor site only)</li> <li>• Written support for consent applications.</li> </ul>
4.2.B Investigate effects of such projects on the surface water network including the water race network.	Assets	By March 2023	●		Impacts on the surface water network (including races) is typically determined during the investigation phases of specific projects e.g. the Near River Recharge (NRR) project on the upper Hekeao / Hinds River was specifically designed to recharge the river system. Monitoring during the early phases of this project included monitoring in the river system and water race network downstream of the site.
4.2.C Identify and assess MAR and associated project sites as part of green corridors in support of Council's Open Spaces Strategy.	Assets / Open Spaces	By April 2026	○		Yet to commence.
<i>Objective 4.3 Support the work of the Ashburton Zone Committee and implement the ZIP</i>					
4.3.A Officers responsible to attend meetings regularly.	Assets	Ongoing	>		The Ashburton Zone Committee met for the last time on 27 May 2025. Soon proposed to be replaced by new local leadership groups.
4.3.B Identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancement of high value sections of the water race network.	Assets	By April 2022	●		This work is now being progressed as part of the Council's 3-year plan of work to withdraw from the stockwater activity by 30 June 2027. The first ecological assessment report relating to the Pudding Hill intake network is available <a href="#">here</a> .
4.3.C Investigate techniques to reduce impact of drain and water race cleaning on	Assets	By April 2022	●		This work could now commence as part of the Council's 3-year plan of work to withdraw from the stockwater activity by 30 June 2027.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
environmental and cultural values of these channels.					
4.3.D Identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancement of the surface water network.	Assets	By April 2026	●		Yet to commence. Also see C. under Objective 4.4
<i>Objective 4.4 Integrate with and support projects that help Council achieve the objectives of its Open Spaces Strategy</i>					
4.4.A Establish a Working Party of relevant stakeholders to improve the connection between open spaces and surface waterways.	Open Spaces	By August 2019	●		Not progressed to date.
4.4.B Identify options to enhance water race overflow basins / pits as part of green corridors.	Open Spaces / Assets	By April 2024	>		Open Spaces staff are promoting these concepts with subdivision developers when new subdivisions are planned.
4.4.C Identify sites within the surface water network, including the water race network, which can be used to establish native plantings to support open spaces in promoting indigenous biodiversity.	Assets / Open Spaces	By April 2026	●		<p>This work could now commence as part of the Council's 3-year plan of work to withdraw from the stockwater activity by 30 June 2027.</p> <p>Reflected in biodiversity strategy to use water races as part of ecological corridor connectivity and increase native vegetation cover around the district.</p> <p>Esplanade reserves along Mill Creek and Carters Creek are now part of Ashburton township green corridor projects.</p> <p>Native planting completed in some areas of Mill Creek and Carters creek channels in 2025.</p>
4.4.D Identify opportunities to make open spaces that showcase surface water resources accessible to the community.	Open Spaces	By April 2026	○		Not progressed to date.
4.4.E Update the Open Spaces database of reserves to include these identified sites.	Open Spaces	By April 2028	●		Some progress to date through RMP development process

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

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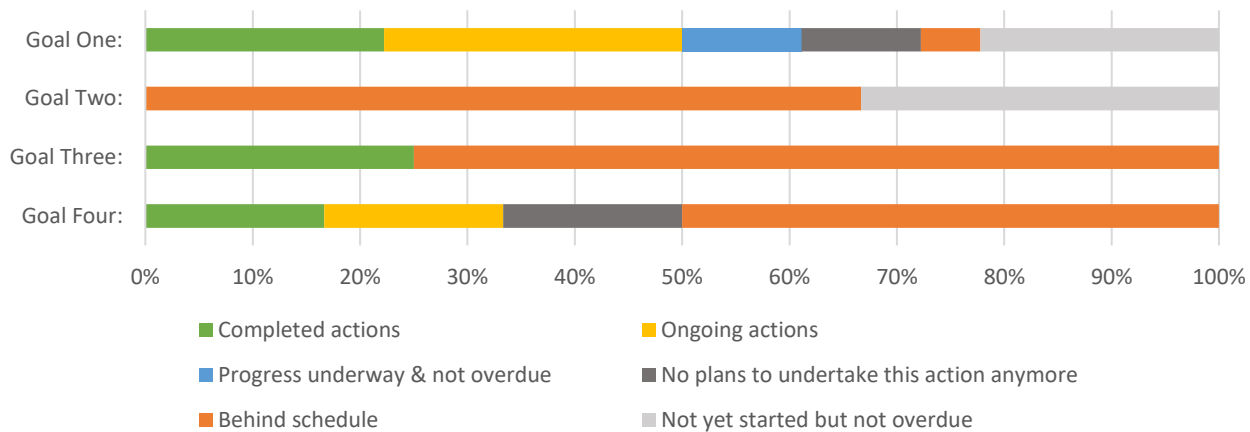


## 4.7. Walking & Cycling Strategy 2020-30

**Adopted:** 2020  
**Last reviewed:** N/A  
**Next due for review:** 2025

This strategy provides a framework for making walking and cycling safer and more attractive, with the aim of increasing the number of people using the walking and cycling network.

[Read the full strategy here](#)



*Goal one: A coherent, safe and connected urban walking and cycling environment*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 1.1 Improve facilities to increase pedestrian accessibility</i>					
1.1.A Fix localised pedestrian accessibility issues. Involves an audit of sites identified in the strategy field work and forming a list of jobs. The work could be undertaken as maintenance/ minor works tasks.	Roading	2021-23	>	Yes	Improvements made as part of footpath or kerb and channel maintenance/renewal.
1.1.B In conjunction with NZTA, develop a Moore Street/SH77 crossing between West Street and Park Street	Roading	2021-27	●	Yes	NZTA project
<i>Objective 1.2 Reduce gaps in the footpath network</i>					
1.2.A Ensuring there is a footpath on at least one side of each street in Methven and Rakaia to provide better walking	Roading	2021-27	>	Yes	Is dependent on the undergrounding being completed and funding being available. Walking and cycling is not as high a priority for the current government.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;  
 ○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
connections. Installation of new footpaths in Methven and Rakaia when the EA undergrounding is complete.					
<i>Objective 1.3 Improve continuity and quality issues on roads with cycle lanes</i>					
1.3.A Improving cycle lane continuity/quality on Walnut Ave, Ashburton by connecting gaps and increasing the width of the existing cycle lane routes. This will also involve coloured surfacing across side road intersections, additional crossing facilities etc	Roading	2021-27	●	Yes	Marking of cycle lanes completed.
1.3.B In conjunction with NZTA, improving cycle lane continuity on SH77, Ashburton by connecting gaps in the existing routes. This will require removal of some parking.	Roading	2021-27	○	N/A	Not progressed.
1.3.C Improving cycle lane safety on Chalmers Ave, Ashburton by providing coloured surfacing across side road intersections and sharrow markings at Beach Road roundabout.	Roading	2021-27	○	N/A	Not progressed. Cycle lanes not painted green and sharrow markings not installed. Review the scope and can be incorporated with 1.5.E.
<i>Objective 1.4 Investigate separation of urban cycle facilities from traffic</i>					
1.4.A Developing a shared path on Racecourse Road as an important recreational link	Roading	2024-31	NP		No funding available. A shared path to be part of an overall upgrade of Racecourse Rd (kerb and dish channel replacement, power undergrounding, etc.)
1.4.B Confirming an Ashburton urban cycling network and developing a business case for funding	Roading	2024-31	NP		Not progressed and not a priority for current government so unlikely to receive subsidy.
1.4.C Improving pedestrian and cyclist safety at Walnut Ave/Oak Ave intersection	Roading	2024-31	◐		Incorporated with a renewal of the roundabout pavement. Assessment needed of the current pedestrian and cyclist safety issues.
1.4.D Improving pedestrian and cyclist safety at Walnut Ave/Oak Ave intersection	Roading	2024-31	◐		Same as 1.4.C
<i>Objective 1.5 Investigate State Highway / railway / river severance issues for communities</i>					
1.5.A In conjunction with NZTA, providing a SH77 crossing in Methven, possible safe crossing options includes pedestrian	Roading	2021-27	○	N/A	Discussions held with NZTA on possible options. Would be included in the state highway Low Cost Low Risk (LCLR) projects.

● completed; > ongoing; ◐ progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
refuge island or kerb extension near the public toilets and park.					
1.5.B In conjunction with NZTA, reduce severance by improving crossings over SH1 in Rakaia.	Roading	2024-27	○	N/A	Would be included in the state highway LCLR projects.
1.5.C In conjunction with NZTA, reduce severance by improving crossings over SH1 in Tinwald.	Roading	2021-23	●	Yes	Tinwald Corridor Improvements completed. Signals at Agnes St/Laghmor Rd provides a signalised crossing point. No work on other crossing points.
1.5.D Installing traffic signals at Walnut Ave/West and East Street intersections. This project is being developed by NZTA and is programmed for completion early 2021.	Roading	2021-23	●	Yes	
1.5.E The current Ashburton bridge, proposed Ashburton second bridge and associated upgrades on Chalmers Avenue and in Tinwald provides an opportunity for improved walking and cycling facilities.		2024-31			Walking and cycling provisions are included in the bridge and road design. Construction from 2026-2028.
1.5.F In conjunction with NZTA, reduce severance by improving crossings over SH1 between Havelock St and Walnut Ave. For the Railway overpass bridge, Domain, Museum	Roading	2021-23	●	N/A	Not progressed. A crossing point at Wills St near the Art Gallery Museum is a LCLR project for NZTA. If funding approved align with the Wills St Rail Footbridge maintenance/renewal works in 2026/27.
<i>Objective 1.6 Review standards such as footpath width</i>					
1.6.A Reviewing footpath widths to cater for a more diverse range of users and devices. Best practice is 1.8m as this allows two wheelchairs or mobility scooters to pass each other.	Roading	2021-23	>	N/A	
1.6.B Kerb cut downs by developing assessment and rating system for inclusion in the Transportation Asset Management Plan. This would require maintenance funding allocation.	Roading	2021-23	>	Yes	Can be done alongside 1.1.A.
<i>Objective 1.7 Improve street lighting to increase personal safety</i>					
1.7.A Conducting street lighting audits, investigating where pedestrians feel unsafe and	Roading	Ongoing	>	Yes	Improvements as part of new streetlighting associated with power undergrounding. New streetlights as LCLR local road improvements which are currently not being funded by NZTA.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
creating a priority approach for street lighting renewals.					

*Goal two. A quality, fit for purpose recreational walking and cycling network that connects to key destinations*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 2.1 Improve wayfinding signage for recreational networks</i>					
2.1.A Establishing wayfinding guidelines / signage for urban cycling and key walking networks that integrate with recreational and rural paths	Roading	2021-23	●		
<i>Objective 2.2 Develop resources such as track specifications that can be shared with community groups</i>					
2.2.A Liaising with the Braided Rivers Cycleway Trust to establish if any standards have been developed. If not, ADC to facilitate the development of standards.	Roading	2021-23	●	N/A	Braided Rivers Cycleway Trust no longer exists.
2.2.B Identifying where additional cycle parking is required and implement with best practice guidance from NZTA	Roading	2024-31	○		Not progressed but cycle parking included in upgrade projects such as Baring Square East.

*Goal three: Ensuring the urban and rural walking and cycling networks integrate to create an accessible district*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 3.1 Identify gaps in the footpath and cycle networks connecting urban and rural areas</i>					
3.1.A Developing a new footpath connection on Dobson Street West to the ACL Skills Park.	Roading	2021-23	●	N/A	Requires funding.
3.1.B Investigating a cycling link to the Skills Park from Moore Street. This may be complex as it passes through an industrial area. An alternative is to use the	Roading /Open Spaces	2021-23	●	Yes	Open Spaces proposed Domain Cycle Skills park will go some way to growing cycle skills in the area.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
trail identified in the Ashburton Domain Plan.					
3.1.C Developing a pedestrian/cycle path around the EA Networks Centre	Roading	2021-23	●	N/A	Requires funding.
<i>Objective 3.2 Improve wayfinding signage to recreational networks from urban areas</i>					
3.2.A Developing recreational wayfinding guidance by establishing a guideline for recreational cycling and walking networks that integrates with the urban networks (for example Methven Walkway).	Roading / Planning / Economic Development	2021-23	●	N/A	Requires funding.

*Goal four. A district that is committed to walking and cycling for health, wellbeing, safety, environmental and economic reasons*

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
<i>Objective 4.1. Coordinate promotion of walking and cycling to increase participation</i>					
4.1.A Introducing School Travel Plans and supporting initiatives. These could include local safety improvements, car parking/drop-off management and crossing volunteers. A programme including training, helmet use and riding tracks can teach kids how to ride safely.	Roading	2021-23	NP	N/A	Can be part of the road safety projects but travel plans, etc. need to be initiated and completed by the schools.
4.1.B Preparing an information pack for businesses on travel planning and available schemes that could support their goals such as the NZTA Employer e-bike purchase support schemes. Information could also include the NZTA workplace cycling guide and the cycle parking supply and design guidance.	Economic Development / Roding	2021-23	●	N/A	Not progressed
4.1.C Promoting events that encourage walking and cycling including Walk2Work Day,	Roading / Economic Development	Ongoing	●	N/A	Not progressed

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
Aotearoa Bike Challenge or September.					
4.1.D Investigate a learn-to-ride cycling space on Council property.	Roading / Open Spaces	2021-23	●	Yes	Council has approved a concept design and resource consent application for Bike Skills Park in the Ashburton Domain. Detailed design has been completed. Is currently in fundraising stage.
<i>Objective 4.2 Develop information resources on cycling routes in the district</i>					
4.2.A Establishing a cycling information tab on the ADC website and include maps and links to resources or initiatives.	Roading / Comms	2021-23	●	N/A	Not progressed
<i>Objective 4.3 Align development planning through the District Plan, using best practice methods</i>					
4.3.A Ensuring land use planning and transport rules consider walking and cycling outcomes in the District Plan, e.g. introducing planning requirements that promote a more walkable town and increase cycle parking.	Roading / Planning	2021-27	>	N/A	Partly dealt with by recent plan changes.

● completed; > ongoing; ● progress underway & not overdue; NP – not planning to undertake this action anymore;

○ not yet started but not overdue; ● behind schedule