

# ANNUAL REPORT

## SUMMARY

2023/24



# ASHBURTON : THE DISTRICT OF CHOICE FOR LIFESTYLE AND OPPORTUNITY

HAKATERE: TE ROHE KA WHIRIA MŌ  
TE ĀHUA NOHO, ME TE HAPORI





## KIA ORA KOUTOU, WELCOME

### 2023/24 HAS BEEN A YEAR MARKED BY THE COMPLETION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND STRONG COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The highlight of the year was the eagerly anticipated completion of Te Whare Whakaterere, the district's new library and civic centre. The library opened its doors to an excited community in January 2024, with Council and staff moving in shortly after. Since the opening, Te Whare Whakaterere has been a vibrant hub in town and a welcoming venue for the community to engage with Council. Whether this is to present at a Council hearing in Hine Paaka, the Council Chamber, or to join a 'Wonky Donkey' performance in the library event space. It was with much pride that we learnt that the sustainability and energy-saving features of Te Whare Whakaterere had been recognised at national industry awards, where it was awarded an excellence in the Sustainable Building Property Award, and a merit in the Civic, Health and Arts Property Awards.

The new coalition government, following the October 2023 general elections, has launched an extensive programme of legislative changes, including the repeal of the Three Waters legislation, which has its ongoing impact on our working programme. We continue to provide our feedback on the reforms and advocate for our community needs.

2023-2024 saw a continuing rise in cost of living and this was one of the topics voiced by our community during the 2024-34 Long Term Plan consultation. Following a strong community engagement

programme, 1,522 submissions were received from individuals and organisations, with feedback on the highlighted key decisions and other issues. The input was extremely valuable to get the balance right for the decisions we had to make for the future of our District.

One of the other issues highlighted was the importance of the second bridge across the Ashburton River. The current Government announced for the bridge to be among key road transport projects and Council remains committed to seeing the bridge built.

Fixing potholes continued to be a priority throughout the year and despite not yet meeting our targets, we were pleased to see a significant increase in the satisfaction of both our sealed and unsealed roads in our annual resident's survey.

A new chapter for Methven was the completion of the new water treatment plant in September 2023. The asset, using membrane treatment technology, should bring an end to boil water notices after storm events. In Mt Somers, the construction of the new water treatment plant also started, and this was opened in August 2024.

The growth of our district is reflected in the ongoing demand of our regulatory and planning services, with our building team issuing 502 building consents, 187 resource consents, approving 78 subdivision plans and the processing of a significant number of Kainga Ora housing redevelopments.



Rakaia Bridge

Over the summer months Lake Hood has been battling with an algal bloom, leading to health warnings that prevented an optimum use of the lake. We remained in close contact with the Lake Hood residents and Council has purchased a weed harvester and started works on the construction of a channel to support water quality improvements. Water fun at Lake Hood was guaranteed for the brave with the opening of the jumping platform in April.

In March 2024 the Council's first Biodiversity Strategy was adopted, outlining the direction and actions for the community and council to work together on preserving the remnants of indigenous biodiversity in the Ashburton District.

Locals and visitors to our district have two new sites to visit with the opening of the Ng King Community and Heritage Park in Ashburton and the special Matariki viewing platform in the Rakaia Gorge, where you can admire the Matariki star cluster in the night sky. The Glow in the Park event moved to the Ashburton Domain and attracted more than 40,000 visitors in a successful third edition.

Financially, this year resulted in a surplus of \$10.8 million before taxation and other comprehensive income. Total revenue was \$12.7 million above a budget of \$92 million. This was mainly due to increased income from subsidies and grants.

Our financial performance this year has seen us meet the goals of our Financial Strategy which focuses on prudence, stability, service and planning for the future. We also met all ten goals of the government's mandatory financial affordability performance benchmarks.

Finally, we would like to thank our elected members, staff, contractors and the many volunteers for their hard work, expertise and commitment. We cannot properly reflect on the past year without acknowledging all these people for their ongoing efforts to make ASHBURTON THE DISTRICT OF CHOICE FOR LIFESTYLE AND OPPORTUNITY – HAKATERE: TE ROHE KA WHIRIA MO TE AHUA NOHO, ME TE HAPORI.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER IN 2024/25 AND BEYOND



NEIL BROWN  
MAYOR



HAMISH RIACH  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

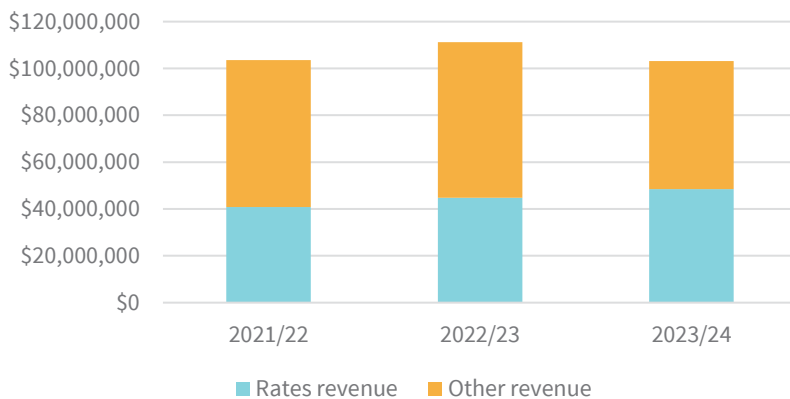
# OUR DISTRICT

OUR DISTRICT’S POPULATION IS ESTIMATED TO BE **36,800**, OF WHICH ABOUT **20,800** LIVE IN THE TOWN OF ASHBURTON.

<p><b>6,190 km<sup>2</sup></b> area of our district</p>	<p><b>442 ha</b> of parks and open spaces</p>	<p><b>271 ha</b> of sports parks</p>	<p><b>30</b> neighbourhood playgrounds</p>
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WE HAVE 2,691 KM OF ROADS ACROSS THE DISTRICT, MADE UP OF 1,525 KM OF SEALED AND 1,166 KM OF UNSEALED ROAD.

WE ALSO HAVE 189 BRIDGES, 261 KM OF FOOTPATHS AND 9.8 KM OF CYCLEWAY.



THE DISTRICT WAS LAST VALUED IN **JULY 2021**, WITH **16,102** RATEABLE PROPERTIES AS AT 1 JULY 2023.


THE TOTAL RATEABLE VALUE IS **\$20,447,146,150** WITH AN AVERAGE RATEABLE VALUE OF **\$1,270,899** – 0.08% MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.


- 11**  
Council owned water supplies
- 527 km**  
water pipes
- 208 km**  
wastewater pipes
- 43 km**  
stormwater pipes
- 1,424 km**  
stockwater races

# OUR COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

Community outcomes look to the future and take a ‘whole-of-community’ view. They integrate social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being. We aim to contribute to these outcomes in every activity that we deliver.

We do not set targets for community outcomes, rather we monitor the desired trend. The trend indicated below is the direction of travel across the three years.

 <b>Residents are included and have a voice</b> <b>Ka whai wahi, ka whakaputa korero ka kainoho</b>				
<p>Our community feels a sense of belonging, inclusion, and social connectedness. We celebrate our identity, heritage and cultural diversity. We are an organisation that collaborates with partners and engages in two-way dialogue with our communities in order for them to have the opportunity to influence local outcomes and decisions, and to gain a sense of ownership of our plans, strategies and decisions.</p>				
HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Residents feel a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood	91%	89%	89%	→
Residents feel they have opportunities to have their say on Council business	86%	90%	89%	↘
Residents believe they can influence Council decision-making	63%	64%	61%	↘
Numbers responding to consultations	1,098	549	2,659	↗
Numbers participating in local elections <i>(Local Body Elections are held once every three years, two most recent elections held in 2019 and 2022).</i>	N/A	2022: 51% 2019: 55%	N/A	

 <b>A district of great spaces and places</b> <b>He tiriwa pai, he wahi pai i tenei takiwa</b>				
<p>Our community feels a sense of pride from living in our district. We have safe, vibrant and thriving communities. We recognise and cater for the range of generations within our community. Our district is well connected, and our social and recreational facilities enable people to enjoy positive healthy lifestyles. Our facilities and infrastructure are planned and developed to meet current and future needs.</p>				
HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Resident satisfaction with range of community facilities	91%	94%	92%	↘
Resident satisfaction with the general lifestyle opportunities available in our district	95%	93%	95%	↗



### A prosperous economy built on innovation and opportunity

#### He ohaka whai rawa I ruka I te aroka hou me te whai aheika

We are a welcoming, enabling and business friendly district that encourages local economic development. We provide opportunities for people of all ages and at all phases of life to enjoy a quality of living within our district that is economically sustainable and affordable. We recognise and manage the effects of population growth and actively promote the district as a destination of choice. We value the role our district's natural, cultural and social assets play in supporting economic development.

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Housing affordability index <sup>1</sup>	5.3	5.0	5.1	↗
Rental affordability index <sup>2</sup>	18.9%	19.6%	19.9%	↗
District GDP <sup>3</sup>	\$2,803m	\$2,878m	\$2,860 (0.6% down)	↘
Unemployment rate <sup>4</sup>	2.4%	2.2%	3.0%	↗
Tourism spend <sup>5</sup>	\$211m	\$247m	\$271	↗



### A balanced & sustainable environment

#### He taiao toitu

We are proud of our natural and built environments. We sustainably manage our environment and natural resource to ensure they can be enjoyed now and by future generations and recognise the vital role these play in sustaining our district. We actively support improving the health of our district's rivers, lakes and waterways. Our unique landscapes and indigenous biodiversity are valued. Waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and efficiency, and water conservation are a part of how we all live.

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Resident satisfaction with the state of the district's environment and biodiversity	85%	89%	87%	↘
Resident satisfaction with Council's activity to care for the district's environment and biodiversity	84%	88%	87%	↘
Council meets its resource consent conditions for consents held (e.g. water abstraction, wastewater discharges)	91%	98%	96.6	↘

<sup>1</sup> <https://qem.infometrics.co.nz/ashburton-district/housing/housing-affordability?compare=new-zealand,canterbury-region>

<sup>2</sup> <https://qem.infometrics.co.nz/ashburton-district/housing/rental-affordability?compare=new-zealand,canterbury-region>

<sup>3</sup> <https://qem.infometrics.co.nz/ashburton-district/economic/gdp>

<sup>4</sup> <https://qem.infometrics.co.nz/ashburton-district/labour-market/unemployment-rate?compare=new-zealand,canterbury-region>

<sup>5</sup> <https://qem.infometrics.co.nz/ashburton-district/economic/tourism-expenditure?compare=new-zealand,canterbury-region>

# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW





# HOW WE PERFORMED

EVERY THREE YEARS, THROUGH OUR LONG-TERM PLAN, WE SET PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

These set out what we're working towards – the level of service we are aiming to provide to our community, how we'll measure progress towards this (our goal), and a target for each year. The following information shows you how many of our targets we achieved in each of our activity areas, over this past year.

	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	ACHIEVED	NOT ACHIEVED
	Drinking water (5/9)	5	4
	Wastewater (4/8)	4	4
	Stormwater (8/8)	8	0
	Stockwater (4/4)	4	0
	Transportation (5/10)	5	5
	Waste Reduction & Recovery (0/3)	0	3
	Community Governance & Decision-Making (4/4)	4	0
	Economic Development (1/2)	1	1
	Community Services (3/3)	3	0
	Parks & Open Spaces (6/6)	6	0
	Recreation Facilities (6/11)	6	5
	Regulatory Services (14/21)	14	7

# OUR ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

## LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### DRINKING WATER

We provide eleven community drinking water supplies across the district, servicing approximately 11,809 homes and businesses.

- The construction of the new Methven water treatment plant was completed in September 2023. Around the same time the building of the water treatment plant in Mt Somers began, which was completed in August 2024.
- One of the key projects in 2023-24 was the installation of 46 Water Quality Monitoring Pillars, consisting of chlorine, pH, pressure and turbidity measuring equipment at various locations around our water networks.
- The water meters that have been installed as a trial on the Methven drinking water scheme in 2021/22, helped to identify leaks in Council's own pipe networks, as well as on private property, allowing us to focus on the identified parts of the network to repair or replace pipes.

### WASTEWATER

We provide three community wastewater schemes in the Ashburton District, servicing approximately 65% of our district's population.

- All target response times to faults and unplanned work were met by contractors.
- New wastewater infrastructure, to service the Residential C zoned land in north-west Ashburton, was completed in August 2023 with Council accepting applications from property owners wanting to connect to the expanded wastewater network.
- It was intended to construct a sludge drying solution at the Rakaia wastewater treatment plant this year, however, subsequent compliance monitoring reports by Environment Canterbury suggested the existing land disposal was no longer viable. Following an abatement notice for the site, a range of options was presented to Council and in December 2023 Council committed to a \$2.5 million upgrade for the Rakaia plant, using the funds to construct 12 drying beds for the wastewater sludge.
- The Wilkins Road wastewater plant was upgraded with seven new aerators and the replacement of the septage screen.
- As part of our ongoing sewer rehabilitation programme, 2.4km of wastewater pipeline in Ashburton and Methven has been relined.

### STORMWATER

We provide urban stormwater collection and disposal networks in Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia. Lake Hood and Hinds have small systems of swales and open drains.

- This year we installed cameras and rain gauges at the Lochlea, Mill Creek Detention Basin, Braebrook and Oakley stormwater attenuation facilities in Ashburton.

### STOCKWATER

Across our district there are five stockwater areas making up the stockwater race network of 1,424 km.

- This year we received 13 applications for race closures, of which 10 were approved. Three are still being worked through as to the outcome.

- The future of stockwater was one of the key decisions that we consulted on with the community for the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. The majority of respondents supported exiting the stockwater service. However, many noted the complexity of the issues involved, including the protection of biodiversity and a lack of alternative water sources. In June 2024, Council agreed to exit the stockwater service by 30 June 2027 and confirmed that a working group will be established to develop a plan for the way forward and monitor progress.
- Investigations on the possible closure of the Pudding Hill Intake commenced in 2022/23 and continued through 2023/24. At this stage we have successfully identified alternatives for affected landowners and work is now continuing on an assessment of environmental effects (AEE) on the intake closure.
- Last year (May 2022) we were issued with a formal warning from Environment Canterbury with regards to not having fish screens on our river intakes. We have been deferring this project due to the contracting network. In response to this warning, we have commenced detailed design of the screen infrastructure.

## TRANSPORTATION

With one of the largest roading networks in the country, maintaining our roads is our most expensive job.

- During the 2024-34 Long Term Plan consultation a considerable amount of general feedback from the community was referring to the relevance of a second bridge. We await the final funding decisions from the Government for the second Ashburton river bridge project, with Council maintaining the \$7.5 million contribution towards the project.
- An additional \$1 million for unsubsidised sealed road rehabilitation was approved to enable an additional 4 km of road to be constructed.
- The lower speed limits around schools to 30 km/h, with variable speed limit signs for rural schools and permanent for urban schools, were implemented in July 2023. This triggered community commentary with requests to review the restrictions hours for urban schools. In December the transport minister announced that the new Government is reversing those speed limit rules. When this happens, Council will consider its future approach.
- NZTA-Waka Kotahi constructed traffic lights on the State Highway 1 in Tinwald. The purpose of the traffic lights is to help create gaps in traffic, making it easier to cross the highway whether in cars, on bikes, scooters or on foot.
- Council was keen to understand the future need for public transport in Ashburton and, together with Safer Mid Canterbury, collected information through an online survey. The results were received by Council in June 2024 with a presentation to follow from the researchers.

## WASTE REDUCTION & RECOVERY

Our rubbish and recycling service includes kerbside collections, resource recovery parks and community recycling facilities.

- Council collected 4,670 tonnes of rubbish, 890 tonnes of recycling and 610 tonnes of recyclable glass from over 11,500 households. We also collected an additional 10,150 tonnes of rubbish and recycling through our resource recovery parks and rural drop off points.
- One of the Key decisions that was consulted on for the Long Term Plan 24-34 was the communities' green waste service preference, which Government has mandated to be introduced by 2027. A clear majority of the community indicated the full green waste service as a preferred option, which Council decided will be introduced for all residential users from September 2026.
- Rehabilitation of the Mt Somers closed landfill, damaged during the 2021 floods, was completed this year. The long-awaited work to remediate the Ashburton landfill began with additional capping of the slope and adding fill material to make it less steep and less prone to erosion.
- Major repairs on the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park compactor, replacing hydraulic valves, pumps, power packs, control valves and associated fittings to ensure the successful compacting of the targeted weight to landfill of 24-26 tonnes.

## PUBLIC SERVICES

### COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE & DECISION-MAKING

- We reviewed/developed six policies, two plans and two strategies this year. We spoke to our community on a range of topics this year including the Local Alcohol Policy, Representation Review and the draft Biodiversity Strategy. Our main consultation in 2023-2024 was for the Long Term Plan 2024-34.
- One of the projects for the Welcoming Communities programme was a new online Welcoming Guide for newcomers to the district that got launched in May 2024.
- The Hakatere Noodle Festival, held on 2 September 2023, is a celebration of National Welcoming Week and Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day and a moment to acknowledge the contribution of people who move to Mid Canterbury.
- During the 2023 ceremony to celebrate the Community Honours Awards, held in September, eight people and two groups were recognised for their contributions and achievements as the Ashburton District's outstanding volunteers.
- In 2023/24, there were 96 Community Grants Applications. 89 groups and organisations received \$934,206 collectively.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development includes the Council-managed activities of commercial property, forestry and economic development.

- Construction of Te Whare Whakatere – our new library and civic centre building, was completed in January 2024. In June 2024, at the Property Council NZ national industry awards, the building was awarded excellence in the Sustainable Building Property Award, and merit in the Civic, Health and Arts Property Awards for her sustainability and energy-saving features.
- The Long Term Plan 2024-34 consultation included a decision on the Balmoral Hall after investigation of the scheduled upgrade to the hall triggered the requirements of a building consent, which would lead to a considerable amount of additional work and costs. Considering the community feedback and after thorough debate, Council decided to retain the Balmoral Hall and the site for two more years, or until the Hall becomes unusable, whereby the hall is to be sold or demolished.
- Glow in the Park moved to the Ashburton Domain where it has room to expand and grow and to avoid the traffic congestion that occurred in Tinwald. The event, held in June 2024, was a huge success with well over 40,000 people attending over three nights, including a newly introduced low-sensory hour.
- Funds for the refurbishments to the Walnut Avenue Pavilion building were budgeted. Significant progress in the handover process was made and we got the detailed design finalised in June 2024.
- In 2023 consultation was undertaken with the public on the draft Economic Development strategy. Following consultation, elected members directed officers to make several updates to the strategy, including increasing the prominence of climate change and including Te Reo Māori throughout the document.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

We provide a range of services for the community, including public conveniences, memorial halls, reserves, campgrounds, Elderly Persons Housing, and community safety measures.

- This year we completed the construction of new toilets at the Rakaia and Mayfield Domain and replaced the toilets at the Rakaia Gorge.
- A Matariki viewing platform in the Rakaia Gorge, including special signs that help people find the Matariki star cluster in the night sky, has been officially blessed and opened in March 2024. The site was built by Council and received help through a \$262,000 grant from the Government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund in addition to our contribution of \$189,000 towards this project.

- We were successful in receiving a \$2.6million grant from Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development) to put towards our new housing units being constructed at Friendship Lane. The project will result in 16 units being built for a total cost of \$3.7million.
- The Methven Domain carpark has been resealed within budget and timeframe. The construction and funds for the storage shed for the lawn mower of the Mayfield Reserve Board is underway, with final expenses being carried over to 2024/25.

## PARKS & OPEN SPACES

We manage and maintain 442 hectares of parks and open spaces throughout the district, and 271 hectares of sports fields. We also look after 30 neighbourhood playgrounds and 16 cemeteries.

- 95% or more of our residents were satisfied with our parks, open spaces and cemeteries.
- Interpretive panels, that tell the story of the settlers, were installed at the Ng King Community Heritage Park and landscaping was finalised prior to the official opening in February.
- The upgrade of the square in front of Te Whare Whakaterere was completed before the opening of the new building. The Boer War memorial has been relocated to Baring Square West following a careful restoration.
- A weed harvester, which will be operated by Ashburton Contracting Limited, was added to the Open Spaces assets to help with the water quality issue caused by excessive algae growth at Lake Hood.
- Various projects were completed in the Ashburton Domain. The Flying Fox was launched in December and has been a popular attraction in the domain ever since. The green light was given for a new bike skills park in the domain. Service and community groups will be responsible for the plan. Council contribution is the land and maintenance once completed.
- Our Reserve Management Plan is the plan that details how a park or reserve should be managed, what activities it should cater for and what facilities will be provided. Following the initial work done for the development of a new Reserve Management Plan in 2022-23, we took the next steps in the process and used the initial community feedback to develop a draft plan. Consultation on this draft is taking place from June to August 2024. The final plan is scheduled to be adopted later in 2024.
- This year we focused on upgrading the playgrounds across the district that were identified in an earlier independent review as priority one. This included playgrounds in the Rakaia South settlement, Rakaia Domain, Chambers Park, Methven Domain, Railway Reserve, Davis Crescent Ashburton, Ashburton Domain Flying Fox and accessible swings, and the Tinwald Domain.
- Following extensive stakeholder and community consultation throughout 2023 our first Biodiversity Strategy was developed and adopted in March 2024.
- In the beginning of December a new disc golf course was opened at the Tinwald Domain.

## RECREATION FACILITIES

Our recreational facilities are based around the recreational, cultural and social aspects of our life in the district – the things that make Ashburton a great place to work, live, play and invest.

- The highlight of the year for the library, called Te Kete Tuhinga, has been the move to the new building. The new facility is twice the size of the previous library and includes community meeting spaces, a performance space, maker space, learning lab and audio visual studio.
- This year the Art Gallery & Museum delivered 25 exhibitions and had 3,014 children and teachers visit the facility of education programmes based around the exhibitions.
- The Whakaterere Heritage Collections website, containing more than 1,000 photographs and records of the Ashburton District over the past 100 years and earlier was launched in May 2024. The photographs and records are from the Ashburton Museum and Historical Society's collection and Council's historical archives.
- A celebratory moment for the EA Networks centre was in May 2024, when a record number of 61,814 people visited the EANC, the highest monthly total since the centre opened in 2015. A Basketball NZ tournament hosted earlier in the year also brought a record number of teams and visitors to the centre.

Significant improvements to core facility infrastructure and energy enhancement at EANC were made by the investment in new heat pumps and the chlorine dosing system.

- Lake Hood's new jumping platform opened in April 2024. The platform is in a separate body of spring-fed water at the northern end of the new lake and users must be confident swimmers as they need to swim out to access the platform, then climb a ladder to either a 2.5m or 4m high jumping off point. The platform was constructed by Council, in conjunction with Ashburton Contracting Limited, using \$35,000 from the Government's Better Off Funding.

## REGULATORY SERVICES

### REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

- This year we audited 111 food premises, registered 6,935 dogs, responded to 762 reports of found, wandering or barking dogs, and responded within two hours to 288 occasions where noise control were called.

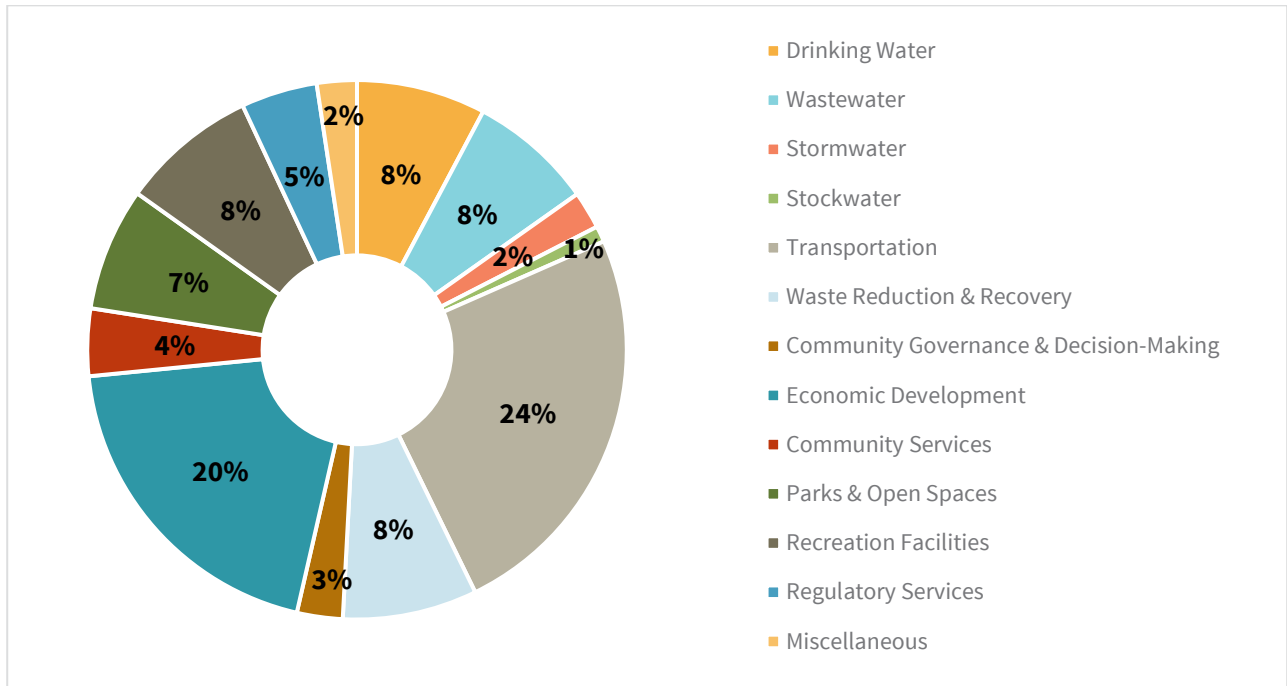
### REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

- This year we issued 502 building consents and 703 Code of Compliance Certificates. We also issued 187 resource consents and 78 subdivision plans and inspected 213 swimming pool fences.
- A key project in 2023/24 was the completion of Plan Change 5 to the Ashburton District Plan, related to transportation and parking changes. The Council initiated the plan change to address transportation related matters, predominantly associated with the introduction of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development was started in March 2023.
- In 2023 we reviewed our Local Alcohol policy. Following two rounds of consultation Council amended the one-way door restriction to apply to the entire district and the trading hours for Footpath Areas of On-Licences were extended from closing at 12.00am (midnight) to 1.00am.
- A highlight of the year for Emergency Management has been the move to and commissioning of the new Emergency Operations Centre – the Wakanui Room - at Te Whare Whakaterere.
- We developed community response plans for Hakaterere Huts, Hinds and Ashburton Lakes and other plans were reviewed (South Rakaia Huts, Ashburton Emergency Management SOP's and Alford Forest).
- On 20 September 2023 a magnitude 6.0 earthquake reminded us of our responsibilities to make sure the community is well prepared for an earthquake. We published an article on the importance of a grab bag and Council staff did visual inspections of the road network and quake-prone buildings in the district.

# OUR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

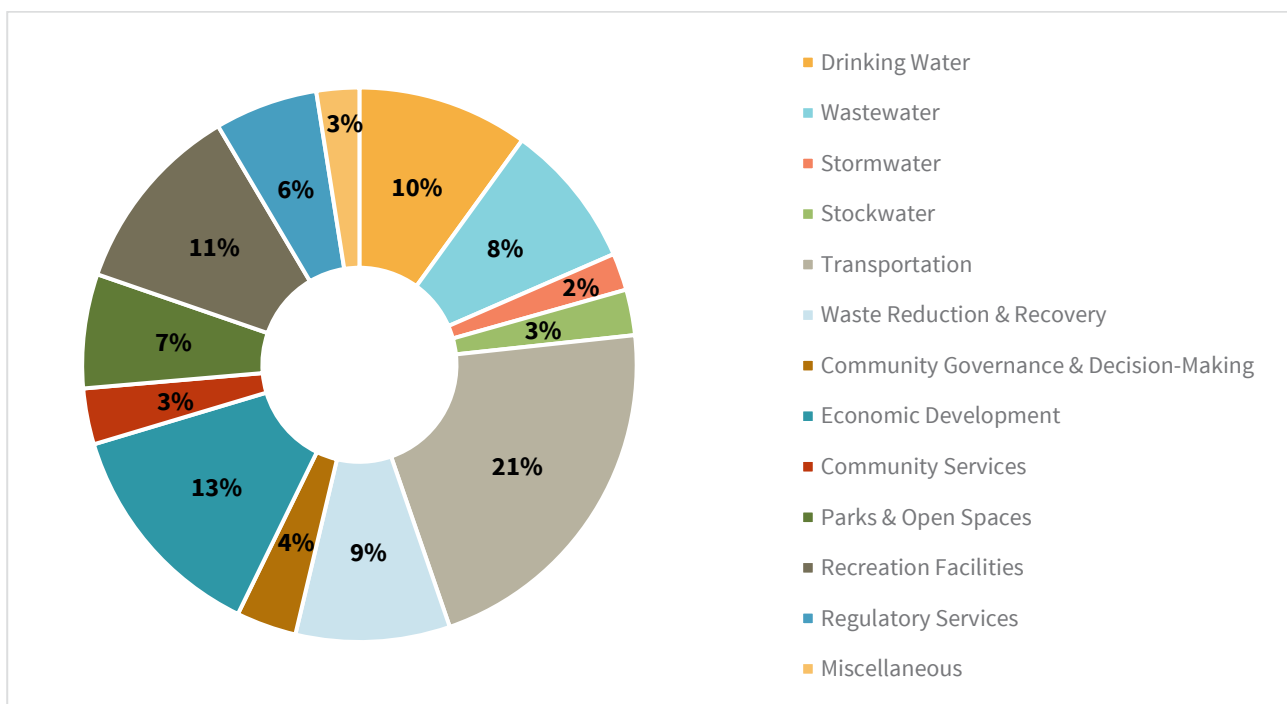
## OUR REVENUE

This shows Council’s sources of income for the 2023/24 year.



## OUR EXPENDITURE

This shows how Council’s expenditure was spread amongst our activities and services.



# OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### REPORTING ENTITY

The Ashburton District Council (the Council) is a territorial local authority established under the Local Government Act 2002 and qualifies as a public benefit entity (PBE) under the New Zealand equivalents to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

The group consists of the Ashburton District Council and its wholly owned subsidiaries Ashburton Contracting Limited (Council controlled trading organisation) and Experience Mid Canterbury (Council controlled organisation) and its in-substance subsidiary the Ashburton Community Water Trust. Its 20% equity share of its associate Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited and its 33% equity share of its joint venture Eastfield Investments Limited are equity accounted. All Ashburton District Council subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures are incorporated and domiciled in New Zealand.

The primary objective of the Council and group is to provide goods or services for the community or social benefit rather than making a financial return.

The financial statements of the Council and group are for the year ended 30 June 2024. The financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 30 October 2024.

### BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period.

### STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Council and group financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), which includes the requirement to comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 1 PBE accounting standards.

These financial statements comply with PBE Standards as they relate to summary financial statements.

### PRESENTATIONAL CURRENCY AND ROUNDING

The functional currency of Ashburton District Council is New Zealand dollars and accordingly the financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000).

### SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The summary financial statements do not include all disclosures provided in the full financial statements and cannot be expected to provide a complete understanding as provided by the full financial statements in the Annual Report 2023/24. The specific disclosures included in these summary financial statements have been extracted from the full financial statements.

A full copy of this report is available at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/Ashburton-district/Plans-Reports-and-Strategies](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/Ashburton-district/Plans-Reports-and-Strategies) or from council offices.

The financial statements presented in this summary report have been audited by Audit New Zealand.



## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE

This shows a summary of the total revenue received and expenditure occurred across the year.

The 'Group' consists of Council and its wholly owned subsidiaries – Ashburton Contracting Limited and Experience Mid Canterbury, and its in-substance subsidiary, the Ashburton Community Water Trust.

The 'Council' columns do not include the operations of the subsidiaries.

The 'Group' columns include the operations of the subsidiaries, after eliminating transactions between Council and the subsidiaries.

FOR THE YEAR END 30 JUNE

	Council 2024 Actual \$000	Council 2024 Budget \$000	Council 2023 Actual \$000	Group 2024 Actual \$000	Group 2023 Actual \$000
<b>Revenue</b>					
Rates	48,462	46,906	44,751	48,462	44,751
Fees, charges	9,982	9,930	9,481	9,982	9,481
Development and financial contributions	2,120	1,757	4,543	2,120	4,543
Subsidies and grants	17,278	10,881	18,249	17,278	18,249
Finance income	1,527	417	1,022	1,756	1,180
Other revenue	21,344	21,261	30,452	54,413	64,270
Other gains	4,293	1,178	2,664	4,293	2,664
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>105,006</b>	<b>92,330</b>	<b>111,162</b>	<b>138,304</b>	<b>145,138</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Personnel costs	20,901	20,728	18,675	34,486	31,431
Depreciation and amortisation	22,133	16,998	18,334	23,695	19,613
Finance costs	5,300	4,538	3,236	5,398	3,319
Other expenses	40,443	33,775	39,175	56,961	56,343
Other losses	5,450	-	3,834	5,467	3,887
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>94,227</b>	<b>76,039</b>	<b>83,254</b>	<b>126,007</b>	<b>114,593</b>
Share of associate's and joint venture surplus (deficit)	-	-	-	(241)	(1,073)
<b>Surplus (deficit) before taxation</b>	<b>10,779</b>	<b>16,291</b>	<b>27,908</b>	<b>12,056</b>	<b>29,472</b>
Income tax expense (revenue)	17	-	29	712	1,270
<b>Surplus (deficit) after taxation</b>	<b>10,762</b>	<b>16,291</b>	<b>27,879</b>	<b>11,344</b>	<b>28,202</b>
<b>Other comprehensive revenue and expense</b>					
<i>Items that will be reclassified to surplus (deficit)</i>					
Financial assets at fair value	65	-	50	65	50
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to surplus (deficit)</i>					
Gain (loss) on infrastructure revaluation	11,944	24,229	743	11,944	743
Gain on land and buildings revaluation	5,704	-	-	5,828	-
Gain on fair value of investment in associate	-	-	-	3,022	28,839
Deferred tax on revaluation of buildings	-	-	-	(20)	(18)
<b>Total other comprehensive revenue and Expense</b>	<b>17,713</b>	<b>24,229</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>20,839</b>	<b>29,614</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE</b>	<b>28,475</b>	<b>40,520</b>	<b>28,672</b>	<b>32,183</b>	<b>57,816</b>

## SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE VARIANCES

Explanations for major variations (>\$1 million) from the Council's budget figures in its Annual Plan 2023/24 are as follows:

### REVENUE VARIANCES

*Rates revenue is \$1.6 million above budget*

Increase is due to higher number of rateable properties and increase in rates per rateable property.

*Subsidies and grants are \$6.4 million above budget*

Increased government subsidies received towards severe weather events recovery and sealed pavement rehabilitation.

Better Off Funding totalling \$4.1 million has been received from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) of which a contribution was made towards the Fairfield Freight Hub \$2.3 million and footpaths were extended in the Ashburton and Methven townships \$0.9 million.

*Finance income is \$1.1 million above budget*

Income received from dividends and interest earned on cash deposits were higher than budgeted.

*Other gains variance \$3.1 million above budget*

Relates to the gain on disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment and assets held for sale, and any fair value adjustments for financial instruments.

### EXPENDITURE VARIANCES

*Depreciation and amortisation is \$5.2 million higher than budget.*

Depreciation was higher than budget due to the capitalisation of significant water projects brought forward and roading assets reconstructed as a result of severe weather events.

*Other expenses are \$6.7 million above budget.*

The Increased costs are due to the unbudgeted works on the severe weather events recovery, sealed pavement rehabilitation that included footpath extensions and the contribution to the Fairfield Freight Hub. Better Off Funding received from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) shown under Revenue covers this expenditure.

*Other losses \$5.45 million above budget*

Relates to the loss on disposal of water assets and loss in changes in fair value adjustments for financial instruments.

*Gain (loss) on infrastructure revaluation are \$5.58 million under budget.*

Actual revaluation gains of Roding's bridges and Park's assets were less than budgeted

### BALANCE SHEET VARIANCES GREATER THAN \$5 MILLION

*Cash and cash equivalents \$22.2 million below budget*

Lower than budget as some cash held was converted into short term investments in August 2023.

*Receivables were \$6.0 million higher than budget.*

Rates and sundry receivables are slightly higher than planned due to the timing of invoicing and receipts and the Community Loans receivable is unbudgeted.

*Local Authority stocks and bonds were \$2.1 million higher than budget.*

Due to a combination of revaluation increases and additional investments made during the year.

*Investment in associates and joint ventures were \$1.1 million less than budget.*

Due to the unbudgeted movement in the operating results of associate and joint ventures during the year.

*Property, plant and equipment and work in progress*

These totals need to be combined and result in an overall variance of \$31.6 million below budget.

Due to lower than anticipated valuation movements and higher depreciation in the current year.

*Trade payables and deferred revenue is \$2.1 million higher than budget.*

Due to income received in advance and retentions held at balance date being higher than expected.

*Total borrowings are \$18.2 million lower than budgeted*

Due to the under delivery of debt-funded capital delivery programme. Some projects that were to be funded by external loans had not been completed or had not commenced at year end therefore less borrowing was required than planned.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

This is Council's balance sheet and shows the financial position of Council at the end of the financial year. It also shows total assets and liabilities as at that date.

### AS AT 30 JUNE

	<b>Council 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Council 2024 Budget \$000</b>	<b>Council 2023 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2023 Actual \$000</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	15,057	37,244	7,682	18,535	10,765
Receivables	13,305	7,321	14,489	19,872	21,866
Other financial assets	-	-	-	-	2,000
Inventories	72	82	87	2,519	2,527
Property inventory	155	155	389	155	389
Property intended for sale	-	101	323	-	323
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>28,589</b>	<b>44,903</b>	<b>22,970</b>	<b>41,081</b>	<b>37,870</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Receivables	614	150	651	614	651
Deferred taxation asset	-	-	77	-	77
Local Authority stocks and bonds	4,055	1,921	3,157	4,055	3,157
Other financial assets	4,131	3,582	2,893	4,141	2,903
Investment in council-controlled organisation	4,500	4,500	4,500	-	-
Investment in associates and joint ventures	1,795	2,911	1,795	37,488	33,993
Property inventory	3,773	3,296	2,849	3,773	2,849
Investment properties	36,799	37,271	35,594	36,599	35,394
Forestry assets	3,025	4,929	4,348	3,025	4,348
Intangible assets	253	393	390	1,311	1,394
Property, plant and equipment	1,024,140	1,060,970	908,576	1,037,515	922,220
Work in progress	12,503	-	67,254	12,503	67,254
Derivative financial instruments	386	-	851	386	851
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>1,095,974</b>	<b>1,119,923</b>	<b>1,032,935</b>	<b>1,141,410</b>	<b>1,075,091</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,124,563</b>	<b>1,164,827</b>	<b>1,055,905</b>	<b>1,182,491</b>	<b>1,112,961</b>

	<b>Council 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Council 2024 Budget \$000</b>	<b>Council 2023 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2023 Actual \$000</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Payables and deferred revenue	12,528	10,407	17,653	15,441	20,499
Employee benefit liabilities	2,308	1,758	2,019	3,413	3,281
Landfill aftercare liability	15	15	15	15	15
Borrowings	32,000	7,025	24,000	32,117	24,120
Tax payable	17	-	-	191	919
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>46,868</b>	<b>19,205</b>	<b>43,687</b>	<b>51,177</b>	<b>48,834</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Payables and deferred revenue	299	410	299	299	299
Employee benefit liabilities	246	214	216	298	279
Landfill aftercare liability	107	143	132	107	132
Deferred taxation liability	-	-	-	561	501
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowings	98,600	141,830	61,600	100,068	63,177
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>99,252</b>	<b>142,597</b>	<b>62,247</b>	<b>101,333</b>	<b>64,388</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>146,120</b>	<b>161,802</b>	<b>105,934</b>	<b>152,510</b>	<b>113,222</b>
<b>Equity</b>					
Ratepayers equity	540,986	534,024	521,389	560,426	540,617
Other reserves	437,458	469,001	428,583	469,556	459,122
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>978,444</b>	<b>1,003,025</b>	<b>949,971</b>	<b>1,029,982</b>	<b>999,739</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>1,124,563</b>	<b>1,164,827</b>	<b>1,055,905</b>	<b>1,182,491</b>	<b>1,112,961</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

This table details the cash flows in and out of Council over the year. The increase or decrease in cash, is agreed to the final cash balance in the statement of financial position.

	<b>Council 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Council 2024 Budget \$000</b>	<b>Council 2023 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2023 Actual \$000</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Receipts from customers	84,320	85,565	83,969	119,454	117,746
Interest received	1,423	417	1,007	1,653	1,165
Dividends received	1,746	1,200	2,049	405	615
Payments to suppliers and employees	(62,410)	(55,753)	(57,648)	(92,018)	(87,648)
Sale of council subdivisions	2,039	3,755	9,582	2,039	9,582
Interest paid	(4,838)	(4,538)	(2,889)	(4,933)	(2,972)
Net GST (paid) received	(781)	-	(1,027)	(463)	(1,444)
Income tax	77	-	-	(1,362)	(2,381)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>21,576</b>	<b>30,646</b>	<b>35,043</b>	<b>24,775</b>	<b>34,663</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Sale of property, plant and equipment	9,564	200	4,530	9,621	4,670
Sale / maturing of shares and investments	547	-	11,233	547	11,233
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(67,128)	(39,698)	(56,347)	(70,311)	(58,473)
Purchase of intangible assets	(116)	(83)	(56)	(199)	(100)
Purchase of shares and investments	(2,068)	-	(1,153)	(68)	(3,153)
Advances	-	-	-	(1,482)	4,162
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>	<b>(59,201)</b>	<b>(39,581)</b>	<b>(41,793)</b>	<b>(61,892)</b>	<b>(41,661)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
Loans raised	69,000	21,729	12,000	69,000	12,000
Loan repayments	(24,000)	(7,025)	(17,000)	(24,113)	(17,116)
<b>Net cash flow from financing activities</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>14,704</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	<b>44,887</b>	<b>(5,116)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>	<b>7,375</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>(11,750)</b>	<b>7,770</b>	<b>(12,114)</b>
Add opening cash resources	7,682	31,475	19,432	10,765	22,880
<b>TOTAL CLOSING CASH RESOURCES</b>	<b>15,057</b>	<b>37,244</b>	<b>7,682</b>	<b>18,535</b>	<b>10,766</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS / EQUITY

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

	<b>Council 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Council 2024 Budget \$000</b>	<b>Council 2023 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2023 Actual \$000</b>
Equity	524,404	493,504	494,755	540,617	511,941
Prior year adjustment	-	-	977	-	2,881
Adjusted equity balance	524,404	493,504	495,732	540,617	514,822
Other reserves	425,565	469,001	425,567	459,122	427,103
<b>Adjusted balance at 1 July</b>	<b>949,969</b>	<b>962,505</b>	<b>921,299</b>	<b>999,741</b>	<b>941,925</b>
Appropriations	-	-	-	(1,942)	-
Surplus/(deficit) after taxation	10,762	16,291	27,879	11,344	28,202
Other comprehensive revenue	17,713	24,229	793	20,839	29,614
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>28,475</b>	<b>40,520</b>	<b>28,672</b>	<b>32,183</b>	<b>57,816</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE</b>	<b>978,444</b>	<b>1,003,025</b>	<b>949,971</b>	<b>1,029,982</b>	<b>999,741</b>

## CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### FOR THE YEAR END 30 JUNE

	<b>Council 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Council 2023 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2023 Actual \$000</b>
Performance Bonds	-	-	-	-
Guarantees	-	-	-	-
Total contingent liabilities	-	-	-	-

## OPERATING AND CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR END 30 JUNE

	<b>Council 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Council 2023 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2024 Actual \$000</b>	<b>Group 2023 Actual \$000</b>
<b>Operating</b>				
Roading	3,641	4,250	3,641	4,250
Footpaths	396	664	396	664
Wastewater/stormwater/water maintenance	12,313	16,443	12,313	16,443
Solid waste management	13,232	13,580	13,232	13,580
Public Conveniences	-	-	-	-
Information Technology	3,169	895	3,169	895
Parks	-	-	-	-
Parking	-	-	-	-
EA Networks Centre - Gymnasium	92	92	92	92
Property	-	121	10,017	10,846*
<b>Total operating commitments</b>	<b>32,843</b>	<b>36,045</b>	<b>42,860</b>	<b>46,770*</b>
Less than one year	9,844	8,911	10,543	9,649*
Between one and two years	8,462	8,225	9,123	8,918*
Between two and five years	10,836	13,897	12,789	15,851*
Greater than five years	3,701	5,012	10,405	12,352*
	<b>32,843</b>	<b>36,045</b>	<b>42,860</b>	<b>46,770*</b>
<b>Capital</b>				
ACL PPE	-	-	75	729
Roading	4,725	5,222	4,725	5,222
Solid Waste	795	-	795	-
Wastewater/stormwater/water	1,595	7,222	1,595	7,222
Information Technology	-	-	-	-
Parks	1,386	3,754	1,386	3,754
Commercial property	3,602	3,358	3,602	3,358
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<b>12,103</b>	<b>19,556</b>	<b>12,178</b>	<b>20,285</b>

\*Prior year figures are restated to include the operating commitment pertaining to ACL which is 100% owned by Council. This does not affect the previous year's Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Comprehensive Revenue & Expense



# AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the readers of Ashburton District Council and Group's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Ashburton District Council (the District Council) and Group for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following summary statements on pages 10 to 14 and pages 16 to 25:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in net assets/equity, and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2024;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary statement of service performance.

### Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

### Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

### The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 in our auditor's report, dated 30 October 2024.

## **Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report**

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

## **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt within the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand), issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our audit of the summary, we have performed an attest audit over the full annual report and have carried out other audit and assurance engagements for the District Council and subsidiary companies. These audit and assurance engagements, as described in note 10 on page 155 of the full annual report, are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements, we have no relationship with or interests in, the District Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.



Dereck Ollsson  
Audit New Zealand  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
20 November 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

## SUMMARY

2023/24

