

Council Activity Briefings

Date: Wednesday 28 January 2026

Time: 9:00am

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



Attendees

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

Executive Team

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

Activity Reports

1	Business Support	Time	Page
1.1	Information Systems	Gordon Tupper	9:00am
1.2	Property	Renee Julius	9:05am
1.3	Finance	Erin R/Gordon C	9:10am
2	Infrastructure		
2.1	Solid Waste Management	Hernando Marilla	9:15am
2.2	Stockwater Operations	Crissie Drummond	9:20am
2.3	Stockwater Exit Transition	Crissie Drummond	9:25am
2.4	Roads and Footpaths	Mark Chamberlain	9:30am
2.5	Contracts Awarded / Upcoming Tenders	Neil McCann	9:35am
2.6	Lake Hood	Neil McCann	9:40am
3	Compliance & Development		
3.1	Building Services	Michael Wong	9:45am
3.2	Civil Defence Emergency Management	Jim Henderson	9:50am
3.3	Alcohol Licensing/Bylaw Monitoring & Enforcement	Rick Catchpowle	9:55am
3.4	Animal Control	Rick Catchpowle	10:00am
3.5	Food Safety	Rick Catchpowle	10:05am
3.6	Planning	Brad Thomson	10:10am
3.7	Economic Development	Shelley Donnelly	10:15am

Break 10:20am – 10:35am

4	People & Facilities			
4.1	Council Services	Amanda Watson	10:35am	58
4.2	Ashburton Library	Jane Riach	10:40am	60
4.3	EA Networks Centre	Richard Wood	10:45am	65
4.4	Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum	Shirin Khosraviani	10:50am	70
5	Community & Open Spaces			
5.1	Communications	Janice McKay	10:55am	76
5.2	Strategy & Policy	Mark Low	11:00am	78
5.3	Memorial Halls & Reserve Boards	Ann Smith	11:05am	86
5.4	Welcoming Communities	Mercedes Walkham	11:10am	87
5.5	Open Spaces	Ian Soper	11:15am	89

1. ***Business Support Group***

1.1 **Information Systems**

1.1.1 **Projects**

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

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
Application and Process Development					
Application enhancement and development	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	<p>Ongoing general development and business improvement within Council's ERP, GIS and other core applications.</p> <p>Recently completed works include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elderly Persons Housing – process improvements• GIS – Fairton Emergency Response mapping• GIS – Ashburton Cemetery water asset mapping• GIS – Identification of unclassified land parcels• Mahi Tahi (Council Intranet) development in creating new home, site pages and HR Information Hub for ADC employees. Staff benefits page updated, with other areas to be planned. <p>Current developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small standalone dwellings – process development of new statutory building consenting requirement• Property reporting – Review of existing report suite and resulting actions of updating existing, creating new and retiring unused reports.• Cemetery data – analysis and verification of held cemetery data.• GIS – District water treatment pump station (Hinds and Mayfield) maintenance survey

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS - Dog exercise and alcohol ban public maps
Approved Consent Mapping	August 2026	March 2026	Yes	Yes	<p>This work will provide a spatial (map) view of approved consent location and associated information to support function activities and public access to consent information.</p>
Health & Safety	June 2025	July 2026 (tbc)	Yes	Yes	<p>A multi-phase review of and updates to our corporate solution functionality and configuration is underway. The work sets out to take advantage on new solution developments as well as consider the current configuration and its design to meet ADC requirements.</p> <p>Redesign of Locations used for event reporting has been delivered, with focus now on field safety audit and defect reporting.</p>
Grants & Funding Management	April 2025	February 2026	Yes	Yes	<p>This project is to deliver a digital solution to support the receipt of grant application and management process on assessment and decision.</p> <p>Activities are proceeding to schedule.</p>
Community Facility Booking System	May 2025	October 2025	No	Yes	<p>Online management solution for booking of community facilities overseen by Property, Open Spaces, Library and Democracy & Engagement.</p> <p>The service is now operational.</p>
Financial Modules and Management Services	October 2024	September 2028	Yes	Yes	<p>Transformation of remaining financial and management function and process within the TechnologyOne solution to the current product offering.</p> <p>Multi-stage, multi- year project. With works in budget, travel & expense (purchase cards), end of year rollovers and creditor set up completed.</p> <p>Current work covers the review of processes associated with monthly allocation and reporting</p>

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					Due to other business priority and impact on required specialist resource availability, future work has been rescheduled to reflect this.
IT Infrastructure, Server and Desktop					
Cyber Security	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	<p>Ongoing programme in the development of reducing Council's cyber security risk profile and includes access, monitoring, hardware and patch management and identification, investigation and application of security related applications and enhancements.</p> <p>Following recent audits and internal reviews a programme of security related priorities has been identified with work underway to deliver these.</p>
Core Switch and Security Infrastructure Renewal (Scoping)	July 2025	December 2025	Yes	Yes	Complete - Forms part of our planned renewal programme. This work covers the design and identification of required hardware, ahead of physical renewal works.
Core Switch and Security Infrastructure Renewal (Implementation)	December 2025	April 2026	Yes	Yes	<p>Forms part of planned renewal programme</p> <p>Specified hardware is on order. Planned works will begin on receipt of the hardware.</p>
Information Management					
Physical and Digital Record Management - continuing work to identify, record, appraise and manage remaining Council physical records.	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	<p>Continuing and ongoing activity with business teams to assess digital and physical records held by Council as part of the management of the life of that record, including that of protected or permanent retention under statutory Acts including the Public Records Act and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act. Work includes the decision to retain or dispose a record based on Council's adopted retention and disposal schedule.</p> <p>Work continues with Museum staff in recording detail on Council archives (pre-1990) held at the Museum.</p> <p>Assessment to date has included Ashburton Borough,</p>

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

1.2 Property

Current	Brief Project Description / progress																										
Ashburton Business Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In total, approximately 43-hectares of the Business Estate remains unsold, with 39-hectares sold. Work will commence on updating the Youtube marketing video on the Business Estate in February – this is the link to current marketing video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHui47XN2B4 																										
Elderly persons housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 units are currently occupied. Four units are vacant: two are undergoing patio repairs followed by refreshing, and the remaining two have tenants scheduled to move in over the next couple of weeks. There are 24 applications on the waiting list, with 10 people requesting single units and 14 requesting double units (comprised of one couple and 23 individuals). 22 people on the waiting list are current residents in the Ashburton District, with 2 being from out of town (Christchurch and Mosgiel). The occupancy rate is currently at 98% of available units. The replacement of 30 heat pumps have been installed around the various housing complexes. 																										
Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The table below provides an update of aircraft movements for the past 12 months. <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Aircraft Movement at Ashburton Airport</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Movement Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Jan-25</td><td>800</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb-25</td><td>900</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar-25</td><td>750</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr-25</td><td>900</td></tr> <tr><td>May-25</td><td>850</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-25</td><td>1150</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-25</td><td>1050</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-25</td><td>1150</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-25</td><td>1150</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-25</td><td>750</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-25</td><td>1600</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec-25</td><td>1100</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of annual landing fees issued has increased from 29 to 30 annual landing fee holders. 	Month	Movement Count	Jan-25	800	Feb-25	900	Mar-25	750	Apr-25	900	May-25	850	Jun-25	1150	Jul-25	1050	Aug-25	1150	Sep-25	1150	Oct-25	750	Nov-25	1600	Dec-25	1100
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Old Polytech (Cameron St) Demolition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget allocation for the demolition (including asbestos removal) and construction of a basic gravel carpark is \$1.56m. Additional asbestos pipework has been discovered below ground. WorkSafe has been notified in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016. Asbestos removal is scheduled to commence on 2 February, after which further building demolition will proceed. The project is now expected to be completed by the end of March.
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1.3 Finance

1.3.1 Projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track (yes/no)	Within budget (yes/no)	Carry-over (yes/no)	Comments
Annual Report	July 2025	3 December 2025	No	No	No	The Annual Report was adopted by Council on 3 December 2025.
Annual Plan 2026/27	Current	30 June 2026	Yes	Yes	No	Preparation of the 2026/27 Annual Plan is underway with Council workshops scheduled in early February. IBIS rate modelling software has been implemented to assist with rate modelling, once annual plan budgets have been confirmed.
Financial Modules and Management Services	Current	September 2028	Yes		Yes	IS and Finance are progressing through this multi-stage, multi-year project. Due to shifting priorities and availability of specialist resources, future phases have been rescheduled.
Vehicles (Fleet)	Current	30 June 2026	Yes	Yes	No	One vehicle has been sold at Turners.

2. Infrastructure

2.1 Solid Waste Management

2.1.1 Solid waste management contract

- Mobilisation activities are progressing for the new contract with WasteCo to start in September 2026.
- WasteCo will have a general meeting with existing staff to discuss contract changeovers and how it will affect them. WasteCo intends to hire as many existing staff as possible to ensure smooth transition between the existing and the new contract.

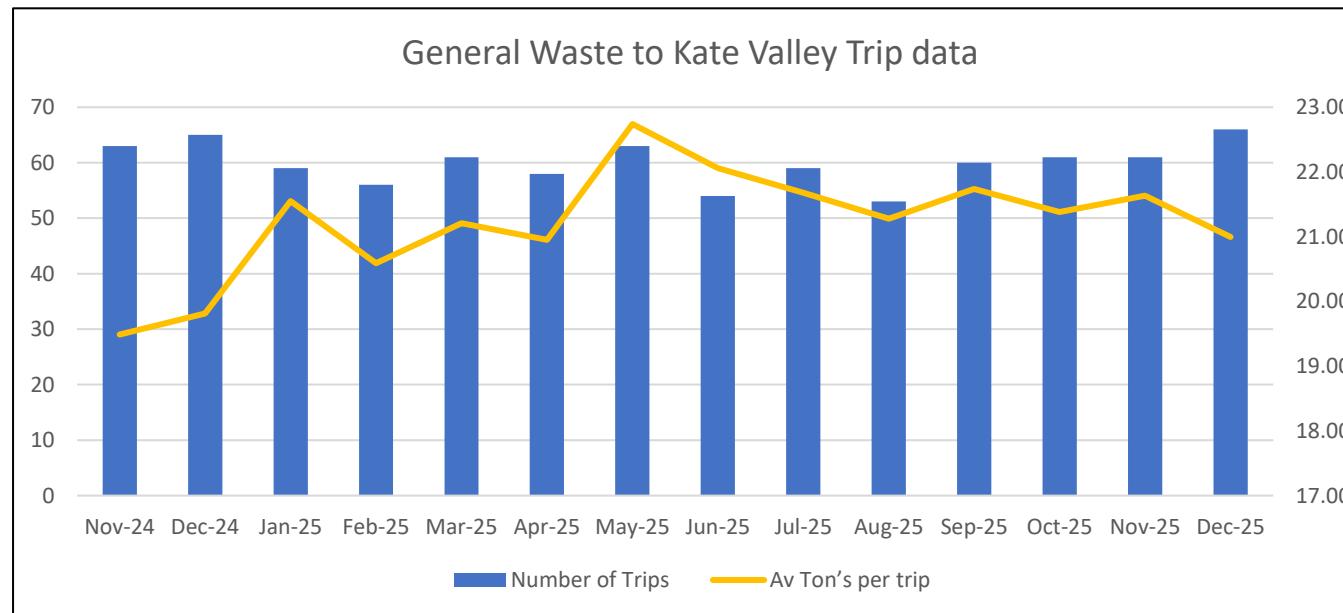
2.1.2 Solid waste kerbside refuse and recycling collection

- A total of 158 and 153 CRMs were received in November and December, respectively. A summary of the CRMs for the last six months is shown below:

Request Enquiry	Monthly Total Number					
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Illegal dumping	19	8	9	5	9	10
Kerbside - Bin Accessory	6	4	10	51	5	7
Additional Bins	30	23	28	22	39	31
Damaged Bins	33	41	27	39	28	22
New Bins	26	27	16	16	23	24
Missing Bins	12	19	17	13	9	13
Missed Collections	71	45	26	40	25	31
Contractor Complaints	4	4	0	3	1	1
Satellite Drop Off Site Issues	6	0	1	2	1	4
Non-compliant & other miscellaneous	22	6	32	11	18	10
Total	229	177	166	202	158	153

- Of the 25 reported missed collections in December, only 12 were actually missed bins, the remainder were due to bins were not being out in time, bins being hidden behind an obstruction (e.g. a vehicle) or the bins were overfull and deemed non-compliant. The reported missed bins are collected the following day.

- There is a reduction in the number of damaged bins. Most common reported damages are broken wheel and missing lids. If the damaged is caused by mishandling of the bins, the contractor pays for the replacement thereof.
- A total of 62 and 67 trips were made to Kate Valley in November and December, respectively. Total trips to December 2025 are 361.



- The average trip weight in December was 21 tonnes. Since the tonnage per trip is dependent on the weight of the materials being dumped in the pit, the operators separate lighter materials whenever possible, mixing them with heavier materials to spread the load contents and maximise the bin weight for each trip. The average weight per trip over the past 12 months is 21.36 tonnes.

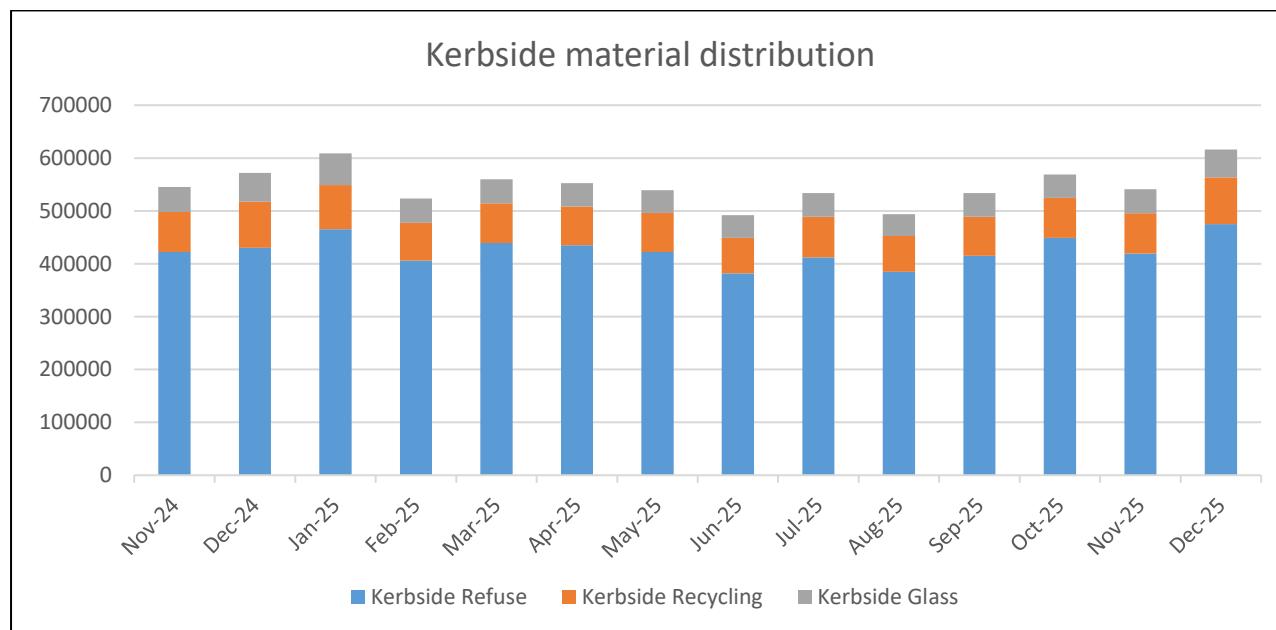
Month	Tonnes To Landfill	Number of Trips	Ave Ton's per trip
Dec-24	1287.88	65	19.81
Jan-25	1271.04	59	21.55
Feb-25	1153.079	56	20.59
Mar-25	1293.59	61	21.21
Apr-25	1215.27	58	20.95
May-25	1432.65	63	22.74
Jun-25	1191.18	54	22.06
Jul-25	1278.97	59	21.68
Aug-25	1127.71	53	21.28
Sep-25	1304.21	60	21.74
Oct-25	1304.42	61	21.38
Nov-25	1319.6	61	21.63
Dec-25	1385.81	66	21.00

- The weight of residual waste sent to Kate Valley between July and December 2025 is 7,720 tonnes. The average volume of waste sent to Kate Valley the past 3-years is 14,800 tonnes per year. Based on the trend of waste collected during in the last six months, compared to the same period in the past year with 7,269 tonnes, we anticipate sending near the same volume of waste to Kate Valley this year.
- The volume of recyclable materials received from the drop off stations has fluctuated over the past 6- months with the highest in December.

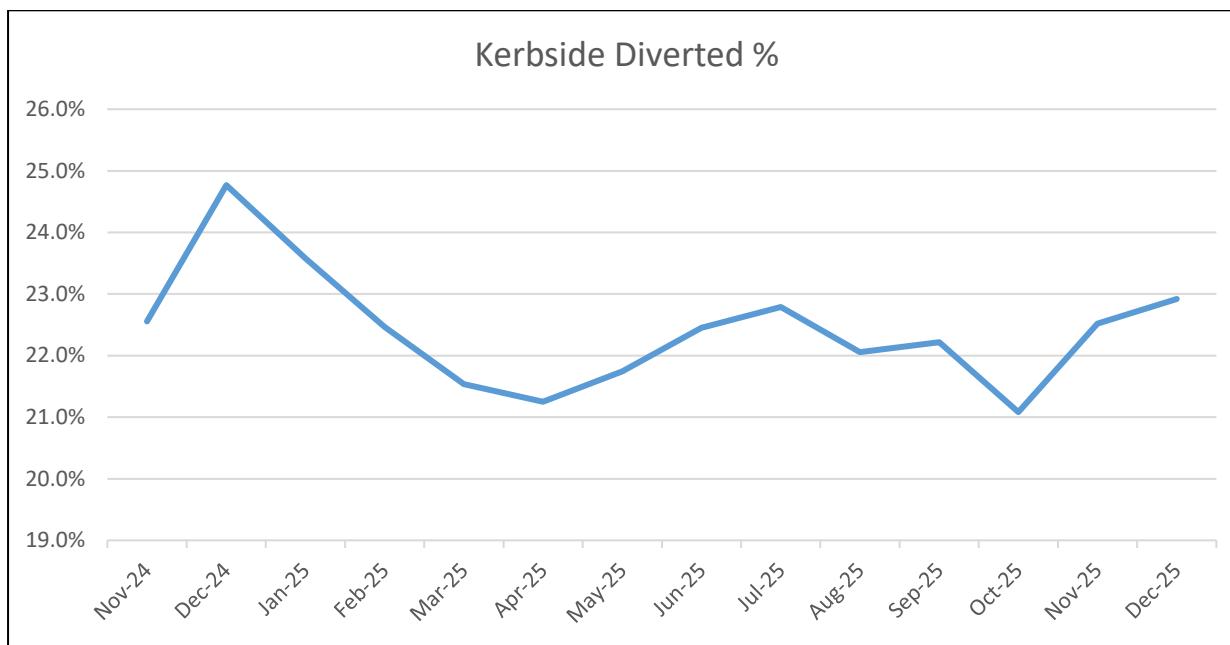
Site	Last 6-months Recycling Volumes						6-month total tonnes
	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Methven Recycling Centre	18.77	12.98	9.99	12.19	11.10	17.15	82.18
Rakaia Huts	0.25	0	0.34	2.30	0.38	1.44	4.71
Pendarves	2.15	0.73	4.43	2.76	0.87	3.45	14.39
Hakatere Huts	0.475	2.00	0.40	1.47	1.82	0.45	6.615
Willowby	3.37	0.78	3.75	3.16	2.25	1.03	14.34
Rangitata huts	0.0	2.01	0.26	2.27	0.44	1.09	6.07

Hinds	0.92	2.45	2.17	2.34	3.80	1.43	13.11
Mayfield	4.78	0.78	2.60	0.91	2.56	1.01	12.64
Mt Somers	0.58	0.57	4.15	0.49	0.63	4.60	11.02
Staveley	0.99	2.18	0.46	1.32	2.22	2.16	9.33
Fairton	0.65	1.88	2.72	0.49	1.89	2.08	9.71
Rakaia Resource Recovery Park	5.77	5.22	5.08	5.60	3.55	6.20	31.42
Monthly Totals	36.26	33.15	38.705	31.58	31.51	42.09	215.535

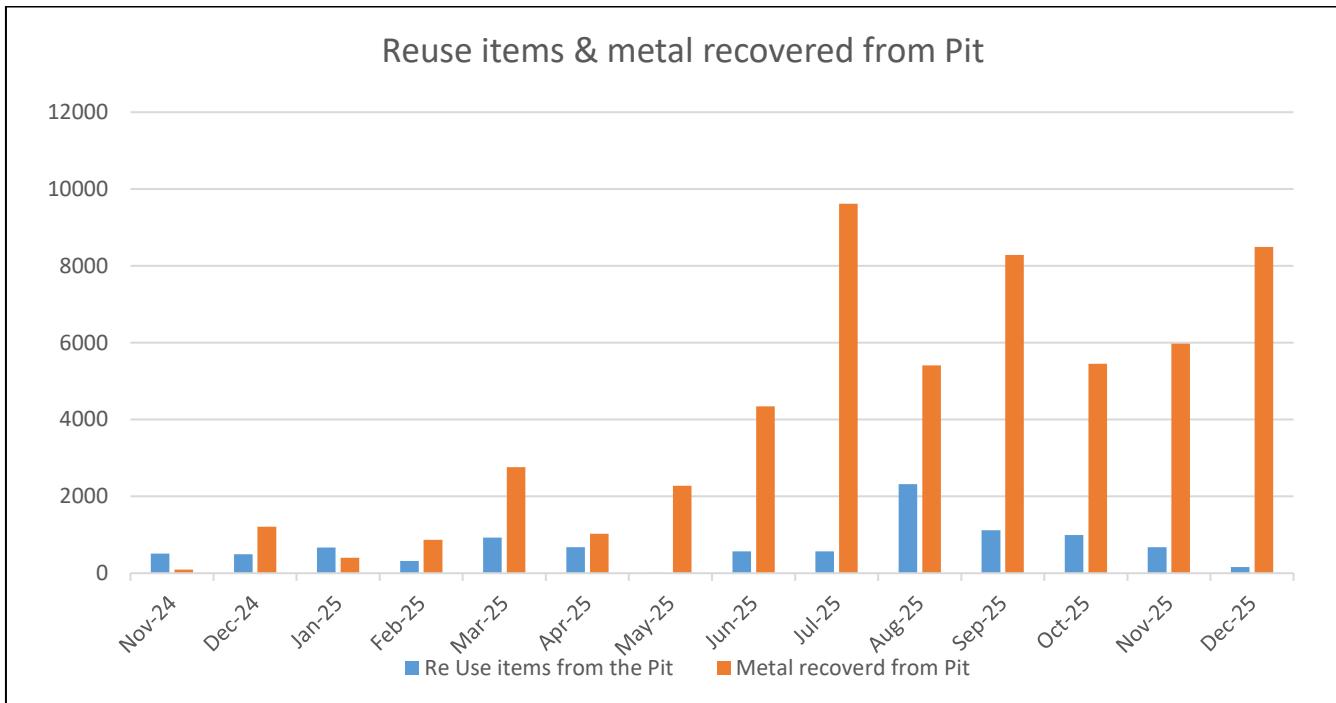
- The volume of recyclable materials collected from households in December was 88.90 tonnes, higher than the previous 5-months with August with the lowest at 67.80 tonnes and November at 76.60 tonnes. Recyclable materials collected over the past six months averaged 77.60 tonnes. This was slightly higher than for the same period last year which averaged only 75.70tonnes.
- Glass collection in December is 52.28 tonnes from 45.47 tonnes in November and 44.27 in October 2025. The average monthly volume of glass collected over the last six months is 43.54 tonnes.



- Kerbside refuse in December is 474.83 tonnes. This is the highest volume collected during the first six months. The June volumes were the lowest collected over the period at 382.74 tonnes.



- Kerbside diversion rate (volume of kerbside recycling against volume of kerbside general waste collected) for December is 22.90%. The kerbside diversion rate is mainly influenced by the decrease in the weight of glass collected from kerbside.



- Items recovered from the pit decreased during November and December at 680 and 160 items, respectively.
- The weight of recovered metal has been high in the past six months peaking at 9.60 tonnes in July. The weights in November and December were 5.98 and 8.49 tonnes, respectively. The increase in weight comes from the ongoing segregation and picking of metal items and household materials including chairs, tables, BBQs, iron furniture and miscellaneous metals disposed of by residents at the pit area.
- The RRP recycling centre received 13,823 visitors in December. This is much higher than the same period last year with only 9,181 visitors. The number of visits has increased in the past four months. These are the people passing through the recycling drop-off lanes and visiting the re-use shop.
- The re-use shop sales figure for December was \$11,573, being slightly lower than November at \$10,219.80. Below is a table showing the items sold with the total sales in the past 12-month period.

Breakdown of Items Sold at the ARRP												
Month	Household items	Kitchen items	Linen	Clothing	Outdoors/ Garden	Toys	Sports items	Bike/ scooters	Tag tested	Lawn mower	Total Items Sold	Total Income
Dec-24	4271	2394	1636	951	646	335	83	72	24	17	10,429	\$11,379.50
Jan-25	5143	3004	2060	1173	879	393	226	59	39	31	13,007	\$13,750.10
Feb-25	3861	2459	1714	801	587	376	164	79	31	16	10,088	\$10,520.50
Mar-25	3888	2501	310	1064	973	570	141	65	34	30	9,576	\$15,330.30
Apr-25	3243	1994	252	778	612	431	70	53	35	19	7,487	\$13,023.60
May-25	3258	2007	268	817	792	401	77	53	39	13	7,725	\$13,294.51
Jun-25	2460	1532	269	823	426	293	69	52	72	8	6,004	\$8,593.77
Jul-25	3041	1789	187	1375	740	546	123	34	14	9	7,858	\$10,769.60
Aug-25	3346	1561	83	723	521	428	164	38	27	4	6,895	\$11,254.90
Sep-25	2864	1599	661	919	479	142	167	56	42	3	6,932	\$9,392.60
Oct-25	3120	1544	182	704	705	352	138	61	73	22	6,901	\$9,490.20
Nov-25	3309	1395	1126	823	720	267	253	54	30	18	7,995	\$10,219.80
Dec-25	3313	1319	1018	645	536	213	98	62	14	19	7,237	\$11,573.70

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

2.1.3 Solid waste capital projects

The contract for the Ashburton closed landfill slope remediation was awarded to Grant Hood. 10% of the work had been completed to December 2025.

2.1.4 Waste education

- The kerbside audits are ongoing. As reported previously, while there are improvements generally across the district, there are serial repeat offenders whose bins get removed. Some of these bins may not be returned as despite multiple discussions and education effort, they continue to ignore the advice and fill the recycling bins with rubbish.
- Water conservation, worm farm and recycling sessions were held at schools, kindies and early childhood centres across the district in November and December.
- The Eco-Educate team ran waste stations for the Rakaia Lions Fireworks event and He Waka Tapu Whanau Day at the Ashburton Domain in November. In December they ran a ‘which bin’ activity for the Ashburton Intermediate Top Teams competition in conjunction with Sport Canterbury.

2.2 Stockwater Operations

2.2.1 General

- The weather over the holiday period was ideal for stockwater with the regular rainfall keeping the intakes topped up and the water flowing. While there was little damage to our intakes over the period, Methven Auxiliary did bear the brunt of a couple of river freshes, especially the rainfall on 15-17 January when major damage occurred. This required a day and half of digging gravel out the 1km long inflow channel before water could be put back down. Pudding Hill was also hit with the stream moving from one side of the bed to the other, and the inflow channel was also washed out.

Methven Auxiliary inflow channel



- Mains race cleaning is continuing across the network. The rain and heat have kept the weeds growing so the contractors are super busy!
- At the regular ADC/ECan compliance catch up meeting held on 25 November, officers were handed a copy of a letter (dated 28 August) advising that the abatement notice issued on 13 March 2023 for the non-compliance of the Scarness Weir structure on the Pudding Hill stockwater main had been cancelled. This structure will be removed as part of the stockwater exit programme as it will no longer be required to divert water into the connecting race.
- We continue to receive occasional enquires for smaller, end of line race or other insignificant closures or alterations. These go through the normal race application process.

2.2.2 Applications

- A summary of the current applications is listed below:

Stockwater closures/alterations/culvert installation applications as at 16 January 2026

PHASES

Application ID	Location	Length*	No of properties	1	2	3	4	5	Comments
SKW/008/22	Brothers Road	12,164	17						Pending Council Divestment process
SKW/012/23	490 Old Main South Road	8,949	6						Pending Council Divestment process
SKW/020/23	1037 Rangitata Highway	6,739	7						Pending Council Divestment process
SKW/023/23	Junction Road	15,135	16						Pending Council Divestment process
SKW/007/24	Hackthorne Road to SH1	27,664	25						Pending Council Divestment process
SKW/002/25	339 Stranges Road	0	1						Physical work to be completed
SKW/004/25	Pattons Road	0	1						Physical work to be completed
SKW/005/25	Methven Highway	0	1						Physical work to be completed
SKW/007/25	Barnswood Road	0	1						Physical work to be completed
SKW/008/25	Gartartan Road	0	1						Physical work to be completed
SKW/001/26	Ashburton Staveley Road	3,522	3						Reviewing info received
	Phase complete			Phases:	Application received	Information gathering	Review significance and scope	Reporting and decision making	Sign off work completed and rates/GIS update
	On track								
	Overdue								

*Note: a 0 in the length column relates to an alteration, culvert or pump service installation application - no race is being closed.

2.3 Stockwater Exit Transition

Pudding Hill

- Council approved the partial closure of the Pudding Hill network at its meeting held on 17 December with the closure to take effect on 30 September 2026. Both Scarness and Drayton's gates will be closed off leaving water flowing down Mt Harding Stream only.
- All affected parties have been advised by letter of the impending closure.
- A Heads of Agreement between ADC and BCI has been signed.
- Officers and Council's consultant will continue to ascertain which properties can be serviced by alternative providers. The options include BCI, Spaxton Stockwater and existing connections to the Methven water supply.
- A meeting is being arranged with ECan to discuss the possible augmentation of Mt Harding Creek via the Pudding Hill intake.

Methven Auxiliary

- All investigation reports have been provided to the Stockwater Transition Working Group.
- The closure of the Methven Auxiliary intake will be discussed and considered by Council this year.

Bushside

- Melius have completed the investigation into the needs for the properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply.
- An ecological assessment was undertaken on 16 October, and the draft ecological report has been received.
- The cultural assessment will be carried out in February.

Stoney Creek

- Melius have completed the investigation into the needs for the properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply.
- An ecological assessment was undertaken on 17 October, and the draft ecological report has been received.
- The cultural assessment will be carried out in February.

Limestone Creek

- Investigation into the needs of the two properties out of the five affected properties who require an alternative stockwater supply are complete.
- Ecological and cultural assessments will be undertaken with the possibility this intake could be closed by 30 June 2026.

Brothers

- Melius have completed their investigation into the needs of properties who will require an alternative stockwater supply if the intake is closed. Of the 153 affected properties, 53 (35%) have indicated they rely on the current supply. All affected property owners have been contacted and surveyed.
- Melius has commenced discussions with commercial irrigation entities in relation to the potential transfer of the intake and network operation in its existing open race form. Based on these discussions, it was determined that further analysis of alternative stockwater supplies was not required at this stage. However, if a transfer does not progress/proceed, further analysis will be undertaken.
- Ecological and cultural assessments will not be carried out at this time. If it is determined the race operation will transfer to another entity the assessments will not be required, however if it is to be closed this work will proceed.

Alford Forest

- There are no stockwater rate paying properties on this race.
- Ecological and cultural assessments will be undertaken with the possibility this intake could be closed by 30 June 2026.

Langdons Creek North & South

- The survey of Langdons Creek North & South users was carried out in September/ October with a 73% (33 properties) return rate.
- Follow up with remaining 12 property owners is underway.
- No wider stakeholder survey has been carried out.
- No public drop-in session has been programmed to date. It is anticipated that a joint ‘springs’ session will be held.

Clearwell Springs

- The survey of Clearwell Springs users was carried out in September/October with a 55% (5 properties) return rate.
- Follow up with remaining four property owners is underway.
- No wider stakeholder survey has been carried out.
- No public drop-in session has been programmed to date. It is anticipated that a joint ‘springs’ session will be held.

Cracrost

- A survey of the Cracrost Intake users commenced in October/November.
- As of 19 January, a 70% (116 properties) return rate had been achieved. Further follow up of the remaining 48 properties will be undertaken.
- A joint Cracrost/Klondyke wider stakeholder survey will be carried out.
- A joint Cracrost/Klondyke public drop-in session will be held in February.

Klondyke

- The survey of the Klondyke Intake users commenced in early December with responses due by 21 January.
- As of 19 January, there had been a 50% return (37 properties). A reminder letter will be sent to non-responders at the end of January.
- A joint Cracrost/Klondyke wider stakeholder survey will be carried out.
- A joint Cracrost/Klondyke public drop-in session will be held in February.

Other

- 235 people have signed up to receive the stockwater exit project newsletter updates.
- The user survey for the Shepherds Brook Intake goes out in February.
- This will leave the remaining five intakes to be surveyed between March and September.

2.4 Roads and Footpaths

2.4.1 2025/26 financial year

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

The work categories that have been increased are highlighted below. The result will mean an increase in total spend of \$2,500,000, an increase in income as subsidy of \$1,275,000, and \$1,225,000 of the unsubsidised budget used as the local share of the additional subsidised budget.

	ADC budget	NZTA approved budget	Spend as at 31/12/2025	Comments
Local Road Operations				
Structures Maintenance	\$321,662	\$321,662	\$58,121	
Environmental Maintenance	\$662,624	\$662,624	\$368,041	
Network Services Maintenance	\$795,641	\$897,437	\$527,636	
Network Operations	\$14,370	\$17,370	\$19,757	
Level Crossing Warning Devices	\$35,704	\$35,704	\$19,012	
Minor Events	\$96,499	\$96,499	\$82,263	
Network and Asset Management	\$1,064,484	\$1,061,484	\$625,351	
Structures Component Replacement	\$418,160	\$568,160	\$64,283	
Traffic Services Renewals	\$184,060	\$184,060	\$105,700	
Total Local Road Operations	\$3,593,204	\$3,845,000	\$1,870,164	49% of NZTA budget
Local Road Pothole Prevention				
Sealed Pavement Maintenance	\$1,311,779	\$2,177,351	\$1,239,472	
Unsealed Pavement Maintenance	\$719,628	\$932,196	\$599,076	Increased by \$150,000
Routine Drainage Maintenance	\$510,000	\$732,883	\$118,741	
Unsealed Road Metalling	\$1,200,000	\$1,685,245	\$1,245,634	Increased by \$500,000
Sealed Road Resurfacing	\$2,198,223	\$4,200,000	\$305,785	Increased by \$1,100,000
Drainage Renewals	\$550,000	\$634,946	\$144,448	
Pavement Rehabilitation	\$2,032,816	\$3,037,379	\$782,972	Increased by \$750,000
Total Local Road Pothole Prevention	\$8,522,446	13,400,000	\$4,436,128	33% of NZTA budget
Walking and Cycling				
Cycle Path Maintenance	\$2,160	\$925	\$3,356	

Footpath Maintenance	\$115,863	\$73,513	\$98,747		
Footpath Renewals	\$220,643	\$264,228	\$30,014		
Total Walking and Cycling	\$338,666	\$338,666	\$132,117	39%	of NZTA budget
Road Safety Promotion					
Road Safety Promotion	\$78,000	\$78,000	\$30,627		
Total Road Safety Promotion	\$78,000	\$78,000	\$30,627	39%	of NZTA budget
Local Road Improvements					
LCLR Roading Improvements	\$0	\$600,000	\$0		
Total Local Road Improvements	\$0	\$600,000	\$0	0%	
TOTAL SUBSIDISED ROADING	\$12,532,316	\$18,261,666	\$6,469,036	35%	of NZTA budget

Unsubsidised Roading

Ashburton Second Urban Bridge	\$4,900,000	\$16,984	
Unsealed Road Metalling	\$512,500		
Replace Concrete Streetlight Poles	\$220,000		
New Streetlights - Power			
Undergrounding	\$225,000		
Sealed Road Resurfacing	\$1,000,000		
Drainage Improvements	\$100,000	\$91,991	
Curve Warning Signs	\$50,000	\$35,412	
Road marking	\$150,000		
Footpath Maintenance	\$50,000		
Road Safety Promotions	\$20,000		
Additional structural refurbishment	\$365,000		
Street Cleaning	\$205,000	\$103,913	
NZTA State Highway	\$112,750	\$73,899	
TOTAL UNSUBSIDISED ROADING	\$7,910,250	\$322,198	
Local share of additional subsidised	\$1,225,000		
TOTAL UNSUBSIDISED ROADING	\$6,685,250		

2.4.2 2025/26 Work completed as at 31/12/2025

- 3,695 km of unsealed grading completed
- 37,837 m³ of maintenance metal placed

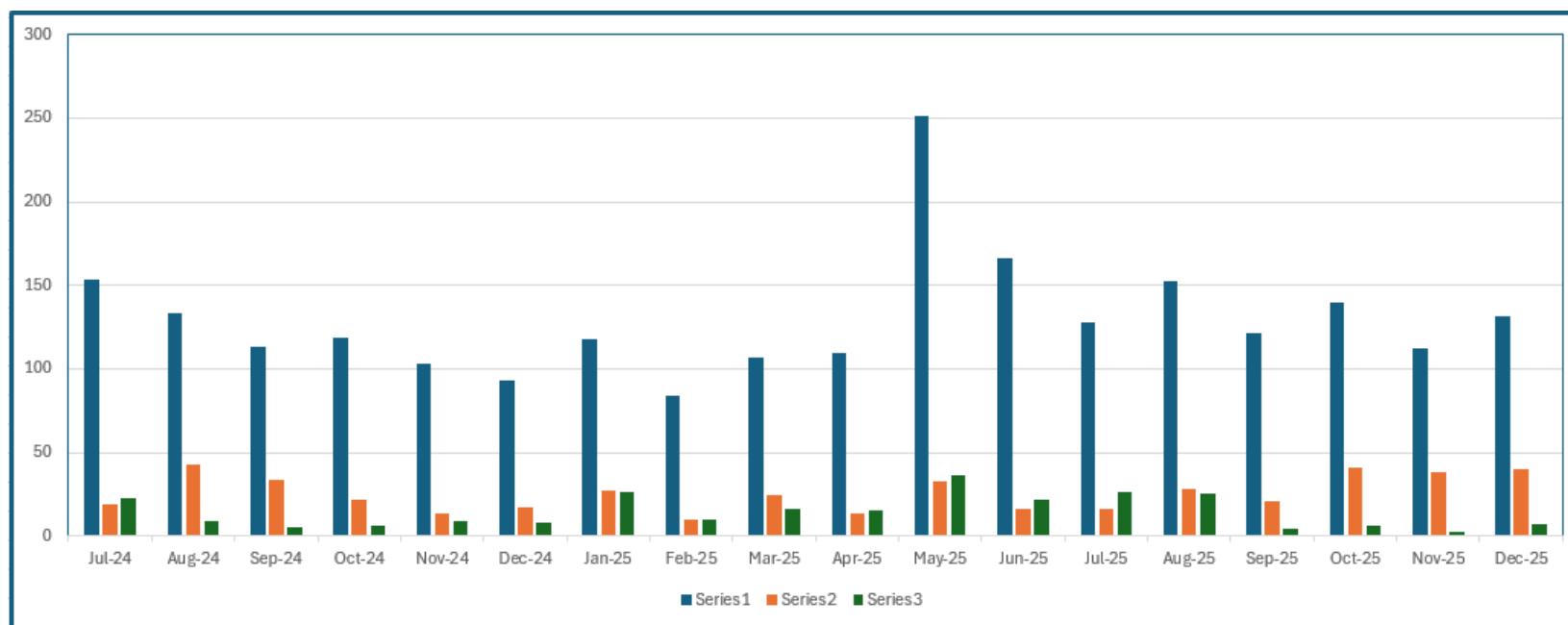
- 4,843 potholes repaired
- 8,841 m² of sealed dig out repairs
- 23.5 km of reseals completed

2.4.3 Main areas of work

- Transition from HEB to Fulton Hogan for the Road Maintenance Contract with no issues.
- Routine work continuing.
- Weed spraying in townships.
- Channel and sump clearing during heavy rain events over Christmas/New Year.
- Pre reseal repairs and heavy maintenance repairs (digouts) continuing.

2.4.4 Roading CRM data – July 2024 to December 2025

Roading CRMs showing the fluctuations through the year (All 2,333 - Pavement 455 - Unsealed 255).



2.4.5 Corridor access data

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Corridor Access Requests	58	68	94	75	70	45	64	88	76	64	67	97	89	66	89	100
Traffic Management Plans	18	31	59	26	30	27	22	37	52	45	48	33	53	51	44	67

2.4.6 Forward works programme

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

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

2.4.7 Sealed road rehabilitation

Sites scheduled for the 2025/26 financial year are:

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

Contract ROAD0446 includes both the Ealing Montalto Rd sections, both Longbeach Rd sections and Fords Rd. This contract was awarded to Grant Hood Contracting. Fords Rd and the Longbeach Rd sites have been sealed. Some rework will be needed on the Fords Rd site.

Contract ROAD0424 includes both the Thompsons Track sections, Fairfield Rd, and Seafield Rd. This contract was awarded to Fulton Hogan. One of the Thompsons Track sites has been completed.

2.4.8 Road closures for motorsport events

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

2.4.9 Ashburton second urban bridge

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

2.4.10 Wills Street rail footbridge

The scope of works, schedule of prices, specification and contract conditions are compiled with the tender advertised before Christmas and closing on 12 February 2026.

2.5 Contracts – Tenders

Current Contracts/Tender	Closing Date
ROAD0396 Wills Street Footbridge	12 February 2026

Awarded Contracts	Awarded to	Value	Estimate	Tenders received	TTM
N/A					

Note: Three Waters tenders & contract awards will be reported to the Three Waters Committee.

2.6 Lake Hood

The six shipping containers used for the pilot trial have been cleaned, painted and placed back in the canal alongside Huntingdon Avenue in preparation for the 3-month scientific study of the various products. Samples will be taken for two weeks before the product is applied in the first week of February. The study will also include monitoring the effectiveness of ultrasonic equipment on cyanobacteria at three sites , which will also start in the first week of February.

Weekly sampling of the 10 sites around the lake, using the cyanofluor device has shown gradual growth of cyanobacteria readings, particularly at the water-ski sampling location. More water has been directed to the main lake and water-ski area, which doesn't appear to be as effective as last year.

Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora issued a public health warning on 14 January after potentially toxic blue-green algae (planktonic cyanobacteria) were found in Lake Hood. This followed the results of a recent test by Environment Canterbury which indicated a total biovolume reading of 10 mm³/L. The most recent water quality sample taken in the water ski lane on the 15th January had a biovolume reading of 20 mm³/L. The public health warning will remain in place until two consecutive weeks of results less than 1 mm³/L.

In April 2025, the lake was closed when toxic cyanobacteria known to be harmful, *Microcystis*, was detected, and there were two substantiated cases of people falling ill from exposure to the lake water. These same conditions are not currently present, so the lake remains open, with the advice to avoid all contact recreation on the water. Officers will continue to review this status as required.

3. *Compliance & Development*

3.1 Building Services

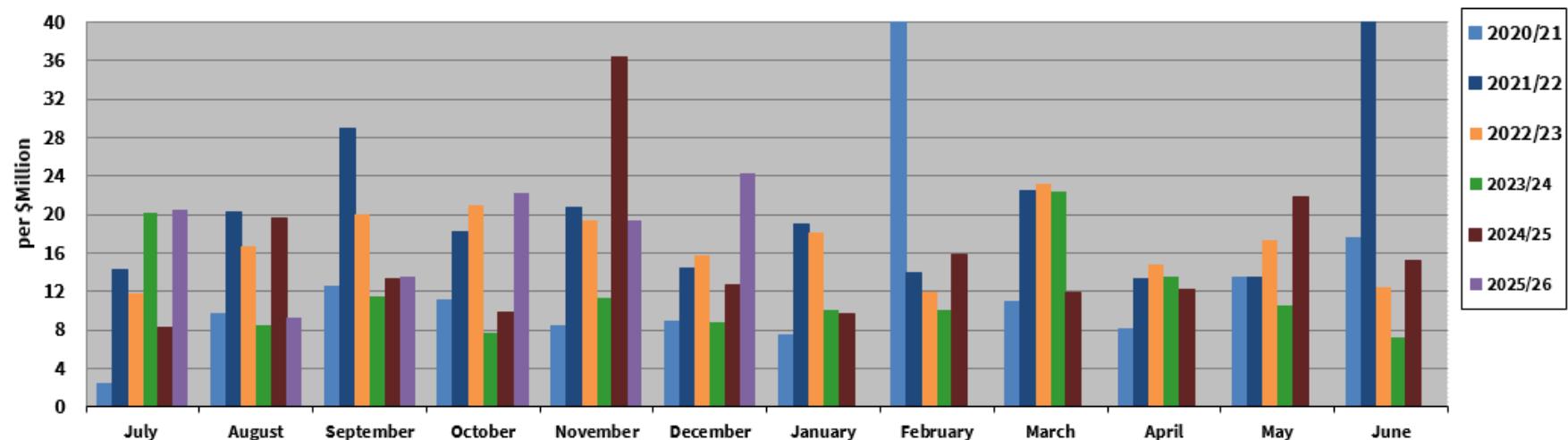
3.1.1 Building consents / amendments

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

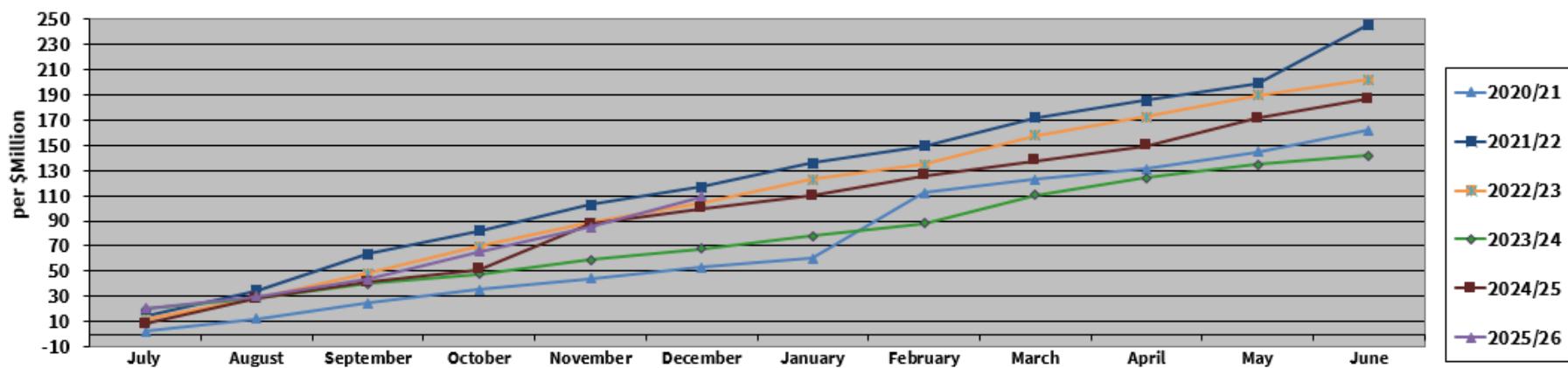
Month	BC Value of Work			
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD
July 2025	\$10,421,600 (\$13,258,955)	\$10,421,600 (\$13,258,955)	\$20,595,200 (\$8,284,275)	\$20,595,200 (\$8,284,275)
August	\$14,065,800 (\$35,950,457)	\$24,487,400 (\$49,199,412)	\$9,256,600 (\$19,649,100)	\$29,851,800 (\$27,933,375)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

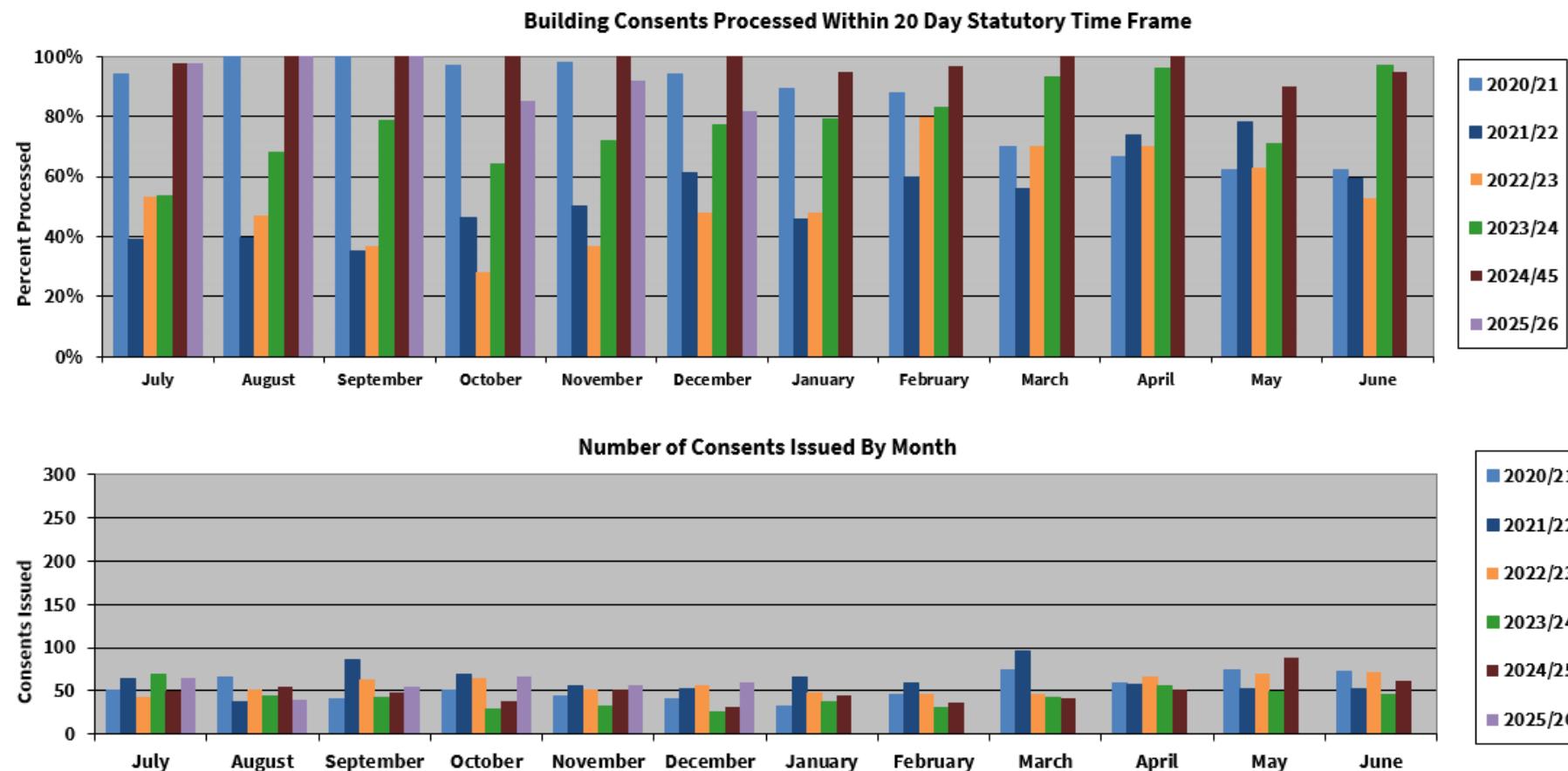
Month	Building Amendment				% Processed within 20 Days
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD	
July 2025	11 (13)	11 (13)	10 (8)	10 (8)	100%
August	19 (10)	30 (23)	12 (9)	22 (17)	92%
September	17 (9)	47 (32)	16 (4)	38 (21)	100%
October	6 (14)	53 (46)	8 (15)	46 (36)	100%
November	7 (10)	60 (56)	9 (8)	55 (44)	100%
December 25	8 (2)	68 (58)	8 (5)	63 (49)	88%
January 26	9 (20)	67 (177)	10 (14)	59 (167)	100%
February	12 (46)	79 (223)	11 (33)	70 (200)	100%
March	14 (24)	93 (247)	7 (26)	77 (226)	100%
April	8 (22)	101 (269)	12 (18)	89 (244)	100%
May	9 (22)	110 (291)	8 (18)	97 (262)	100%
June 2026	14 (10)	124 (301)	13 (7)	110 (269)	100%
Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.					

Building Consent Values By Month

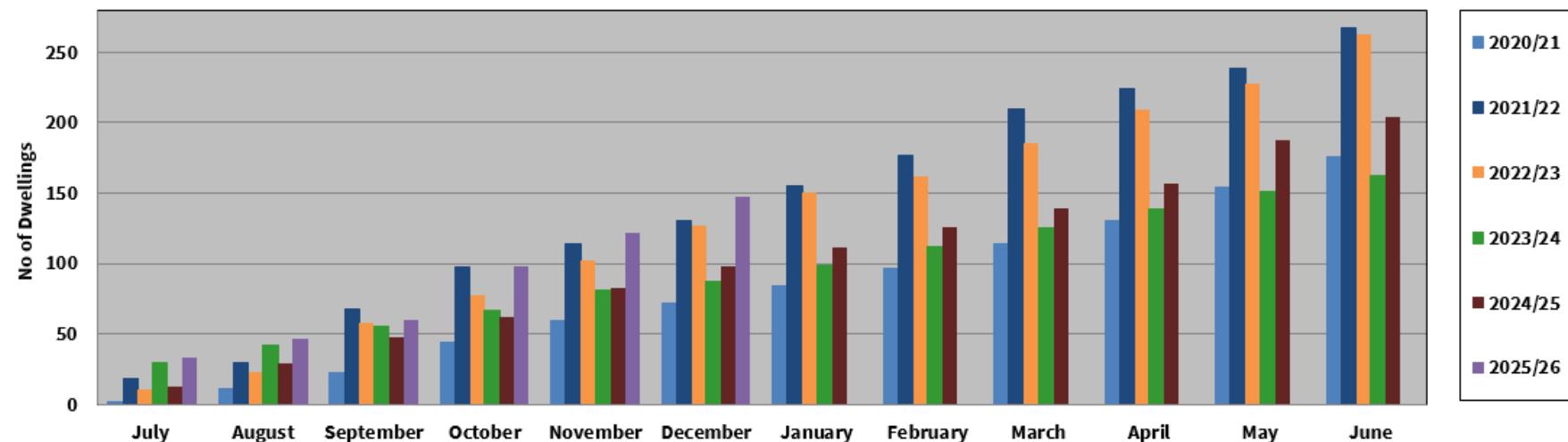


Building Consent Values Accumulating

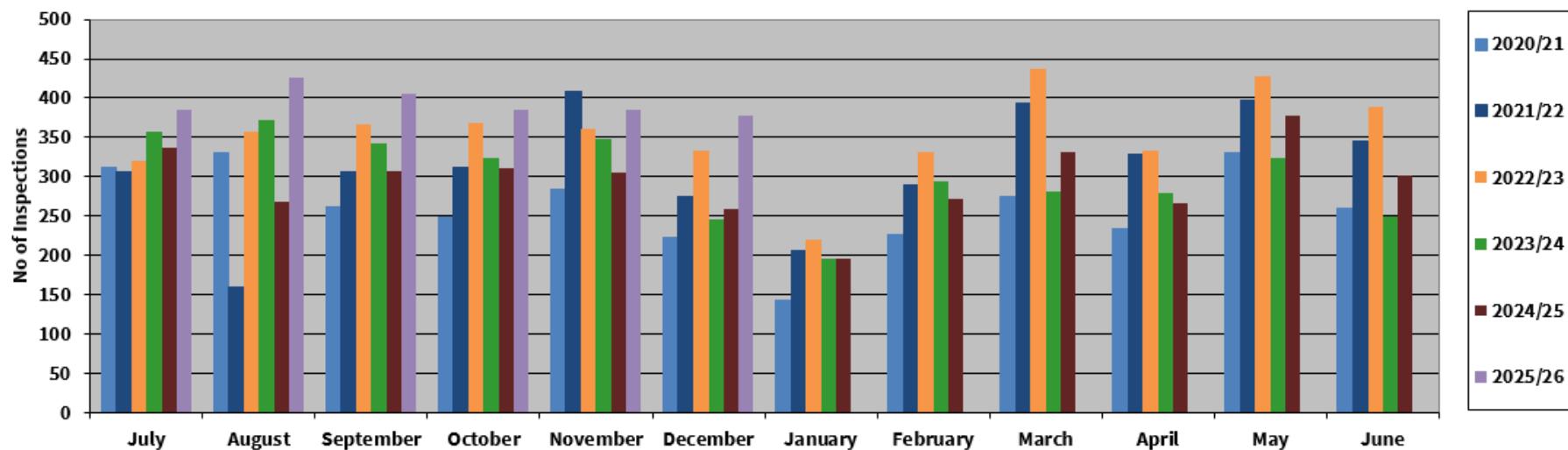




Number of Dwelling Consents Accumulating



Number of Inspections Completed



3.1.2 Consent volumes

High volumes of consents trend continue with 341 this year versus 274 last year at the end of the reporting period (December 31). The main difference comparing the numbers is that we have issued 147 new house consents compared to 98 same period last year, so the trend of high housing numbers continues. Another interesting fact is that we have also issued seven dairy sheds compared to none for the same period last year. As previously reported, our compliance level dropped in December due to the high number of new houses and other consents that were received in the reporting period (134 versus 64). This will have a flow on effect into January 2026 as well (76 new houses were in the processing queue on the 1st of January).

3.1.3 Legislative change.

We are preparing for the proposed changes in legislation regarding liability changes, self-certification and granny flats but at this early stage while there will be changes it appears there will also be other responsibilities arising in terms of administration and monitoring. The granny flat legislation was released in December 2025 and came into effect on 15 January 2026. While it will make building accessory dwellings easier in certain situations, the allowance won't be universal and people will have to follow certain steps through their design and build process to comply as Council will have less oversight. Staff have been preparing for the implementation of these provisions and steps and processes have been put in place.

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

3.2 Civil Defence Emergency Management

3.2.1 November 2025

- Much of the CDEM focus for November was on Exercise Pandora, our annual training exercise for our CDEM functions. This year's exercise was conducted at a local Territorial Authority level, with the scenario chosen for us to exercise being a distant source Tsunami. Our exercise day was 18 November.
- We were able to exercise our Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) functions in all of the elements from activation through Incident Management Team (IMT) meeting, planning, handover, and situation reports, with the added activities of an exercise declaration of a State of Emergency and media standup for the Mayor. The exercise was successful in that we achieved our goals for the day and the debrief points provided will inform our training schedule for 2026.

- The second phase of the exercise involved our Emergency Support Team (EST) Volunteers conducting a deployment too and activation of a Civil Defence Centre in Fairton Hall. There was a good turnout from our volunteers and members of the Fairton community came out in force to observe what we do and to provide role players for the needs assessments undertaken by the team. Once again the exercise achieved the goals set, with debrief points and lessons learned that can be applied to our training for this group for 2026.
- The EMO attended a number of local meetings including with EA Networks, ACL, FENZ, the Canterbury Multi Agency forum, Neighbourhood Support, Mid Canterbury Principals Association, Safer Ashburton, and the Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust, to ensure the good working relationships we have with these organisations are maintained and strengthened.
- The EMO attended a number of regional forums throughout the month, including the Canterbury Recovery Forum, Lifelines Utilities Forum, and an Emergency Management Officers Forum. All of these were hosted by Canterbury CDEM Group and ensure that we maintain good relationships with the other professional entities and groups that we work with during emergency events.
- The EMO visited each of the hut communities along the coast during the month, to maintain relationships and to ensure they remain aware of the presence of CDEM within the district. These visits doubled as a chance for the District Planning Manager to gain intelligence of the make up of our coastal communities from a planning perspective.

3.2.2 December 2025

- December for CDEM commenced with the EMO attending a two day weather workshop, hosted by the MetService. This allowed emergency management staff, River Engineers and Flood Controllers a chance to gain a better understanding of how the MetService undertakes forecasting and explained the climate drivers in New Zealand's seasonal weather patterns.
- The final meeting for 2025 of the Emergency Support Team volunteers allowed the EMO and Welfare Function staff to host them at Noble 600 restaurant to share some food and thank them for the time they gave up over the year in training and exercises.
- The EMO attended the final multi agency meeting and EMO online forums for the year hosted by Canterbury CDEM Group. This allowed all participants a chance to update those present on each districts and agencies plans for responding should an event occur during the Christmas/New Year period.
- The EMO hosted staff from across the CDEM Group at TWW, to advance the Impact Assessment project being undertaken within Canterbury. Impact Assessment allows CDEM to gain information from agencies, media, and locals on the impacts of a disaster from a wide area and down to individual property levels and have this information displayed using online mapping tools.

This project is a key part of our work and forms the foundation from which we respond and recover from events. More meetings will be held in the new year with the hope to have these tools built and tested before the end of 2026.

- The EM Bill (Number 2) dropped during the week 15-19 December along with a number of other proposed legislative changes. Feedback on the Bill is due by 13 February 2026, with plans for a Canterbury CDEM Group joint submission to be prepared. There was an online meeting held on 13 January 2026, which the EMO attended to provide feedback for this submission. The new Bill is focused on making operational and technical changes to the way emergency management is delivered within New Zealand and will provide the legislative instrument for the sector going forward.

3.3 Alcohol Licensing

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

3.3.1 Withdrawn or Opposed applications: Following a [hearing](#) in December, a District Licensing Committee Panel declined an application to renew a Manager's certificate.

3.4 Animal Control

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

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

***Note:** this animal was taken into the pound and later euthanised for medical reasons, not as a result of an attack or incident.

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

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

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

3.4.1 Dog registration

There has been a significant increase in the number of dogs registered to date compared with the same period in previous years. This improvement is largely the result of proactive measures, including targeted media campaigns at the commencement of the registration year, supported by follow-up notifications and direct phone contact from staff to owners who had delayed completing their registrations.

3.5 Food Safety

3.5.1 Breakdown of food licensing activities for the reporting period

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

3.5.2 Mobile Shop Inspections

Unlike fixed food premises, which operate under a formal food-safety audit regime, mobile shops are monitored through seasonal inspections and event-based oversight. The inspections undertaken during the reporting period were carried out in preparation for the upcoming summer events season.

3.6 Planning

Resource Consents	November 2024	November 2025
No. of resource consent applications decided ₁	14	24
No. of resource consents decided within statutory timeframe	14	24
Resource consent KPI Compliance (accumulating)	98.8%	100%
Notified/ Limited notified applications decided	0	0
Other:		
No. of 223 Certificates processed	8	8
No. of 224 Certificates processed	6	7
No. of building consents reviewed against District Plan ₂	14	37

Land information memoranda	November 2024	November 2025
LIMs Produced	78	94
LIMs Produced within 10 working days	78	94
LIMS (accumulating)	401	521

Resource Consents	December 2024	December 2025
No. of resource consent applications decided ₁	11	11
No. of resource consents decided within statutory timeframe	11	11
Resource consent KPI Compliance (accumulating)	99%	100%
Notified/ Limited notified applications decided	0	1
Other:		
No. of 223 Certificates processed	4	6
No. of 224 Certificates processed	7	5
No. of building consents reviewed against District Plan ₂	16	20

Land information memoranda	December 2024	December 2025
LIMs Produced	75	78
LIMs Produced within 10 working days	75	78
LIMS (accumulating)	476	599

3.6.1 Hearings

Over November and December there were three hearings that were organised by the Planning Team. These related to resource consent applications for Rokowhiria (the Ashburton Art Gallery), an agricultural innovation campus and a residential zoning Plan Change on Farm Road. Alongside the work of staff who prepare reports for decision makers, hearings require a significant level of administration, from notification through to arranging the logistics of arranging the hearing and providing support to the independent commissioner.

3.6.2 LIM Volumes

LIM volumes for the 2025 calendar year ended at 1128. This is 228 more than 2024 and 96 more than the previous record which was in 2021. 993 of these were Residential LIMs and the remaining 101 Commercial. This further highlights the high activity in the market as noted by the Building Team in their reference to the number of consents for new residential builds.

3.6.3 New and amended National Direction

In December, Central Government released three new pieces of National Direction and amended seven existing documents. These included the changes to allow for Granny flats, a new National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards as well as amendments to the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land. The National Direction can be read [here](#).

3.7 Economic Development

3.7.1 Events

Events Programme 2025/26

Council events in the reporting period:

- **Light up the Night:** Held on 29 November, the event attracted approximately 5,000 attendees. The event benefitted from favourable weather conditions, and performances and entertainment were well received by the community.
- **Citizenship Ceremony:** The last Citizenship Ceremony for 2025 was held on 17 December with 80 people from 16 different countries receiving their NZ Citizenship.

Upcoming Council Events:

- **Business of the Year Awards:** Judging took place throughout the reporting period, with finalists announced in mid-December. The Gala Dinner is scheduled for 20 February at the Ashburton Aviation Museum. Further details on the event and the finalists are available [here](#).
- **Live on the Lawn:** This event is scheduled for Saturday, 28 March in the Ashburton Domain. There will be live performances showcasing local talent, entertainment and a variety of food vendors.
- **EANC Kids TryChallenge:** This event is scheduled for 15 March 2026. The Event Advisor is providing support to the EA Recreation Services Manager.
- **Glow in the Park:** This event is scheduled for 29 May – 31 May. Planning is underway to secure sponsors and commence marketing.

Community events and activities within the reporting period:

- Mission Mt Somers, 1 November
- Rakaia Fireworks Night, 8 November
- South Island Akro Fest, 20 November
- He Waka Tapu Whanau Day, 22 November
- Lap the Map, 23 November
- Mt Somers Christmas Market, 23 November

- Active As – Colour Splash, 28 November
- 22nd Annual Ashburton Rowing Club Championship Regatta, 29 November
- Mid Canterbury Dog Training Club Championship Obedience and Rally Competition, 29 November
- Somerton Road ¼ Mile Sprint, 29 November
- NBS Ashburton Santa Parade and Christmas Market, 6 December
- Community Carols Service Methven, 14 December

Applications received for Upcoming Community events and activities:

Staff are working on 9 upcoming events at the time of writing:

- Run and Walk Ashburton 5km Run/Walk Series, 20 January
- Waitangi Day Market, 6 February
- Summer Challenge, 6 February
- Ashburton College Athletic Prelims, 12 February
- Annual Rakaia River Fishing Competition, 26 February – 1 March
- Upper Downs Shingle Sprint, 28 February
- Multi-Cultural Bite: Autumn Food Festival, 7 March
- Wakanui Bent Sprint, 15 March
- New Brighton Power Boat Club Inc Regatta, 21 March

3.7.2 Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Referrals

- There are three clients waiting to hear from jobs after competing interviews. There are

Category	Criteria	MSD Main Benefit Clients (Target 30)	Non-MSD Clients - NEET or at risk (Target 5)
• Permanent Full-Time Employment	30+ hours per week		8 10
• Permanent Part-Time Employment (Jobseeker Support)	>=15 hours per week		0
• Permanent Part-Time Employment (Sole Parent Support)	>=20 hours per week		0
TOTAL		8/30	10/5

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

The 2025/26 MTFJ contract requires the majority of outcomes to come from MSD referred clients on a Jobseekers Benefit and all partners have been adapting to the updated criteria and reporting requirements. Administration and processes for co-ordinating and confirming outcomes are continuing to be pursued between staff, MTFJ and MSD. As part of this, outcome reporting continues to be updated to reflect the most accurate and complete picture.

Placements

- There were another 2 clients with interviews underway at the end of the period.

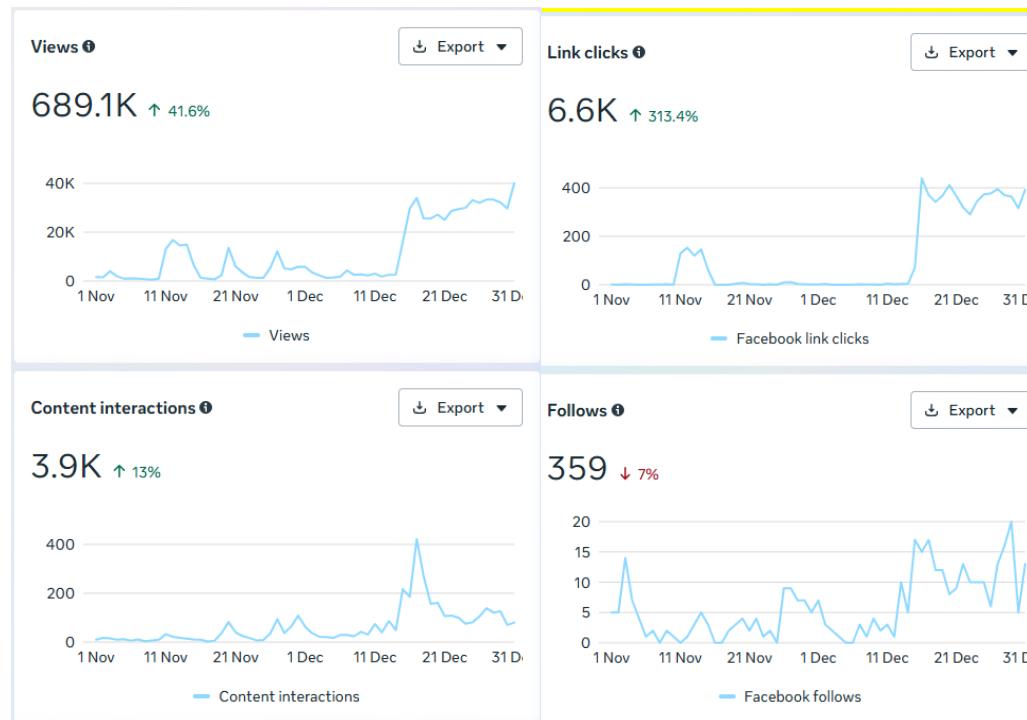
Driver Licensing

- Licensing continues to be a priority for upskilling MSD referrals towards making them job ready
- Plans for training in endorsements and licenses are being made for 2026

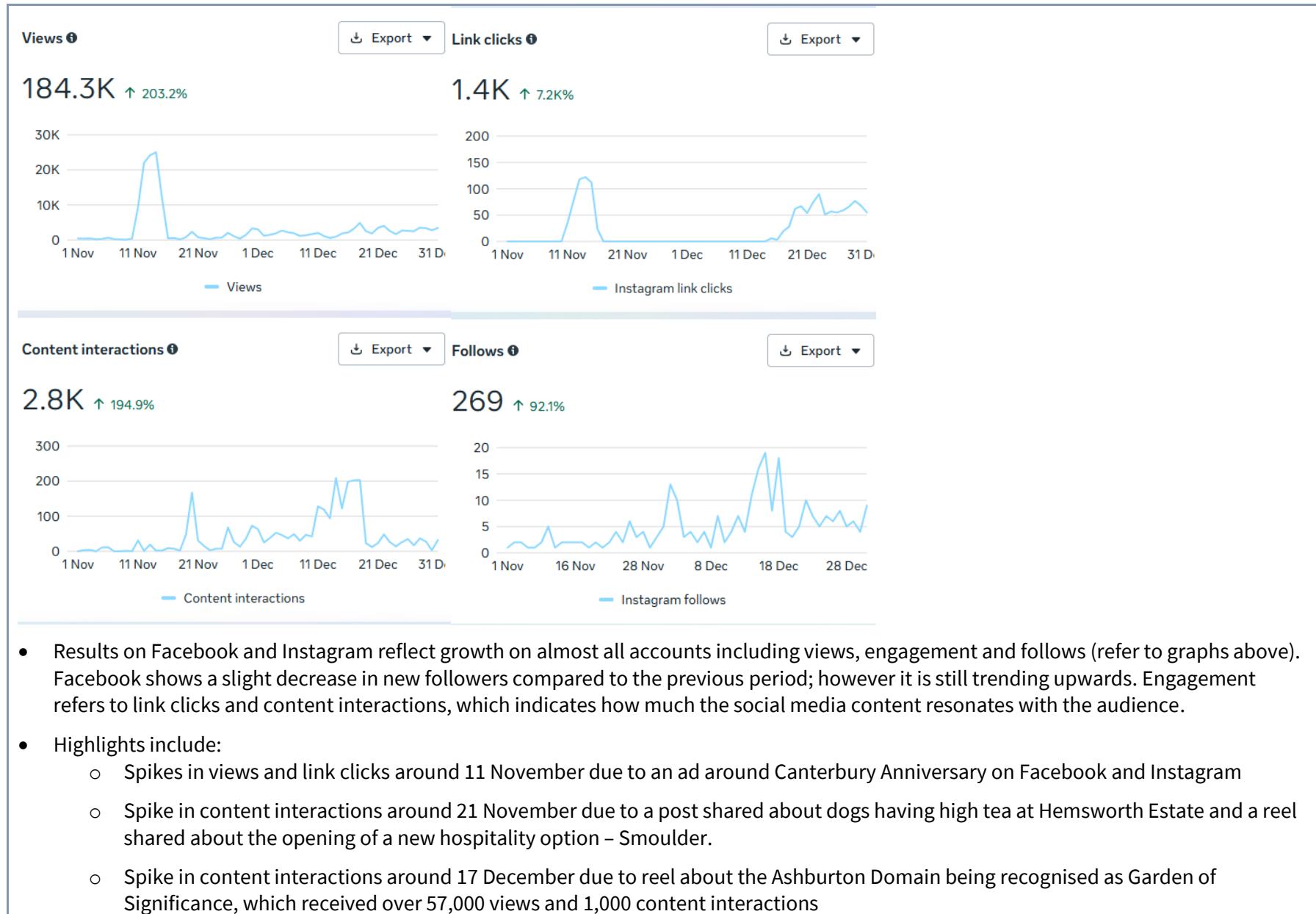
3.7.3 District Promotion

District Promotion - November and December

Facebook results:



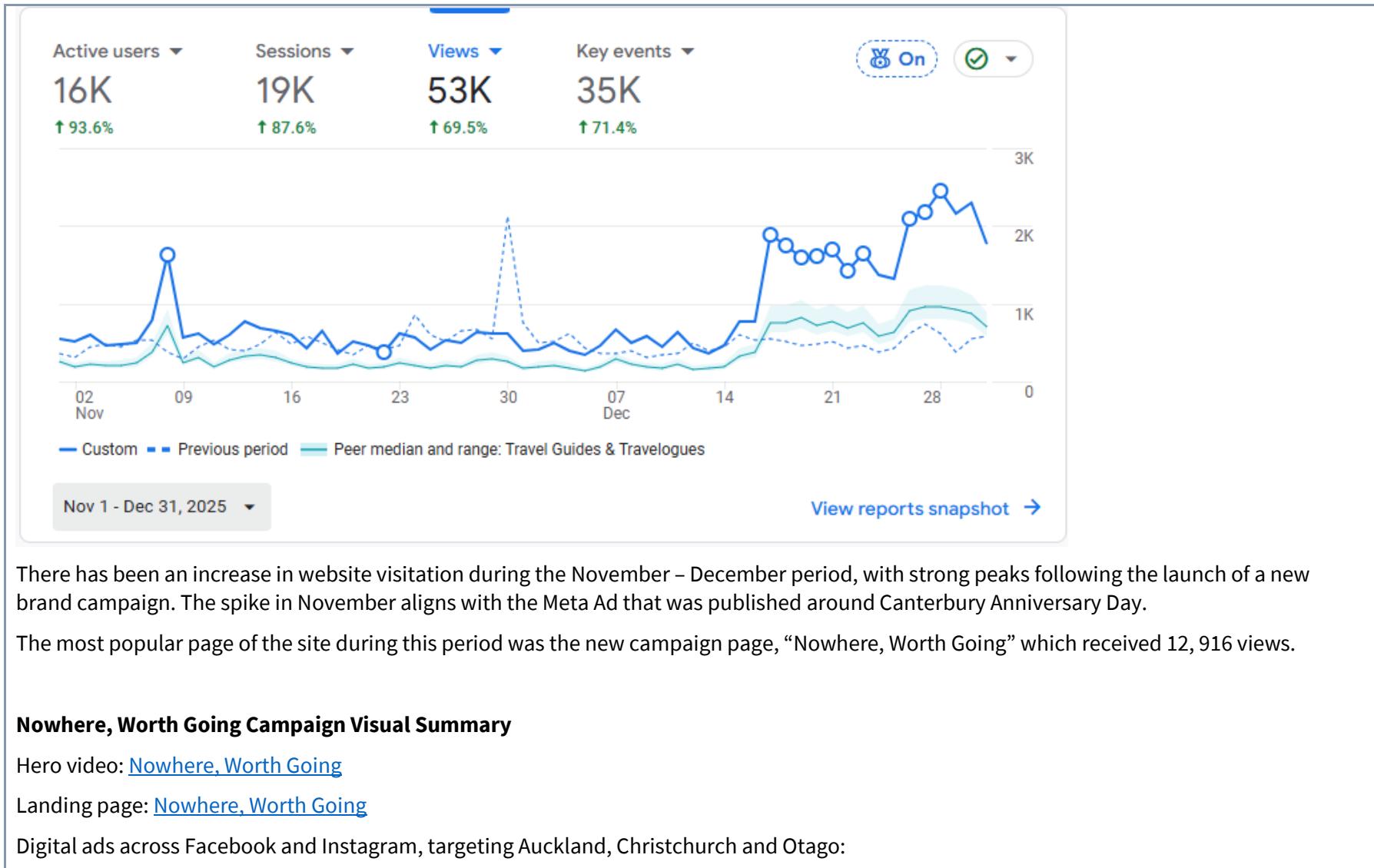
Instagram results:



- Results on Facebook and Instagram reflect growth on almost all accounts including views, engagement and follows (refer to graphs above). Facebook shows a slight decrease in new followers compared to the previous period; however it is still trending upwards. Engagement refers to link clicks and content interactions, which indicates how much the social media content resonates with the audience.
- Highlights include:
 - Spikes in views and link clicks around 11 November due to an ad around Canterbury Anniversary on Facebook and Instagram
 - Spike in content interactions around 21 November due to a post shared about dogs having high tea at Hemsworth Estate and a reel shared about the opening of a new hospitality option – Smoulder.
 - Spike in content interactions around 17 December due to reel about the Ashburton Domain being recognised as Garden of Significance, which received over 57,000 views and 1,000 content interactions

- ‘Explore with Me’ campaign content series and giveaway shared 12 reels and one giveaway post, which led to over 80,000 views and over 1600 content interactions during the campaign.
- Brand campaign *Nowhere, Worth Going* launched on airport carousels in Christchurch and Auckland, on roadside billboards in Christchurch and along SH1 in Ashburton and Timaru, and ads on Meta platforms were dispatched leading to early results indicating success including a 238% increase in active users and 10,000 views. The campaign received earned media coverage on advertising industry website Campaign Brief, [view the article here>](#)
 - 8 second videos featuring scenes from the hero video played 1685 times on Airport Carousels in Christchurch and Auckland from 15 December 2025 – 11 January 2026 and received 26,030 impressions. This means an average of 15 people (likely with travel on their mind) saw the ad each time it was played.
- Christchurch publication, Avenues Magazine hosted a giveaway on their social media channels that featured Formosa and 112 Cameron Street, which received over 11,000 views and 1,970 content interactions.
- Two-page advertorial in Our NZ, which is a free, seasonal tourism publication distributed in high-traffic traveller locations, including airports, ferry terminals, holiday parks, and i-SITE Visitor Information Centres across New Zealand. [View the digital version here>](#)
- Earned media on digital platform for publication on the Boating New Zealand website. [View the article here>](#)

Website Statistics – November and December



Advanced preview
You can review how your ad will appear on different placements as well as how it might be adapted with Advantage+ creative. We will show variations of your ad based on what we predict will help improve performance the most.

Placements Advantage+ creative

⚠ 1 All Feeds, In-stream ads for reels Stories, Status, Reels, Search results, Apps and sites Right column, Search results

Ways that your ad will be seen
We'll show variations of your ad that we predict will resonate with different people to improve performance and prevent creative fatigue. [Learn more](#)

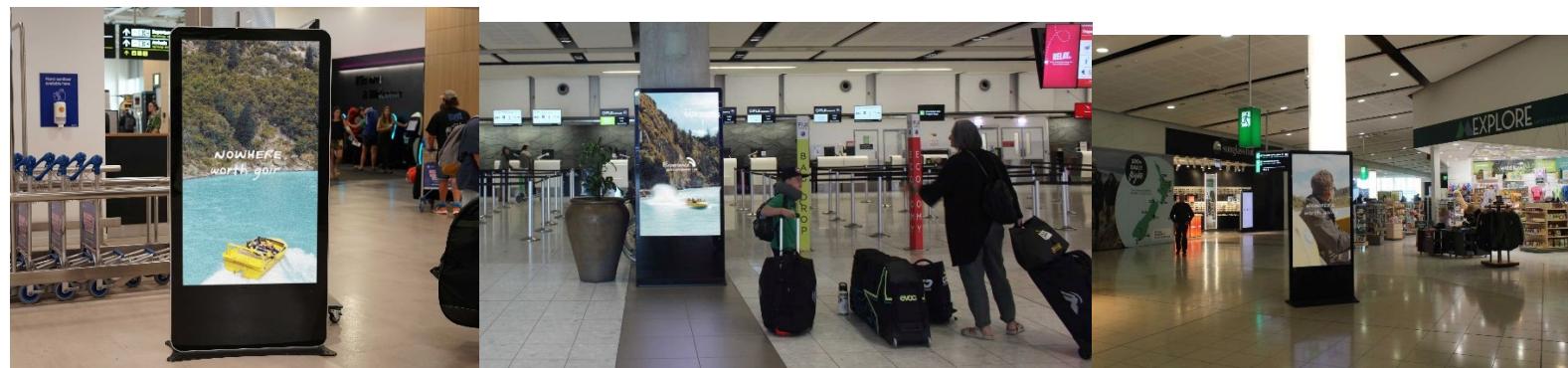
Facebook Feed Instagram Feed Instagram Stories Facebook Stories Instagram Explore Facebook Marketplace Instagram Reels Instagram profile feed

Facebook Reels Ads on Facebook Reels Threads feed Facebook profile feed Facebook in-stream reels Facebook search results Facebook Business Explore Facebook notifications

Roadside Billboards in Christchurch, Ashburton (targeting travellers on SH1) and Timaru:



Airport Carousels in Christchurch and Auckland:



Operator Engagement

- Officer engaged with 54 operators via email, phone call and in person interactions.
- Delivered two Operators Update email newsletters. The [email in November](#) had an open rate of 68% out of 116 deliveries, and the [email in December](#) had an open rate of 62% out of 191 deliveries.
- Officer hosted a networking event for operators at Te Whare Whakatere, which had approximately 40 attendees and interactive questions around the room for attendees to engage with.
- Plains Museum reported Passenger Count for the Open day on 28 December 2025, was up 20% compared to the Dec Open Day in 2024. Donations were up 30% which indicates greater foot-traffic through the gates. Experience Mid Canterbury shared a reel on 27 December to support promotion, and page views following showed a spike of 7.8% on Plains Museum Instagram reaching non-followers - so all in all, a great result. The Plains Museum team commented on how many visitors both local, national and international, stayed on site for longer and had 2-3 rides during the day.

Additional Notes

Marketing content showcased elements of the Ashburton District during November and December as indicated below:

- Approximately 33% from activities in and around Methven Village
- Approximately 43% from activities in and around Ashburton Town
- Approximately 24% from activities in and around the Ashburton Lakes

3.7.4 Economic Development General

Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A request for proposal document was sent to 4 providers to progress the CBD Feasibility Study. Proposals are due Monday, 4 February and a decision on provider will be made as soon as possible after that time. The main objectives identified in the scope are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Assess the current performance role and function of the CBD,- Identify key challenges and opportunities impacting visitation, investment and business confidence,- Identify practical, evidence-based strategies to reinvigorate the CBD as a place to shop, socialise and spend time,- Focus on initiatives that can be delivered with limited public funding and/or through partnerships- Build business and stakeholder buy-in and ownership of outcomes,- Provide parties with a clear, prioritised and realistic pathway for CBD revitalisation.• Officer attended a Business event held by MSD and presented a short economic update on the district. Business Canterbury was also in attendance.• A subscription with Grant Guru was signed and began 1 January 2025. Grant Guru acts as a comprehensive search engine for government (national, regional, local) and private grants, helping businesses, community groups, and individuals find and apply for funding by offering alerts, saving favourites, and providing tips. The subscription allows ADC to provide a free, online, and centralised Funding Finder to the district, making grants accessible, and includes specialised functionality.• A survey was developed and sent to businesses within the CBD for action. The survey aims to gather data from existing businesses in the CBD ahead of the CBD study. The survey was contained within a CBD Newsletter email that was sent to approx. 300 subscribers.• Recruitment took place for the permanent replacement of the Events Advisor Role, with the position filled in late December.

- Learning sessions that will be free to attend and open to the public as part of the Council’s Learning Network programme are continuing. The sessions will be held at Te Whare Whakatere. All presenters will be provided and/or coordinated by Ashburton District Council. Remaining topics this financial year are:
Social Media and Digital Training for Businesses, and Entering or Re-Entering the Workforce.

3.7.5 Pedestrian Counters

Reporting

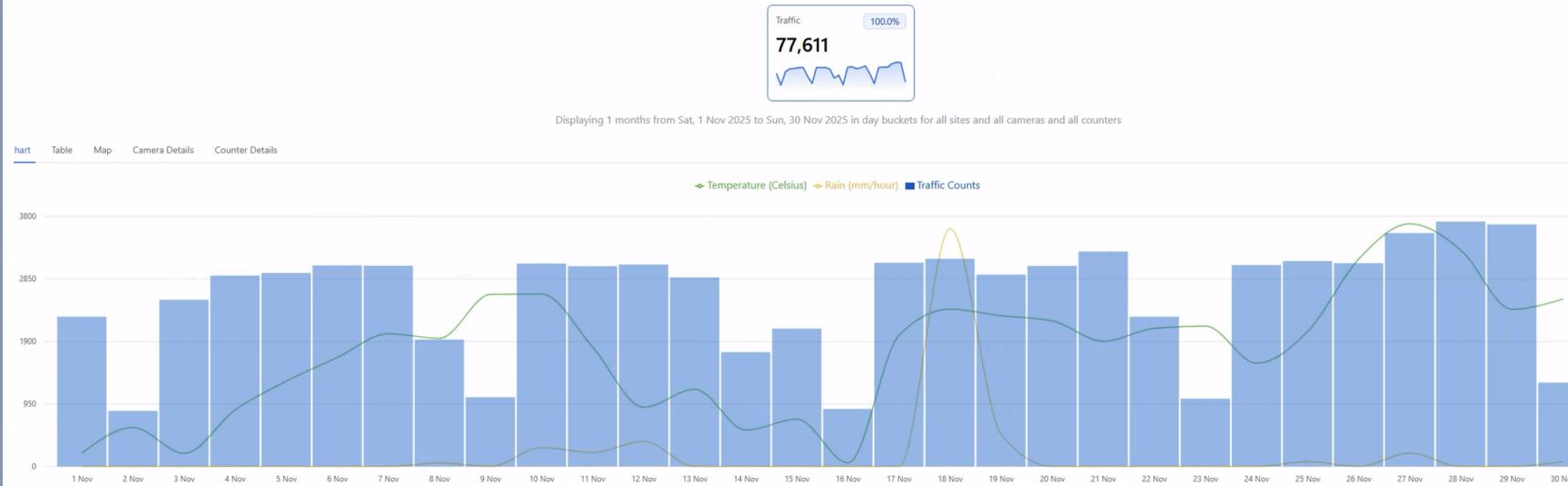
Pedestrian Counter – 14 Month Display of Pedestrians



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

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

Graphs for November



- This graph shows traffic count of pedestrians through November by day of the week with associated rainfall and temperature



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

- Green bars above indicate data from 2024, blue bars are for 2025.
- Events of note: 29 November 2025 - Light up the Night, held in Baring Square East.
- There is a 6% reduction in foot traffic year on year reflected in the count above.

Graphs for December



- This graph shows traffic count of pedestrians through December by day of the week with associated rainfall and temperature.



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

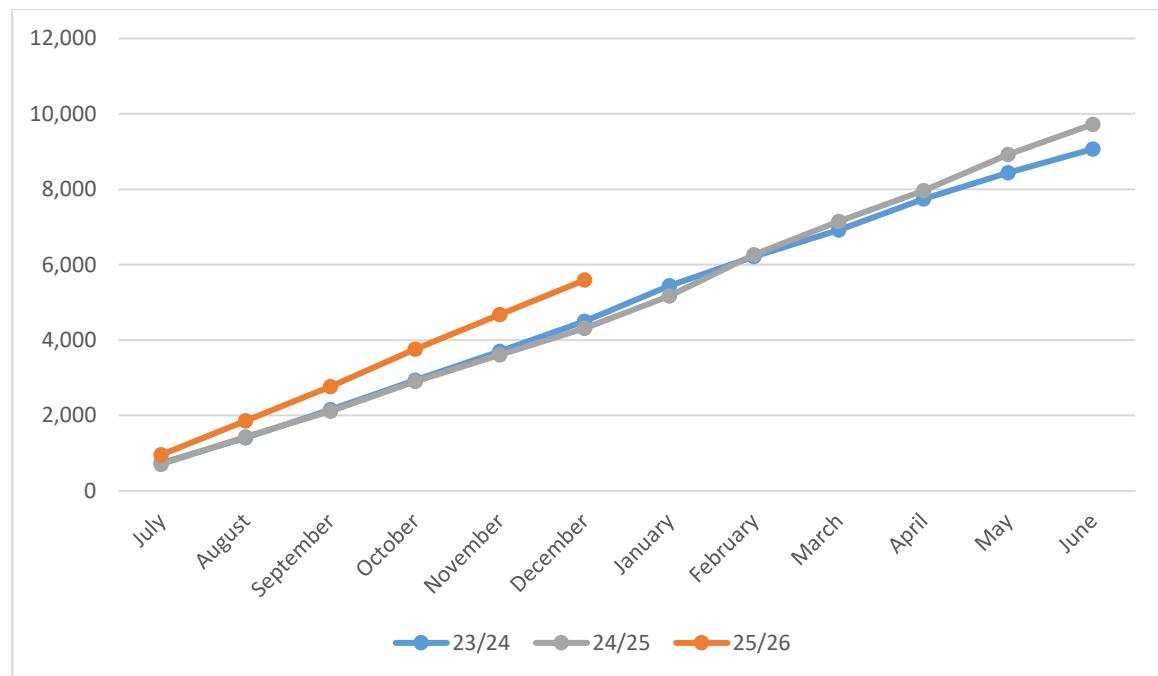
- Green bars above indicate data from 2024, blue bars are for 2025.
- Data shows an increase in foot traffic year-on-year in December by 1%.

4. People & Facilities

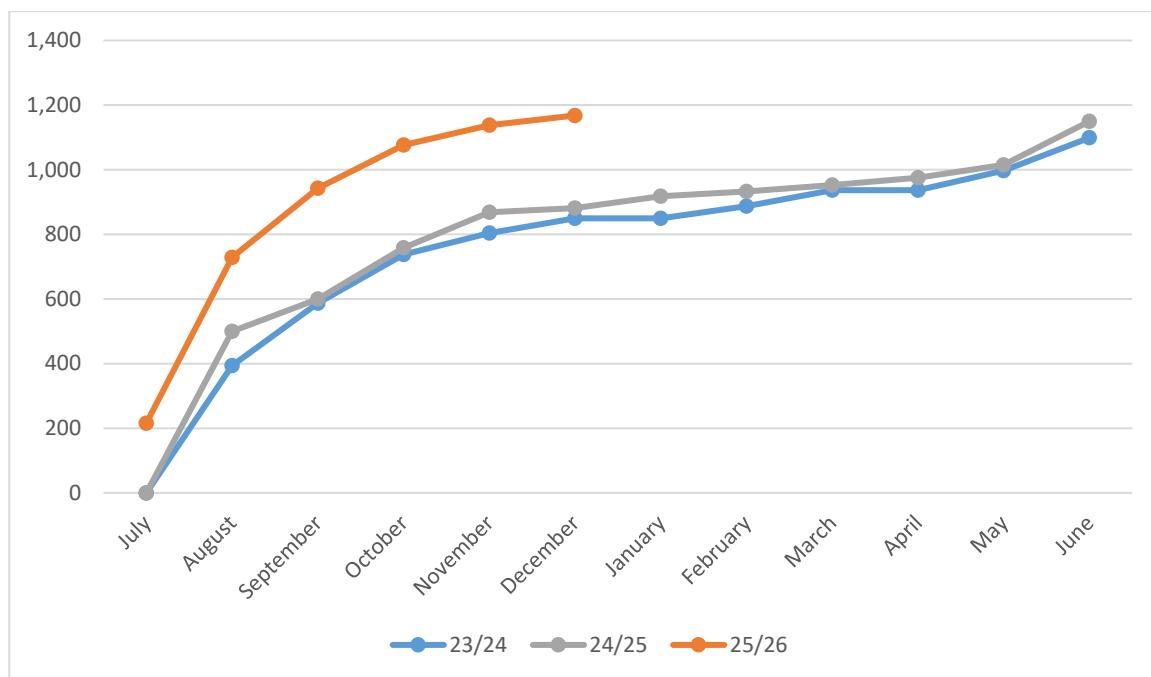
4.1 Council Services

4.1.1 Key Performance Measures

a) Customer Requests Raised



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

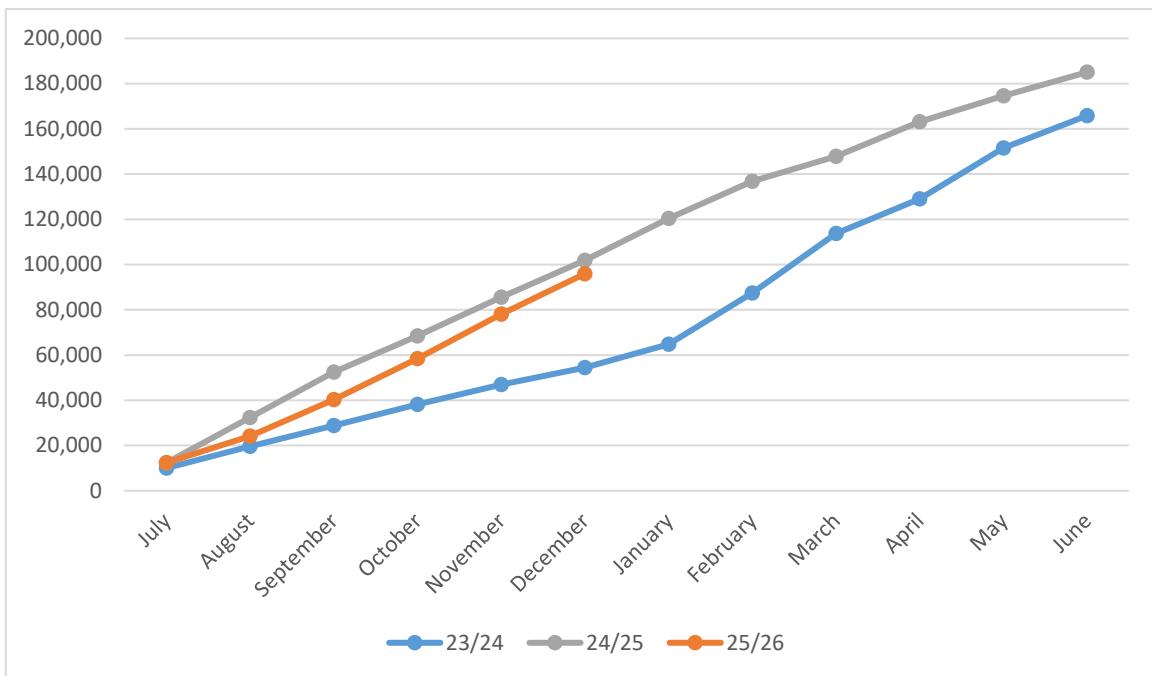
b) Rates Rebates**4.1.2 Operational Activities**

	<i>Description</i>
Other:	At the end of December we surpassed the total number of rebates for 2024/2025.

4.2 Library

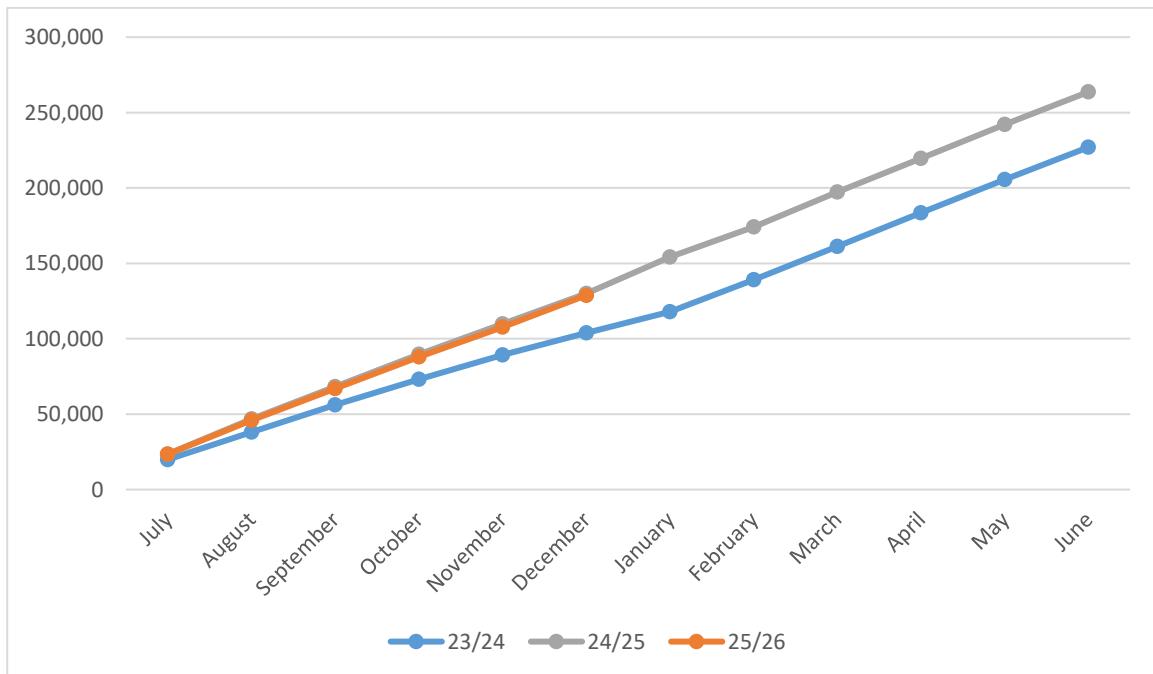
4.2.1 Key Performance Measures

a) Te Whare Whakatere Visitation*

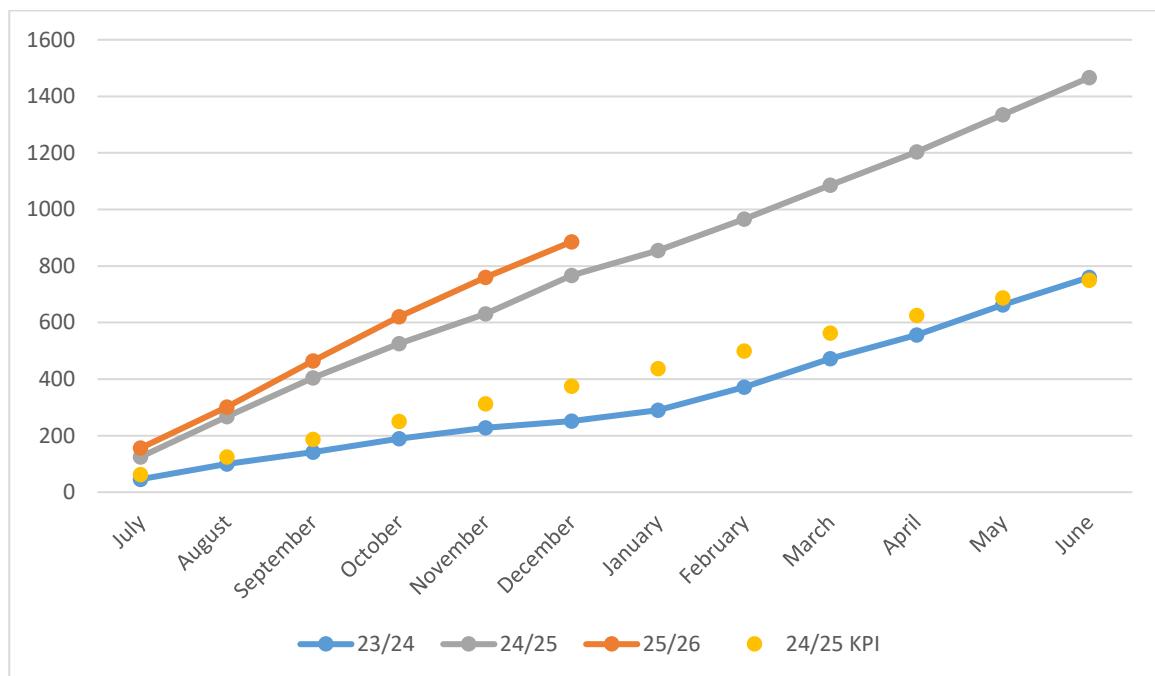


* June to December 2023 data is visitation numbers from the previous Library.

b) Number of Books Issued



c) Activity & Programme Sessions



d) Other Activity Measures

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

4.2.2 Activity/Programme Attendees November & December

		Child	Teen	Adult
Brain Injury Group 1 Session	Facilitated by the Brain Injury Association, this monthly group offers peer support and education on concussion and all types of brain injury.			10
Knitting Group 7 sessions	A weekly social group which encourages people to knit alongside others instead of sitting knitting at home alone.			125
Crafting with Dies 2 sessions	A fortnightly session where participants can create cards using elements created with a die cutting machine			14
Adult Craft Club 3 sessions	A monthly session where adults come to be creative with a different activity each month			23
Spinner Drop in 6 sessions	In partnership with Ashburton Creative Fibre. These sessions provide an opportunity to spin in a social environment, new spinners are encouraged to come and learn from members of Ashburton Creative Fibre.			46
Garden Conversation Group 3 sessions	In partnership with Connecting Mid Canterbury. Meetings twice a week to discuss gardening and get tips.			49
Makerspace Equipment Class 36 sessions	Training all ages to use the equipment in the Maker Space with varying lesson lengths and group sizes	15	15	35
AV Studio 36 sessions	3-hour individual or group sessions that cover training in audio engineering and mastering & 30-minute open demo drop-in sessions	11	32	27
Digi Coaching 11 Sessions	Drop in sessions to help the community with digital help related to phones and electronics			33
Book Club 2 sessions	Monthly community book club			32
BookTok Book Club 2 sessions	Monthly community book club that meets in the evenings to discuss the popular books on social media			8

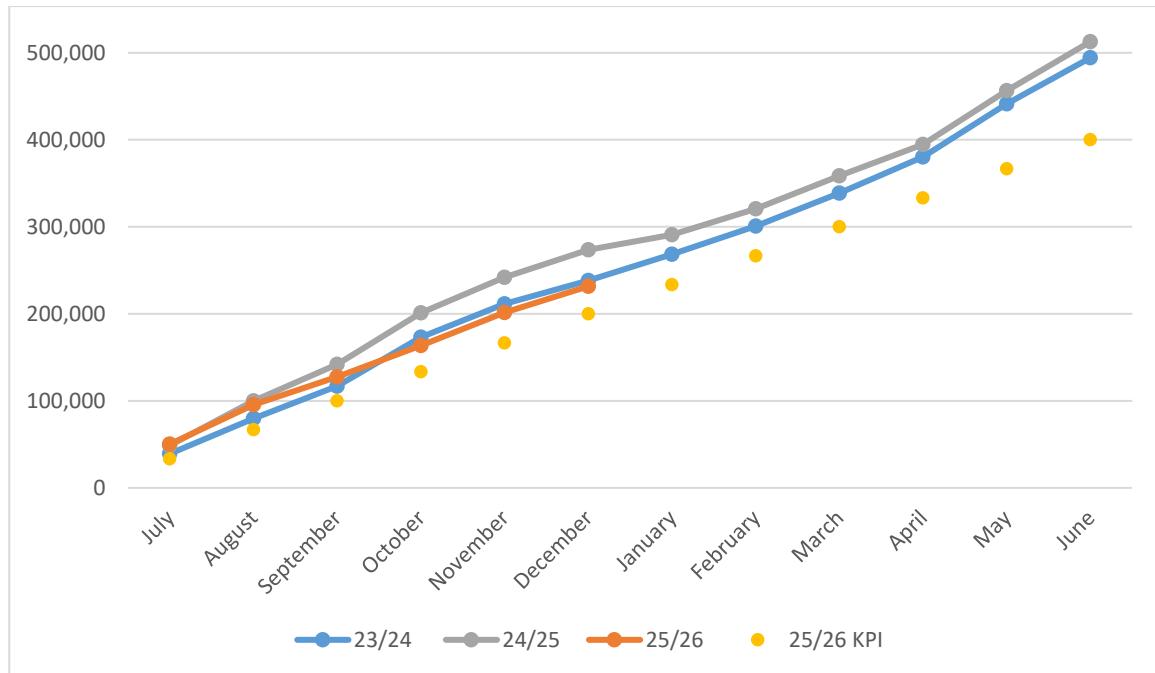
Steady As You Go 6 sessions	Age Concern's peer-led exercise initiative designed to help older people reduce their likelihood of having a fall. The exercises are like those learned from a physiotherapist.			88
Elderly Outreach 3 sessions	Literacy based activities for groups of elderly living in rest homes or attending a daycentre.			57
Sign Language Course 10 sessions	A course designed to teach the basics of sign language to members of the community. Participants will be able to communicate in sign language on simple everyday matters			116
English Language Drop In 5 sessions	A weekly drop-in session with a trained and experienced teacher to practice English.			36
CV Help 4 Sessions	This drop-in service is available when required.			4
Next Chapter 2 Sessions	A monthly programme of literacy-based activities designed for those living with a diagnosed dementia			10
NFP Workshops 3 sessions	Governance workshops for sports clubs, halls, and general NFP committee groups. Held in partnership with LEAD, Community Trust Mid and South Canterbury, Volunteering Mid and South Canterbury, Sport Canterbury, and Keep Learning Mid Canterbury.			63
Book Launch	Local author Paul Elliott launched his new book Between Two Worlds in the Wakanui Room			24
Books on Wheels 4 deliveries	A fortnightly service to library users who are housebound or who find it difficult to get to the library. Books are curated by library staff and delivered by volunteers from Altrusa.			156
Recycle a Device 3 sessions	Training young people to refurbish devices, diverting them from landfill and donating them to families in need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed 9 laptops • 3 people added to the waitlist. • 61 people on the wait list 		17	
Teen Sub box 2 issues	Each teen subscription box consists of three books, a craft, and snack and are based on a theme. Available to teens aged 12 -18 years and are issued monthly.		29	
Open Study 1 session	Teen could come in set times and use the Wakanui room for study.		4	
Get Out there day 1 Session	We had students from Ashburton College come and play board games in the Wakanui Room.		19	4

Makerspace Mondays 6 Sessions	Teens 12-18 years can come and use the equipment in the makerspace. Each week there is a different project to do. Sessions are held during term time. One of these sessions was a Retro t-shirt session.		24	
Design and Print – teens 1 Session	Teens could book a slot and come and create on the ipad to then print their design onto vinyl. This was a charge for this session.		3	
Create Explore Discover 6 Sessions	STEM learning through play	55		49
Micro Bytes & Mega Bytes 6 Sessions	Coding Club this included and end of year celebration session	59		10
Minecrafters 6 sessions	Mine Craft Club	60	1	
Build – Lego Club for kids 5 sessions	Build – Lego Club	24		15
School class visits 14 sessions	Schools that visited the library included Ashburton Christian School, Saint Joseph's, Tinwald and Netherby.	482		59
Wriggle and Read 7 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement to music for ages 0-3 	208		205
Christmas Holiday craft programme 6 activities	Activities included: Christmas Storytime Christmas movie Christmas card making Christmas Clay ornament making Christmas Faux stain glass making	111		65
Pippin visit 1 session	Pippins came in and had a story about space and make a lunar car with Lego from the Lego kits .	4		2
Plunket Outreach 1 Session	Celeste went to talk with parents at a Plunket session at community House	5		6
Movies 1 Sessions	Movies on in the event space	7		7
213 Sessions/ Activities	Totals	1041	144	1378

4.3 EA Networks Centre

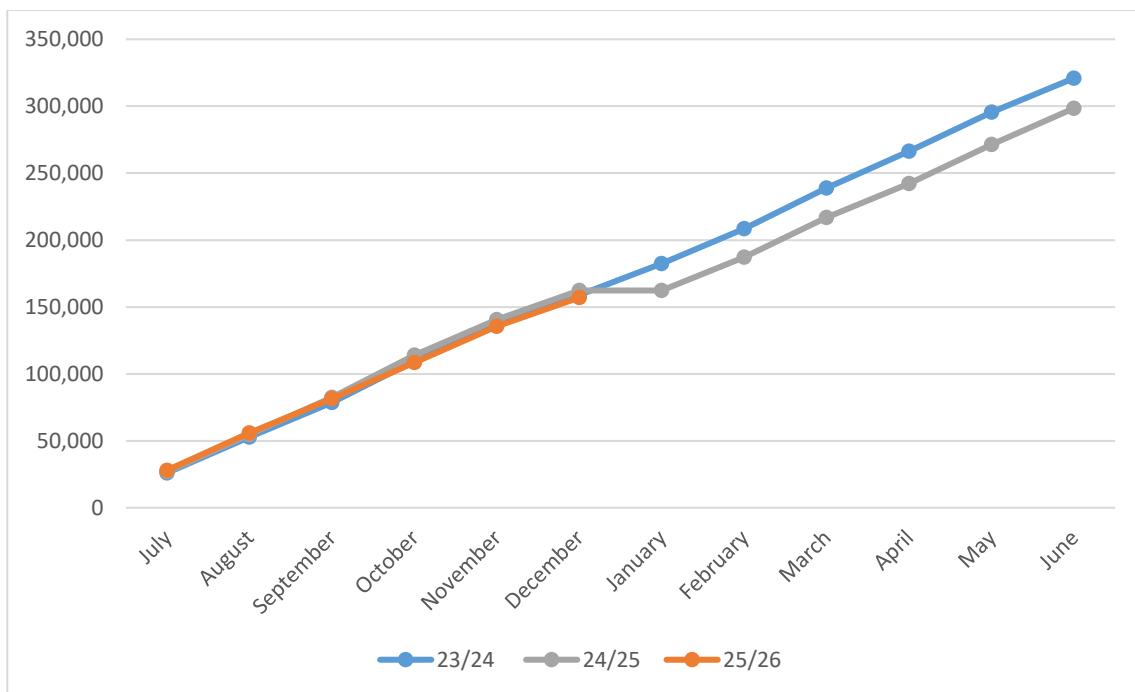
4.3.1 Key Performance Indicators & Activity Updates

a) Facility-Wide Visitation

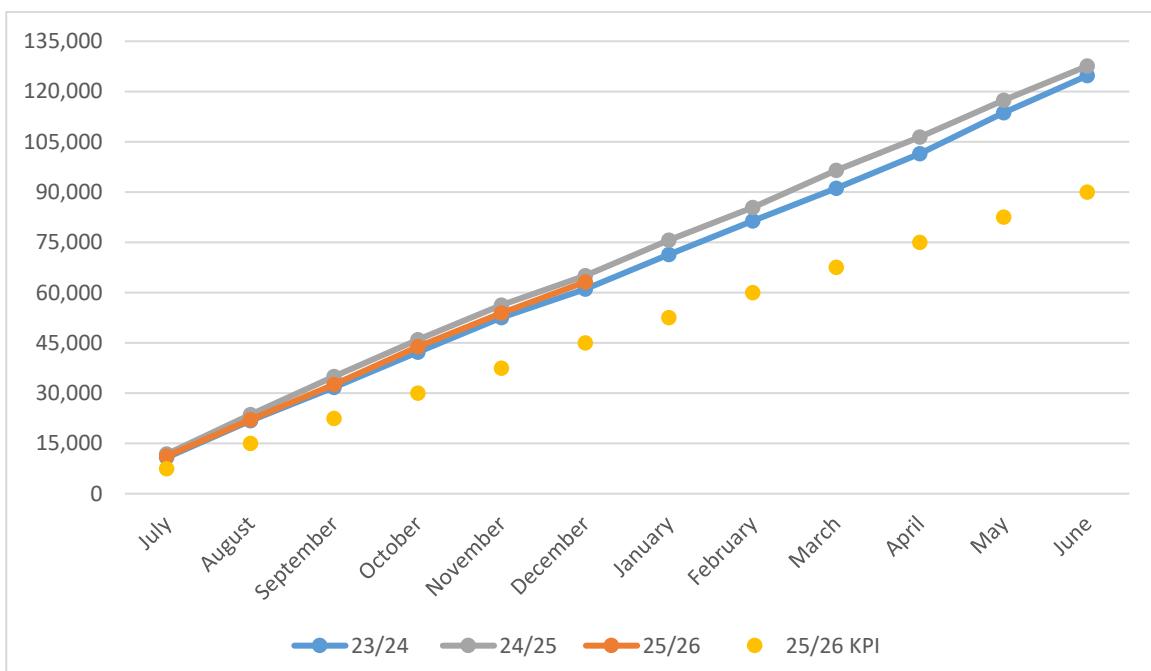


Comments:

- Average visitation remains steady at around 38,600 visitations per month to the facility.
- Jessie Thomson Dance begins operating from the multi-purpose room on 9th February, bringing dance tuition to EANC for the first time.

b) Pool Visitation**Comments:**

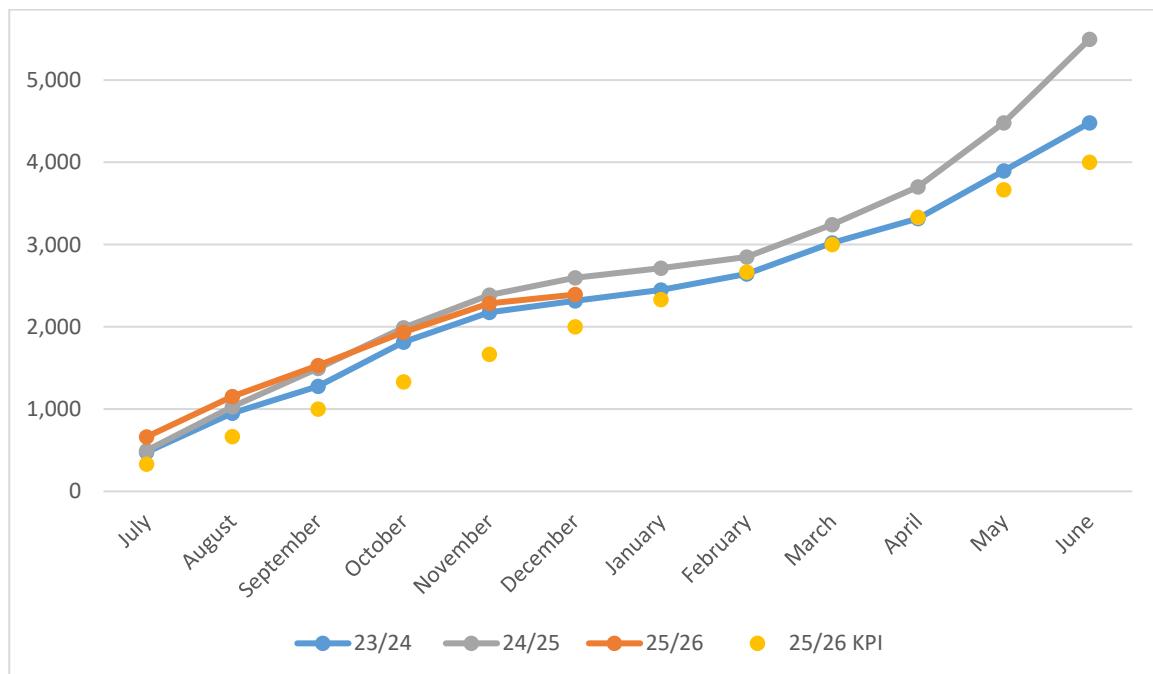
- The lifeguard team has continued to implement the International Lifeguard Training Programme (ILTP), with positive feedback from the community.
- The end of the year has seen a large turnover of staff, with many finishing year 13 and looking to move away for tertiary study.

c) Gym & Fitness Visitation

Comments

- Gym and group fitness participation remained steady throughout November and December, with members maintaining regular attendance despite increased end-of-year and holiday commitments.
- The Couch to Wellness programme continued through November with strong engagement and retention, including ongoing participation from members of the migrant and refugee community, supporting accessibility and inclusion outcomes.
- Targeted health programmes including O2Go, Parkinson's, Prost-Fit, Evolve, and Daffodil Wahine were delivered consistently, with strong attendance recorded across most programmes.
- In response to customer feedback and booking data, additional yoga classes and Les Mills Pilates sessions were trialled and added, with both formats consistently fully booked and proving highly popular.
- Officers are launching a collaborative programme with ANZCO Foods, aimed at supporting high risk employees with existing health concerns to safely re-engage in physical activity.

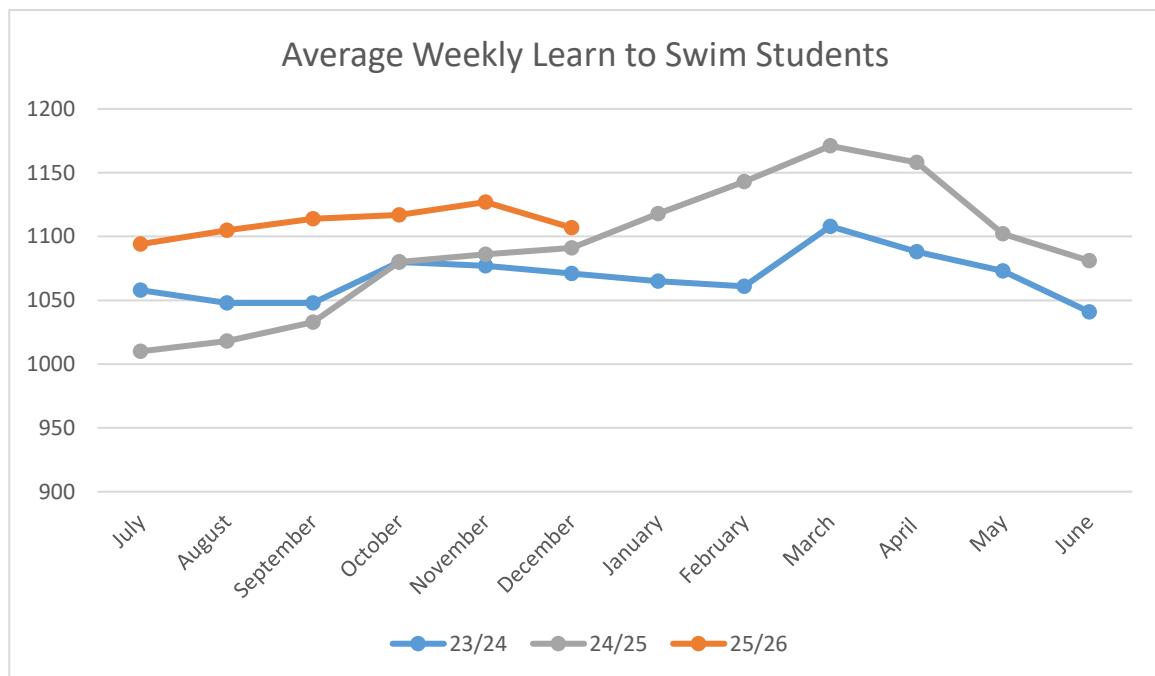
d) Stadium Booked Hours



Comments:

- The stadium was closed from 11 December through 5 January for floor resurfacing.
- This stadium closure was moved from January (the typical time it is done) to try and minimise the effect on stadium bookings, as December is typically a very quiet month for bookings.
- The December holiday programme had 164 attendees over the 5 days during the holiday period out of a possible 190 spaces, resulting in an occupancy of 86%.

e) **Swim School**



Comments:

- Our LTS numbers have been largely holding steady throughout the first half of the financial year
- The Lion Foundation funding (which subsidises our School Swim Programme) enabled 665 students from seven schools to benefit from swimming lessons during November and December.

4.3.2 Activities/Programmes (November/December)

Attendees		Child	Teen	Adult
Couch to Wellness 8 Sessions	Runs During term in 10-week blocks Designed to get people active again			160
Daffodil Wahine 7 Sessions	Every Wednesday at 12.15, this special population class is designed for women to build healthy bones after cancer treatment			70
Prostfit 7 sessions	Every Monday at 11 am, this special population class is designed for Men as part of their rehabilitation from prostate cancer			112
O2go 7 Sessions	Every Wednesday at 10.30am, this special population class is designed to support people with significant breathing issues like COPD & asthma.			168

Parkinsons Play 7 Sessions	Every Thursday at 1.30 pm, this special population class is designed for people diagnosed with Parkinsons to slow progression and build control of the condition.			35
Fitmums 4 Sessions	Runs during term on Thursdays at 10.45 am - this special population class is designed for new mothers to improve their general strength and fitness in a safe environment, with your baby. – Not held this term			60
Hospice – Offsite programme 19 Sessions	Every Tuesday Wednesday and Friday at 10am – this special population class is designed to maintain movement and mobility.			190
Squad 153 sessions	The current number of squad members at the middle of December.		65	
Active Adventures 3 sessions	Fortnightly 2-hour toddler play session in the stadium.	74		
Learn to Swim 1,707 group sessions & 300 individual sessions	Total number of private swimming lessons over 7 weeks between week 5 to week 11 of Term 4 2025	7,748		
School Swim Lessons 164 group sessions	This programme is co-founded by schools and the Lion Foundation. Lesson delivery at EANC. Numbers reflect 5 weeks between week 5 to week 9 Term 4 2025.	665		
Learn to Swim Holiday Block Courses	There were no LTS holiday lessons during this time period.			
Learn to Swim Holiday Pop Up Classes	There were no LTS holiday pop up classes during this time period.			
December School Holiday Programme 5 sessions	4 sessions, with 25 full day and 15 day sessions. Christmas Eve was 30 capacity for a day session only.	164		
Women's Swim Night 2 sessions	Held on the second Wednesday of each month 7-8.30pm.	10		41
2,374 sessions	Totals	8661	65	836

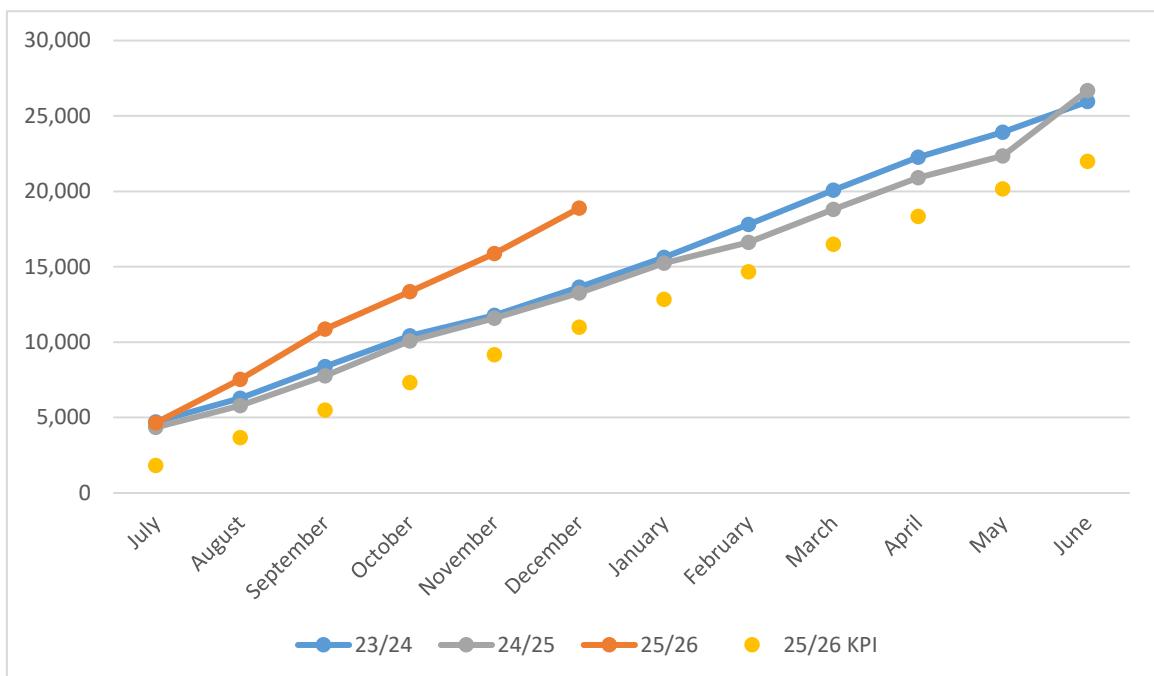
4.3.3 Mini Golf Update

- Mini Golf has proved extremely popular over the holiday break – with 3481 reported players in the reporting period (22 November to 31 December).
- Officers continue to work with the contractor to finalise remedial works left over from the construction and continue to look at the overall area and how to maximise the use of the space.
- Officers note a number of users on the course on the days the EA Networks Centre was closed and will take this into planning for future.

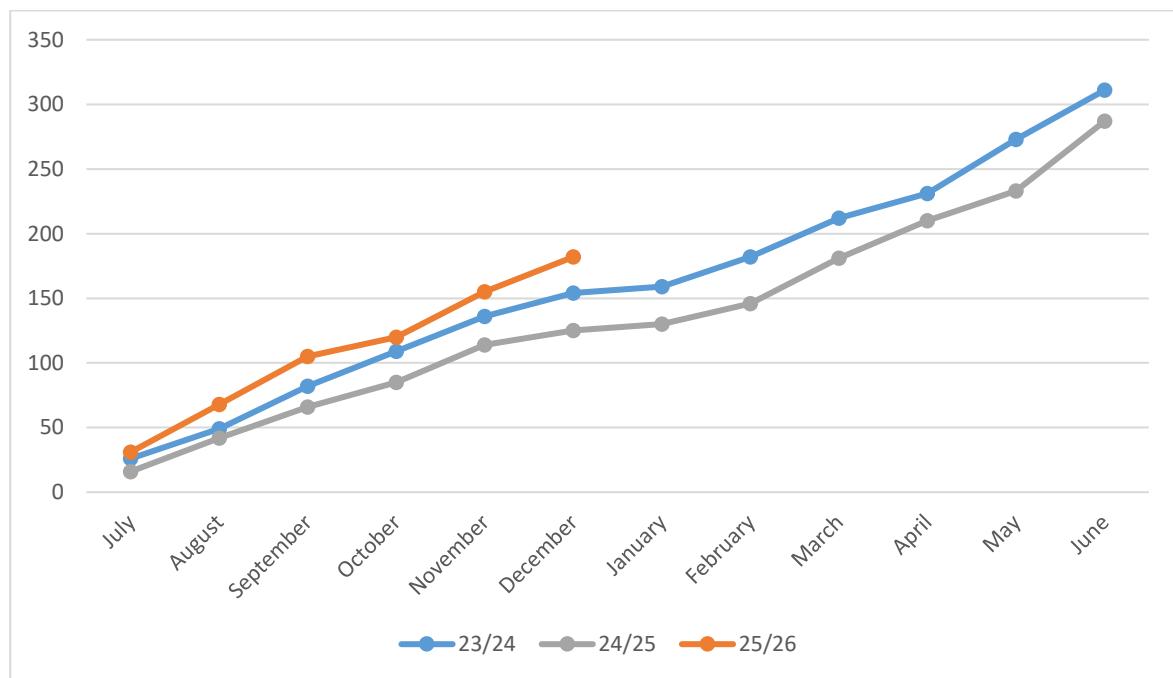
4.4 Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

4.4.1 Key Performance Measures

a) Visitation



b) Activity & Programme Sessions



c) Other Activity Measures

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

4.4.2 Operational Activities November and December

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
Research Enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2025, 20 research enquiries were responded to, 14 of which were from the public. • In December 2025, 24 research enquiries were responded to, 22 of which were from the public. 	Nov-Dec 2025
Collection Development and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of new items, cataloguing and rehousing projects, environmental monitoring and pest management continues. • Ashburton District Council's historical archives are being re-catalogued in order to make the collection more accessible to council staff and to the public, in line with Public Records Act obligations. • Ashburton Museum & Historical Society collections and Ashburton District Council historical archives continue to be made available to researchers on Whakatere Heritage Collections Online. 	Nov-Dec 2025
Articles/Blog Posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2025, 4 articles were written on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chertsey Oil Well – The Dorcas Society – Pie carts in Ashburton – Ashburton Red Cross • In December 2025, 4 articles were written on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – History of the Red Cross in Ashburton/Annie Elizabeth Watson – History of policeman's bicycle and truncheon in the permanent display – Big wind storm of 1914 – Chertsey Oil Well of the 1910s-20s 	Nov-Dec 2025
Reviews/Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Courier</i> article about gifted name, Rokowhiria • <i>Guardian</i> article about gifted name, Rokowhiria • <i>Courier</i> article about Michael Armstrong receiving life membership of AAG Inc • <i>RNZ</i> featured <i>Botanical Worldwide</i> exhibition • <i>Dearly Beloved</i> featured in council brief in <i>Courier</i> • <i>Dearly Beloved</i> featured on <i>Arts Canterbury</i> website • <i>Dearly Beloved</i> featured on the <i>Scoop</i> • <i>Duologue</i> in Press Top 10 Exhibitions 	Nov-Dec 2025

4.4.3 Exhibitions opened in November and December

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

4.4.4 Activities & Programmes – November and December

Attendees		Child	Teen	Adult
Talks, workshops and exhibition openings 2 events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no exhibition openings in November. Special events included a nature drawing workshop with artist Katharine Allard. There were four new exhibitions opened in December as one combined event. 			118
Able Art Collective 2 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able Art Collective is a monthly programme that provides a supportive space for individuals with disabilities to explore, learn, create, connect and express themselves through art. These sessions are delivered in collaboration with The Chris Ruth Centre Ashburton. 			24
Island Breeze 1 session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island Breeze is a monthly programme for Pasifika and Māori wāhine in Whakatere Ashburton to come together for traditional arts, crafts, singing, socialising and kai. These sessions are delivered in partnership with Tangata Atumotu Trust and Plunket. 	1		22
Kōwhai Mums 1 session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kōwhai Mums is a monthly group for parents/carers with tamariki aged 0-5 years. These sessions are delivered in collaboration with Hakatere Multicultural Council and have an emphasis on engaging newcomers to Whakatere Ashburton. 	5		5
In Colour 2 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Colour is a monthly group that supports mental health, mindfulness, and social connection through creativity. Classes are relaxed and art activities are guided by the interests of the group. 			22
Art Addicts 6 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Addicts is a weekly after school art space for tamariki and whānau. Classes encourage exploration and experimentation with different artists, themes, materials and techniques. 	180		95
Artzheimers 1 session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artzheimers is a monthly session delivered in collaboration with Dementia Canterbury, designed to provide a meaningful community-based art experience for people living with dementia. 			13
Community visits/outreach 2 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The St Albans U3A Group were given a private tour of the Botanical Worldwide exhibition. Outreach was delivered to the Elizabeth Street Daycare. 			25
School visits/outreach 36 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November, twenty-four classes from Southern Health School, St Joseph's School, Rakaia School, Mt Hutt College, Methven Primary, Ashburton Christian School, Ashburton Borough School and the Home Education network visited Rokowhiria and engaged 	552	282	162

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in an education programme or participated in an outreach session at their school. In December, twelve classes from Tinwald School, St Joseph's School, Ashburton Intermediate, Lagmhor School and the Home Education network took part in sessions. 			
The Great Santa Hunt – Launch night 1 session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Great Santa Hunt</i> was launched on 17 December with children and whanau attending in their festive costumes and torches. This year the event is running across multiple council facilities for the first time. Within three days 1,000 entry forms were picked up. 	137		117
School holiday programmes 5 activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various family-friendly activities were delivered as part of the summer school holidays. The programmes were Holiday Decorations, Capture Magic Moments, Design Love Birds, Spinning Around and New Year Wishes. Numbers captured in the overall visitor stats. 			
59 sessions	Totals	875	282	603

5. *Community & Open Spaces Group*

5.1 **Communications**

5.1.1 **Overview**

- Main workstreams **progressed** in the last reporting period include Light up the Night promotion, Summer What's On Guide, Business of the Year Awards 2026* (Aug-Jan), supporting NZTA with communications on the second Ashburton Bridge, Lake Hood water quality, Stockwater Exit Transition Plan communications and multiple design and signage projects with our facilities.
- We are currently **planning for**: The roll out of the Food Organic and Green Organic Waste collection campaign, consultation on Draft Open Spaces Strategy, Open Spaces Bylaw, and Brothel Location Bylaw, Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy and potentially Annual Plan and related policies. Also looking at the general upcoming work programme for 2026 and leading into the next LTP.

*Please note: for Business of the Year awards, the event company is responsible for the marketing, however our team is represented on the project group, so we support and participate as necessary.

5.1.2 **Ongoing workstreams**

Brief Description	Objectives/comments
News updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of news updates remained consistent: 32 in November and 25 in December.• Produced regular updates on the Council news site.• Produced weekly editions of Council Brief for distribution on our website and by the local newspapers.
Media relations & enquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slightly lower number of media enquiries: 19 in November and 18 in December.
Website, digital engagement and e-mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing to develop our requirements for council websites into the future and review of our current platform• Working with our current e-newsletter provider to improve email services delivered to residents.
Graphic and multimedia design projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our graphic designer worked on the following number of projects: 23 in November and 22 in December, with each project requiring variable numbers of assets to be created.
Digital signage and social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We continue to manage content across 19 digital signage channels, produce Council livestreaming, video and administrate several social media pages owned by Council.

Brief Description	Objectives/comments
Public Information Management (PIM) – Emergency management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in Exercise Pandora included set up of a mock media stand up where we invited local journalists to ask questions of the Mayor, with the Deputy Mayor and key staff present. Comms reactive to weather events in this period
Internal (staff) communications and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide a staff newsletter and digital signage for staff

5.1.3 Campaigns, consultations and communications planning

- The following table summarises significant communications projects, campaigns and consultations in the last reporting period.

Brief Project Description	Comms start date	Est. End date	On track	Objectives/comments
What's On Guide	2024	Ongoing	Y	<p>[ONGOING]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Summer What's On Guide was launched and promoted with a 2 week lead time before 1 December. This issue is the largest – the others cover two-week holiday breaks throughout the year whereas this guide covers all of December and January. This guide marks one full calendar year of production. We note the demand for this guide increases with each publication. Statistics at the time of writing this report are showing more than 1600 downloads.
Draft Open Spaces Strategy, Open Spaces Bylaw, and Brothel Location Bylaw	Dec 25	May 26	Y	<p>[IN PROGRESS]</p> <p>Initial scoping and project planning for the three consultations to occur 4 March – 7 April</p>

5.2 Strategy & Policy

5.2.1 Current projects

Planning and Reporting					
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Stage	On Track	Comments
Annual Residents Survey 2025/26	Aug 2025	July 2026	In progress	Yes	The second wave of surveying for the 2025/26 survey is underway and results expected shortly
Half Year Report	Dec 2025	Feb 2025	In progress	Yes	Report being prepared for consideration by Council on 25 February
Annual Plan 2026/27	Oct 2025	June 2026	In progress	Yes	ET workshops have progressed, with the first Annual Plan/budget workshop with Council to be held on 3 February, followed by further workshops planned. Consultation will be considered as part of the Annual Plan conversation.
Long Term Plan 2027/37	Jan 2026	July 2027	Project Planning	Yes	Initial work has commenced on the project plan for the LTP 2027/37, including workstreams, timelines and other requirements.
Bylaw or Policy Development/Review					
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Stage	On Track	Comments
Five Bylaws project	June 2025	Sept/Oct 2026	In progress	Yes	<p>A workshop was held on 10 December outlining the bylaw review programme before October 2026.</p> <p>A workshop is planned for January 28 on Tranche 1 – the Open Spaces/Brothel Location bylaws, with separate workshops planned for Tranche 2 - the Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry bylaw (March 18) and Dog Control bylaw (April 8).</p>

					Consultation on Tranche 1 is planned for March, with Tranche 2 in May/June. Early engagement is on Dog Control Bylaw/Policy is currently online with over 300 responses received.
Development Contributions/Levies Policy Work Programme	January 2025	June 2027	In progress	Yes	A workshop was held in December outlining the work programme for this policy to 2027, including the impacts of the government's proposed new Development Levies system. Council have agreed to the programme with the first tranche of work underway with consultation planned in April.
Communications Policy	Nov 2025	March 2026	In progress	Yes	Policy is under review with consultation with key internal stakeholders.
Privacy Policy	Jan 2026	TBC	Project Planning	Yes	Work has commenced on the scoping work for this policy.
Sportsfields and Domains Policy	May 2025	Dec 2026	In progress	Delayed	Work on this is taking longer than expected, alongside other priorities. This includes assessing what still remains relevant in the policy following the development of the Reserve Management Plans. The revised policy will come in 2026.
Rates Remission Policy	April-May 2025	Mid 2026	Delayed	Delayed	Following consultation with Finance, work planned to coincide with the LTP 2027-37 development, so that remissions and their rating impact, can be considered alongside other rating changes. Work is likely to commence in early 2026.
Strategy or Plan Development/ Reviews					
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Stage	On Track	Comments
Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy	July 2025	TBC	Strategy Drafting	Yes	A workshop was held with Council on the strategy in December 2025. The strategy is now being drafted to come back to Council with consultation timeframes to be confirmed (due to other planned consultations). Potentially this will occur in May.
Forestry Strategy	August 2024	TBC	In progress	Ongoing	Development of the Forestry Strategy is being progressed with a workshop to be held with Council in April to provide an overview

					of the draft strategy including a decision-making matrix to assess commercial viability of each block.
Open Spaces Strategy 2016 - 2026	June 2025	June 2026	Strategy Drafting	Yes	The revised strategy is being drafted to present to Council at a workshop on January 28. Consultation is planned alongside Tranche 1 of the Bylaws in March.
Airport	November 2025	TBC	In progress	Yes	A strategic review of the Ashburton Airport is currently being undertaken. A workshop with Council will be held in due course to outline the current activity, current challenges and opportunities and consider potential future options.
Other Projects/Work					
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Stage	On Track	Comments
Elderly Housing	January 2025	TBC	Council Workshop	Ongoing	A workshop was held with Council in November, which outlined outcomes of information gathered, future issues and options for the future. A further workshop outlining options is planned for March with a report to come to Council in due course.
Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan – Action 7	July 2024	July 2027	In progress	Yes	Ashburton is the lead agency for Action 7. This relates to integrating climate change considerations into Council processes. Work has been scoped and the next stage of work is underway.
Section 17A Reviews	Ongoing			Ongoing	Work not currently progressing on Section 17A reviews. The report back on the LG Systems Improvements Bill has confirmed that Section 17A requirements will be removed.
Aoraki Environmental Consultancy (AEC)	Ongoing			Yes	Officers continue to meet regularly with AEC.

5.2.2 Completed projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Completion Date	Comments
Annual Report 2024/25	May 2025	December 2025	The final audit for the Annual Report concluded on Friday 28 November, with the report adopted by Council on 3 December, after the legislative deadline. The Summary Annual Report has also been prepared and audited with a clear audit option. Both documents are available here .
Gambling Venue Policy	May 2025	December 2025	Following the hearing and deliberations the policy was adopted on 17 December. The policy is available here .
Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy	August 2025	December 2025	Following the hearing and deliberations the policy was adopted on 17 December. The policy is available here .
Elected Members Allowances and Reimbursements Policy	Oct 2025	Dec 2025	Following the November workshop, the policy was adopted by Council on 17 December. The policy is available here .
Community Grants Policy	Oct 2025	Dec 2025	Following a light review of this it was adopted by Council on 17 December. The policy is available here .

5.2.3 Upcoming projects

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

5.2.4 External Submissions/Reports of interest

Submissions made:

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
Taumata Arowai	<p><u>Proposed changes to the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules for supplies serving 501 or more people</u></p> <p>Consultation on two proposed areas of change to the rules, covering change to annual reporting timeframes and changes to the rules for supplies serving 501 or more people</p>	Technical	19 December	Lodged

Consultations underway or considering

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
Department of Internal Affairs	<p><u>Simplifying Local Government</u></p> <p>Proposal to replace regional councils with combine boards of Mayors and to require those boards to produce a reorganisation plan for the region.</p>	Council	20 February	Submit
Department of Internal Affairs	<p><u>Rates Capping</u></p> <p>The government have announced the proposed of a rates target model (rates cap). This would introduce a mandatory range within which councils must set rates increases, excluding water charges and other non-rates revenue like fees and charges.</p>	Council	4 February	Submit
Department of Internal Affairs	<p><u>Development Levies Consultation and Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill</u></p> <p>Material engages on the replacement of development contributions with a system of levies. It includes a consultation document, a partial exposure draft of the Bill, and asks for views on the Commerce Commission as the regulator.</p>	Council support of submission	20 February	Submitting via National body

Environment Select Committee	Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill Two Bills to replace the current Resource Management Act. The Planning Bill focuses on planning to enable development and infrastructure while the Natural Environment Act is focused on managing the natural environment. new legislation will narrow the scope of the resource management system and the effects it controls, with the enjoyment of private property rights as the guiding principle.	Council	13 February for both Bills	Submit
Governance and Administration Select Committee	Emergency Management Bill The Government seeks to ensure a whole-of-society approach to emergency management through the following objectives <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strengthen the role of communities and iwi Māori in emergency management2. Provide for clear responsibilities at the national, regional, and local levels3. Enable a higher minimum standard of emergency management4. Minimise disruption to essential services5. Ensure agencies have the tools to do their jobs effectively when an emergency happens	Council support of submission	3 February	Submit via Regional CDEM group
Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee	Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill This bill is to establish a more proportionate and risk-based regulatory system for managing earthquake-prone buildings that will regulate only high-risk building types in medium and high seismic zones.	TBC	16 February	Submit
Justice Select Committee	Inquiry into the 2025 Local Elections The Justice Committee conduct a review following each local government elections. This inquiry has a particular focus on voting processes, electoral integrity and consideration of the role of councils and their staff when determining voting arrangements, and their relationships with the electoral agencies responsible for conducting the voting	TBC	27 February	Assessing

Consultations not submitting on

Organisation	Name of initiative	Due Date
Standards NZ	Standard DZ9202: Standing Orders Exposure draft of the standards that local authorities will be required to follow (under the System Improvements Bill as it currently stands)	12 December
Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee	Public Works Amendment Act This bill amends the Public Works Act 1981 to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and clarity of land acquisition, objections, and compensation functions in the Act.	27 January
Finance and Expenditure Select Committee	Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Bill The purpose of this bill is to improve infrastructure funding and financing tools to support urban development.	20 Feb
NZTA	Proposals to change Total Mobility scheme Six proposals for change to the total mobility scheme.	22 March

Future Submission opportunities (once full details are known).

The information has been provided by Taituara and other sources.

Organisation	Name of initiative	Expected Timing ¹
TBC	New Waste and Litter legislation Cabinet has now agreed to amend the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and replace the Litter Act 1979. It will provide a fit-for-purpose legislative framework aimed at reducing waste, cutting emissions and improving environmental outcomes. The proposed legislation will focus on five key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changing how the waste levy is allocated to territorial authorities and what it can be spent on, to give them more flexibility in how they use the funding, while also recognising the costs faced by smaller councils 	TBC

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

Organisation	Name of initiative	Expected Timing ¹
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating a framework for extended producer responsibility, ensuring producers remain accountable for their products throughout their lifecycle • strengthening the tools available to monitor and enforce waste legislation and regulations • enabling more effective controls for littering and mismanaged waste, including illegal dumping • clarifying roles and responsibilities across central government, local government and the waste sector. <p>The Government intends to enact the new legislation before the general election in 2026.</p>	
TBC	<p>Building Act Amendment Bill More comprehensive changes to Building consenting making it easier for private BCAs, address barriers to voluntary consolidation, national consenting body, ensuring national consistency, strengthening roles and responsibilities, new consent pathway for commercial buildings, new assurance pathways more self-certification – further streamlining, risk and liability.</p>	Early 2026?
TBC	<p>Climate Adaptation Bill Bill sets the legal framework for powers and responsibilities with respect to climate adaptation. If there is a climate adaptation fund it will be in this Bill.</p>	Early 2026

5.3 Memorial Halls & Reserve Boards

5.3.1 Activities – items of importance

Memorial Hall and Reserve Board Meetings

Tinwald Reserve Board

- The Board is nearing completion of its proposal for the development of the family-friendly fun zone, which represents a significant step forward for the project.

Tinwald Memorial Hall Board

- Members of the Hall Board and volunteers spent a morning clearing the floors and stage areas in preparation for the floor refurbishment that is currently underway.

Mt Somers Reserve Board

- The Memorial Hall has undergone some much-needed roof repairs and maintenance. While the scaffolding was in place, the roof was also painted, and exterior painting of the fascia and soffits was completed.

Triennial Reserve and Hall Board meetings

- Commenced in early November, and we're pleased to share that the Dorie Reserve has retained its Board, and both Highbank and Ealing have now confirmed their triennial meeting dates. Chertsey, Ashburton Forks/Greenstreet, Seafield, and Rakaia Memorial Hall are still to confirm their meeting dates.

5.3.2 Grants and Funding

So far Council has allocated \$41,521 in community pool funding to support Council-owned pools across the district.

- Hinds Community Pool \$12,080
 - \$7,280 capex/opex contestable fund, \$4,800 H&S fund. Along with \$30,700 carried over from 2024/25 for the new pool fence
- Rakaia Community Pool \$25,939
 - \$19,939 capex/opex contestable fund, \$6,000 H&S fund

- Mayfield Community Pool \$3,502
 - \$1,812 capex/opex contestable fund, \$1,690 H&S fund

Funding requests from Ruapuna and Mt Somers Community Pools have not yet been received.

Methven Community Pool has received funds of \$25,000 through the Methven Community Board.

5.4 Welcoming Communities

- Welcoming Communities met with the Farsi School Principal and Assistant Principal to guide funder accountability requirements and supported the preparation of accountability reports. This support strengthens the school's ability to secure ongoing funding and ensures its continued operation.
- Welcoming Communities is currently in discussions with takata whenua regarding a potential MBIE funding opportunity to support Welcoming Communities programmes. The funding would enable the establishment or continuation of initiatives that welcome migrants and newcomers to the district, strengthen tikaka and Te Ao Māori, showcase local Māori identity, and foster understanding and celebration of Māori culture. These initiatives would also support newcomers to build an understanding of the history, position, and interests of Māori and mana whenua, contributing to social cohesion and long-term community.
- In collaboration with Wellbeing Ōpuke and Digital Waitaha, Welcoming Communities delivered a "How to Buy Your First Home" session. A Home Loan Partner from BNZ and a lawyer from Tavendale and Partners addressed participant questions related to home ownership. The session was highly interactive, and a further session is scheduled to be delivered in Ashburton at the end of February, led by the ASB Community Banker.
- Employment Essentials Workshops are being delivered in collaboration with MTFJ. From 10 March, weekly workshops will be held in the library computer laboratory, focusing on CV and cover letter development. Local employers have been invited to share insights into recruitment expectations, enabling participants to develop tailored and competitive employment documents during the sessions.

Subsequent sessions will focus on creating online accounts and completing online job applications, using digital tools to enhance CV presentation, and developing interview skills. Participant interest will be assessed for a potential visit to Dress for Success in Christchurch, where attendees would access professional attire, one-on-one advice, and employment support services.

These sessions will be open to everyone.

- On 21 April, Welcoming Communities is planning *Thrive Local: Business Foundations and Growth*, a business-focused session aimed at supporting aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. The session will include presentations from the Ashburton District Council Economic Development Manager on local business opportunities, such as pop-up shops and the new funding search tool. Business Canterbury will provide information on business support services, including Business Mentors NZ and MBIE funding opportunities. Inland Revenue (IRD) will also present on the support available to business owners and key considerations prior to starting a business.

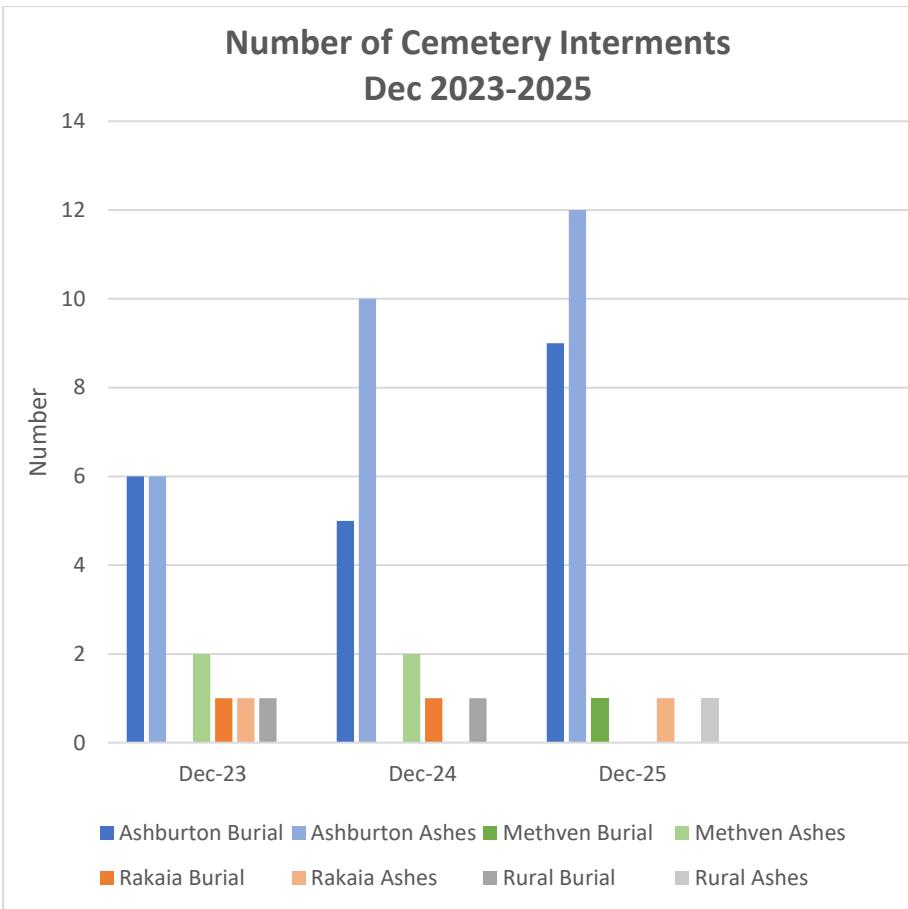
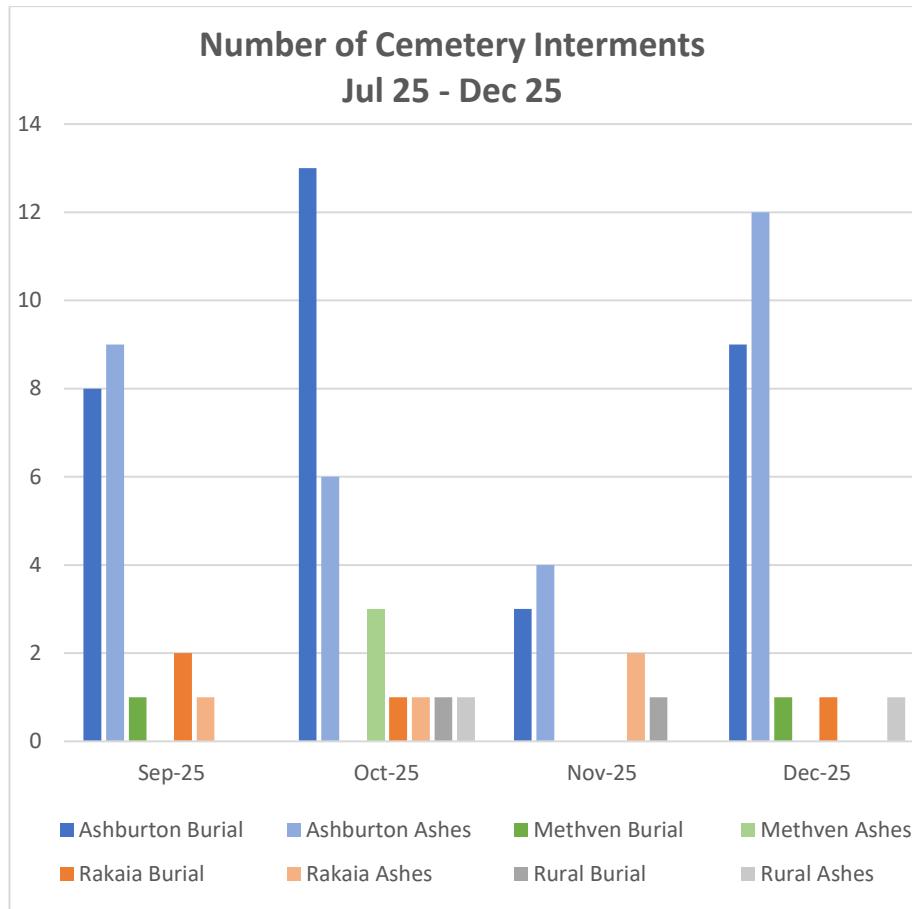
Confirmation is pending from MSD, which would present on funding available to entrepreneurs; The Networkers, to promote local business networking opportunities; and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, a Christchurch-based tertiary education provider offering free business training. Each speaker would be allocated 15 minutes. The session is expected to run from 5:30 pm to 7:30/8:00 pm and will include opportunities for networking following the presentations.

This session will be open to everyone.

- Welcoming Communities is engaging in discussions with Tangata Atumotu Trust to collaborate on their outreach programme, to identify community members' education and skills development interests. This includes exploring the delivery of relevant micro-credentials in Ashburton and opportunities for the recognition and validation of overseas qualifications to support workforce participation and economic development.

5.5 Open Spaces

5.5.1 Cemeteries



5.5.2 Activities – items of importance

Cemeteries

- Cemetery staff are now into Summer maintenance mode. This has the pressure point of Christmas, where we strive to have all cemeteries looking their best for the influx of visitors over this period.
- Main focus is on grass and vegetation control around trees and edges.
- Interment activity has been steady pre-Christmas.
- Staff continue to have regular contact and dialogue with undertakers on various cemetery matters.
- Regular cyclical maintenance continues to occur at closed district cemeteries.
- Rakaia Cemetery has had a new burial berm installed. Creating space for 48 new burial plots.

Open Space Management

- Customer service requests are being closely monitored for timely resolution – as they may impact upon the non-financial performance measures.
- Open Spaces Planning staff are dealing with subdivision and land use applications with the aim of ensuring assets are designed, constructed and maintained to Council standards prior to handover. Also ensuring existing parks and reserves aren't adversely affected by neighbouring developments.
- Planning staff continue work on standardising and detailing Open Spaces technical requirements for subdivisions and developments. They are also working with the developers of Strowan Fields on a new park/playground which is part of Stage 6 of the development.
- Work is ongoing on updating the Open Spaces Asset Management Plan (AMP). Consultants Xyst have been engaged following a tender process and will work with staff over the coming months with scheduled completion of the plans in June 2026. The new Open Spaces AMP will be an omnibus plan incorporating Public Conveniences, Cemeteries and Parks and Reserves. Development will incur a significant amount of time for Open Spaces management staff.
- Open Spaces Management staff continue to work on the Open Spaces Asset inventory dataset.

- The refurbishment project of the Rakaia Salmon Sculpture has commenced. The Salmon was safely and securely detached from its pole and transported to Christchurch for refurbishment. Staff are happy to report that the refurbishment process has gone well with minimal contingency items coming to light. The sculpture will be ready for a return trip and reinstallation in February.
- Work continues with staff collaborating with the Policy and Strategy team to update the Open Spaces Strategy and Bylaw. A workshop with the Council is scheduled.
- Open Spaces staff maintained a working presence all through the festive period to maintain the level of service delivery to the community and visitors. Public Conveniences, Cemeteries and Reserves all experienced increases in use over this time.

Ashburton Domain

- The Domain has been busy so far over summer. Lots of travellers utilising the Domains facilities for a rest stop during travel. The playground has been especially busy as has the paddling pool on fine days.
- The Domain received a pre-Christmas confirmation that it's November assessment by three assessors from the New Zealand Gardens Trust (NZGT), rated the Ashburton Domain Four Star Garden of Significance. The Trust is a subsidiary group operating under the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH). There are many gardens in New Zealand assessed under this programme of a star rating system. It provides information to those who partake in Garden Tourism. The opportunity for Ashburton District is to get a garden rating and get onto the published register of notable gardens in New Zealand is a positive step forward promoting what is our business-as-usual service delivery. For further information on the NZGT [**CLICK HERE:**](#)
- The Domain annual beds are looking stunning with vibrant colour evident in all plots on display.
- Road marking of the Domain Driveway after resealing has started. We expect contractors will be back to complete the job soon.
- The steering group driving the Ashburton Bike Skills Park have confirmed project naming and funding with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. A start date for works to commence in March. This is an exciting development for the Domain and community.
- Renewal lighting from the central Domain carpark to West Street is scheduled to commence soon.

General Parks and Reserves and Gardens

- Playground weekly and monthly safety checks and maintenance continue throughout the district.
- All reserves and neighbourhood parks continue to be mown and some turf was starting to dry off reducing mowing requirements however more recent weather patterns have flipped this into another growth cycle. Edge and tree weed control continues.

- Newly planted street trees are being manually watered.
- Sportsfields have been sprayed for grass grub.
- The Rakaia Salmon Site playground is about to have the final play area updated with compliant safety surfacing – at the correct depth.
- The Methven CBD lighting project is awaiting rectification measures being implemented by E A Networks. This is to implement the remedial plan as determined by the lighting system designers.
- Annual beds in Methven and Rakaia are looking great with new displays settling in well providing summer colour.
- Mowing actively continues district wide. This aligns with the weather pattern present.

Public Conveniences

- All facilities are generally working well.
- Playground toilets in Ashburton Domain were found to have damaged drains causing blockages, contractors will be installing new pipes.
- There was a break in at the Taylors Stream toilet block service bay. The toilets suffered damage to the air extraction/ventilation system. Replacement parts arrived mid-January and electricians are contracted to undertake the required repairs.
- Work is complete on assessing the capacity and capability of the Hinds Domain septic system and disposal field. Staff have completed a business case for funding which is working through the Annual Plan process.
- Lake Heron and Rakaia South River-mouth replacement public conveniences have been tendered. Detailed design of specific features complete and offsite construction imminent. Both are expected to be ready for onsite changeover in Late Summer/Autumn.

5.5.3 Biodiversity

Recent/Ongoing Activity

- Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor continues to provide input into the land use change consenting process and applications with “more than minor” adverse environmental effects.
- Support for the management of the Harris Scientific Reserve continues, with efforts focused on understanding the current management’s vision for the site.
- Council staff are currently reviewing the Regional Biodiversity Strategy to ensure alignment with the ADC Biodiversity Strategy. Elected members will be updated on the outcome by the end of the second quarter of 2026.

- Council staff continue to investigate approaches to improve plant survival at the Lake Camp and Clearwater settlement plantings. In addition to ground mulching, we are trialling irrigation of the Lake Clearwater shelterbelt planting to maximise plant survival.

Completed and Planned Projects

Planned plantings and pest control projects for 2026

- Hinds' septic soakage field planting- Project brief already sent to contractors for costing. Will not progress until certainty on the overall Hinds Domain septic system project.
- Stage 2 Taylors Stream Reserve planting- Bridge side slope and infill planting – in planning phase.
- Stage 2 Bowyers Stream planting. Wet areas beside the plantation that are difficult to mow – in planning phase.
- EA Network Centre drainage channel and slopes- progressive planting until 2028.
- Ashburton Dog park adjoining the riverbank- community event. Weed Spray completed and planting with suitable natives.
- Mill Creek Riparian Planting- Allens Road and Pages Road area.

Planned community Volunteering events for 2026

- World Biodiversity Day Planting 2026- Wakanui Beach Reserve Restoration – Sunday May 22, 2026.
- Planting at the EA Network Centre drainage channel scheduled for early April 2026 and to be undertaken by a community group, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Lake Camp/Clearwater Wilding Pine Removal – April/May 2026- exact date yet to be confirmed.
- Annual Harris Scientific Reserve Planting – 2nd weekend in September (annually- collaborative event with Ashburton Community Conservation Trust).