

Ashburton District Council

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

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

Date: Wednesday 15 September 2021

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: [Via Zoom](#)

Membership

Mayor	Neil Brown
Deputy Mayor	Liz McMillan
Members	Leen Braam
	Carolyn Cameron
	John Falloon
	Rodger Letham
	Lynette Lovett
	Angus McKay
	Diane Rawlinson
	Stuart Wilson

Meeting Timetable

Time	Item
1pm	Meeting commences
2.30pm	Office of Auditor General – Hugh Jory and John Ryan (via Zoom)
3.30pm	Athfield Architects (Library & Civic Centre)

1 Apologies

2 Extraordinary Business

3 Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes

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Reports

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10	Councillor Reports <i>[Nil]</i>	

Business Transacted with the Public Excluded

11	Council – 1/09/21		PE 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Committee (emergency relief funding) Audit & Risk Committee Caring for Communities Group 	Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons	
12	Freeholding Glasgow Lease	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 2
13	Ashburton Business Estate	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 31
14	Ashburton Airport	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 40
15	Ashburton Domain	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 50
16	Appointment process for ACL Director recruitment		PE 80
	Sections 7(2)(a) & (h) Protection of privacy of natural persons and commercial activities		
17	People & Capability annual report		PE 86
	Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons		
18	CEO annual review		PE 98
	Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons		

4. Council Minutes – 1 September 2021

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 1 September 2021, via Zoom, commencing at 1.00pm.

Present

His Worship the Mayor Neil Brown; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan; Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, John Falloon, Rodger Letham, Lynette Lovett, Angus McKay, Diane Rawlinson and Stuart Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Paul Brake (GM Business Support), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Steve Fabish (GM Community Services), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability), Ruben Garcia (Communications Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Toni Durham (Recovery Manager/Strategy & Policy Manager), Emily Read (Corporate Planner), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor), Mel Neumann (Policy Advisor), Ian Hyde (District Planning Manager), Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager), Brian Fauth (Roading Manager), Colin Windleborn (Commercial Manager).

Jeanette Ward – Abley (1.30pm-1.52pm)

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

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

- Update from CE on Council services under alert level 3

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 18/08/21

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 August 2021, be taken as read and confirmed.

Wilson/McMillan

Carried

5 Audit & Risk Committee – 11/08/21

That Council receives the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 11 August 2021.

Falloon/Braam

Carried

6 Youth Council – 12/08/21

That receives the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 12 August 2021.

Rawlinson/Lovett

Carried

7 Recovery Exit Strategy – May 2021 flood event

The Recovery Manager reported that of the 168 applications for funding assistance 79 came from the Ashburton district, with only 60 across Canterbury being successful. Council will continue to be updated on flood recovery work through the activity briefings.

The strategy will be updated to include a reference to damage that occurred around the Hinds River.

On behalf of Council, the Mayor thanked the recovery team for their response and the work undertaken.

That Council receives the Recovery Exit Strategy for the May 2021 flood event.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

8 Open Spaces Bylaw

That Council adopts the final Open Spaces Bylaw.

Rawlinson/Braam

Carried

10 Rangitata Camping Ground Fees Review

The Commercial Manager advised that the fees will be reviewed again at the end of the financial year. Council agreed that an incremental increase each year is preferable to waiting several years and having larger increases.

That Council adopts option 2 and amends the Rangitata Camping Ground fees for 2021/22 (GST inclusive) as follows:

	1/7/21- 30/6/21	LTP 2021/22	Option 2 Fee
Unpowered –Adult) per person per night)	\$7.50	\$14.00	\$10.00
Unpowered –Child (5-17 years per night)	New charge	\$7.00	\$3.00
Unpowered –Child (under 4)	New charge	Free	Free
Powered –Adult (per person per night)	\$8.50	\$18.00	12.50
Powered – Child (5-17 years per night)	New charge	\$9.00	\$5.00
Powered –Child (under 4)	New charge	Free	Free
Storage per day (unpowered only)	\$1.50	\$4.00	\$2.00
Seasonal (49 days) unpowered	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$450.00
Seasonal (49 days) powered	\$630.00	\$630.00	\$550.00

Falloon/Rawlinson

Carried

9 Ashburton Parking Strategy and Ashburton Town Centre Parking Management Plan

Jeanette Ward joined the meeting and responded to questions.

- Changing demographics / ageing population – this impacts on how mobility parking and mobility scooter spaces are provided plus the proposal for drivers over 80 to have some priority parking. Something for both public and private sectors to take into consideration. Noted that Council staff worked with mobility parking advisors. The Strategy recognises that increased residential density near the CBD could occur and a longer term action for Council could look at the potential for residents parking in the town centre.

- Parks located to support businesses – achieved through time restrictions and locating within reasonable walking distances.
- Concern about loss of 40 car parks in CBD as a result of revitalisation – when new street designs were developed in 2017, it was accepted that in order to create more planting and provide rain gardens (mostly on Burnett / Tancred) there would be a reduction in parking spaces.
- Parking survey – once streetscapes works are finished and the Civic building has moved, a further parking survey will be undertaken. Data is already available from the in-ground parking sensors.
- EV parking – community feedback will be looked at. Also, there's rapidly developing research which looks at optimum numbers of EV parking for a community.

Council asked for the draft Strategy to include reference to the whole district and that people be given the opportunity to feedback on parking needs in the rural townships. An additional question will be added to the consultation document for that purpose. Officers will circulate the suggested changes to Councillors before finalising the document.

That Council adopts the Draft Ashburton District Parking Strategy and Draft Ashburton Town Centre Parking Management Plan and summary for public consultation.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

11 Renaming of road within subdivision at 181 Archibald Street, Tinwald

1. **That** the resolution of Council at the meeting of 28/07/2021 naming roads associated with Sub21/0047 is in part revoked; and
2. **That** the road currently named Sheep Pen Street be renamed Drovers Lane.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

12 Naming of right-of-way – 172 Walnut Avenue

That the right of way proposed to be created as part of Subdivision Sub21/0031, at 172 Walnut Avenue, be named Georgia Lane.

McKay/Rawlinson

Carried

13 Naming of road – 178 Racecourse Road

That the road to vest in Council as part of Subdivision SUBA19/0007, at 178 Racecourse Road, be named Meadowlands Green.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

14 Naming of road – 59 South Belt, Methven

That the road to vest in Council as part of Subdivision Sub20/0042, at 59 South Belt in Methven, be named Elmwood Farm Lane.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

15 Ashburton Car Club road closure – standing quarter mile sprint

This event has been postponed until 2 October 2021 and the change of date will be notified. No objections have been received to the road closure.

1. **That** Council permits the following road to be closed from 9.00am Saturday 2 October 2021 until 4.00pm the same day to allow the Standing ¼ Mile Sprint event to be held:

Winslow Willowby Road, from approximately 500 metres away from State Highway 1 to Longbeach Road.

Wilson/Falloon

Carried

16 New slogan for Ashburton

Councillors speaking in support of the recommendation agreed that successful marketing of the district would be better achieved through this approach. However, there was some concern that while Council can't impose a slogan on the community, discarding the whole slogan approach would limit the ability to improve the district's image.

The Economic Development Manager confirmed that ChChNZ will be part of the marketing process. As part of the government's Covid response, this agency has recently received funding of \$1.5m, some of which will be used to assist councils develop their 'stories'.

That Council adopts option 4 and dispenses with the use of slogans in its marketing efforts and utilises a storytelling approach to selling the region, its businesses and its people.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion.

17 Mayor's Report

• Wakanui working group

That Council appoints Cr Lynette Lovett as Council's representative on the Wakanui Working Group.

Lovett/Rawlinson

Carried

Cr McKay recorded his vote against the motion and questioned the ability of this project to restore reliable water flows when there's ongoing risk of salt water breaching the banks.

• Tinwald corridor

The Mayor asked for an update on this project to be reported to the September activity briefings.

That the Mayor's report be received.

Mayor/Lovett

Carried

Extraordinary business

Covid- 19 Alert Level 3 – Council services

The Chief Executive outlined the status of Council services with the move to alert level 3 –

- the majority of Council facilities remain closed and the majority of staff continue to work from home (approximately 30 staff are back in order to prepare for opening in level 2)
- the administration building is closed to the public, with a limited number of staff present
- Open Spaces staff have resumed work
- Refuse and recycling kerbside collection now includes the green (glass) bins
- Resource recovery parks are open for refuse and greenwaste, with safety / distancing measures and contactless payment
- public toilets on the main freight routes are open
- work has resumed on the major projects – the library & civic building, the relief sewer, and the CBD upgrade (where some double shifts and a change to the work programme will possibly allow some gains on the two weeks lost in level 4)
- regulatory services have resumed inspections (with restrictions around safety)

That the Chief Executive's update be received.

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 2.33pm

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

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
19	Executive Committee 12 & 25/08/21 Emergency relief funding	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
20	Council 18/08/21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Executive CommitteeEA Shareholders CommitteeFreeholding of Glasgow leaseAshburton Contracting Ltd [Now in open meeting]Property Holdings Policy (28/07/21)	Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h)	Protection of privacy of natural persons Commercial activities Commercial activities Commercial activities
21	Audit & Risk Committee 11/08/21	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
22	C-19 Economic Recovery Advisory group 12/08/21	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Wilson

Carried

The meeting concluded at 2.56pm.

Confirmed 15 September 2021

MAYOR

5. *Economic Development quarterly report*

Author	<i>Simon Worthington, Economic Development Manager</i>
Activity manager	<i>Simon Worthington, Economic Development Manager</i>
General manager	<i>Steve Fabish, General Manager, Community Services</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a high-level update on Economic Development activity and progress from March to June 2021.
- The report is framed around the seven pillars included in Council's adopted Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan.
- A significant event in this period has been the May flood event, which is being followed in the next quarter by a Covid-19 resurgence outbreak, commencing August 17.
- A number of the August COVID 19 lockdown related updates have been included in this report.

Recommendation

That Council receives the Economic Development quarterly update.

Strategy and Development Plan Update

Pillar 1: Signaling Council is Open for Business

This pillar relates to Council setting up, establishing its position, and delivering its services in a way that supports economic development. With the outbreak of COVID 19 having a dramatic effect on all of New Zealand it has been key for Council to work with industry to ensure positive outcomes. Action was required to lead the district community as they navigated their way through the COVID 19 lockdown and the subsequent commencement of recovery.

Update

- Council staff have been proactive in reaching out to businesses and understanding their requirements and signposting them to the information and services they need to be able to navigate the lockdown period. Businesses report being confused by the paperwork required to access funding
- The Economic Recovery Advisory Group has been recalled and met on Friday, 3 September, to inform and act where help was required.
- The Ashburton District Council website has been modified to include links to where businesses can access financial information and practical help.
- Welcoming Communities continues to host workshops to develop a new Welcoming Plan to move from stage 2 'Established' of the New Zealand accreditation in to stage 3 'Advanced'. This formally recognises that a council and community have met the Welcoming Communities Standard's outcomes set by Immigration NZ. Accredited communities benefit from a competitive advantage to retain (and attract) newcomers who contribute to the local economy.

Pillar 2: Placemaking and Branding

Placemaking is about creating the space(s) where people want to live, work and play – places where people and business want to be.

Update

- Council have now signed a three year contract with ChristchurchNZ to deliver district promotion services. Targeted key performance indicators have been developed that will enable the monitoring and evaluation of these services.
- Ashburton Youth Council hosted a successful Skate Jam as part of the national Youth Week. During the event they conducted a Youth Audit of the park which identified a need for better bin, signage and seating. Members of the Youth Council held a working bee at Envirowaste with Eco Educate to create designs for new bins. The communications team are working on the final design with the intention of installing the bins in August this year.
- The June Citizenship Ceremony was cancelled due to the heavy rain event which caused extensive flooding in the district. All citizens were sent their certificates and were invited to participate in the next ceremony to be held in August, unfortunately this was scheduled for the first day of the level 4 lockdown so participants from these two events will be invited to receive their certificates at the November event.

- The Business of the Year Awards project has been progressing during the quarter, with the completion and printing of the booklet and graphic collateral.

A website was created by the communications team, www.businessoftheyear.nz. The next quarter will see all partners and sponsors confirmed and registrations commence. The inaugural awards evening is planned for Friday 18 February 2022. At the time of writing there were 18 registrations received for the awards night.

- The Welcoming Communities programme saw the completion of the Hakatere: Home & Heritage photobook project which celebrates the diversity of people who call Ashburton District home. This workstream was a recommendation from the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) Labour Force Plan for Ashburton District in 2018 to promote Ashburton as a good place to live and work. It was funded by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities and also became the Winter Exhibition at the Ashburton Museum.
- The Welcoming Mural project was well underway in the last quarter with the commissioning of artist Koryu Aoshima, as a result of a public consultation process and vote-by-text which garnered over 600 votes. This project demonstrates how Council can collaborate with business and community to create places where people and business want to be.

Pillar 3: Unlocking Latent Potential

Developing a mechanism to deal with projects that come to Council.

Update

- A mechanism has been established for dealing with property developers who seek advice from Council in regards to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's (MHUD) allocation of 42 houses to Ashburton District (due to the district's refugee resettlement location status). This was initiated by the Welcoming Communities Advisor in consultation with MBIE and the Economic Development, Planning and Commercial Property teams of Council. We now have an MHUD contact that property developers can seek advice directly from.

Pillar 4: Agriculture and Technology

Assisting the agriculture and technology sectors' existing industry bodies to assimilate technology into the sector.

Update

- Two pieces of work are underway which will support the on-farm uptake of innovation and technology.

- Land Use Change and Climate Change project.
 - An application to the Rural Professionals - Our Land and Water fund (Agresearch) has been made. The project proposes three steps which will –
 - 1) understand the climate change research as it relates to the Ashburton District
 - 2) review the support tools for farmers considering the adoption of new land uses; and
 - 3) build an understanding from farmers (farmer focus groups) about the constraints and opportunities available in steps 1 & 2, and develop solutions with farmers, to address the constraints and utilize the opportunities. This project will also deliver to pillar 5.
- Resilient Business Programme
 - The programme is in the development stage where it will eventually be pitched as a Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFFF) project. The concept has been discussed with senior government officials and there is strong interest in a proposal being submitted. The programme will involve implementing the findings of the Land Use and Climate Change project with the establishment of a support process for farmers to identify and implement changes on farm. It will be delivered through a farmer group structure, with farmer-to-farmer learning and implementation support and tailored expertise. The programme is proposed to run for three years. This project will also deliver to pillar 5 & 6.

Pillar 5: Natural Resource Management (a) water and (b) tourism and events

Protecting and enhancing the district's natural capital, particularly recognising water as a crucial resource.

Update

- At the time of writing the report the future of some Council community events is still unknown due to COVID-19 L3 and L2.
- The follow up Nitrate report is nearing completion with both the farm system and budget analysis and the economic impact analysis complete, and the summary paper currently being drafted.
- The May floods have been a significant event in the district with a number of farmers severely affected by flood damage. While most of the district has recovered well, the most effected farmers have ongoing issues and costs associated with damaged flood banks, pastures and farm infrastructure. There is also ongoing risk of further flooding in modest rainfall events. The emotional wellbeing of some famers is of concern.
- Events continue to be held within the district, with the number of events still to return to pre Covid-19 levels.

- The first round of the Regional Event Funding was held in April, with eight events receiving funding and a capability workshop for some of the event organisers. A total of \$50,733 of funding was approved for eight events and one workshop. The capability workshop was held in May and well attended, the topic covered was websites and social media marketing.
- The Youth Council's annual fundraising event, the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival, was held in early August.
- The Youth Council's annual signature event, Bite Nite, is scheduled for late September and planning is well under way for this. An application for funding has been submitted to the Tu Manawa Sport Fund and also the Ministry of Ethnic Communities.
- Planning is well underway on the delivery of the annual Nights of Lights Festival starting in mid-November. Significant work has gone into the location of Light up the Night with plans established for the giant Christmas tree to be installed on the East Street green (opposite Burnett Street) and for a power supply to be installed at the Burnett Street/East Street intersection to enable to stage and entertainment to take place. Additional work has gone into finding an alternative location for the Family Movie Night; this will be held in the area behind the State Highway layby. These events have been relocated due to the construction of Civic Centre and Library and its impact on Baring Square East.

Pillar 6: Start-up, SME's and Business Support

Lobbying, advocacy and influencing policy settings important to business.

Update

- The first Ashburton Refugee Resettlement Steering Group meeting took place in June with Councillor Carolyn Cameron as the elected Chairperson. Clear signals to address barriers for former refugees in their pathways to employment were signaled to the relevant government departments at this meeting. The key barrier identified at this stage is a lack of public transport.
- The Economic Development Manager (EDM) and Welcoming Communities Advisor (WCA), through their work in the Flood Recovery team were able to voice concerns around the local economy, labour-force and immigration issues with the Minister of Agriculture, Damien O' Connor and Rangitata MP Jo Luxton.
- Policy concerns were raised by the EDM and WCA with MP Jo Luxton and colleagues from the Workforce and Education Caucus in regards to government contracts to provide local services in Ashburton District. It was stated that in order to enable provincial labour force development, and positive community outcomes, these contracts should provide for local jobs in the district. This would mitigate current issues of contracts being held outside of Ashburton District affecting the quality of service delivered locally.

Pillar 7: Connecting and Supporting Infrastructure

Acknowledging Ashburton District's reliance on key infrastructure like roading and telecommunications.

Update

- Work is underway to determine the economic impact of the flood event on the district. Professor Caroline Saunders from the Agribusiness, Economic Research Unit at Lincoln University is leading the work. The project will examine:
 - The economic impact of the flood event on the district;
 - The impact on the district if the flood had entered the urban areas of Ashburton;
 - The likely economic impact of the closure of the Ashburton River bridge during the flood event.

Legal/policy implications

This report directly relates to the 7 pillars agreed to and set under the *Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan*.

Financial implications

1. The funding received for the “My Next Move” transition to work programme is subject to the funding guidelines set out by Ministry of Social Development.
2. The funding that will be applied to the PGF express grant will be subject to the funding guidelines as set out by MBIE.

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Covered within operating budgets and grant funding received.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	‘My Next Move’ Transition to work funding is supplied by MSD. PGF express funding is supplied by MBIE. Economic Development is 100% funded by General Rates.
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	No; not required.

Significance and engagement assessment

The report discusses matters that are of significance to economic development, however, this report does not require any decision of Council.

6. *Report on the Ashburton economy*

Author	<i>Simon Worthington, Economic Development Manager</i>
Activity manager	<i>Simon Worthington, Economic Development Manager</i>
General manager	<i>Steve Fabish, General Manager, Community Services</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Councillors on the current state of the Ashburton District economy as at the quarter ending June 2021.
- The information is primarily sourced from the Quarterly Economic Monitor that Council subscribes to from Infometrics Limited, a Wellington based Economic Consultancy.
- The Economic Development Team have pulled the highlights out of this document and provided additional commentary for Council, this report and the appendix should be read together.
- The key take outs from the report are:
 - Labour market constraints
 - Residential consents
 - Non-residential consents
 - Commercial vehicle registrations

Recommendation

1. **That** Council receives the Ashburton Economy report.

Key Outtakes

Highlights from the Quarterly Economic Monitor (QEM)

Labour Market Issues

1. The number of people receiving job seeker support has risen by 33.8% in the past quarter, this is despite local businesses reporting that they have many open vacancies and are struggling to find staff.
2. The Ministry of Social Development reported that as of the quarter ending June 2021 there were 729 people in the Ashburton District registered as job seekers.
3. According to a recent Household Labour Force Survey from Statistics New Zealand there are 1100 young people aged between 16-24 years of age who are disengaged from employment, education and training in the district.
4. This obvious disconnect raises some significant questions about why employers in the district are finding it so hard to find staff and what local solutions may be. There appear to be a number of barriers preventing a seamless connection including drug and alcohol issues, mental health, motivation and a lack of qualifications.
5. Government policy has limited the ability to source workers from overseas citing that New Zealanders are available to work in the vacancies that we currently have. There is a clear mismatch however between the number of jobseekers and young people potentially available to the labour market and the actual availability of workers who are employment ready with the motivation and skills to take up the vacancies we have in the district.
6. Further work is needed in this space, Council staff are currently exploring whether there are any funding sources from Government available to support the development of a district workforce specialist who can work with support agencies to get more people work ready and also better articulate the supply and demand of local workers.

Residential Consents

7. Residential consents increased by 23.8% compared with the same period a year ago, this strong growth is evidenced by the increase in workload for Ashburton District Council's Building Services team.
8. Whilst forecasts are for strong growth to remain in place for the remainder of the year there are other issues starting to impact on the residential building sector that could constrain growth.

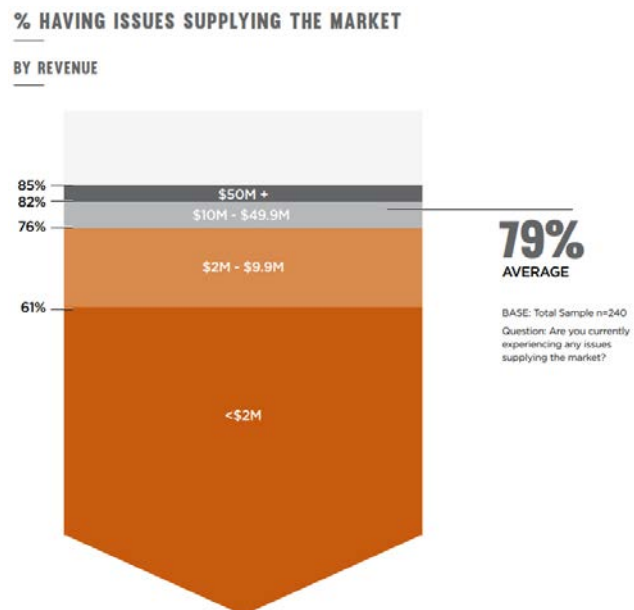
9. There are emerging supply chain issues such as a lack of cladding. Builders report they are covering houses with ply to weather proof them while they wait for bricks and line board. Frames and truss plants are overrun with demand and raw materials are in short supply so builders are having to hand build frames and trusses.

Non Residential Consents

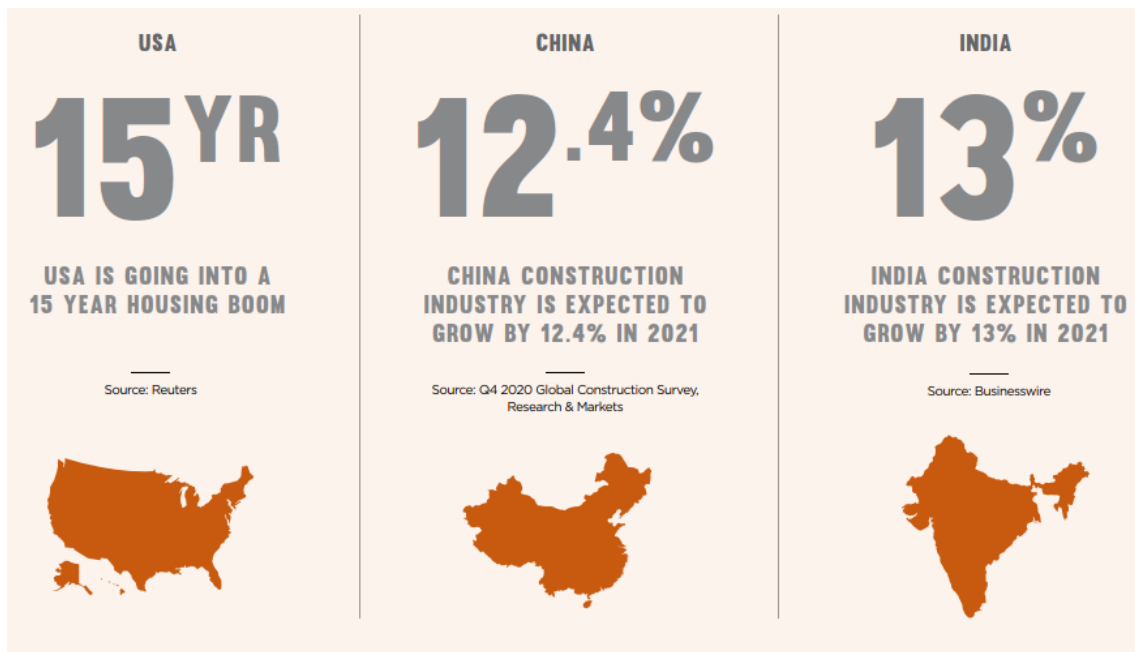
10. Non residential consents remain close to their peak of \$79.5M in the period of year ending March 2021.
11. This is indicative of business confidence being high and local firms reinvesting in their futures locally.

Combined Residential and Non Residential Consents

12. According to a recent report from EBOSS that was funded by BRANZ, showed eight in every ten construction firms servicing residential and non residential sectors are reporting issues relating to the supply chain.
13. The report shows that the market has seismically shifted and unless demand decreases the supply chain constraints may become the new normal for the construction sector.



14. Due to 90% of products being imported there is little ability for New Zealand manufacturers to replace these imported goods in the near future.
15. International freight is the biggest hindrance in the supply chain, as well as slowing the availability of products companies report that freight costs have risen by 100% in some cases. This has been exacerbated by the current lockdown with local companies unable to distribute non-essential goods.
16. The challenges surrounding imports are multi-faceted. They include:
- The cost of freight
 - Insurance
 - The availability of freight
 - The lead times of freight getting out of ports
 - The delays at NZ ports
17. We need to remember that we are operating in an incredibly hot global marketplace



18. The implications of a constrained supply chain will impact on a number of Council activities and services. Future planning and projects will need to factor in delays and potential cost increased during the project for the foreseeable future.

Commercial Vehicle Registrations

19. Commercial vehicle registrations have increased by 38.3% in the year to June 2021 compared with the previous 12 months.
20. Growth is reflective of a buoyant economy and a confidence in business owners to invest.
21. Supply chain issues are impacting this market with utes taking up to 6 months from order to delivery and agricultural equipment taking up to 12 months from order. It is not expected that these supply chain issues will change in the next twelve months.

Legal/policy implications

22. There are no legal implications with this report

Financial implications

23. There are no financial implications receiving this report

Significance and engagement assessment

24. There are no significance and engagement implications receiving this report.

Overview of Ashburton District

Ashburton's economy grew 4.3% over the year to June 2021 according to Infometrics provisional estimates, as it bounced back from the early effects of COVID-19. This was consistent with the national growth rate of 4.2%, an abnormally strong result as the previous year includes the lockdown-affected June 2020 quarter. Ashburton's GDP in the June 2021 quarter was 6.1% higher than June 2019, showing the strength of underlying growth in the economy.

Employment of Ashburton residents has been soft over the past year, down 0.7% over the year to June 2021. Employment has eased in manufacturing and tourism, but grown in construction, agriculture and education. The number of Jobseeker Support recipients remains elevated compared to pre-COVID, particularly for females, Maori and people with a health condition or disability.

Building activity is strong in Ashburton, with a 23.8% uptick in new dwelling consents over the year to June 2021 and the highest quarterly number of consents since 2013. Non-residential activity is very strong too, including a consent for a \$7.5m retail building, following the \$43m consent for the new library and civic centre last quarter. Flood recovery activity may provide a boost in coming quarters although the majority of work is unlikely to require consent.

Ashburton's average house value has risen 17.6% over the past year, reaching \$450,868. This strong rate of growth sits behind the Canterbury growth rate of 23.3%. House sale volumes have risen strongly over the past year, both nationally and in Ashburton.

Consumer spending has been strong across the country, fuelled by lockdown-induced savings and a wealth effect from higher house prices. Consumer spending in Ashburton grew 8.9% over the year to June 2021, ahead of the national average. This strong result was not only due to a weak June 2020, with June 2021 quarter spending 8.0% higher than 2019.

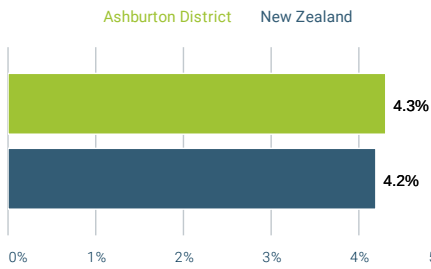
Indicator	Ashburton District	Canterbury Region	New Zealand
Annual Average % change			
Gross domestic product (provisional)	4.3 % ▲	3.7 % ▲	4.2 % ▲
Traffic flow	10.6 % ▲	11.1 % ▲	9.6 % ▲
Consumer spending	8.9 % ▲	10.7 % ▲	7.7 % ▲
Employment (place of residence)	-0.7 % ▼	-0.7 % ▼	-0.1 % ▼
Jobseeker Support recipients	33.8 % ▲	33.9 % ▲	27.7 % ▲
Tourism expenditure	2.2 % ▲	8.0 % ▲	5.4 % ▲
Health enrolments	2.1 % ▲	2.0 % ▲	1.3 % ▲
Residential consents	23.8 % ▲	12.5 % ▲	17.8 % ▲
Non-residential consents	72.8 % ▲	-5.2 % ▼	13.1 % ▲
House values *	17.6 % ▲	23.3 % ▲	27.3 % ▲
House sales	32.1 % ▲	40.7 % ▲	39.7 % ▲
Car registrations	15.0 % ▲	-20.6 % ▼	2.5 % ▲
Commercial vehicle registrations	38.3 % ▲	1.4 % ▲	9.1 % ▲
Level			
Unemployment rate	3.2 %	4.3 %	4.7 %

* Annual percentage change (latest quarter compared to a year earlier)

Gross domestic product

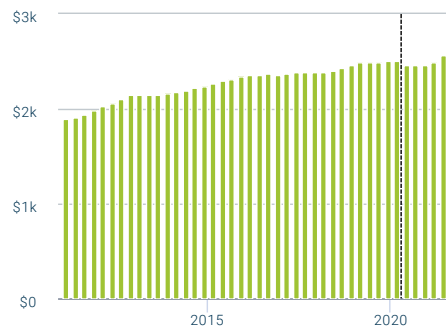
Gross domestic product growth (provisional)

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



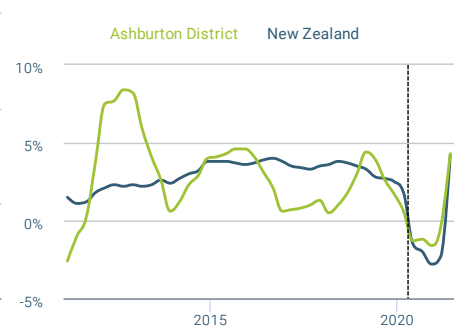
Gross domestic product (\$m)

Annual level, Ashburton District



Gross domestic product growth

Annual average % change



Highlights for Ashburton District

- GDP in Ashburton District was provisionally up 4.3% for the year to June 2021 compared to a year earlier. Growth was higher than in New Zealand (4.2%).
- Provisional GDP was \$2,572 million in Ashburton District for the year to June 2021 (2020 prices).
- Annual GDP growth in Ashburton District peaked at 8.4% in the year to September 2012.

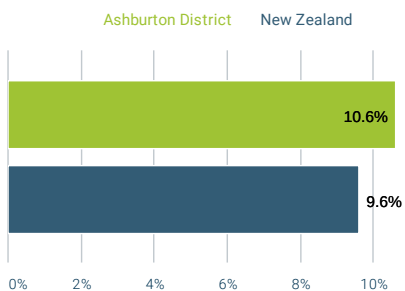
National overview

Economic activity across New Zealand continues to press higher still, with supply chain issues and skills shortages threatening to limit further growth. Provisional estimates from Infometrics show economic activity up a whopping 17%pa in the June 2021 quarter to take year-end growth to 4.2%. However, the strength in activity is clouded by the comparison June 2020 period including the nearly five-week Alert Level 4 lockdown. Compared to June 2019, economic activity is sitting 3.7% higher, with further expansion seen since the surprisingly strong result in March 2021. Strong construction activity, coupled with higher healthcare and manufacturing activity, are leading the continued improvement in economic activity. Although short-term headwinds may restrict growth going forward, risks to longer-term growth also persist as the economy overheats and drags future growth into the here and now. Higher interest rates in response to booming economic activity might well cool down the economy into 2022, towards more sustainable levels.

Traffic flow

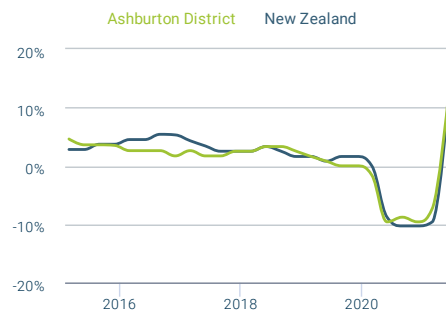
Annual change in traffic flows

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



Traffic volume growth

Annual average % change



Highlights for Ashburton District

- Traffic flows in Ashburton District increased by 10.6% over the year to June 2021. This compares with an increase of 9.6% in New Zealand.

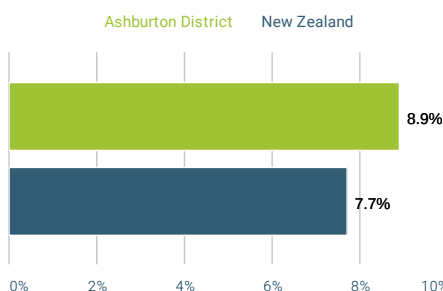
National overview

Traffic activity rose 9.6%pa over the 12 months to June 2021, as the plunge in traffic movements during Alert Level 4 drop out of the numbers. June 2021 quarter traffic flows were sitting 2.6% higher than June 2019 quarter, indicating the strengthening level of traffic movements across the country. Traffic activity remains generally stronger across the North Island, with softer growth in the South Island. Changes to current economic drivers, including across tourism, construction, primary sector, manufacturing, and freight continue to be felt.

Consumer spending

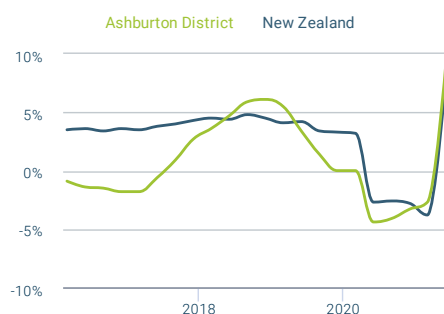
Growth in consumer spending

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



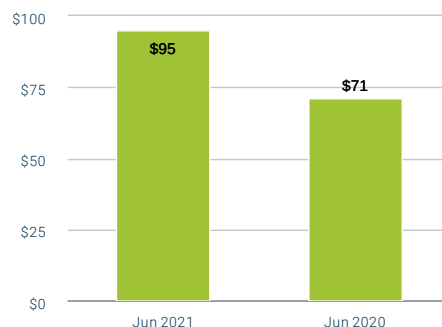
Consumer spending

Annual average % change



Consumer spending

Quarterly spending (\$m), Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

- Electronic card consumer spending in Ashburton District as measured by Marketview, increased by 8.9% over the year to June 2021 compared to the previous year. This compares with an increase of 7.7% in New Zealand.

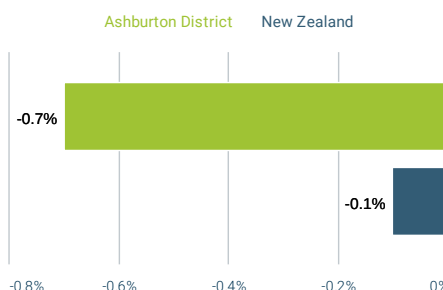
National overview

Spending activity across New Zealand continued to rise in the June 2021 quarter, with strong demand conditions across the economy. Spending rose 33%pa in the quarter to take year-end growth to 7.7%pa according to Marketview data. However, this roaring growth is heavily exaggerated by comparing to the 12 months to June 2020 which includes the nearly five-week Alert Level 4 period. Underlying spending growth remains strong, just not that strong, with June 2021 spending up 6.5% compared to the June 2019 quarter. Unsurprisingly, main urban centres and tourism-based economies continue to show slower growth than other parts of New Zealand.

Employment (place of residence)

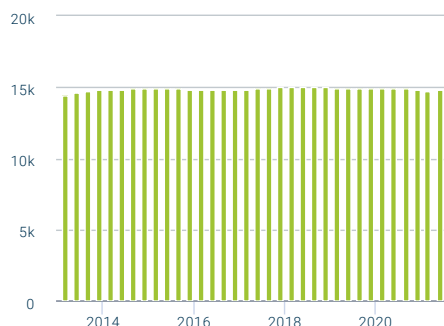
Employment (place of residence) growth

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



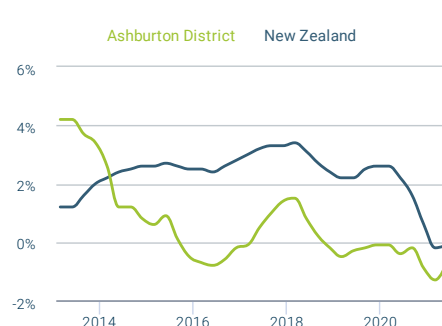
Employment (place of residence)

Annual level, Ashburton District



Employment (place of residence) growth

Annual average % change



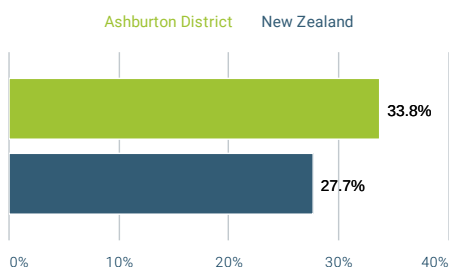
Highlights for Ashburton District

- Employment for residents living in Ashburton District was down 0.7% for the year to June 2021 compared to a year earlier. Growth was lower than in New Zealand (-0.1%).
- An average of 14,814 people living in Ashburton District were employed in the year to June 2021.
- Annual employment growth for Ashburton District residents peaked at 4.2% in the year to June 2013.

Jobseeker Support recipients

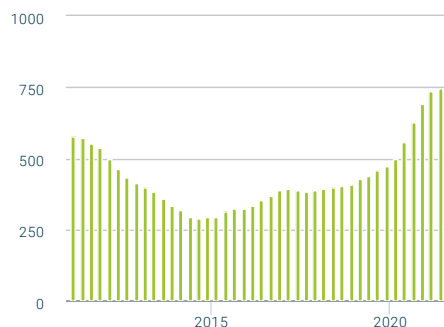
Annual change in Jobseeker Support recipients

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



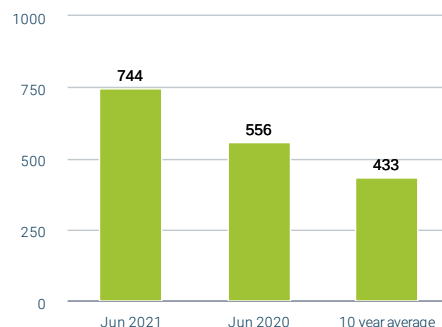
Jobseeker Support recipients

Annual average, Ashburton District



Jobseeker Support recipients

Annual average, Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

- Jobseeker Support recipients in Ashburton District in the year to June 2021 increased by 33.8% compared with previous year. Growth was higher relative to New Zealand (27.7%).
- An average of 744 people were receiving a Jobseeker Support benefit in Ashburton District in the 12 months ended June 2021. This compares with an average of 433 since the start of the series in 2012.

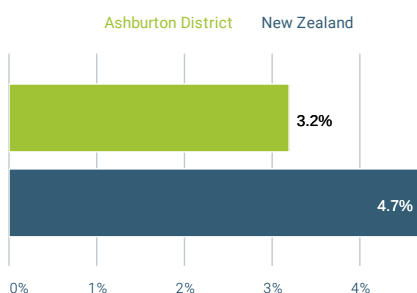
National overview

Jobseeker Support recipients continue to fall, reflecting a continued improvement in the jobs market and work by government and local job brokers to support better employment outcomes. June 2021 quarter recipient numbers were sitting at 190,260, 0.1% lower than in June 2020, after the bulk of additions to benefit support occurred. Continued falls in quarterly figures, coupled with the June 2020 skyrocket falling out of the current year numbers, means average Jobseeker Support recipients over the last 12 months have stabilised and will show reductions in future quarters. Jobseeker Support recipients remain substantially above pre-pandemic levels, with 54,000 more people on this benefit in June 2021 than in June 2019. With the jobs market strong, issues around skills matching are expected to become more pertinent.

Unemployment rate

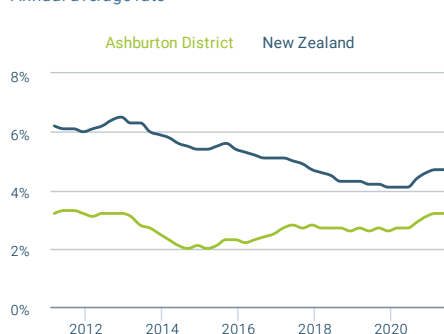
Unemployment rate

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



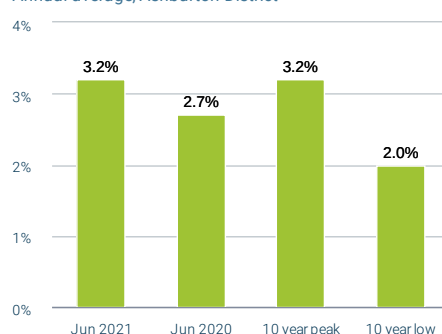
Unemployment rate

Annual average rate



Unemployment rate

Annual average, Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

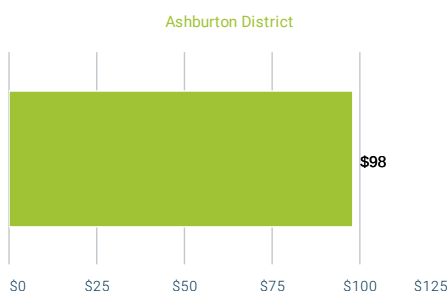
- The annual average unemployment rate in Ashburton District was 3.2% in June 2021, up from 2.7% 12 months earlier.
- The unemployment rate in Ashburton District was lower than in New Zealand (4.7%) in June 2021.
- Over the last ten years the unemployment rate in Ashburton District reached a peak of 3.2% in June 2021.

National overview

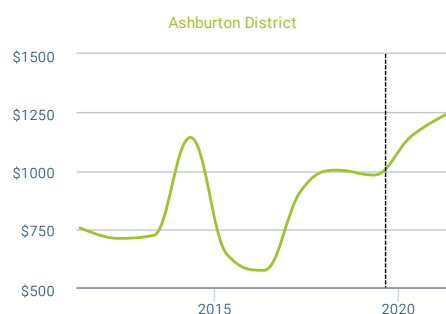
The unemployment rate plunged to 4.0% on a seasonally adjusted basis in June 2021, as the underutilisation rate also dropped to 10.5%. The fall in the unemployment rate was the sharpest drop on record over the last 35 years, underscoring the substantial improvement in the labour market. The sharp tightening also highlights the pressures faced to meet rampant demand even as the supply of skills remains restricted. The strong labour market performance backs up lower spare capacity in the jobs market, with strong filled jobs growth in June, record job ads, and businesses reporting both the most difficult period to find workers, and highest levels of job churn, on record. Pay increases rose in response, with more pressure on wages expected throughout 2021.

Dairy payout

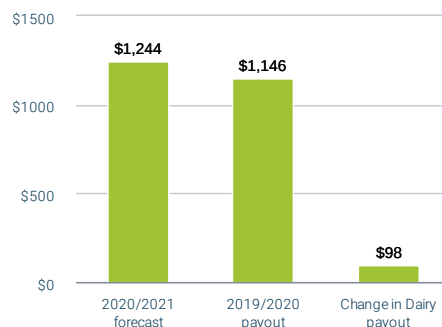
Total dairy payout (provisional)
Change (\$m) between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 seasons



Total dairy payout
\$m each season, Ashburton District



Total dairy payout
\$m each season, Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

- Ashburton District total dairy payout for the 2019/2020 season is estimated to have been approximately \$1,146 million.
- Ashburton District's dairy payout for the 2020/2021 season is expected to be approximately \$1,244 million, \$98 million higher than last season, assuming that production levels from last season are maintained.
- The total dairy payout for New Zealand is estimated to have been approximately \$13,537 million in the 2019/2020 season, and is expected to be \$1,168 million higher in the 2020/2021 season.

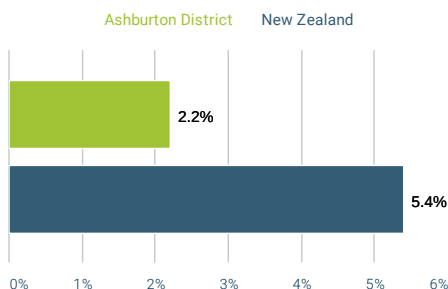
National overview

Dairy sector activity remains robust, with commodity prices coming off their peaks in recent months. Milk production across the country has been stronger than expected, with milk volumes sitting 2.6%pa higher in the 2020/21 season. Higher milk volumes have seen milk prices soften a touch for the season ahead and have also seen Fonterra narrow their farmgate milk price to \$7.45-\$7.65/kgms. This \$7.55/kgms midpoint is 5c below the previous midpoint, but the higher milk collection means our pay-out estimate has edged up 0.6% for the 2020/21 season from our March update, with \$14.7b now expected. This pay-out would be around \$1.2b (8.6%) higher than the 2019/20 season. We expect the 2021/22 season pay-out to decline slightly from the current expected estimate given supply levels.

Tourism expenditure

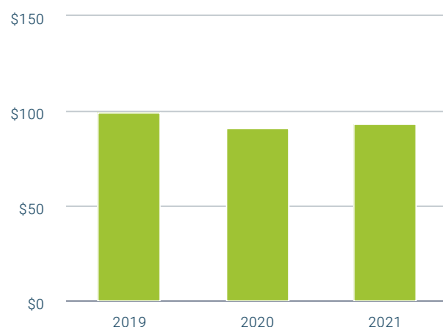
Tourism expenditure

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



Tourism expenditure

Annual total, Ashburton District (\$m)



Highlights for Ashburton District

- Total tourism expenditure in Ashburton District increased by 2.2% in the year to June 2021. This compares with an increase of 5.4% in New Zealand.
- Total tourism expenditure was approximately \$93 million in Ashburton District during the year to June 2021, which was up from \$91 million a year ago.

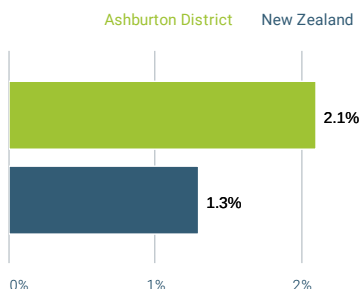
National overview

Total visitor spending over the 12 months to June 2021 was sitting 5.4% higher than in 2020 – a period that included the Alert Level 4 period when tourism was non-existent. This growth overemphasises the position of the tourism sector, but robust tourism activity is supporting spending. Relative to 2019 levels, total tourism spending is 5.2% lower, with international spending down 73%, but domestic tourism spending up nearly 18% from pre-pandemic levels. The Trans-Tasman bubble helped for a period but hopes for further recovery in tourism activity was dashed as the bubble popped and looks unlikely to reopen any time soon.

Health enrolments

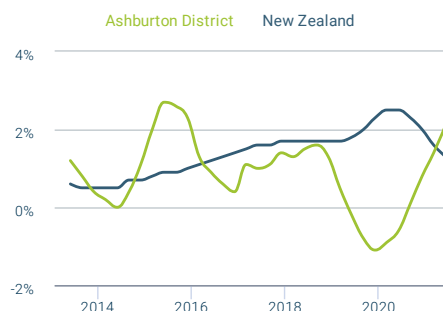
Annual change in health enrolments

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



Health enrolments

Annual average % change



Health enrolments

Annual average, Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

- The number of people enrolled with a primary health organisation in Ashburton District in the year to June 2021 increased by 2.1% compared with previous year. Growth was higher relative to New Zealand (1.3%).
- An average of 32,561 people were enrolled with primary healthcare providers in Ashburton District in the 12 months ended June 2021. This compares with an average of 31,593 since the start of the series in 2014.

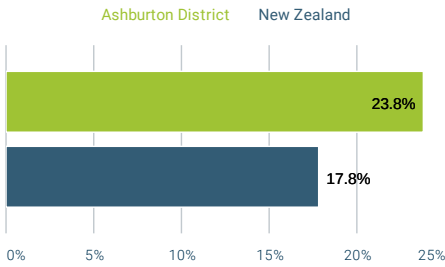
National overview

Slower population growth is evident across New Zealand as the collapse in net migration continues. Health enrolments rose by 1.0% in the June 2021 quarter compared to June 2020, the slowest pace in six years. This continued slowdown dragged year-end growth to 1.3%, considerably lower than the 2.5%pa growth seen in early 2020. The lack of migration into New Zealand has contributed to the pressures in the labour market, with the lack of skilled workers severely impacting a number of sectors. MIQ allocations are if anything lower than previously which will keep a low cap on arrivals into New Zealand.

Residential consents

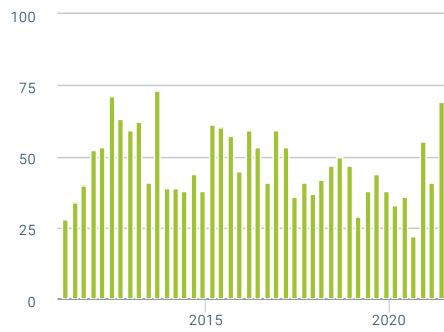
Growth in number of new dwelling consents

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



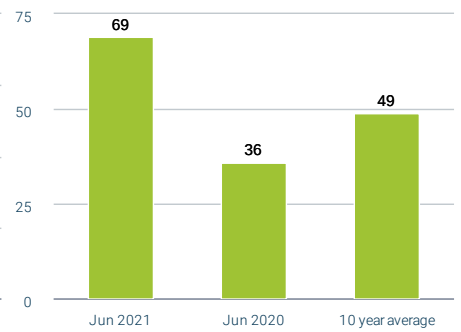
Residential consents

Quarterly number, Ashburton District



Number of new dwelling consents

Quarterly number, Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

- A total of 69 new residential building consents were issued in Ashburton District in the June 2021 quarter, compared with 36 in the same quarter last year.
- On an annual basis the number of consents in Ashburton District increased by 23.8% compared with the same 12-month period a year ago. This compares with an increase of 17.8% in New Zealand over the same period.

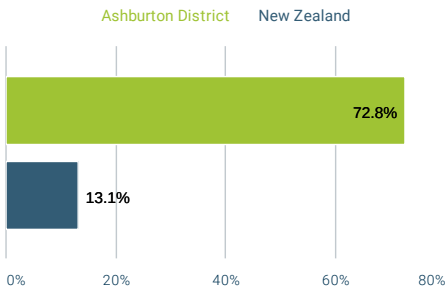
National overview

Residential building consents continue to climb to new record highs. Annual dwelling consents are sitting at 44,299 in the year to June 2021, up a staggering 18% compared to the year prior. Sustained and rampant house price growth has highlighted the need for more housing stock. Additionally, new government policy has been implemented to encourage investors to build new housing. We expect consents to maintain their strength over the remainder of the year, but capacity constraints are becoming a more pressing issue to convert these consents into actual building activity.

Non-residential consents

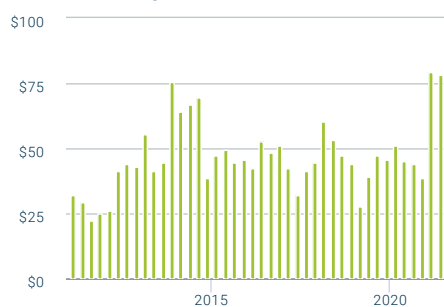
Growth in value of consents

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



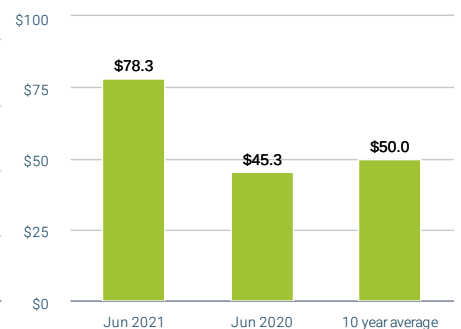
Non-residential consents, Ashburton District

\$m, annual running total, Ashburton District



Non-residential consents

Annual value (\$m), Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

- Non-residential building consents to the value of \$78.3 million were issued in Ashburton District during the year to June 2021.
- The value of consents increased by 72.8% over the year to June 2021. By comparison the value of consents increased by 13.1% in New Zealand over the same period.
- Over the last 10 years, consents in Ashburton District reached a peak of \$79.5 million in the year to March 2021.

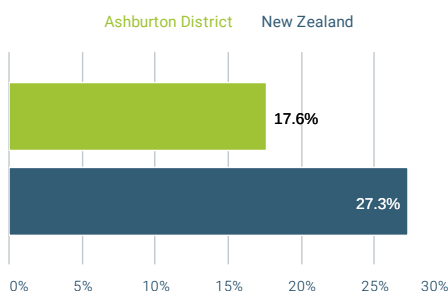
National overview

The value of non-residential building consents climbed 13% over the year to June 2021. Factory building consents have continued to show strength over the past year. Uncertain international supply chains and rising freight costs provide a strong argument for self-reliance and have helped encourage new factory building. Public consents have also shown incredible strength over the past year, particularly for education, hospitals, and social, cultural, and religious building consents. Strong fiscal stimulus to support the economy coming out of lockdown has helped boost public consents by 51% over the year to June 2021.

House values

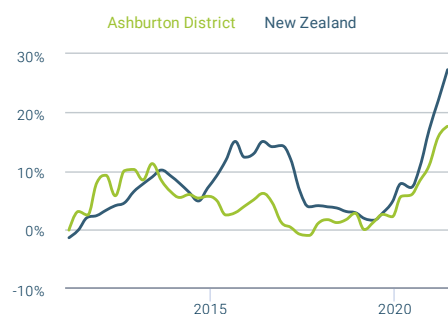
Annual change in house value

Annual % change in house value June 2020 - June 2021



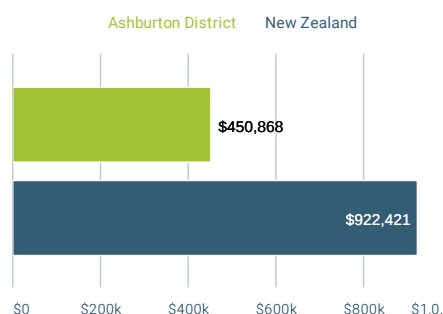
House value growth

Annual % change



Average current house value

Average house value in June 2021 quarter



Highlights for Ashburton District

- The average current house value in Ashburton District was up 17.6% in June 2021 compared with a year earlier. Growth underperformed relative to New Zealand, where values increased by 27.3%.
- The average current house value was \$450,868 in Ashburton District in June 2021. This compares with \$922,421 in New Zealand.

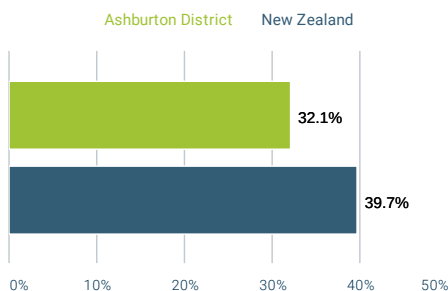
National overview

House prices continue their rampant run across the country, with house price growth reaching 27% in June 2021. Record low interest rates have encouraged many buyers into the market, with the low rates keeping mortgage repayments affordable despite record prices. As sales outstrip listings, a lack of supply is contributing to pushing up prices further. In recent months, sustained inflation in the economy has become a much more pressing issue, which will likely lead to an increase in the Official Cash Rate sooner than initially thought, and therefore higher mortgage rates, which may contribute to helping slow house price growth.

House sales

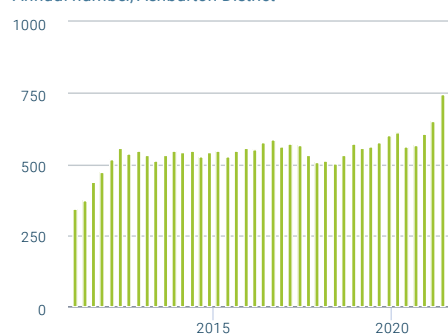
Annual change in house sales

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



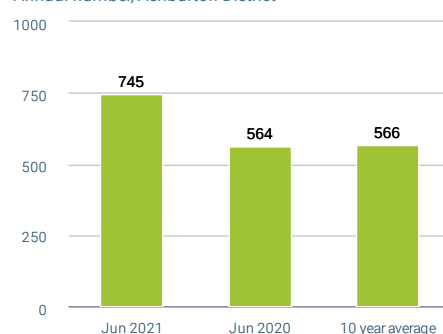
House sales

Annual number, Ashburton District



House sales

Annual number, Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

- House sales in Ashburton District in the year to June 2021 increased by 32.1% compared with the previous year. Growth underperformed relative to New Zealand, where sales increased by 39.7%.
- A total of 745 houses were sold in Ashburton District in the 12 months ended June 2021. This compares with the ten year average of 566.

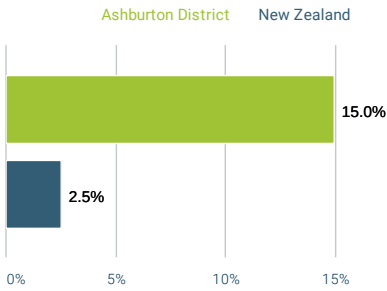
National overview

House sales have grown 40% over the year to June, a growth rate exaggerated by lower sales during Alert Level restrictions in the first half of 2020. Record low interest rates have encouraged buyers into the market. Rampant sales over the past year have meant supply has been unable to keep up with demand. As a result, in recent months house sales have started to show signs of a slowing trend. As prices are continuing their growth, it becomes obvious this slowing of sales is driven by a limited number of listings available for purchase, rather than a drop off in demand. This lack of supply is only contributing to further house price growth.

Car registrations

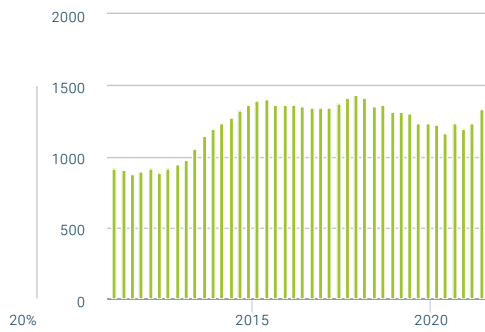
Car registrations

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



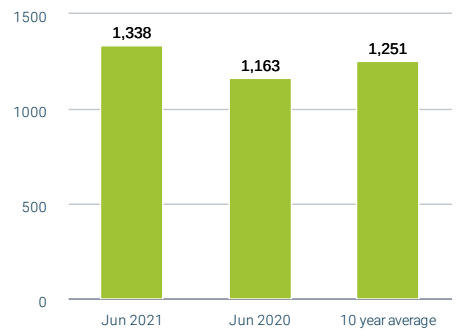
Car registrations

Annual number, Ashburton District



Car registrations

Annual number, Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

- The number of cars registered in Ashburton District increased by 15% in the year to June 2021 compared with the previous 12 months. Growth was higher than in New Zealand (2.5%).
- A total of 1,338 cars were registered in Ashburton District in the year to June 2021. This compares with the ten year average of 1,251.

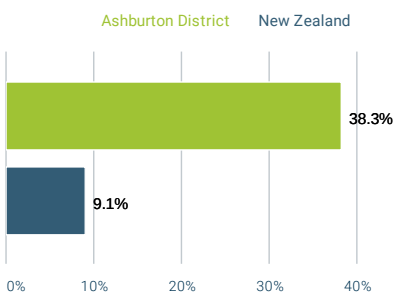
National overview

Passenger car registrations rose 2.5%pa in the 12 months to June 2021, as the fall in registrations during Alert Level 4 in 2020 moves out of the numbers. The underlying trend for car registrations is continuing to strengthen, with June 2021 quarter registrations sitting just 1.3% lower than 2019 levels. Registrations still have a way to go, with June 2021 year registrations of just under 231,000 still sitting nearly 7% below the 10-year average. Demand for vehicles remains strong, but supply chain issues have hampered registrations, forcing car prices to rise. Stronger demand for EVs is apparent since the government's new rebate was introduced, but its unknown yet how the introduction in 2022 of fees on high-emitting vehicles might influence the market.

Commercial vehicle registrations

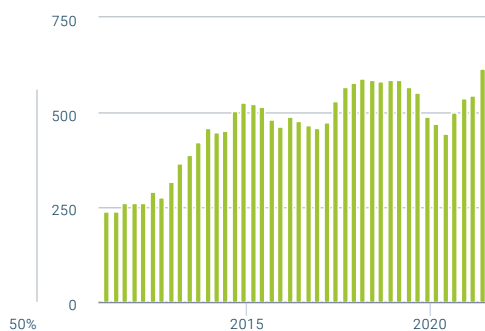
Commercial vehicle registrations

Annual average % change June 2020 - June 2021



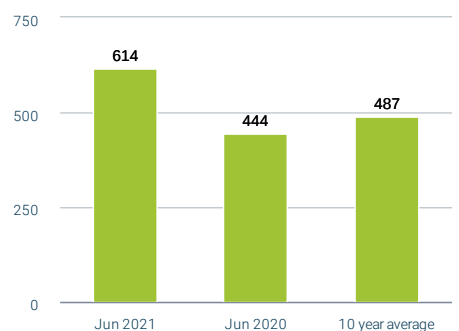
Commercial vehicle registrations

Annual number, Ashburton District



Commercial vehicle registrations

Annual number, Ashburton District



Highlights for Ashburton District

- The number of commercial vehicles registered in Ashburton District increased by 38.3% in the year to June 2021 compared with the previous 12 months. Growth was higher than in New Zealand (9.1%).
- A total of 614 commercial vehicles were registered in Ashburton District in the year to June 2021. This is higher than the ten year annual average of 487.

National overview

Commercial vehicle registrations have shown continued strength in 2021, with annual registrations of over 54,600 sitting 9.1% higher than in 2020. Stronger economic activity across construction, retail, primary sector, manufacturing, and freight sectors have boosted commercial vehicle needs, and annual registrations are sitting 8% clear of the 10-year average. Relative to 2019 levels, current registrations look a touch weaker, but the last few years prior to COVID-19 showed exceptionally strong registration levels. Sustained strong economic conditions are expected to keep registration levels up, and recent government moves may bolster light commercial registration numbers in 2021 ahead of new fees being added to high-emitting vehicles in 2022.

Technical Notes

Building Consents

Building consents data is sourced from Statistics New Zealand. The number of residential consents issued for new dwellings is the measure for residential consents. For non-residential consents, the measure is the value of both new buildings and alterations.

Consumer Spending

The consumer spending data is sourced from Marketview. It measures total electronic card spending using spending through the Paymark network and adding to it an estimate of non-Paymark network spending using the pattern of BNZ card holder spending at non-Paymark retailers. For further breakdown of the data by storetype and other variables contact Marketview.

Employment (place of residence)

Employment data is based off a range of Stats NZ employment datasets, and represents the number of filled jobs, based on the area of residential address for the employee (rather than workplace address). This place of residence location means that the employment series reflects trends in employment of an area's residents, which may be different to trends in employment at businesses in an area, particularly when there are strong commuting flows. The most recent quarter is based off the average of Monthly Employment Indicator (MEI) filled jobs from Statistics New Zealand for the past three months, with previous quarters being backcasted using the percentage change in the quarterly Business Data Collection dataset published by Statistics New Zealand.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product is estimated by Infometrics. A top down approach breaks national industrial production (sourced from production based GDP measures published by Statistics New Zealand) is broken down to TA level by applying TA shares to the national total. Each TA's share of industry output is based on earnings data from LEED. GDP growth in recent quarters is based on a model which uses the various partial economic indicators presented in this report as inputs. Estimates of GDP for these most recent quarters are provisional until Infometrics updates its annual GDP series in the Regional Economic Profile at the beginning of each year. Gross domestic product is measured in 2020 dollar terms.

Health Enrolments

Health enrolments are sourced from the Ministry of Health. They record the number of people in each area who are enrolled with a Primary Health Organisation (PHO). Enrolment is voluntary, but most New Zealanders enrol at a general practice for health reasons and for the benefits of enrolment, such as cheaper doctors' visits and reduced costs of prescription medicines. Changes to how the Ministry of Health recorded this data led to Infometrics revising our approach to health enrolment figures for the March 2019 Quarterly Economic Monitor onwards. Our new approach completely revises our timeseries of health enrolments, so care should be taken when comparing the March 2019 report with previously downloaded reports.

Previously, the data provided was only for those people whose addresses are able to be accurately recorded by the Ministry of Health. We have now switched to breaking down TA-level health enrolments based on trends in stated health enrolments by area, to ensure that the total number of enrollees published in the Monitor align with the national-level figures published by the Ministry of Health. A new system for classifying and recording health enrolment addresses from March 2019 onwards by the Ministry means significantly higher numbers of unallocated enrollees, resulting in the need to review our model.

House Sales

The number of house sales is sourced from REINZ. The indicator measures the number of house sales at the point when the sale becomes unconditional. The unconditional date is the date when all the terms of an agreement have been satisfied and the sale and purchase can proceed to settlement.

House Values

House values (dollar value) are sourced from CoreLogic. The levels quoted in the report are average values for the quarter.

Jobseeker Support Recipients

In July 2013 the New Zealand's welfare system changed to better recognise and support people's work potential. As part of this the Jobseekers Support benefit was introduced. This benefit is for people who can usually look or prepare for work but also includes people who can only work part-time or can't work at the moment, for example, because they have a health condition, injury or disability.

Data presented for the September 2013 quarter onwards is provided by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). Data prior to September 2013 are Infometrics estimates based on re-grouping pre-July 2013 benefit categories to be consistent with the post-July 2013 benefit categories. The pre-July 2013 benefit categories used to estimate the number of Jobseekers Support recipients are: Unemployment Benefit and Unemployment Benefit Hardship; Unemployment Benefit Training and Unemployment Benefit Hardship Training; Sickness Benefit and Sickness Benefit Hardship; Domestic Purposes Benefit - Sole Parent (if youngest child is 14 or over); Women Alone and Widow's Benefit (without children or with children 14 or over)

Tourism Expenditure

New Tourism Electronic Card Transactions (TECTs) are an interim replacement for the Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates (MRTes). We have removed our previous timeseries of MRTes and published the three annual snapshots provided in the TECTs. The TECTs reflect the expenditure for all electronic card transactions (ECTs) in New Zealand related to tourism. Marketview use a base of spending on the Paymark network (approximately 70 per cent of total ECT spend) to scale up to total ECT spend.

Traffic Flow

Traffic flow growth rates are calculated from the number of vehicles passing approximately 110 sites monitored by New Zealand Transport Agency. Each of the sites has been mapped to a territorial authority.

Unemployment Rate

Regional level unemployment rates are sourced from Statistics New Zealand's Household Labour Force Survey. Trends in the number of Jobseekers are used to break down regional unemployment rates to TA levels. The TA level unemployment rates are benchmarked on census following the release of each census. To reduce volatility the unemployment rate is presented as an average for the last four quarters.

Vehicle Sales

Car and commercial vehicle sales data are sourced from New Zealand Transport Authority. Sales are based on new registrations which include the first time registration of new vehicles and used vehicles imported from overseas.

Weekly Rents

Rents (\$ per week) are averaged across the quarter in question from monthly rental data sourced from MBIE. Rental data pertains to averages from data collected when bonds are lodged and does not control for specifications of the home (eg. size, number of bedrooms, age of home, etc).

7. Community grants & funding Round 2, 2021/22

Author *Clare Harden, Community Administration Officer*
General Manager *Steve Fabish; Group Manager - Community Services*

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to allocate the community grants and funding round two for 2021/22.
- All officer recommendations on the allocation of the grants have been made based on the application's eligibility and the funds available in each grant budget.

Recommendation

- 1. That** Council allocates **\$26,142** in community grants and funding for 2021/22 as per the following categories:
 - 1.4 Economic Development – Community Events Grant - \$4,748
 - 1.5 Natural & Built Environment – Biodiversity Grant - \$21,000

Attachment

Appendix 1 Summary of grants

Background

Grant applications

1. A total of six applications were received across the grant and funding areas, seeking funding of \$42,674.25. The following table outlines for each of the grant areas the amount the applicants requested, and how much is available in each budget. When recommending grant amounts, we have ensured that the total allocated is within the 2021/22 budget.
2. For a full summary of each application, please see Appendix 1.

Area	# applications	Amount requested	2021/22 budget	Total recommendation
Economic Development				
Community Events	1	\$4,748	\$6,391.75	\$4,748
Natural & Built Environments				
Biodiversity	5	\$37,926.25	\$21,394	\$21,300
Total	6	\$42,674.25	\$27,785.85	\$299,303

Options analysis

Option one

3. To allocate the community grants and funding for 2021/22 as per the recommendations as above

Option two

4. Council may choose to allocate the funds differently to that recommended by officers.

Legal/policy implications

5. Officers have assessed the grants against the Community Grants and Funding Policy and relevant criteria for each grant category. Commentary on the eligibility of each applicant is noted in the appended document.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	See costs previously noted for each grant category.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes, all grants are allocated within the budget available in the 2021/22 yr of the 2021-31 LTP.
Where is the funding coming from?	UAGC and general rates
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Not required.

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Level of engagement selected	Inform – one way communication.
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	No changes are being made to the available budgets, and therefore, only communication with the applicants is required. The community will be notified through a press release of the successful applicants, once the reported is adopted.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager

Max funding per application = \$7,500. No more than 50% of the total project cost (applicant's share can include in kind work or materials).																				Budget has \$15,000 + \$34,900 (accumulations) = \$49,900																		
Organisation details			Eligibility								About the project										Financials				Council involvement		Officer recommendation											
Organisation	Previous funding requests + reporting	Y	Located in Ash district?	Y	Protect / maintain / restore	Y	Ecological assessment	Y	Legally protected	N/A	Eco-sourced plants	Y	Legal entity	Y	Non profit orgn	Y	Indiv. School, Serv G.	Central Gov	N	Project details	Funding use	Project goals	Biodiversity values of the area	Benefit to indigenous biodiversity	Current risk / threat	Projects benefits sustained long-term?	Y	Org bank acc?	Other funders	Voluntary / donations	\$ requested	Project total	Effect of not funding	Reputational risk	Discrete / ongoing	Points to consider	Officer recommendation	Council recommendation
Upper Rangitata Gorge Landcare		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N		An aerial survey is undertaken in Oot/Nov after which a weed control work plan for the season is formulated	Weed control will be via ground spraying	It is always our goal to eliminate all weeds encountered.	The upper reaches of the Rangitata River represent relatively weed free glacier fed catchments in almost pristine condition. They have important fishery and habitat values. The Upper Rangitata riverbed area is NZ's most outstanding example of a braided river system.	The retention of the status of the catchment being an area of outstanding natural landscape, without the suffocating presence of invading woody species like broom, gorse false tamarisk and grey & crack willow. The protection of the natural habitat of several rare and endangered flora and fauna species for today and in the future.	If the Landcare Group and Govt Agencies were to cease their weed and pest control work, this world renowned braided river system would very quickly revert to be weed infested	There has been, and continues to be, a commitment from all parties including runholders, govt agencies, Ashburton District Council, Timaru District Council and Fish and Game, to all contribute financially every year to the ongoing weed control	Y	Jobs for Nature, \$50,000	Management and admin including Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson, weed & pest co-ordinator, all other members at meetings, at least 2 community spray days in the riverbed, use of members jetboats, vehicles, knapsack sprayers, individual runholders spraying their river frontage of their properties.	\$5,750	\$74,750	We will carry on within the budget constraints. Less work would be carried out on the true left of the Rangitata.	N	Ongoing		\$5,300		
Mountain Bike Ashburton		Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N		Skills Park and Riverside Planting Mountain Bike Ashburton sees value in the Ashburton/Hakaterere River area and is striving to enhance the biodiversity of the section of land we work within.	1564 Native plants + guard kits	Our goals are to restore sections of the river alongside our walking and cycling tracks to a pre-colonization state, have areas that attract birdlife and create an amazing area for the community to enjoy.	The Ashburton River like many of New Zealand's rivers is lined with exotic weeds and willow trees for flood protection. Through the weeds, native plants are slowly reestablishing themselves. Cabbage trees, flax and ferns can be found alongside the Ashburton township.	Indigenous plants will be supported in their re-establishment, in turn giving indigenous birdlife food and nesting choices. At our volunteer planting and maintenance days we also work to maintain existing naturally seeded native plants. This includes, but is not limited to, installing guards around young seedlings to prevent predator damage, staking trees to provide support in poor weather conditions and assist with weed control.	Without this project going ahead it is likely that the area we plan to plant in will go back to being covered in thick weeds, choking native plants that will struggle to become established and the area in general will become unappealing and unusable.	Our volunteers are committed to regularly weed-eating and spraying around all the native plants we have planted along the river.	Y	Trees for Canterbury 107 Plants	We would continue to hold several volunteer days where the public are invited to come along and help us plant the native plants.	\$7,500	\$7,500	If we are not granted the amount we have requested, we will likely not seek to apply for funding elsewhere as our committee is simply too busy this year with other work.	N	Ongoing		\$3,000			
Bike Methven		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N		Reinstate native bush ,Reduce pests Clear areas of gorse, broom, blackberry, wilding pines replant with native trees, grasses, flaxes etc Pest control of stoats, rats, wasps with bait and traps	Plants, Traps & Bait	We intend to plant 300 native plants of 15 varieties. Install 10 self setting traps with up to 24 animals each caught before maintenance required. 50 wasp bait stations with 6 month bait supply.	Mixed native beech forest, wet land areas	Stoat, rat, wasp numbers numbers will continue to go up and native birds, bee numbers will go down. We also beleve this along with the work done at Awa Awa Rata & the Mt Hutt Ski area will help Kea numbers in the area	Well known that trapping pasts helps bird number recover The more native trees, plants attract sustain more native birds etc	Continued planting of native trees. continued monitoring of trap's	Y	Trees for Canterbury 100 Plants	Club members time Community members Working Bee's Buinness's donated gear and time	\$7,500	\$7,500	less trapping and baiting and no extra native planting.	N	Ongoing		\$3,000			
Ben and Leah Mee	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		1. Planting - We are wanting to plant the creek sides that run through our property with native shrubs and trees. This creek has recently flooded, causing erosion. Planting with native shrubs and trees will protect from further erosion, increase native bird life and provide habitat protection. 2. Wasps - Purchasing vespex wasp bait and bait stations, setting up traps in the foothills from Staveley - Mt Hutt, on farms close to where our bees are located.	Bait, Plants	Planting - We will plant up to 250 native trees and shrubs along the creek side to protect the waterways from erosion in future floods. Wasps - We intend to continue setting up wasp traps along the foothills from Mt Hutt - Staveley.	Native tree and shrub planting - Restore what was previously native forest along the creek edges/up to 2-3mt out from waterway. Improve water quality, provide wildlife/native birds with habitat, reduce erosion, provide habitat protection for water species. Wasps are a major NZ biodiversity problem. We know the damage wasps cause so are really keen to do our bit. Because we have access to our bee sites on farms along the foothills we see this as a perfect opportunity to target these pests.	Planting - as above. Habitat protection for native birds, other wildlife, and water species. Wasps: Native species - birds, insects, lizards and the scale insect that produces honeydew on the Beech trees will have a greater chance of survival.	1. Erosion, particularly after the recent flooding. We have already planted natives but not enough to prevent this from continuing to happen. 2. Wasps are rampant in our native Beech forests. They kill our bees, native birds and other species, and are a massive biodiversity threat. They are also affecting the amount of people enjoying our native forest walkways. School/pre school groups, plus many others will not walk the tracks incase they are attacked by wasps	1. Trees/shrubs will grow and support the indigenous biodiversity. We will plant, water and ensure they grow. 2. We will continue to bait the stations that we put up in the foothills in the future, as we have in the past. The wasp numbers will continue drop and native creatures will flourish in numbers. People will feel safe to enjoy the tracks throughout the Beech forests.	Y	N/A	Time; spraying area prior to planting, purchasing and planting of trees/shrubs, fitting tree guards around each plant, and caring for plants once in the ground Rebaiting stations in the same area as our hives - once we have worked on our hives we spend time filling the bait stations close to the Beech forest. Organising/conversing with farmers/landowners for when suits to come onto their land. Planning with landowners best sites for bait stations. Often they will know where wasps are prolific. Online course to become approved users of Vespex	\$7,239	\$14,478	We will just do what we can with what we receive.	N	Ongoing		\$3,000			

Awa Awa Rata Reserve Society Inc	N/A	>	>	z	>	z	>	>	>	z	Our goals are to improve and restore native biodiversity, increase the public’s awareness of the role of pests and the value of native environments, and encourage the next generation to take care of this important area. Goals will be measured by an increase in bird life, improved forest regeneration and strong public engagement. Initial plans are to plant a new kowhai grove, check 40 rat traps & 45 stoat & possum traps at least fortnightly, undertake wasp control and have a professional assessment made of forest health which can then inform monitoring and future management.	Ecological assessment, Rat trap boxes, Stoat & possum traps	Our goals are to improve and restore native biodiversity, increase the public’s awareness of the role of pests and the value of native environments, and encourage the next generation to take care of this important area. Goals will be measured by an increase in bird life, improved forest regeneration and strong public engagement. Initial plans are to plant a new kowhai grove, check 40 rat traps & 45 stoat & possum traps at least fortnightly, undertake wasp control and have a professional assessment made of forest health which can then inform monitoring and future management.	The area contains very important native plant species and communities, and birds and insects that depends on them. The area is a mixed forest, containing beech, totara, rata, many small trees and shrub species. Native birds include bellbird, riflemen, kereru, tomtit, fantail. The Awa Awa Rata Reserve is an important area for biodiversity, as it is where the plains meets the foothills. This geography allows for a high number of native species within a small area.	There will be improved regeneration of native plant species, and less predation of birds; bird populations will increase.	If no action is taken the birdlife is likely to deteriorate further because of predation and competition, and forest regeneration will be limited due to browsing. There is a real risk of forest collapse and loss of some species if pest control is not undertaken.	A strong volunteer base, including high school students, will be developed to carry on the trapping and advocacy in the long-term. The reserve is close to Methven where there are many local people who use and are committed to the area so this is likely. The Reserve committee has been going for over 50 years and have expanded their mission to include the protection of native biodiversity.	>	Wasp control has been undertaken by volunteers over the past 5? summers. Native plants have been propagated and some planted already. Limited trapping is underway.	\$9,937 \$21,158	The project would have to be curtailed in scope, and funding sought from other sources. Native biodiversity will suffer and an opportunity to engage the community missed.	z	Ongoing	\$7,000
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8. *Elected Members' Allowances and Reimbursement Policy*

Author	<i>Rachel Thomas; Policy Advisor</i>
Activity Managers	<i>Phillipa Clark; Governance Team Leader</i> <i>Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager</i>
GM Responsible	<i>Jane Donaldson; Group Manager Strategy & Compliance</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to consider the review of the Elected Members' Allowances and Reimbursement Policy (the policy) which details expenses that may be claimed by elected members when working in the capacity of Council.
- The Remuneration Authority release an annual 'Determination' which sets out maximum allowances payable to elected members. Council can decide how much to pay up to the maximum set by the Determination. Most councils pay within the upper limits of what is available.
- If there is a change to the allowances payable through the Determination, Council reviews its policy to ensure elected members are adequately reimbursed.
- Officers recommend that the elected member allowance for communications equipment is increased for the 2021-22 year:
 - Councillor – from \$990 to \$1,100
 - Methven Community Board (MCB) Chair – from \$460 to \$520
 - MCB member – from \$300 to \$370.
- A minor amendment is also recommended to the mayoral vehicle section of the policy to reflect a recent amendment to the Determination released on 1 September 21. This amendment makes provision for the government's Clean Car Discount (rebate) which can be deducted from the purchase price of the eligible vehicle before calculating the deduction to the mayor's remuneration.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council adopts the revised Elected Members' Allowances and Reimbursement Policy.
2. **That** Council reviews the Elected Members' Allowances and Reimbursement Policy in one year if there are changes to the Remuneration Authority's 2022/23 determination.

Attachment

Appendix 1 Draft Elected Members' Allowances and Reimbursement Policy

Background

The current situation

25. The Remuneration Authority ('the Authority') is the independent body responsible for setting elected members' remuneration.
26. This policy review follows the release of the 2021/22 Determination by the Authority, which establishes the amounts payable to elected members. Each individual council considers its approach to the Determination and develops its own policy. There were no changes to the Determination in 2020/21 therefore last year the policy was not reviewed.
27. It is best practice to set amounts within the upper limits of the Determination. Council can determine the value of some allowances (such as communications equipment and childcare allowance), and opt to provide (or not provide) certain allowances or benefits (such as the childcare allowance or a mayoral vehicle).
28. This review has involved a desktop analysis, including:
 - assessing the Authority's 2021/22 Determination, and
 - obtaining feedback from elected members.

Previous Council direction

29. During the last review in 2019, changes were made to the policy including provision of a mayoral vehicle, an increased communication allowance for the MCB Chair, and provision of childcare allowance.

Māori and tangata whenua participation

30. Officers have determined no consultation with iwi is required given the perceived low level of interest in this policy, and low level of impact on tangata whenua.

Interested and affected parties

31. These include:
 - elected members and future candidates,
 - the community in general as ratepayers, and
 - the Governance, People & Capability, and Executive teams of Council.

Discussion of issues

Communications equipment

32. The current policy sets the allowance for communications equipment within the upper limit prescribed by the determination for councillors and the MCB Chair, and at a lower level for MCB members. The Mayor does not receive a communications allowance.

33. These limits account for the workload of members, and the requirement of access to communications equipment for carrying out members' duties. As councillors and the MCB Chair are provided with tablets with full technical support, no allowance is recommended for a 'personal computer'.
34. Officers sought feedback from elected members on actual usage of communications equipment and supplies, and considered these responses when determining the allowances.
35. The maximum annual amount permitted is \$2,150 as follows:
- Personal computer \$400
 - Printer \$50
 - Mobile telephone \$200
 - Mobile telephone service \$500
 - Internet service \$800
 - ICT consumables \$200
36. The current and proposed amounts are set out below with changes in red:

2020-21 allowances (current)	2021-22 allowances (proposed)
Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40 for a printer • \$150 for a telephone (mobile or handset) • \$400 for mobile telephone service • \$400 for internet service Total - \$990.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 for a printer • \$150 for a telephone (mobile or handset) • \$400 for mobile telephone service • \$500 for internet service Total - \$1,100
MCB Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 for a printer • \$100 for a telephone (mobile or handset) • \$150 for mobile telephone service • \$200 for internet service Total - \$460.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 for a printer • \$100 for a telephone (mobile or handset) • \$150 for mobile telephone service • \$250 for internet service Total - \$520.00
MCB members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 for a printer • \$40 for a telephone (mobile or handset) • \$100 for mobile telephone service • \$150 for internet service Total - \$300.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 for a printer • \$50 for a telephone (mobile or handset) • \$100 for mobile telephone service • \$200 for internet service Total - \$370.00

37. The **officer recommendation** is to increase the communications equipment allowances for councillors and MCB members.

Options analysis

Option one – roll over the policy

38. Council could roll over the policy however; this is not recommended, as the policy would not align with the 2021/22 Determination.

Option two – amend the policy as per the officers recommendations (recommended)

39. The only change recommended is to increase the communications allowances, as detailed earlier in the report.
40. This option is recommended as the changes reflect the Determination and incorporate other updates deemed necessary for claiming allowance and expenses. There are few risks associated with this option as the allowances set out in the policy are set within the limits of the 2021-22 Determination.
41. Feedback from members has determined a mix between private and personal use for phones and internet. There is an expectation that agendas and reports are accessed online therefore officers recommend increasing the allowance for internet service. The printing allowance is also recommended to be increased as many members still print at home. The 2021/22 Determination has introduced a new 'consumables' allowance up to \$200 per year. Officers do not propose this is paid as members can obtain consumables directly from Council (i.e. printing paper).

Option three – remove the policy

42. This policy is not a legislative requirement therefore it is possible to remove the policy. However, there would need to be an alternative, such as: developing 'rules' (i.e. Christchurch City Council), including the information in the Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy, and/or providing the information on the website.
43. This option is not recommended as having no policy would mean officers would have to rely on the Determination to pay allowances and expenses. Council would not have the opportunity to debate the policy, and determine the amounts payable.

Assessment of options

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option one – roll over	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rolling over the policy has no advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Opportunity to update the policy would be missed
Option two – amend	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alignment with the DeterminationEnsures appropriate cost recovery for members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some additional cost for ratepayers due to the increased communications allowance, however this is payable within the existing budget for Democracy

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option three – remove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy is not a legislative requirement therefore could be considered unnecessary • Less resource required to review policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having no policy could result in the allowances and expenses being changed without a resolution of Council • An alternative way to communicate information regarding allowances would need to be developed – this could require the equivalent or greater resource than a policy¹

Legal/policy implications

Local Government Act 2002

44. There is no legislative requirement to have such a policy. The [Local Government Act 2002 \(s.6\(3\)\(e\)\)](#) states the Authority may approve rules proposed by a local authority for reimbursing expenses incurred by members, subject to any rules that the Authority thinks fit and that it may direct a local authority to make publically available any rules the Authority had approved. These legislative requirements indicate that it is desirable or expected practice to have a policy.

Remuneration Authority

45. The Authority sets remuneration for elected positions in local government (and in Government, and for the Judiciary), and sets the rules for reimbursement of costs met by members through an annual determination.

Council strategies, plans, policies, bylaws

46. This policy is related to the Council’s Sensitive Expenditure Policy however differs by applying only to elected members, and is based on the Determination. The policy supports the intent of Council’s community outcomes and strategic priorities.

Health and safety implications

47. There are no operational health and safety implications with the preferred option.

Financial implications

48. The financial implications vary depending on which option is preferred for each issue.

¹ Under Schedule 6(4) of the Local Government Act 2002, the Authority may direct a local authority to make publicly available any rules it has in place regarding allowances and expenses therefore Council would need to develop an alternative.

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Rolling over the policy would incur no further cost, amending the policy would incur an additional cost to account for the increased communications allowance.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Council rates to cover these expenses and allowances. Under the Revenue & Financing Policy the 'Council' function of democracy is funded 100% through the Uniform Annual General Charge. The Methven Community Board function is funded (as of year two of the Long-Term Plan) 100% through a targeted Uniform Annual Charge on the Methven community.
Are there any future budget implications?	Yes, however this depends on Council's preferred option.
Finance review required?	No – no immediate rating impact with the preferred option.

Significance and engagement assessment

49. This matter has been considered in regards to Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and does not trigger a high level of significance. However, the policy could attract community interest given the increased communications allowance.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered <i>significant</i> ?	No
Level of significance	Low
Level of <i>engagement</i> selected	Inform – the community will be advised on the adoption of this policy
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	This policy is of low significance given the change proposed is minor. The policy is not a legal requirement, and has not in the past been subject to community consultation.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager

Next steps

Date	Action / milestone	Comments
15 September 2021	Adopt policy	
2022	Review policy	The policy will be reviewed again when the 2022/23 Determination is released. The policy will only be brought to Council if the Determination differs from what is currently offered.

Draft Policy

ELECTED MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND REIMBURSEMENT

TEAM:	Governance
RESPONSIBILITY:	Chief Executive
ADOPTED:	15 September 2021
REVIEW:	Every year, in line with the release of the Remuneration Authority Determination
CONSULTATION:	None required
RELATED DOCUMENTS:	ADC Conference Attendance Guidelines (Elected Members), ADC Elected Members Code of Conduct, ADC Sensitive Expenditure Policy, Local Government Act 2002, Remuneration Authority Act 1977, Local Government Elected Members (2021/22) Determination 2019.

Policy Objective

This policy provides details of the allowances and expenses available to elected members during their term of office and details the process for reimbursement. The objective is to avoid unjustified expenditure and ensure transparency in the process for reimbursement.

Definitions

Actual means as evidenced by the original tax receipt attached to the claim form.

Council means Ashburton District Council.

Council business is elected members' attendance at meetings/events that have been authorised through resolution of Council (i.e. adopting the Council meeting calendar and appointments schedule). This includes:

- Official meetings of the Council, including:
 - any committee/subcommittee
 - working groups
 - Council workshops
- Seminars, training courses and conferences*

- Statutory hearings
- Any fact-finding or investigative travel outside of New Zealand to inspect or evaluate initiatives, facilities or operations which may benefit Ashburton District
- Any travel as part of a Sister/Friendship City Delegation, where the host city does not wholly cover the cost of such travel.

Council business also includes the mayor attending external meetings/events where the Council has a business interest. The mayor may also invite other elected members to attend, either on behalf of or in addition to their attendance. Attendance at such external meetings/events does not require a resolution of Council.

Council business shall be performed in accordance with all other relevant Council policies and guidelines. Meetings/events which are primarily a social activity, such as recreational events including concerts or sporting games, are specifically excluded from the Council business definition.

**The Methven Community Board (MCB) Chair approves attendance for MCB members through resolution to the Board.*

Elected member means the mayor, any councillor or Methven Community Board member.

Family member of the member has the same meaning as s.14(4) of the Remuneration Authority Determination 2019/20 and means (a) a spouse, civil union partner, or de facto partner, or (b) a relative connected to the member within 2 degrees of a relationship.

Reasonable means that it is appropriate, fair, moderate, sensible, and within the amount specified by this policy or as deemed reasonable by the mayor and/or chief executive.

Remuneration Authority is a body established by the Remuneration Authority Act 1977, with responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2002 to determine remuneration and expense/allowance rules for local authority members.

Policy Statement

1. Introduction

1.1 From time to time elected members incur expenses on the Council's behalf, which need to be reimbursed. This reimbursement and the use of Council supplied resources apply only to elected members personally, and only while they are acting in their official capacity as elected members.

1.2 This policy applies to all elected members. It is intended to be read alongside the Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy which states the specific limits for accommodation and meal expenses.

1.3 Elected members are expected to exercise proper and prudent behaviour in relation to expenditure. This includes being honest and accountable, and complying with expenditure controls. Relevant principles are:

- there must be a justifiable business purpose,
- expenditure decisions must preserve impartiality,
- expenditure must be moderate and conservative, having regard to the circumstances, and
- the process must be transparent and appropriate in all respects, it should be able to withstand public scrutiny and have appropriate approvals.

- 1.4 Claims must be considered reasonable. Any concerns regarding whether a claim is reasonable should be discussed with the Governance Team prior to submitting a claim.
- 1.5 Council officers will ensure good financial controls and scrutiny of expenditure in the administration of this policy and elected members are expected to exercise sound judgment and integrity.
- 1.6 Details of allowance and expense claims are discoverable under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987, and subject to Council's LGOIMA Policy.

2. Authentication of expense reimbursements and allowances

- 2.1 The process for reimbursement of claims includes the following principles:
- any expenses to be reimbursed must be on an actual and reasonable basis,
 - expense claims are approved by the Chief Executive, via the Governance Team,
 - full original receipts are required for all claims, and
 - cost reimbursements will be made via the payroll system.
- 2.2 In the case of one-off expenditure such as travel to conferences, the process and prior approvals required are detailed in this policy.
- 2.3 In the case of a mayoral vehicle, vehicle mileage, travel time, communications and childcare allowance, no limits set in this document exceed the Remuneration Authority's Determination.
- 2.4 As recommended by the Remuneration Authority, the Council's internal audit work programme includes sampling expense claims and allowances paid to elected members and staff.
- 2.5 All expenditure that falls under this policy is approved on the condition that it can be met within relevant budget provisions.

3. Allowances and expenses

3.1 Communications equipment

Position	Entitlement
Mayor	Provision of a cell phone which includes full payment of the base rental and Council-related usage. The mayor identifies and reimburses Council for personal usage over and above Council's plan.
Councillors	<p>Provision of a tablet computer which includes full payment of the base rental and Council-related usage. Full technical support is provided.</p> <p>Provision of an annual allowance for any or all equipment provided by the elected member, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 for a printer • \$150 for a telephone (mobile or handset) • \$400 for mobile telephone service • \$500 for internet service <p>Total - \$1,100.00</p>

Position	Entitlement
Community Board Chair	<p>Provision of a tablet computer which includes full payment of the base rental and Council-related usage. Full technical support is provided.</p> <p>Provision of an annual allowance for any of the following equipment provided by the Community Board Chair, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 for a printer • \$100 for a telephone (mobile or handset) • \$150 for mobile telephone service • \$250 for internet service <p>Total - \$520.00</p>
Community Board members	<p>Provision of an annual allowance for any of the following equipment provided by the Community Board member, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 for a printer • \$50 for a telephone (mobile or handset) • \$100 for mobile telephone service • \$200 for internet service <p>Total - \$370.00</p>

3.2 Vehicle mileage

In the first instance, elected members (excluding the Mayor if the Mayor has opted for a mayoral vehicle) should request usage of a Council vehicle for attendance at Council business. Where a vehicle is unavailable, or it would be unreasonable to do so, elected members may use their own vehicles and claim mileage.

Mileage for approved Council business by an elected member will be paid up to the maximum rate per kilometre as set out in the current Remuneration Authority Determination. Mileage may be claimed for either a petrol/diesel vehicle or an electric vehicle.

The maximum mileage per kilometre payable to a member is for the first 14,000km of eligible travel in the determination term. For any distance over 14,000km of eligible travel in the determination term, the lower payment per kilometre applies.

Vehicle mileage will not be paid to the mayor where the mayor is travelling to the Council office from their personal residence. It would not be considered reasonable to reimburse for a daily trip to/from the office.

Mileage will be paid to eligible members on receipt of a completed and signed mileage claim, and approved by the Governance Team of Council.

3.3 Mayoral vehicle

The mayor will have the option to be provided with a vehicle that will also be available for private use, provided the following conditions of use and eligibility are met:

- The mayor will not be able to claim for vehicle mileage if a vehicle is provided.
- The mayor must use the mayoral vehicle for travel to and from Council business.

- The mayor may suggest a vehicle for purchase but the vehicle must satisfy Council's Plant Purchasing Policy requirements. The maximum purchase price is available as per the Determination: (a) Petrol or diesel vehicle - \$55,000, or (b) Electric or hybrid vehicle - \$65,000. These prices are inclusive of goods and services tax and any on-road costs.
- Appropriate adjustments will be made for the Government Clean Car Discount whereby the rebate a council may receive can be deducted from the purchase price of the eligible vehicle (including on road costs and GST) before calculating the deduction to the mayor's remuneration for the full or partial private use of the vehicle.
- The mayor will be provided with a fuel card to cover fuel costs. The mayor is expected to act prudently with the use of this card.
- If the mayor opts for an electric vehicle, the cost of electricity to charge the vehicle will be reimbursed. However, to ensure the accuracy of the reimbursement, a monitor will be purchased to record exact electricity usage at the mayor's personal residence. The cost of the monitor will be counted towards the total vehicle purchasing cost. Reimbursements must be submitted with a copy of the mayor's power bill stating the electricity rates for that month, and details of the actual electricity used to charge the vehicle (produced from the monitor).
- An electric charging station will be provided in the new Council building. However, Council is unable to provide a charging station at the current Council workplace of 5 Baring Square West. Given the Council will soon be shifting to a new building, it is not considered reasonable to install such a station for temporary use.
- If the mayor wishes to have an electric charging station installed at their own residence, they must do so at their own cost as this is a permanent feature.

Usage type

The mayor must determine the type of usage prior to the provision of the mayoral vehicle. The Determination sets out three types of usage:

Full private use – the vehicle:

- is usually driven home and securely parked by the mayor;
- is available for the mayor's unrestricted personal use; and
- is used by the mayor for a mix of Council business; private use; and may also be used by other elected members or staff on Council business, with the permission of the mayor.

There will be a salary deduction as required by the Determination for this type of usage.

Partial private use – the vehicle:

- is usually driven home and securely parked by the mayor;
- is used by the mayor for a mix of Council business and private purposes;
- may also be used by other local authority members or staff on Council business, with the permission of the mayor;
- is used for private purposes accounting for no more than 10% of the vehicle's annual mileage; and
- all travel in the vehicle is recorded in a logbook.

There will be a salary deduction as required by the Determination for this type of usage.

Restricted private use – the vehicle:

- is usually driven home and securely parked by the mayor;
- is otherwise generally available for use by other elected members or staff on Council business;
- is used solely for Council business; and
- all travel in the vehicle is recorded in a logbook.

There is no deduction from the annual remuneration if the mayor opts for restricted private use.

3.4 Travel time

As per the Sensitive Expenditure Policy, elected members are expected to consider the cost implications of travel. The most economical mode of transport, taking into account the cost of travel allowance, should be pursued.

Elected members are entitled to reimbursement at \$37.50 per hour for travel time (including travel to and from the member's residence) for travel undertaken on any one day to attend Council business with a minimum threshold of one hour of time travelled. Only time in excess of this threshold will qualify for payment and only if the travel is by the quickest form of transport reasonable in the circumstances.

3.5 Childcare allowance

Council will pay a childcare allowance to eligible elected members as per the Remuneration Authority determination 2019/20. This allowance is claims based, and claims must be submitted as soon as possible following the childcare. This allowance is intended as a contribution towards childcare costs for qualifying members when they are attending Council business.

Elected members will be paid a contribution that does not exceed \$15.00 per hour incurred by the member for childcare provided while the member is engaged on Council business, provided the following conditions are met:

- The member is a parent or guardian of the child, or is the person who usually has responsibility for the day-to-day care of the child (other than on a temporary basis).
- The child is aged under 14 years of age.
- The childcare is provided by a person who is not a family member of the member (see definitions section), and does not ordinarily reside with the member.
- The member provides evidence to Council of: the amount paid for childcare and the hours claimed, who (person or organisation) has provided the childcare, and the age of the child requiring care.

No more than \$6,000 per annum up to a maximum of two children will be paid in childcare allowances (i.e. \$12,000 per member for two children). Where the member has more than two children, the allowance will be appropriated accordingly (i.e. if there are three children, the allowance will be \$4,000 per child, and so forth).

The claim for reimbursement may include the time taken for the elected member to travel to the location of business, provided this is the time the childcare began/finished.

Appendix 1 – Reimbursement of mileage

Councillors and the Mayor (if no mayoral vehicle)

Type of meeting/function	Mileage	
	Paid	Not paid
Official meetings of Council (any committee/subcommittee reporting directly to Council)*	✓	
Working groups (only paid to members of the working group)	✓	
Community Board meetings (other than the Council appointees)		✓
Reserve board meetings (other than the Council appointees)		✓
Community consultation meetings**	✓	
Constituency “meetings” (either with individuals or organisations)**		✓
Briefings and discussions with the mayor, chief executive, managers and officers	✓	
Statutory hearings (only if attendance requested)	✓	
Field trips or site visits/inspections (including site visits for resource consent hearings where approved by mayor or Committee Chairperson)	✓	
Where councillors officiate at “official” functions as determined by the mayor	✓	
Conferences/seminars/training within New Zealand (if an appointed representative)	✓	
Social events – including concerts, shows and sporting events		✓

Community Board members

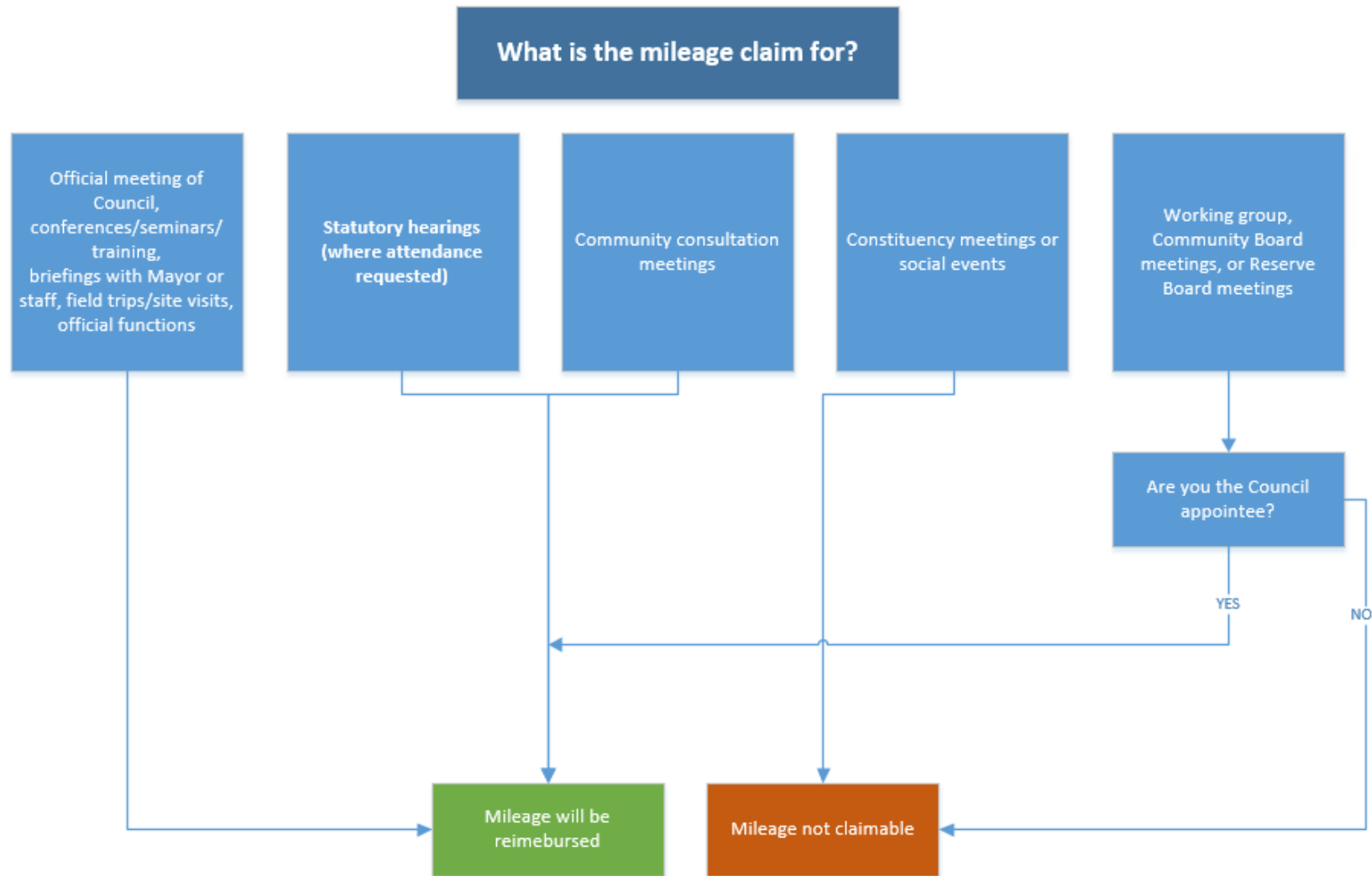
Type of meeting/function	Mileage	
	Paid	Not paid
Council meetings (ordinary, extra-ordinary and emergency)**		✓
Community Board meetings	✓	
Community consultation meetings (only if attendance requested)	✓	
Constituency “meetings” (either with individuals or organisations)**		✓
Briefings and discussions with the mayor, chief executive, managers and officers	✓	

Conferences/seminars/training within New Zealand (if an appointed representative)	✓	
Social events – including concerts, shows and sporting events		✓

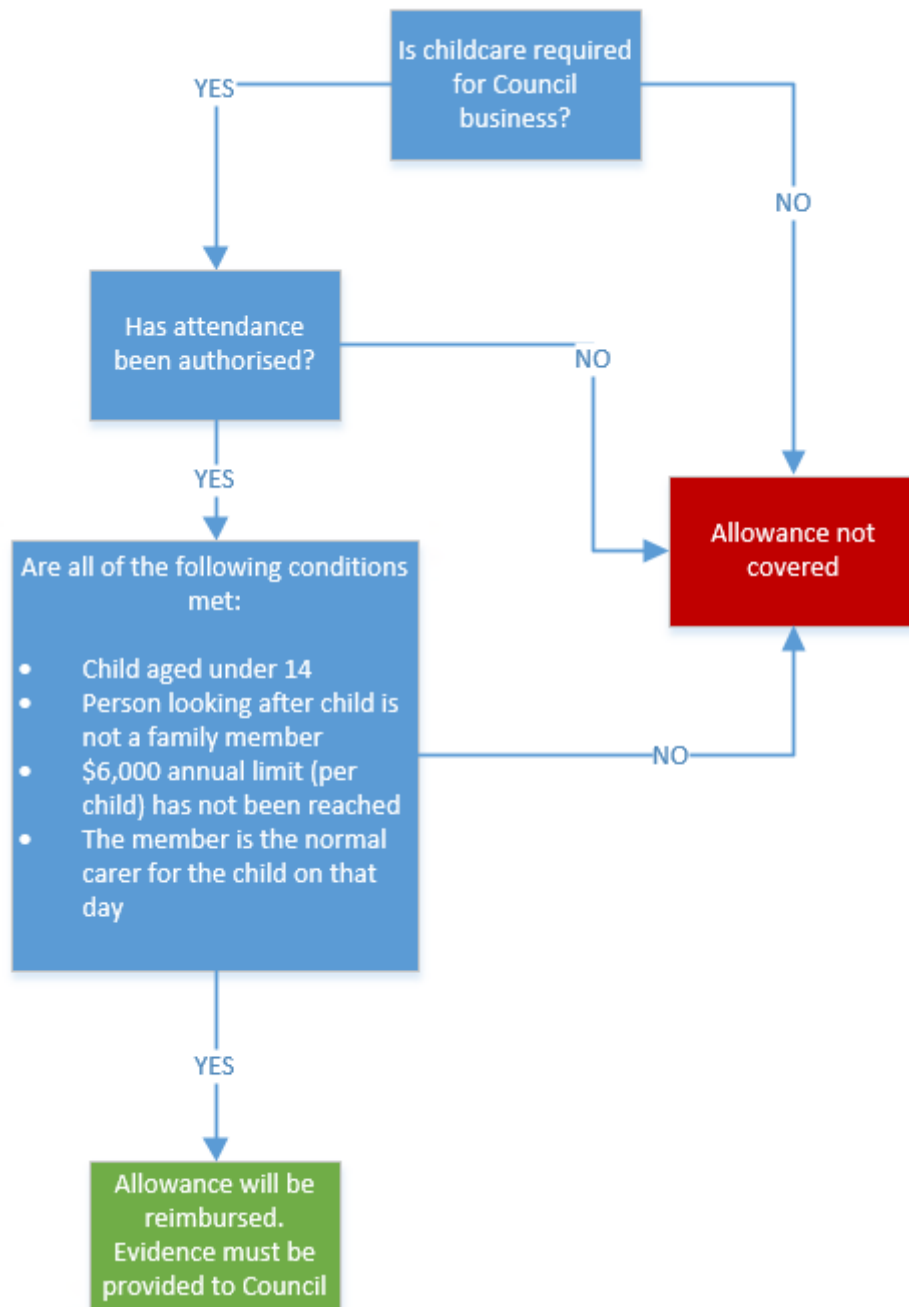
*All councillors are permitted to claim mileage, regardless of their membership

**Unless attendance has been requested by the mayor or granted by resolution of Council.

Appendix 2 - Mileage approval process for councillors and the mayor (if no mayoral vehicle)



Appendix 3 – Childcare allowance reimbursement



9. *Mayor's Report*

9.1 Covid

We moved to Level 2 on 8 September and are gradually returning to business as usual.

It is pleasing to see work progressing on the CBD, the Library and Civic Centre building and sewer pipelines again – we don't want any more slippage in time.

We need to continue to be vigilant by signing in, wearing facemasks when going into public spaces and for those who are willing and able to get vaccinated against Covid-19 to protect ourselves.

9.2 RDR Management Limited – Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of RDR Management Limited will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 5 October 2021 at the Hotel Ashburton. The Annual Report and Financial Statements have been circulated to Councillors.

Recommendation

That Council appoints the Deputy Mayor as proxy to vote on Council's behalf at the RDR Management Limited AGM on 5 October 2021, with the Chief Executive as the alternative representative.

9.3 Community Honours Awards

The 2021 Community Honours Awards, which recognise the contributions and achievements of individuals and organisation in our district have been awarded.

The Mayor's Award for Public Service is an award given to people who have made a significant and sustained contribution to the district. The Award recognises the recipients as stewards of the district and as people of special note.

This year there are two recipients:

- Trevor Croy – for his contribution to the Ashburton District
- Patricia McLaren – for her contribution to the Ashburton District

Ashburton Medal:

The Ashburton Medal honours the significant achievement of individuals and/or groups who have been extremely successful in their chosen field and who have made an outstanding contribution to the district as a whole. Only one Ashburton Medal may be awarded each year.

- Mid Canterbury Rural Women NZ Provincial – for their contribution to the Ashburton District, in particular to the rural community

There were three recipients of a Civic Award. This award is given to recognise substantial service, usually of a voluntary nature or beyond normal employment, benefiting the Ashburton District and its people.

- Neroli Cross – for her contribution to the Ashburton district
- James (Jim) Henderson – for his contribution to the Ashburton district, in particular to the field of rugby
- KidzMethven – for the establishment of the Methven Skatepark

I was thrilled with the high calibre of the nominations for this year's awards. It is such a pleasure to see all of the hard work happening in our community, thanks to the selfless efforts of volunteers who carry out their duties in a very humble manner. They are all very worthy recipients.

A presentation ceremony will be scheduled when there is more certainty around Covid alert level restrictions for public gatherings.

9.4 Meetings

• Mayoral calendar

August 2021 – all meetings via Zoom or MS Teams

- 30 August: AEC with CE Hamish Riach
- 30 August: South Parallel Sports
- 31 August: LGNZ Roadshow
- 31 August: DIA re 3 Waters

September 2021 – all meetings via Zoom or MS Teams

- 1 September: Freshwater Nitrate report workshop
- 1 September: Council meeting
- 2 September: LGNZ 3Waters update
- 2 September: Canterbury Mayor Forum – Submission to Environment Select Committee re NBA Exposure draft
- 3 September: Radio New Zealand interview
- 3 September: Covid Economic Recovery Advisory Group
- 3 September: Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust
- 3 September: LGNZ 3Waters webinar
- 6 September: CDHB Covid vaccine update
- 7 September: Rangitata Diversion Race Board meeting
- 7 September: Ngaitahu - Progressing the Takiwā approach to Three Waters hui
- 9 September: ECan – River Works programme post floods
- 10 September: Hokonui Radio Interview

Recommendation

That Council receives the Mayor's report.
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Neil Brown

Mayor