

Ashburton District Council

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

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

Date: Wednesday 20 April 2022

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Council Chamber

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

Covid-19 Protection

Council meetings will go ahead as normal under the Orange traffic light setting. A vaccine pass is not required but people attending must wear a mask. There is also the opportunity to view the meeting via livestream.

Watch the live-stream of this meeting on our You Tube channel, Facebook page and website:
<https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/council/public-meetings-research-centre>

Meeting Timetable

Time	Item
1pm	Meeting commences
1.05pm	Public Forum <i>(if required)</i>

1 Apologies

2 Extraordinary Business

3 Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes

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Business Transacted with the Public Excluded

17	Council – 6/04/22		PE 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award of Contract WATE0220.1 (Methven & Mt Somers) Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities [Now in open meeting] • Operation of Rangitata camping ground 		
18	Extraordinary Council – 13/04/22		PE 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award of Contract WATE0220.1 (Methven & Mt Somers) Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities 		
19	Library & Civic Centre – 12/04/22	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 3
	- Te Pātaka o Kā Tuhituhi - Te Waharoa a Hine Paaka		
20	Executive Committee 18/03/22		PE 7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CE Review Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons 		

4. Council Minutes – 6 April 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2022, commencing at 1pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

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), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Steve Fabish (GM Community Services), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Dan Huisman (Senior Communications Advisor) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Toni Durham (Strategy & Policy Manager), Janice McKay (Corporate Planner), Mel Neumann (Policy Advisor), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor), Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager) and Erin Register (Finance Manager).

Via MS Teams: Paul Brake (GM Business Support) and Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 16/03/22

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 March 2022, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Wilson

Carried

5 Confirmation of Minutes – 29/03/22

That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 29 March 2022, be taken as read and confirmed.

Rawlinson/Lovett

Carried

6 Audit & Risk Committee – 23/03/22

That the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 23 March 2022, be received.

Falloon/Braam

Carried

• Ashburton Contracting Ltd – draft Statement of Intent 2022-23

That Council approves the Ashburton Contracting Limited draft Statement of Intent for 2022-23 and formally advises the Ashburton Contracting Ltd Board of this decision before 28 April 2022.

Wilson/Falloon

7 Methven Community Board – 14/03/22

That the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 14 March 2022, be received.

McMillan/Letham

Carried

8 Adoption of Draft Annual Plan 2022-23

That Council adopts the Draft Annual Plan 2022-23 and Consultation Document for consultation with the community from 7 April until 6 May 2022.

Mayor/Braam

Carried

9 Climate Change Policy

The proposed policy wasn't fully supported by Councillors who commented that it should be tailored to suit this district and expanded to recognise the benefits as well as the negatives of climate change (such as a longer growing season / greater productivity).

Officers responded to concerns about the need for a resilience plan and advised that a good reason for having this plan is that it shows what staff are working on in the climate change space, and holds staff accountable through reporting to Council.

That Council receives the Climate Change Policy Review Background Report attached in appendix 1.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

That Council adopts the Climate Change Policy 2022 as attached in appendix 2

Cameron/Braam

Carried

Crs McKay and Wilson recorded their votes against the motion

That Council resolves to develop a 'Resilience Action Plan' to give effect to the Climate Change Policy.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

Crs Falloon and McKay recorded their votes against the motion.

10 Economic Development Quarterly Report

That Council receives the Economic Development quarterly update.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

11 Three Waters Reform

That Council receives the DIA's response to Ashburton District Council's submission feedback provided in September 2021 on the Three Waters Reform proposals at that time.

Falloon/McMillan

Carried

Welcome to staff – 3.04pm

Sarah Mosley introduced Glen Smith and Council acknowledged his long service (5 years) as a Building Official.

12 Road Closure – Standing Quarter Mile Sprint

That Council permits the following roads to be closed from 9.00am Saturday 23 April 2022 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/McKay

Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 3.07pm until 3.25pm.

13 Financial Variance Reports

That Council receives the financial variance reports, and the EA Networks Centre income and expenditure reports, for January and February 2022.

Lovett/Letham

Carried

14 Mayor's Report

• LGNZ Conference and AGM

That the Mayor be authorised to have Council's proxy vote at the Local Government New Zealand annual general meeting 2022, and the Deputy Mayor be the alternate proxy.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Brown/McMillan

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.49pm.

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:	
16	Council 16/03/22 • Ashburton Contracting Ltd	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
17	Audit & Risk Committee 23/03/22	Sections 7(2)(a) &(h)	Protection of privacy of natural persons & Commercial activities
18	Award of Contract WATE0220.1	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
19	Camping ground operations	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Rawlinson

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

• Operation of Rangitata Camping Ground

That Council reduces the opening of the Rangitata camping ground to seasonal only, closing the camping ground over the three months from 1 May 2022 until 1 August 2022 until alternative options can be more fully investigated and implemented.

Falloon/Letham

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.24pm.

Confirmed 20 April 2022

MAYOR

5. *Extraordinary Council Minutes – 13 April 2022*

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 13 April 2022, commencing at 8.39am in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

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

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Hernando Marilla (Operations Manager), and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

1 Apologies

Cr Letham

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Business transacted with the public excluded – 8.40am

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:	
4	Contract WATE0220.1 Methven & Mt Somers water (membrane)	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McKay/Wilson

Carried

The meeting concluded at 8.55am.

Confirmed 20 April 2022

MAYOR

6. *Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group*

Author	<i>Connor Lysaght; Archives Officer</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Shirin Khosraviani; Art Gallery and Museum Director</i>
GM Responsible	<i>Steve Fabish; Group Manager - Community Services</i>

Summary

- To inform Council of the Working Group's activities and discussions, minutes of meetings for the period February to March 2022 are attached for information.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council receives the Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group minutes for 9 February and 9 March 2022.

Attachments

Appendix 1 MC Heritage Group minutes 9/03/22 and 9/03/22

Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group meeting notes and actions



Date: 09/03/2022

Time: 4:44pm

Venue: Mayor's Reception

(Unconfirmed)

Present: Cr Diane Rawlinson (acting Chair); Glenn Vallender (Museum & Historical Society), Julie Luxton (Historic Places Mid Canterbury) and David Stewart (Community representative).

In attendance: Connor Lysaght (Archives Officer), Jill Watson (Library Manager)

Apologies: Danielle Campbell (Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum Deputy Director) and Cr Carolyn Cameron (Chair, left meeting early 5:03pm.)

Topic	Meeting Notes	Actions
Members' updates	<p>Apologies accepted from Danielle, absent, and Cr Carolyn leaving early.</p> <p>C Lysaght updated the group on Danielle's actions. The group will talk to R Garcia about interpretation panels' designs, update to presentation of historic interpretation at a later date once feedback has been received from the community about the current panels project.</p> <p>C Lysaght updated the group on panel install – it is now in the hands of Ian Soper and his team, and should be underway in the coming weeks.</p> <p>G Vallender raised the issue of attribution for images and text, chiefly the fact that the Ashburton Museum & Historical Society logo was absent from final panels despite the hurried expedition of the Society's new logo late last year. C Lysaght will ask R Garcia why the logo was excluded.</p> <p>Breakdown of remaining install costs explained, G Vallender expressed that Society money is available. C Lysaght will prepare 2 invoices – 1 for</p>	<p>Agreed that C Lysaght will ask R Garcia why the AM&HS logo was excluded from final panels.</p> <p>Agreed that C Lysaght will seek 2 invoices from MeNZShed for panel frames.</p>

remainder of Museum's contribution and 1 for the AM&HS to pay panel frames' cost.

Cr Carolyn asked if our projects could be linked together online somehow, via a social media page or something similar. This can be kept in mind and considered once the breadth of the group's projects widens. C Lysaght then presented the interpretation panels' webpage to the group.

Civic Centre Time Capsule

Idea raised that ballot boxes/voting stations at the Museum, Library (and maybe other Council facilities) could ask the public, not necessarily what should go in the time capsule, but 'what sort of things would you expect an Ashburton District time capsule to contain'?

Cr Carolyn left the meeting early at 5:03pm.

Most logical or likely opening date for the time capsule is 2078, agreed by the group, since it would be the bicentennial of the Ashburton Borough.

Granite ground plaques

Cr Rawlinson raised the issue of resistance from senior ADC staff about setting plaques in the ground at Baring Square East. D Stewart describes plaques in Motueka along walkway, set in ground. Cr Rawlinson mentioned that some ADC staff are already talking enthusiastically about a heritage trail or walk. D Stewart reminds the group of his list of business owners who are enthusiastic about the granite plaques project.

Once the group's 4 interpretation panels on East street are installed, the granite plaques project can be discussed in more detail. Several options for locations instead of Baring Square East were considered, including along the East Street green, opposite the streets where businesses stood (J Watson). Possibility they could be set into a wall too. Keep them down to about 100 words and 1 image. G Vallender reminds group it'd be our job to put together concepts, and Council would instruct on what happens. Cr Rawlinson – need to get S Fabish in on the discussion.

Some further discussion – how many should there be? What would the criteria be for inclusion? J Watson – we may be able to cherry-pick major businesses at sites, rather than the entire story of each building site. J Luxton – made the point that money will dictate this project too.

G Vallender confirmed the previous meeting's minutes as being an accurate record, seconded by J Luxton.

D Stewart moved that the group should explore the granite ground plaques project further, seconded by G Vallender. Everyone in agreement.

Agreed that the granite plaques project will be discussed further at the group's next meeting, building on existing dialogue.

Also agreed that J Luxton will continue to work on the idea of a heritage trail and will scope out a 'second half' (across the railway line, away from the CBD) and come back with suggestions. G Vallender asks how long it will be, J Luxton puts forward idea of the trail not just being about heritage, but culture as well. Cr Rawlinson – should be a good length so that groups can come and do it.

Agreed that J Luxton will continue to work on the idea of a heritage walking trail in town.

G Vallender raised the point of iwi inclusion in the working group and that we should think about how this can be approached, as well as wider district inclusion. Also raised the point of an interpretation panel about early takata whenua and the beginnings of people in this area. Cr Rawlinson raised that this group needs to develop and is probably at the point where terms of reference and wider representation are needed.

The meeting concluded at 5:52 pm.

Next meeting: Tentative - Wednesday 13 April, 5:00pm.

Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group meeting notes and actions



Date: 9 February 2022
Time: 4:30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber

- Present:** Crs Carolyn Cameron (Chair); Glenn Vallender (Museum & Historical Society), Julie Luxton (Historic Places Mid Canterbury) and David Stewart (Community representative).
- In attendance:** Danielle Campbell (Art Gallery and Museum Deputy Director) and Connor Lysaght (Archives Officer)
- Apologies:** Cr Diane Rawlinson

Topic

Meeting Notes

Agreed actions

Members' updates

Meeting commenced 4:37pm.
Apology accepted for Cr Rawlinson – Moved by Cr Cameron, seconded by D Stewart.
Minutes of previous meeting confirmed as true and accurate, moved G Vallender seconded D Stewart.

Professional feedback on interpretation panels was discussed and it was agreed that C Lysaght will discuss future panel design with Ruben. Agreed there may be a conflict between ADC branding and what the group is expecting in terms of historic interpretation. Pick out crucial feedback to identify what is crucial for the next set of interpretation panels.

Agreed that C Lysaght will talk to R Garcia about future interpretation panels' design and how best to go about changing designs.

Agreed that C Lysaght will liaise with Ian re proposed 3 March unveiling and frame pick-up.

Installation and unveiling

Year ahead

Panels are ready for install. Proposed deadline for 3 March unveiling. Agreed C Lysaght will ask Ian if this can be achieved and will get Ian to gather the panels' frames.

Agreed C Lysaght will talk to R Garcia about an unveiling, including perhaps media, photographer, afternoon tea.

Proposal that there should be an unveiling ceremony perhaps with media.

Agreed C Lysaght will ask R Garcia about feasibility.

J Luxton brought list of blue plaques for our information and explained the process behind them as well as proposed future plaques, Methodist church and Plunket Rooms. Noted that building owners usually pay the price for these, or grants are sought.

J Luxton proposed an online space similar to Wuhoo Timaru to collate information about heritage projects in our districts and family activities.

D Campbell suggested the group should work on a heritage interpretation strategy for the Ashburton District Council to guide future projects instead of running them through ad-hoc. This would help Council, the Museum and this group figure out the best ways to communicate the history of Ashburton District in-line with sector best practice, and give projects more credibility. Agreed that D Campbell will discuss the matter of a heritage interpretation strategy with S Khosraviani. If approved by Council, the strategy can tie-in with long term and annual plans and justify funding for future projects. This strategy can draw from existing ones adopted by Wellington and Christchurch City Councils.

Agreed that D Campbell will discuss the development of a heritage interpretation strategy with S Khosraviani.

Agreed that D Campbell will approach the Public Library to see if a staff member would join this group.

Proposed that the Group invite a Public Library staff member to join the working group. Agreed that D Campbell with approach the Library on this matter.

Discussion between Cr Cameron and D Stewart about granite plaques project. D Stewart noted that several business owners are already interested in these. Proposed that the group should send letters to owners seeking expressions of interest to further this project. Cr Cameron contacted N McCann to ask whether it is feasible to install plaques at Baring Square East for businesses no longer in situ and the matter was set to be raised at the Library and Civic Centre/ Te Pataka o ka Tuhituhi-Te Waharoa a Hine Paaka Project Control Group meeting on 10 February.

Cr Cameron also emailed S Fabish regarding the overhead railbridge and potential sprucing-up, whether this group would be involved in such a project is not clear at this point.

The meeting concluded at 5:37 pm.

Next meeting: 9 March 2022 4:30pm

7. *Hinds Reserve Board Water Charges Write-off*

Author *Paul Brake; Group Manager Business Support*
GM Responsible *Hamish Riach; Chief Executive*

Summary

- This report recommends the write-off of excess water consumption incurred by the Hinds Reserve Board from May 2014 to January 2016.
- The water reticulation system at the Reserve Board has been renewed, and the excess water usage has been reduced to a normal level.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council approves the write-off of \$19,450 (GST exclusive) of excess water charges that have been charged to the Hinds Reserve Board.

Background

1. For many years, the Hinds Reserve Board has incurred excess water usage charges due to a leaky water reticulation system.
2. In 2010 the Reserve Board requested and received a write-off of \$7,547.04 of excess water charges and advised Council that the leaks had been addressed.
3. However the leaks persisted and, between the period of May 2014 and January 2016, the Reserve Board was charged \$21,200 in water charges. These costs were directly debited to the Hinds Reserve Board account.
4. The Hinds Reserve Board has requested that excess water usage charges levied between May 2014 and January 2016 be written off.
5. Subsequent charges after January 2016 have averaged less than \$350 per quarter, indicating that the leaks have finally been fixed.
6. If we consider \$350 to be a normal quarter usage, then the period of May 2014 to January 2016 would result in charges of \$1,750 (8 quarters). Therefore the write-off will be the difference between \$21,200 less \$1,750 = \$19,450.
7. Council's rates remission policy adopted in June 2021 states the following:
 - 15 *Council may agree to a remission or part remission of water charges in situations where the amount is clearly the result of a fault (leak) in the internal water reticulation serving the rating unit*
 - 16 *The ratepayer will remain liable for the full charge of their normal water consumption based on past water consumption*
 - 17 *A remission may be made on excess charges due to leakage for one billing period only. The applicant must provide evidence that the leak has been fixed.*
 - 22 *Applications (other than those under clause 23) received during a rating year will apply to the following rating year, and such applications will not be backdated. Applications under clause 23 will apply to the rating year where leakage has occurred. Where leakage has spanned two rating year, Council may remit excess charges in two years but in no case for a period greater than twelve months.*
 - 23 *Council will grant a maximum of one rates remission for any one rating unit, in any one financial year, unless there has been a Council error. This does not apply to remission of rates penalties.*
8. The application and calculation of the write-off meet 15 and 16 above but does not comply with 17, 22, and 23. Therefore any decision to grant a write-off will need Council approval.

9. Given that the Reserve Board is a community facility owned by the Council, it is recommended that the write-off be approved, despite the application not fully meeting Council's Rates Remission Policy.

Options analysis

Option One-Write off the excess water usage charges per the recommendation

Advantages

10. This will reduce the Hinds Reserve Board deficit and recognise their efforts to renew their water reticulation and stop the wastage of water.

Disadvantages

11. The recommendation is outside Council's current rates remission policy

Option two- Decline the Write-off request

Advantages

12. The group water account will not have to bear the cost of the write-off

Disadvantages

13. The Hinds Reserve Board will be left with the cost of both the water used and the remedial work done on the reticulation system that has stopped the leaks.

Legal/policy implications

14. As stated in paragraph 8, the request is outside Council's Rates Remission Policy.

Strategic alignment

15. The recommendation to write off the excess water charges relates to the Community Outcome *A district of great spaces and places*.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	Relieving the financial deficit for the Reserve Board, a voluntary group
Environmental		
Cultural		
Social	✓	Enable the Reserve Board to focus on other projects for the community

Financial implications

16. The write-off will be a cost to the water supply group.

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	\$19,450
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	No, there is no budget for this write-off
Where is the funding coming from?	This will be a cost to the drinking water group.
Are there any future budget implications?	Yes, there will be a reduction in the group water group account balance, but the amount is not significant.
Finance review required?	Paul Brake: Group Manager Business Support

Significance and engagement assessment

17. The recommendation is not considered significant.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	The write-off of \$19,450 is not considered significant
Level of engagement selected	Inform – One-way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The amount is not significant to the Drinking water group that will bear the write-off cost. While the recommendation goes against Council policy, the fact that the reserve board is a community asset that is part of the Council should not attract any significant adverse community reaction.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager

8. *Draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy*

Author	<i>Janice McKay; Corporate Planner</i>
Activity manager	<i>Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager</i>
Group manager	<i>Jane Donaldson; Strategy & Compliance</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to adopt the draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy for consultation.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council adopt the draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy for public consultation.

Attachment

- Appendix 1** **Draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy**
(Circulated as a separate document with this agenda)

Background

The current situation

1. The last Sport & Recreation Strategy for Council was developed in 2010, which followed a Physical Activity Strategy in 2006.
2. Many of the goals and objectives from the previous Strategy have been achieved, with much of the focus previously around the establishment of the EA Networks Centre, which was opened in 2015.
3. Stakeholders signalled a need for a new Strategy, with a renewed focus on increasing participation.
4. Following the Long Term Plan consultation process in 2021, the Strategy & Policy team was commissioned by the Community Services group to prepare a new draft strategy.

How the strategy was developed

5. The draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy has been developed through desktop research and information gained through pre-engagement with the sector.
6. The pre-engagement included:
 - a. one-on-one discussions with rūnanga, regional sports organisations, Ashburton College and regular weekly meetings with the EA Networks Centre,
 - b. a survey with clubs, groups and organisations (39 participants),
 - c. a workshop with the sector (16 participants).
7. Desktop research included:
 - d. national and regional strategic direction and trends,
 - e. population analysis.

Consultation approach

8. The draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy has four key goals and 12 objectives.
9. A consultation document will be prepared, and the community will be asked to rank the goals and objectives in order of priority.
10. This will help guide development of the timeframes for the 12 objectives in the Action Plan section of the Strategy.

Options analysis

Option one – Adopt the draft strategy for public consultation (recommended option)

11. Under this option, Council adopts the strategy as is, for public consultation.

Advantages

- The community's views will be heard and able to be included in the strategy to refine a shared vision for the District.
- The Strategy will be completed within the financial year, as indicated in the LTP 2021-31.

Disadvantages

- No disadvantages have been clearly identified

Option two – Adopt the draft strategy for public consultation with amendments

12. Under this option, Council adopts the Strategy with amendments, for public consultation.

Advantages

- The community's views will be heard and able to be included in the Strategy to refine a shared vision for the District.

Disadvantages

- The timeline on the Strategy will be affected:
 - It will either not be completed within the financial year, as indicated in the LTP 2021-31;
 - Or the consultation period will be reduced, affecting whether the community has had a fair chance to have their say.

Option two – Do not adopt for consultation (status quo)

13. Under this option, Council does not adopt the draft Strategy for consultation.

Advantages

- There are no benefits with this option.

Disadvantages

- The community's views will not be heard and, therefore, unable to be included.
- The likelihood of Play, Active Recreation and Sport coordination in the District having a shared vision to work collaboratively becomes decreased, as the Strategy development loses momentum.

Legal/policy implications

14. The draft strategy is consistent with the following Council documents:

- Community Outcomes; Long-Term Plan 2021-31
- Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Open Spaces Strategy

The draft Strategy has been developed to align with the Sport New Zealand/ Ihi Aotearoa Strategic Direction 'Everybody Active' 2020-2032.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Consultation costs covered by existing budgets
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Strategy & Policy
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Not required.

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	Yes
Level of significance	Medium
Level of engagement selected	3. Consult – formal two way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	While there has been extensive engagement with community stakeholders in developing the strategy, consultation allows the community the opportunity to see if the draft strategy will meet their needs.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager

Next steps

Date	Action / milestone
April 20	Report draft to Council
April 21-May 22	Community Consultation
June 9	Hearings & Deliberations
June 29	Final strategy adopted

9. *Draft submission to MPI – Managing exotic afforestation incentives – changes to the ETS*

Author	<i>Mel Neumann; Graduate Policy Advisor Terry O'Neill; Forester</i>
Activity manager	<i>Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager Colin Windleborn; Commercial Property Manager</i>
Group Manager	<i>Jane Donaldson; Strategy & Compliance Group Manager Paul Brake; Business Support Group Manager</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a draft submission to the Ministry for Primary Industries on its consultation document about *Managing exotic afforestation incentives*.
- The consultation document is seeking to amend the new 'permanent forests' category that was introduced to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) via the Climate Change (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Act 2020.
- The main change proposed in the discussion document is to remove the ability to register exotic species within the permanent forests category of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme.
- To summarise, the submission is generally supportive of the intention of the proposals, but has some concerns about the practicality for certain areas within New Zealand and in particular, the Ashburton District.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council approves the draft submission to the Ministry for Primary Industries' consultation document *Managing exotic afforestation incentives*.

Attachment

Appendix 1 Ashburton District Council draft submission to MPI

Background

The current situation

1. The Government introduced new legislation in 2020, through the Climate Change (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Act 2020. The amendment introduced the new category of permanent forests (post 1989). This new category is scheduled to open for registrations from 1 January 2023.
2. The purpose of this new permanent forests category is to increase incentives for afforestation, as this can be a big part of tackling our climate emissions. As things currently stand, a forest consisting of any tree species (exotic and native) can be registered under the permanent forests category, and there is no limit to the total area.
3. The main change proposed in the discussion document is to remove the ability to register exotic species within the permanent forests category of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).
4. The reasons for this proposal, set out in the discussion document include:
 - Without changes, it will likely result in large areas of land being planted nationwide, in forests consisting of exotic species which are not intended to be harvested.
 - Permanent forests can have an impact on long-term economic activity and job creation, relative to competing land use.
 - With permanent exotics being highly profitable and the use of land at current carbon prices, this would increase the supply of NZU (NZ units) into the ETS, which is then likely to dampen medium-term carbon prices. This risks curtailing investment and uptake of low-carbon technologies to reduce emissions.
 - The Climate Change Commission identified a clear role for indigenous afforestation which provides slower but sustained sequestration throughout this century.
 - Large areas of exotic plantings with little ongoing management poses long-term risks of animal pests, disease, fire and wilding conifer spread.
 - The Government does not consider it appropriate to provide incentives that could lead to a legacy of large areas concentrated with permanent exotic forests, as it will not provide a prosperous and sustainable footing for NZ in the long-term.
5. The discussion document also invites views on whether a long rotation averaging accounting forestry category should be developed within the ETS. This could provide opportunities for forest owners whose land is poorly suited to harvesting *Pinus radiata* at typical harvest ages, by recognising the higher levels of carbon stored in forests with longer rotation lengths.
6. During this consultation, MPI are also looking for feedback on opportunities for increasing incentives for planting permanent indigenous forests.

Options analysis

Option one – Do nothing

7. This is not the recommended option. Council may decide to stay silent and not make a submission on the proposed changes to the ETS. This would result in Council missing an opportunity to advocate on behalf of the district.

Option two – Approve the submission as attached in Appendix One (recommended option)

8. This option would see Council officers lodge the appended submission with the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Option three – Approve an amended submission

9. This option would see Council approve an amended version of the submission currently appended, and submit that document to the Ministry for Primary Industries.
10. Officers recognise that useful points of improvement often arise from elected member input and this option may be preferred for those reasons.

Legal/policy implications

11. The lodging of a submission does not breach or trigger any statutory or legal duty of the Council.

Financial implications

12. There are no immediate financial implications in making this submission.

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Officer resource in preparing the submission. This has been met from within existing operating budgets.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Strategy & Policy
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager

Strategic alignment

13. The recommendation relates to Council’s community outcome of a balanced and sustainable environment as the proposals relate to afforestation and off-setting carbon emissions.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	The proposals may have an impact on the national and local economy
Environmental	✓	Afforestation helps to off-set carbon emissions
Cultural	✓	The proposal recognises the significant interests Māori have in forests as rangatira, kaitiaki, land and forest owners, workers and business owners
Social		

Significance and engagement assessment

14. The approval of this submission is not considered to be significant.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low, not significant
Rationale for selecting level of significance	Not applicable
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The community will be informed of Council’s submission through usual channels.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager

Submission

Managing exotic afforestation incentives: Proposals to change forestry settings in the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme

PREPARED BY: Ashburton District Council
PO Box 94
ASHBURTON 7774

SUBMITTED TO: Ministry for Primary Industries
via email to
mpi.forestry@mpi.govt.nz

Contact: Strategy & Policy Manager
Toni.Durham@adc.govt.nz

Introduction

1. Ashburton District Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to submit feedback on the Ministry for Primary Industries' April 2022 consultation document '*Managing exotic afforestation incentives: Proposals to change forestry settings in the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme.*' This submission has been prepared by officers and approved by Council.
2. Located an hour's drive south of Christchurch, more than 35,400¹ residents live in our district. Approximately 50% of our residents live in the main town of Ashburton, with the rest of our residents living rurally or in smaller towns or villages across the district.
3. Ashburton District (the District) has experienced moderate and sustained population increase since the mid-1990s, increasing by 23% between 2006 and 2013 (a 3.3% increase per year). This growth, however, has now slowed, with an average growth of 1.3% per year since 2013.
4. The Council currently owns a variety of different plantation-sized parcels of land throughout the Ashburton District. In the past these plantations provided a commercial return resulting in a reserve fund which can sometimes be used to help off-set rates. A number of these plantations are on land which was used for gravel extraction, with the forestry providing a somewhat temporary use for these sites.

General comments

5. Council supports the submission prepared by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). In addition to the LGNZ submission, we would like to highlight some areas of particular concern to our district.
6. Council does not oppose the objectives of the proposal, to increase indigenous forest plantings across the country, and to regulate the planting of permanent exotic forests in order to reduce potential impacts on the economy. It is acknowledged that afforestation is a key tool towards off-setting greenhouse gas emissions.

¹ Statistics New Zealand Population Estimates 30 June 2020

7. Council notes that while afforestation is a tool that can be used to meet national climate change targets via carbon sequestration, it is only part of the answer to creating a more sustainable future. We cannot rely solely on off-setting emissions, other mitigation tools to *reduce* greenhouse gas emissions are necessary.
8. Council recognises the cultural, spiritual and economic interests in forests to Mana Whenua.

Responses to selected questions in the consultation document

Q1. Do you agree with our description of the problem? Why/Why not?

9. Council does not believe these issues should be a problem. New Zealand needs to establish large areas of forest to help meet its climate change targets. Sequestration of CO₂ by forests buys us time for our economy to transition away from fossil fuels. Permanent forests, if located in the right places, will not displace productive land. There are many hectares of marginal farmland on class 7 and 8 that should be retired, and exotic forest could be planted on some of this land. It will have added advantages of preventing soil erosion and sedimentation of our waterways.

Q3. Do you agree with our criteria for managing permanent exotic afforestation?

10. The criteria for managing permanent forests seems to be sound.
11. The first criteria of providing sequestration is essential. Permanent forests unlike managed exotic forests will achieve more carbon capture with quantities of carbon exceeding 1000/tonne/ha over 50 years. This is much more than can be expected from new permanent indigenous forest.
12. No permanent forest will provide substitutes for emissions intensive products or fuel sources unless they are harvested beyond the term set out with the Crown. Exotic forests are obvious sources for construction material and also provide a possible fuel source for heat or liquid fuels.
13. The establishment of permanent exotic forests will provide jobs related to land preparation and tree crop establishment. This will provide work and employment for nurseries, earthmoving contractors, tree planting contractors, and tree release contractors. Other jobs associated with exotic forestry such as silvicultural work, harvesting and wood processing will not be included in the benefits accruing from the establishment of permanent exotic carbon forests.
14. Permanent forest will support indigenous biodiversity with native plant species expected to form the sub canopy. Native fauna such as Falcons, Kiwi and other endangered species can also be expected to move into these forests. The fencing of these forests to exclude stock will enhance the build-up of this indigenous flora and fauna.
15. As stated in point 9 of this submission, the planting of farmland susceptible to erosion will prevent land slips and soil entering waterways. These forests will provide other benefits including landscape enhancement, and can provide for recreation such as hunting, tramping, walking, biking and possible other forest outputs such as fungi.
16. With iwi owning significant amounts of marginal land, permanent exotic forestry is an excellent way to make this land productive. Exotic forest has the advantage over native forest of being able to accumulate carbon quickly, and therefore results in higher earnings. Exotic forests are also significantly cheaper to establish.
17. The establishment of exotic forests in New Zealand is supported by well-developed network nurseries, contractors, and forestry professionals. With sufficient forward planning, large areas of land can be established in exotic forest quickly and successfully.

Q.4 Should we provide exceptions for allowing exotic species to register in the permanent forest category under certain conditions?

18. If a hybrid status quo option is not adopted and indigenous forest is adopted as preferred option for permanent forest, then there should be exceptions allowed.

Q.5 Are there particular circumstances that you support introducing exceptions for? Why?

17. Council believes that exceptions should be made to allow the establishment of permanent exotics in locations where the establishment of indigenous forest is overly difficult. There are locations especially on the East Coast of both islands where the establishment of indigenous forest is not practical or economically viable, these locations may however suit exotic forests.
18. We do not agree with only allowing certain species to be used which are considered longer lived, as all production exotic forest species are capable of being sustained a permanent forest for at least fifty years. There are many examples of Radiata pine forests reaching ages exceeding 100 years. The use of forests as carbon sinks is viewed as quick way to move towards lowering net carbon emissions as technology advances and economies transform the way they are powered. This suggests that carbon sinks shouldn't be required beyond 2070.

Q.5 continued - If we allow exceptions for exotic species under certain conditions, should we place additional conditions on the granting of this exception? What could these be?

19. Council is concerned that if exemptions are not managed correctly, then productive land may be locked up in permanent forest. Large monocultures pose a risk from disease or insect attack, and if large areas of inaccessible forest were to burn it would be difficult and expensive to contain and put out. Wilding tree spread is also potential a problem, especially in locations where grazing is extensive.

Q.6 Are there alternative ways we can recognise and encourage these forests, either within or outside the NZ ETS?

20. We suggest that additional conditions for exemptions for exotic permanent plantings could be to exclude productive farming and forest lands and land that lends itself to indigenous forest revegetation.
21. Alternative ways to encourage these forests is to allow continuous canopy harvesting or production thinning and clear fell harvesting after 50 years or longer set rotation length without harvesting liabilities.
22. The utilisation of the tree crop for construction will at least lock up carbon for life of the building. We suggest that the recognition of the carbon locked up in structural and other timber used in construction should be pursued in international forums. Forest residues and log grades unsuitable for milling could also be used for biofuels, reducing the need to burn fossil fuels.

Q.7. Of these options, what is your preferred approach? Why?

23. Council supports option three. This is so that landowners are given more options if they wish to become involved in forestry and the ETS, but also recognises that there is merit in some form of regulation regarding where permanent exotic forests are established. Permanent forests should not be planted on productive land that is suited to intensive agriculture or production forestry such as land near ports and forestry processing facilities. Permanent exotic forest establishment also should not occur on land that is actively reverting to indigenous forest, such land will generally be located adjacent to existing stands of indigenous forest with nurse species such as Manuka present. Permanent exotic forest should also be located to minimise any issues with wilding tree spread. Tree species choice will also be critical where there is a wilding tree spread risk.

Q.8. Do you agree with our preferred approach (enactment on 1 January 2023)? Why/Why not?

24. Council agrees that the permanent forest category should be confirmed sooner rather than later, to provide more certainty to those looking at investing in new planting of exotic forests for carbon sequestration.

Q.9 Do you support exceptions by regulations (option 3A) or exceptions after a moratorium (option 3B)? Why?

25. Council support exceptions by regulations (secondary legislation). This will provide certainty to future investors in forestry and allow permanent forests to be established as soon as possible, which is considered necessary with the IPCC recently saying that change must start now.

Q.10 If we chose to introduce exceptions by regulations, what conditions or criteria should be placed on the Minister in choosing to pursue these?

26. Council suggests that the regulations should provide clear guidance to the acceptable species in order for these exceptions to allow permanent exotic species. Where possible, we suggest that regulations should ensure permanent exotic forests are not established on high quality agricultural/horticultural or production forest land.

Q.11 If we choose a moratorium (Option 3b) – how long should it be? Why?

27. A moratorium should be as short as possible to allow exotic permanent forests to be established in the right place as soon as possible.

Q.12 Do you think a different type of moratorium (whether it requires a decision to be ended/ continued) would have different impacts? Or do you prefer a different approach?

28. If a moratorium was imposed then we suggest the ending should be automatic, in order to provide certainty.

Q.13 Currently the NZ ETS defines forests based on the predominant species in a hectare. However, forests change makeup over time. Do you think this definition of exotic and/or indigenous forests is appropriate for the permanent post-1989 category in the NZ ETS?

29. In Council's opinion, permanent forests were not defined by being indigenous or exotic for post-1989 ETS forest. It is only relevant to consider the species of a forest when considering the volume of carbon that it will sequester. We believe that permanent forests can be either exotic or indigenous.

Q.14 What level of exotic species in a forest would be acceptable for the forest to still be classified as an indigenous forest, and registered in the permanent post-1989 category in the NZ ETS?

30. If the definition of the forest had to be changed because of its species, we think the change should only occur when the percentage of the canopy species trees was more than 50%.

Q.15 If forest changes from indigenous to exotic while registered in the permanent category, do you think it should be removed from the category (Option 1), or be treated as indigenous (Option 2)? Why? Are there other options we haven't considered?

31. If the definition changes to exotic we suggest that it should be treated as a permanent exotic forest. Whether the species changes or not, it is the intention regarding the management of the forest that should define it as permanent or not.

Q.16 If we choose to remove forests which have become predominantly exotic over time from the category, how do you think we should do this? Why?

32. We suggest removing the forests from the ETS immediately, in order to provide clarity.

Concluding comments

33. Council supports the intentions of the proposals, yet has some concerns about impacts that may arise. The difficulty of establishing natives on the east coast of the South Island cannot be overstated, and the ability to plant long-lived species such as Douglas fir & Redwoods on marginal farm land should be encouraged.

Kā mihi



Neil Brown
Mayor



Hamish Riach
Chief Executive

10. Appointment of CDEM Local Controllers

Author *Jane Donaldson; GM Strategy & Compliance*
GM responsible *Hamish Riach; Chief Executive*

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of two local Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Controllers.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council appoints Ian Hyde and Ian Soper as local Civil Defence Emergency Management Controllers.

Background

The current situation

1. Council currently has two CDEM local controllers, Jim Henderson and Terry O'Neill. Both have undergone relevant training and been formally appointed. Jim Henderson has recently replaced James Lamb as the Emergency Management Officer. This will reduce his availability to act as a local controller during emergencies, however he will still be able to fill the occasional shift if it is a prolonged event.
2. Until recently Steve Fabish was also a local controller, however his work commitments on top of the requirements for ongoing controller training have led to his decision to discontinue in this role.
3. It is proposed to appoint Ian Soper and Ian Hyde as local controllers. Ian Soper has worked in local government for over 20 years and joined ADC as Open Spaces Manager in 2021. He has extensive experience in CDEM, including several national simulation events in the Invercargill Emergency Operations Centre, alternate local controller for Gore District Council, and responsibility for the pre-warning and evacuation of 2,400 residents during the 2020 Gore flood.
4. Ian Hyde joined the Council as the District Planning Manager in late 2011. He has around 20 years local government experience, both here and in the UK. He has been involved in CDEM over the last 10 years, mainly in planning and intelligence. He has participated in all the local events and was seconded to the EOC in Hurunui after the Kaikoura earthquake.

Options analysis

Option one – appoint additional local controllers

5. This is the recommended option. Both proposed local controllers are experienced in CDEM and will increase the available pool. This will be particularly useful if we experience a prolonged event requiring multiple shifts.

Option two – do not appoint additional local controllers

6. Council can continue with two existing controllers, however there is a risk during a prolonged event that they will not receive sufficient breaks and controllers from other districts will be required.

Legal/policy implications

7. Section 27 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act covers the appointment of local controllers. In accordance with section 18, the CDEM Group has delegated its

authority for the appointment of local controllers to each member authority. Territorial Authorities must consult with the Group Controller when appointing local controllers. This consultation has been carried out.

Financial implications

8. There are no financial implications other than the cost of training, which will be met from existing budgets.

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	Not applicable
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform – one way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The community will be informed of the appointments through the usual channels.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager

11. Economic Development quarterly report – January, February and March 2022

Author	<i>Simon Worthington; Economic Development Manager</i>
Activity manager	<i>Simon Worthington; Economic Development Manager</i>
General manager	<i>Steve Fabish; Group 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 January to March 2022.
- The report is framed around the seven pillars included in Council’s adopted Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan.
- These seven pillars are now under review as part of the Economic Development Strategy refresh.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council receives the Economic Development quarterly update.

Background

1. The Economic Development Team continue to work on a range of projects that seek to develop the Economic Environment in the Ashburton District.
2. Work is underway with a number of investors / developers to bring new businesses and expand businesses in the Ashburton District.
3. Alongside this the Economic Development Team are working with the community and community organisations to welcome new residents to the District and explore opportunities to better connect people with employment opportunities.

Strategy and Development Plan Update

4. Work continues on the refresh of the Economic Strategy with a number of workshops and interviews taking place with employers, investors, community groups and manu whenua.
5. There are a range of consistent issues emerging with many ideas coming through for consideration of future activities and interventions.
6. Work is on track to have a draft ready for public consultation in early May.

Reporting Against Strategic Framework

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

7. A process to fill the Welcoming Communities Advisor role has commenced in the period with a number of highly qualified applications received. It is hoped that an offer will be made shortly.
8. A process is under development to ensure that large scale projects are well managed through Council. Officers are working to implement a documented process and flow chart system that will ensure highly visible projects are coordinated in such a way to provide an ability to be more responsive to our customers as a result of better information. This workstream also is applicable to Pillar 3.

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

9. A workshop is scheduled with Councillors to look at the concept work undertaken and to establish the next steps in getting Ashburton town signage that is welcoming to visitors, from the north and south on State Highway 1.
10. Citizenship Ceremonies remain paused while New Zealand is experiencing an upsurge in COVID cases. Officers are in regular communication with the Department of Internal Affairs and will advise Council when this situation changes. In the meantime applicants are receiving their citizenship without attending a ceremony.
11. The Business of the Year Awards was postponed in February due to government guidelines on events and an increased level of Covid in the community. The event will occur when COVID 19 restrictions are lifted to the level where it can safely be run.
 - 11.1 Work is underway to raise the profile of finalists and sponsors through regular press releases and social media updates.
 - 11.2 The website is currently being updated.
 - 11.3 The event team are meeting regularly to assess the current operating climate and will confirm a new date as soon as possible.
 - 11.4 Once the event has been successfully run there will be a thorough review undertaken.
12. There is still a great deal of uncertainty in the community around events and this has been demonstrated with only three applications for the Regional Event Fund. The Regional Event Fund Panel will be meeting in the near future to assess the applications.
13. Work is underway with Officers exploring how events will be coordinated when the Covid settings are relaxed. This includes the Christmas Event Nights of Lights, Bite Night, Citizenship Ceremonies and also exploring whether new events can be introduced into the event calendar.

Pillar 3: Unlocking Latent Potential

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

Update

14. Nothing of significance to update since last report.

Pillar 4: Agriculture and Technology

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

Update

15. The on-farm uptake of innovation and technology are being supported by two pieces of work
16. **Land Use Adaption in a Changing Climate project** - A desktop review (the first step in the “Supporting Land Use Adaption in a Changing Climate” project) to understand factors which affect farmers’ engagement with climate change messaging and how that information affects decision making on farm has been completed.
17. The review highlights a disconnect between *findings* of climate change research and *how* these climate change impacts are presented to farmers, leading to generally low engagement with farmers on climate change issues.
18. The review notes that climate change data is often not presented in a way that farmers can apply easily to their business.
19. The review identifies a number of ways that climate change data could be presented (e.g. severity, duration and probability of impact on agricultural activities) that would be of greater use to farmers’ decision making.
20. In the next quarter, the findings of the review will be ‘road tested’ with several farmer focus groups to identify ways in which farmers can be more effectively engaged on climate change matters.
21. The desktop review with the outcome from the focus groups will be drafted into a project report which will be available in August 2022.
22. **Resilient Business Project:** A workshop with the Councillors was held on the 9th March 2022, which explored five key questions. The workshop identified that the role of the Council in supporting healthy farming and a healthy environment is one of facilitation or the ‘glue’, and in supporting others to work with farmers to deliver the outcomes.
23. Project development in the period has centred on refining the proposal to Sustainable Farming Futures Fund.
24. A priority has been in engaging with other parties who are also exploring central government funding so as to ensure there is alignment between all funding proposals (if not merging applications) and identify ways that all can work together.
25. The period has also seen significant work with all collaboration partners (BCI, MHV, ALIL, ECAN, FAR, DNZ, MC Catchment Collective, AEC) to define roles and expectations in the project. The purpose of this is to ensure all parties are clear on expectations and responsibilities within the project.
26. This project will also deliver to pillar 5 & 6.

Pillar 5: Natural Resource Management

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

Update

- 27.** Discussions have been ongoing with lead bodies, agencies and local and regional government about how the learnings in the Ashburton District and their engagement with farmers in the district can be made available to other organisations and government agencies.
- 28.** Recent discussions with Waimakariri District Council have explored how the Resilient Business project can be utilised by the Waimakariri District to guide aspects of their approach to natural resource management. E.g. freshwater quality, in particular drinking water quality.

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

Lobbying, advocacy and influencing policy settings important to business.

Update

- 29.** Officers are continuing to work with businesses adversely impacted by the Covid regulations and are regularly connecting businesses with support services and agencies such as Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Ministry of Social Development.

Pillar 7: Connecting and Supporting Infrastructure

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

Update

- 30.** Through the Resilient Business project, Ashburton District Council has been consulted about water quality data sets and research which might be available for inclusion a knowledge hub that is being virtually being developed for the district by the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective.
- 31.** The knowledge hub aims to gather in one virtual place, all Ashburton District focussed research and reports relating to environmental issues in the district. Once established, it will act as a comprehensive library of information for farmers and agri-professionals in the district.
- 32.** ADC has provided input into the design flow and user functions of the knowledge hub to enhance the user experience.

The next economic development quarterly report will be presented to Council at the 27 July 2022 Council meeting.

12. Allocation of Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 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 Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 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.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council allocates \$18,115 in Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund funding for 2021/22, as set out in this report.

Attachment

Appendix 1 Summary of applications

Background

Grant applications

1. Council administers the Sport NZ Rural Travel fund on behalf of Sport NZ. Due to Covid-19 there is a carryover of \$7100. Total funds available for this round are \$21,100.
2. Applications for funding were open in March 2022 to sports clubs and school teams, with the funds to be paid out in May 2022.

Funding recommendations

3. The following table is a summary of the recommendations made by officers. For a full summary of the applications, please see the attached appendix 1.
4. Officers have recommended funding based on the following:
 - \$15 base allocation per person in each team.
 - \$20 per person if games involve travelling outside of the district.
 - \$10 per person if games or practices involve travelling outside of their local community (i.e. Ashburton College students with practices in Methven).
 - The two travel allocations (\$10 and \$20) have been weighted for the specified number of games across the season. For example, a team with a 14 week season was allocated the full \$10 per person for travel, compared to a team with a 7 week season which would be allocated \$5 per person. Extra weighting has also been given for multiple trips per week.

Sporting group	Team	Funding requested	Funding recommended
Methven Hockey Club	Hockey Teams	\$1800	\$1,800
Ashburton College	XI Boys Hockey	\$1,000	\$960
Ashburton College	Netball	\$1,920	\$1,920
Ashburton Celtic Rugby Football Club Inc	Rugby	\$2,250	\$2,250
Ashburton College	U15 Girls Rugby	\$1,900	\$1,900
Ashburton College	Rugby U15 Boys	\$1,100	\$1,100
Ashburton College	Girls 1st 11 Hockey Team	\$500	\$500
Ashburton College	Girls Football	\$475	\$475
Ashburton College	Basketball	\$2,500	\$2,500
Mount Hutt College	Mt Hutt First XI Cricket	\$4,000	\$910
Mount Hutt College	Mount Hutt U15 Boys Rugby	\$2,400	\$800
Rakaia Netball Club	Netball Teams	\$4,000	3,000
TOTAL		23,845	18,115

Options analysis

Option one

5. To allocate the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund for 2021/2022 as per the recommendations made above.

Option two

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

Legal/policy implications

7. Officers have assessed the grants against the specifications from Sport NZ and the Community Grants and Funding Policy. Commentary on the eligibility of each applicant is noted in the appended document.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	\$0 to Council, officer time covered by internal budgets.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	No, the funding comes from Sport NZ and is not Council funds.
Where is the funding coming from?	Sport NZ
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	Communication will occur with the applicants, and the community will be notified through a press release detailing the successful applicants in May 2021.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager

Next steps

8. There are no further steps for Council. Once Council adopts the recommendations, applicants will be notified and paid their grant straight away.

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2019/20

Budget contains \$14,000 + Carryover of \$7,100															
	Team / teams	Organisation	Competition details	\$ Requested from RTF	\$ Total Required for travel costs	Total students #	Base funding \$15/part.	Weighting for season length	Trav. out of district \$20/part	Other travel, but not out of district \$10/part	Total extras	Total or max request if lower	Recommendation		
#1	Hockey Teams	Methven Hockey Club	75 students from Methven to Ashburton 14 weeks	\$1,800	\$70,000	75	\$1,500	0.88	\$0	\$10	\$750	\$660	\$2,160	\$1,800	
#2	XI Boys Hockey	Ashburton College	32 Students to Chch 14 weeks	\$1,000		32	\$480	0.75	\$640	\$0	\$0	\$480	\$960	\$960	
#3	Netball	Ashburton College	100 Students mid Canterbury games 12 weeks	\$1,920	\$1,920	100	\$2,000	0.75	\$0	\$10	\$1,000	\$750	\$2,750	\$1,920	
#4	Rugby	Ashburton Celtic Rugby Football Club Inc.	80 Students Ellesmere or North Canterbury 15 weeks	\$2,250	\$4,500	80	\$1,200	0.90	\$1,600	\$0	\$0	\$1,440	\$2,640	\$2,250	
#5	U15 Girls Rugby	Ashburton College	30 Students Timaru, Geraldine, Methven, Pleasant Point 12 weeks	\$1,900	\$18,900	30	\$600	0.75	\$600	\$0	\$0	\$450	\$1,050	\$1,900	
#6	U15 Boys Rugby	Ashburton College	50 Students Lincoln, Darfield, Rolleston, Ellesmere & Oxford 6 weeks	\$1,100	\$17,100	50	\$1,000	0.50	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,100	
#7	Girls 1st XI Hockey Team	Ashburton College	16 Students Nga Puna Wai Hockey turf or Marist Park 15 weeks	\$500	\$1,750	16	\$320	0.90	\$320	\$0	\$0	\$288	\$608	\$500	
#8	Girls Football	Ashburton College	17 Students to Timaru 5 weeks	\$475	\$950	17	\$340	0.45	\$340	\$0	\$0	\$153	\$493	\$475	
#9	Basketball	Ashburton College	65 students to Christchurch 12 weeks	\$2,500	\$5,800	65	\$1,300	0.75	\$1,300	\$0	\$0	\$975	\$2,275	\$2,500	
#10	Mt Hutt First XI Cricket	Mount Hutt College	Travel to ChCh 12 weeks	\$4,000	\$4,000	26	\$520	0.75	\$520	\$0	\$0	\$390	\$910	\$910	
#11	U15 Boys Rugby Team	Mount Hutt College	Travel ChCh or Timaru 8 weeks	\$2,400	\$2,400	25	\$500	0.60	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$800	\$800	
#12	Netball Teams	Rakaia Netball Club	Rakaia to Ashburton 12 week season 2 times a week	\$4,000	\$13,125	60	\$1,200	3.00	\$0	\$10	\$600	\$1,800	\$3,000	\$3,000	

13. Ashburton RSA - Road Closures – ANZAC Day

Author	<i>Rhys Roberts; Technical Support Officer-Roading</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Mark Chamberlain; Roading Manager</i>
GM Responsible	<i>Neil McCann; Group Manager – Infrastructure Services</i>

Summary

- This report considers an application from the Ashburton Returned and Services Association for temporary road closure of sections of Havelock Street, Baring Square West, West Street, Cameron Street on 25 April 2022 to hold the ANZAC Day Ceremony.
- This report outlines the benefits and risks to be taken into consideration on whether to approve or decline the road closure.
- The Ashburton Returned and Services' Association has held the ANZAC Day ceremony safely and successfully for many years. Their events are well organised and every precaution is taken by the organisers to ensure that the highest levels of safety are maintained. This event is highly supported nationwide and by the local community and has been missed these past few years.
- Council is not obliged to approve any road closures. Our practice has been to approve such requests, subject to being confident that the event organisers can manage the event safely.
- Officers are satisfied that the Ashburton Returned and Services' Association can meet these expectations, as they have done so for many years. This event requires a minor local detour which will only be in place for a short duration. For these reasons, Officers recommend the request be approved.
- Objections close on 15 April 2022 and Council will be updated of any submitted objections. The recommendation is made on the premise that no objections are received by 15 April 2022.

Recommendation

That Council permits the following roads to be closed between 6.00am – 8.30am and 10.00am-12.30pm Monday, 25 April 2022 to allow the ANZAC Day Ceremony to be held:-

HAVELOCK STREET, from Park Street to East Street intersection
BARING SQUARE WEST, from Havelock Street to Cameron Street
SH 1 (WEST STREET), from Wills Street to Burnett Street
CAMERON STREET, from West Street to Park Street.

Attachment

Appendix 1 Map

Background

1. The Ashburton Returned and Services' Association applied to Council for temporary road closure to allow them to hold ANZAC Day Ceremony.
2. This event has been advertised with a period of time for objections to be submitted.
3. The required insurances and traffic management plan has been received.
4. This application must be considered by Council under Paragraph 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, because the event is defined as a show under the Act and the application was submitted too late to be processed under the Transport Regulations 1965 which requires 42 days public notification.
5. The delay has been due to the varying levels and restrictions associated with Covid and the uncertainty on whether the event would be able to proceed or not.

Options analysis

Option 1 – Approve road closure (Recommended)

6. Our practice has been to approve such requests, subject to being confident that the event organisers can manage the event safely.
7. Ashburton Returned and Services' Association has a strong record of safe and successful management of this event in the district.
8. The responsibility for risk free operation lie with the organisers and all contingencies are covered in the conditions of closure.

Option 2 – Decline road closure

9. This is not preferred.
10. As mentioned in Option 1 these events have been held for a number of years without incident and are well supported by the local community and offers the opportunity for many people to pay their respects. This is another event that has been cancelled in the past due to covid restrictions.

Legal / policy implications

11. Clause 11 of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 provides –
*“That Council may, subject to such conditions as it thinks fit... close any road or part of a road to all traffic (e)... for any exhibition, fair, **show**, market, concert, film making, race or other sporting event or public function.”*
12. As noted previously, our practice is to enable these events to proceed subject to ensuring the safety of road users, residents and spectators.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	No costs incurred to Council
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	N/A
Where is the funding coming from?	All costs associated with this event are being paid by the organisers (Ashburton Returned and Services' Association)
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Finance review required?	No – there are no financial implications for Council.

Significance and engagement assessment

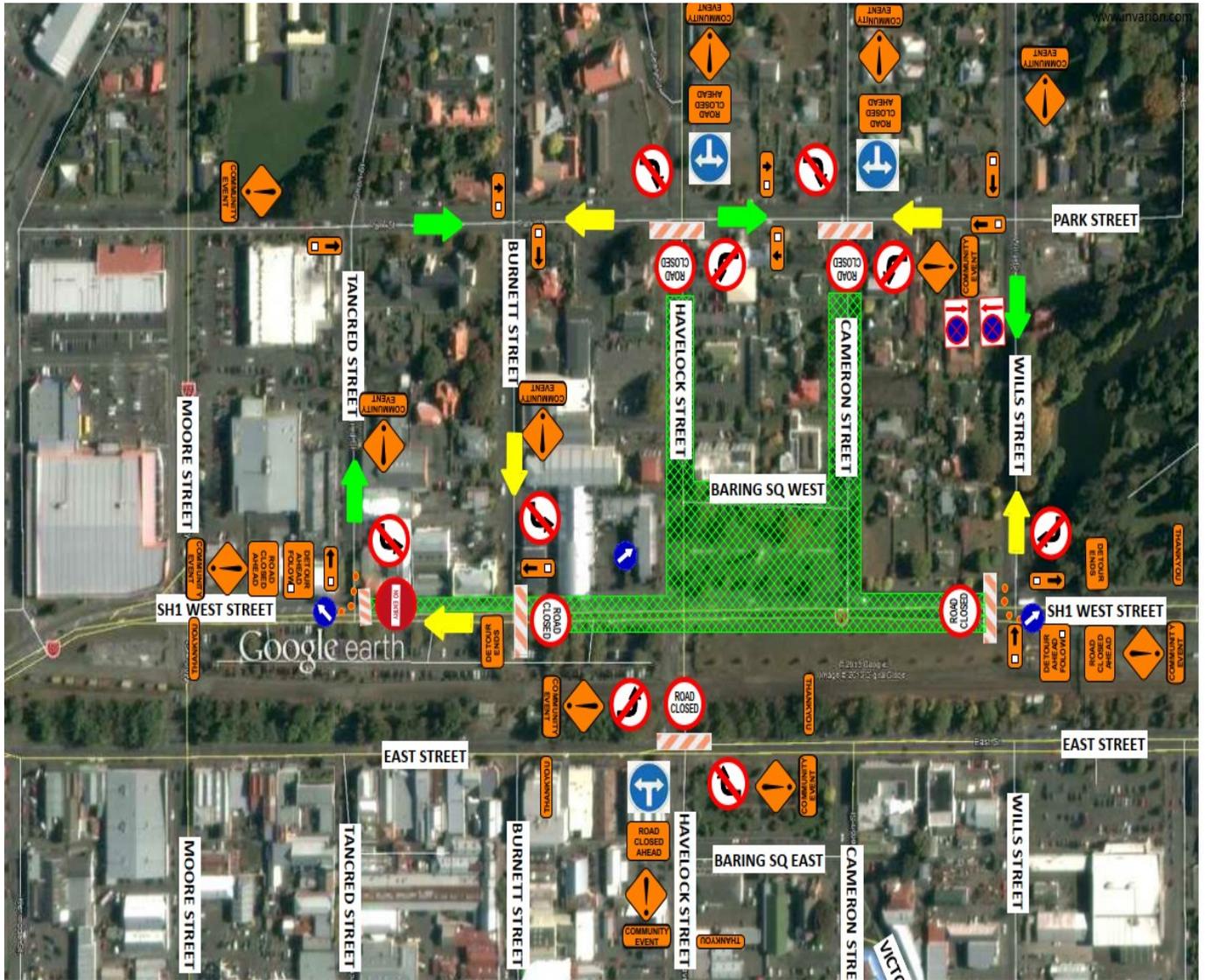
Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered <i>significant</i> ?	No
Level of significance	Medium
Level of <i>engagement</i> selected	Level 3 – Consult. Council must advertise the closure and consider objections, if any are received.
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	This level of engagement is required to meet statutory requirements.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Richard Mabon, Senior Policy Advisor

13. The event has also been publicly advertised.
14. Emergency services are provided with copy of road closure information after approval has been given.
15. There will also be publicity around this road closure due to the normal media coverage of public meeting agenda items.
16. The advance communications and notifications are consistent with the overall significance of this decision and the legal requirements.

Next steps

Date	Action / milestone	Comments
20 April 2022	Council make a decision to approve or decline road closure	If approved the event will proceed as planned.

Appendix 1



14. Ashburton Car Club - Road Closures

Author	<i>Rhys Roberts; Technical Support Officer - Roading</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Mark Chamberlain; Roading Manager</i>
GM Responsible	<i>Neil McCann; Group Manager – Infrastructure Services</i>

Summary

- This report considers an application from the Ashburton Car Club for temporary road closures of sections of the Riverside Industrial Estate from 6 May 2022 to 8 May 2022 to hold the annual Ashburton Street Sprints.
- This report outlines the benefits and risks to be taken into consideration on whether to approve or decline the road closure.
- The Ashburton Car Club has run car racing events safely and successfully for over 18 years. Their events are well organised and every precaution is taken by the organisers to ensure that the highest levels of safety are maintained. Their events are highly supported by the local community and are a valued attraction to the District.
- Council is not obliged to approve any road closures. Our practice has been to approve such requests, subject to being confident that the event organisers can manage the event safely, and that the road will be restored to pre-race condition.
- Officers are satisfied that the Ashburton Car Club can meet these expectations, as they have repeatedly done so for many years. This event requires a minor detour and has received approval from NZTA.
- It should be noted that at the time of writing this report there is one unresolved objection to the closure. We are assuming that a solution can be reached before the Council meeting, and the recommendation below is based on that assumption. If agreement can't be reached prior to the Council meeting, Councillors will be advised of that and will be required to adjudicate on the merits of the application and the objection.
- That adjudication may or may not result in the recommendation being appropriate.
- Based therefore on the assumption the objection can be resolved before the Council meeting, Officers recommend the request be approved.

Recommendation

That Council permits the following roads in the Riverside Industrial Park to be closed from 7.30pm Friday 6 May 2022 until 8.00pm Sunday 8 May 2022 to allow the Street Sprints to be held:-

SMALLBONE DRIVE, from River Terrace to Robinson Street

ROBINSON STREET, from Smallbone Drive intersection to McNally Street

WATSON STREET, from Range Street to Robinson Street

MCNALLY STREET, from Range Street to end of the street

RANGE STREET, from Robinson Street to Watson Street

Background

1. The Ashburton Car Club have applied to Council for temporary road closure to allow them to hold the Street Sprints.
2. This event has been advertised with a period of time for objections to be submitted. The objections period closed on the 15 April 2022 and one objection has been received by an affected business. This objection is currently being discussed in order to find an amicable solution, but at the time of writing a solution had not been found.
3. Councillors will be updated on this matter at the Council meeting, and it should be noted that both the Car Club and the objector (if agreement hasn't been reached) may present their case to the meeting.
4. Current insurance and approved Traffic Management Plans have been received.
5. This application must be considered by Council under Paragraph 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, because New Zealand Motorsport, of which the Ashburton Car Club is a member, requires roads to be closed for motor sport events under the Local Government Act, as event participants may be under 16 years of age.

Options analysis

Option 1 – Approve Road Closure

6. Our practice has been to approve such requests, subject to being confident that the event organisers can manage the event safely, and that the road will be restored to pre-race condition.
7. Ashburton Car Club has a strong record of safe and successful management of these events in the district for over 18 years.
8. The road closure incorporates a detour so users of the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park can still access the facilities.
9. The road condition will be inspected by Roading staff before and after the event.
10. Emergency services are provided with copy of road closure information after approval has been given.
11. For these reasons, Officers recommend Option 1.

Option 2 – Decline Road Closure

12. This is not preferred.
13. As mentioned in option 1 this event has been held for a number of years without incident and is well supported by the local community. Many people look forward to this specific event and it provides a positive attraction to the District.

Legal/policy implications

14. Clause 11 of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 provides –
“That Council may, subject to such conditions as it thinks fit... close any road or part of a road to all traffic (e)... for any exhibition, fair, market, concert, film making, race or other sporting event or public function.”

Financial implications

15. There are no financial implications.

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	No costs incurred to Council
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	N/A
Where is the funding coming from?	All costs associated with this event are being paid by the organiser (Ashburton Car Club)
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Finance review required?	No – This is not a Council organised event and the costs are for the organiser to bear.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered <i>significant</i> ?	No
Level of significance	Medium
Level of <i>engagement</i> selected	Level 3 – Consult. Council must advertise the closure and consider objections.
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	This level of engagement is appropriate for the overall significance of this decision and the statutory requirements.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Richard Mabon, Senior Policy Advisor

Significance and engagement assessment

16. Property/business owners in the affected areas have been approached and letters dropped off so they are aware of the road closures and the event.
17. Other local organisations are actively involved with marshalling, security etc.
18. The event has also been publicly notified.
19. Emergency services are provided with copy of road closure information after approval has been given.
20. There will also be publicity around this road closure due to the normal media coverage of public meeting agenda items.
21. The advance communications and notifications are consistent with the overall significance of this decision and the legal requirements.

Next steps

Date	Action / milestone	Comments
20 April 2022	Council make a decision to approve or decline road closure	If approved and the objection has been appropriately addressed the event will proceed as planned.

15. Deputy Mayor's Report

Deputy Mayor *Liz McMillan*

15.1 Regional Climate Change Workshop

Professor Don Hine presented on behaviour change research at this workshop held on 18 March, via MS Teams.

Each council gave an update on the work their council was undertaking on climate change, and what they saw as opportunities and challenges for their communities as they manage and respond to climate change.

Attendees discussed progress with their council's development or review of climate policies and strategies, as well as specific programmes or projects under way, such as e-scooter trials in Waimakariri, ongoing coastal hazards work in Hurunui, and management of wallabies in Waimate to enable planting and plant regeneration.

Some councillors noted council staff had commenced employment in a specific climate change or sustainability-focused role, while others had recruitment for a similar role underway or proposed in their annual plan. Environment Canterbury noted proposals in their annual plan around bus fares and a climate levy.

Some councils noted the continuing fallout for their communities and councils from extreme weather events, and that necessary energy on government reform programmes (such as resource management reform) had also taken up a lot of focus and resource in their council recently.

15.2 Canterbury Regional Landfill Joint Committee

This meeting was held on 4 April, via Zoom.

The Transwaste six monthly report was received, with a recommendation to adjust future dividend payments to participating territorial authorities to waste from council transfer services only. The calculations are based on the following rules:

- The number of return trips that would have been required by each district if all loads had been full loads;
- The annual transport costs for all councils combined, based on full load trips;
- The average cost per tonne for all Councils combined, based on full load trips;

- The amounts that Ashburton and Selwyn would have paid if they had been charged at average, per tonne, all councils combined, rates (based on full load trips);
- For Ashburton and Selwyn, the differences between individual annual transport costs (full loads) and average annual transport costs (full loads) - this amount will be the transport cost amount to be shared between Christchurch and Waimakariri Councils; and
- Contributions required from Christchurch and Waimakariri are proportioned on the basis of annual tonnages from these councils.

15.3 Canterbury Waste Joint Committee

This meeting was held on 4 April, via Zoom.

By the end of February 2022 all member councils had adopted the recommendations (listed below) of the Committee, and in March an invitation to join the Canterbury Waste Joint Committee was sent by the Chair of the Committee to the Chair of ECan. It is expected that a response to the invitation would be received ahead of the 2023 financial year, noting it is currently unclear if ECan will accept the invitation on the original terms (as a 25% funding partner).

The Canterbury Waste Joint Committee (CWJC):

1. Recommends to member councils that a new staff position be created to progress waste minimisation and management initiatives across the region and improve regional collaboration;
2. Recommends to member councils that the budget for regional waste minimisation be increased from \$112,000 to \$192,000, to be adjusted annually for inflation; and
3. Recommends to member councils that Environment Canterbury be invited to become a member of the Committee on the same terms and conditions as its previous membership.

Recommendation

That Council receives the Deputy Mayor's report.

Liz McMillan
Deputy Mayor

16. Mayor's Report

16.1 Covid

With the traffic light settings moving to orange this will assist more businesses to operate in a more profitable way, i.e. higher numbers with less restrictions; hopefully it is not too late for some.

16.2 Annual Plan

There have been four public meetings held, one virtually and three in person, seeking feedback on the draft annual plan. While attendance numbers were not large the quality of questions and discussion was very good. We are now awaiting written submissions in preparation for the hearings in May.

16.3 Meetings

- **Mayoral calendar**

April 2022

- 6 April: Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Regional Leadership Group meeting
- 6 April: Council meeting
- 7 April: Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Regional Leadership Group meeting, Covid Protection
- 7 April: Tuia Online Mentoring workshop along with Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan
- 7 April: Simon Jones – Agritech Group
- 7 April: Annual Plan virtual meeting
- 8 April: Hokonui Radio Interview
- 8 April: Nigel Davenport – Venture Timaru along with Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan
- 8 April: M. Bovis Advisory Group
- 8 April: Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust
- 11 April: Catherine Stuart – Southern Parallel Sports Campus along with CE Hamish Riach
- 11 April: Annual Plan Public Meeting, Ashburton
- 12 April: Library and Civic Centre Project Group
- 12 April: Annual Plan Public Meeting, Methven
- 13 April: Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Regional Leadership Group meeting
- 13 April: Extraordinary Council meeting
- 13 April: Lakes Camp and Clearwater Plan Hearings and Workshop
- 13 April: LGNZ – Reform updates
- 13 April: Annual Plan Public Meeting, Rakaia
- 14 April: Canterbury Mayoral Forum – Regional Leadership Group meeting, Covid Protection
- 14 April: Rangitata Diversion Race
- 19 April: Jo Luxton

- 20 April: Councillor Activity Briefing
- 20 April: Waste Management Minimisation Plan workshop
- 20 April: Council meeting

Recommendation

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Neil Brown

Mayor