Council Activity Briefings

Date: **Wednesday 24 September 2025**
Time: **9:30am**
Venue: **Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere**
2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

Ashburton
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Attendees

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

Executive Team

Chief Executive	Hamish Riach
GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces	Neil McCann
GM Compliance & Development	Ian Hyde
GM Business Support	Helen Barnes
GM People & Facilities	Sarah Mosley
GM Democracy & Engagement	Toni Durham

Activity Reports

1	Business Support		Time	Page
1.1	Information Systems	Gordon Tupper	9:30 am	4
1.2	Property	Renee Julius	9:35 am	10
1.3	Finance	Erin Register	9:40 am	13

2	Infrastructure & Open Spaces			
2.1	Open Spaces	Ian Soper	9:45 am	14
2.2	Solid Waste Management	Hernando Marilla	9:50 am	22
2.3	Stockwater Operations	Crissie Drummond	9:55 am	34
2.4	Stockwater Exit Transition	Crissie Drummond	10:00 am	36
2.5	Roads and Footpaths	Mark Chamberlain	10:05 am	39
2.6	Contracts Awarded / Upcoming Tenders	Neil McCann	10:10 am	44
2.7	Lake Hood	Neil McCann	10:15 am	44

Morning tea (20mins)

3	Compliance & Development			
3.1	Building Services	Michael Wong	10:35 am	45
3.2	Civil Defence Emergency Management	Jim Henderson	10:40 am	51
3.3	Alcohol Licensing/Bylaw Monitoring & Enforcement	Rick Catchpowle	10:45 am	55
3.4	Animal Control	Rick Catchpowle	10:50 am	57
3.5	Food Safety	Rick Catchpowle	10:55 am	59
3.6	Planning	Brad Thomson	11:00 am	60
3.7	Economic Development	Shelley Donnelly	11:05 am	62

4	People & Facilities			
4.1	Customer Services	Amanda Watson	11:10 am	74
4.2	Ashburton Library	Jane Riach	11:15 am	76
4.3	EA Networks Centre	Richard Wood	11:20 am	81
4.4	Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum	Shirin Khosraviani	11:25 am	90

5	Democracy & Engagement			
5.1	Communications	Janice McKay	11:30 am	96
5.2	Strategy & Policy	Mark Low	11:35 am	100
5.3	Memorial Halls & Reserve Boards	Ann Smith	11:40 am	109
5.4	Welcoming Communities	Mercedes Walkham	11:45 am	110

1. *Business Support Group*

1.1 Information Systems

1.1.1 Projects

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

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
Application and Process Development					
Application enhancement and development	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	Ongoing general development and business improvement within Council's ERP, GIS and other core applications. Recently completed works include: • GIS – Coastal mapping (Biodiversity) • GIS – Emergency response mapping (Rakaia and Hinds) • GIS – Electoral ward boundaries – map development with supporting public information for Local Government Elections. • Updates to financial dashboards for managers of cost centres to track spend verses budget. Current developments include: • GIS – District water treatment pump station maintenance survey • GIS – Plan Change 7 map updates • GIS –Mapping of consented building and resource consents. This work will provide a spatial view of

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					the location for approved consents with selected key data. • GIS – Rates Boundary Dashboard. The purpose of this project is to streamline the process of reviewing and consulting current rate boundaries layer in relation to district plan zoning among other datasets. • Mahi Tahi (Council Intranet) development in creating new home, site pages and HR Information Hub for ADC employees. • Property reporting – Review of existing report suite and resulting actions of updating existing, creating new and retiring unused reports. • Cemetery Data – analysis and verification of held cemetery data
Consultation Submission Management	November 2025	September 2025	Yes	Yes	This project is to deliver a digital solution to support the public consultation process specifically in managing received consultation submission and support activities in response, assessment and presentation of submissions. Product training has been delivered to the business team, with acceptance testing being completed ahead of production release.
Health & Safety	June 2025	July 2026 (tbc)	Yes	Yes	A review of and updates to our corporate solution functionality and configuration is underway. The work sets out to take advantage on new solution developments as well as consider the current configuration and its design to meet ADC requirements. A multi-phase approach, a system

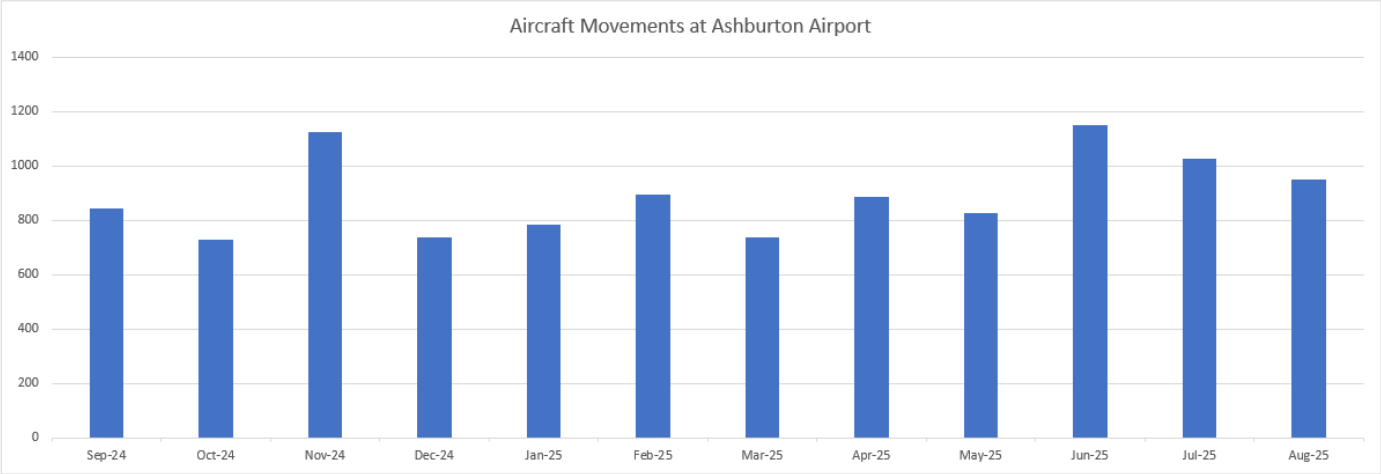
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					health check has been recently completed to identify and plan for future improvements.
Grants & Funding Management	April 2025	February 2026	Yes	Yes	This project is to deliver a digital solution to support the receipt of grant application and management process on assessment and decision. Commercial agreements have been signed, with the service provider enabling test environments ahead of the service configuration,
Event Management	September 2024	October 2025	Yes	Yes	To support the application of requested community events from application to approval. There has been delay in the work programme due to technical and resource reasons, but these are now resolved with current work focused on finalising the process build ahead of full solution testing and a target release of mid-October.
Community Facility Booking System	May 2025	October 2025	Yes	Yes	Online management solution for booking of community facilities overseen by Property, Open Spaces, Library and Democracy & Engagement. Work to configure the solution continues as planned.
Financial Modules and Management Services	October 2024	September 2028	Yes	Yes	Transformation of remaining financial and management function and process within the TechnologyOne solution to the current product offering. Multi-stage, multi- year project. With works in Budget, Travel & Expense (Purchase cards), End of Year Rollovers and Creditor Set Up completed. Due to other business priority and impact on required specialist

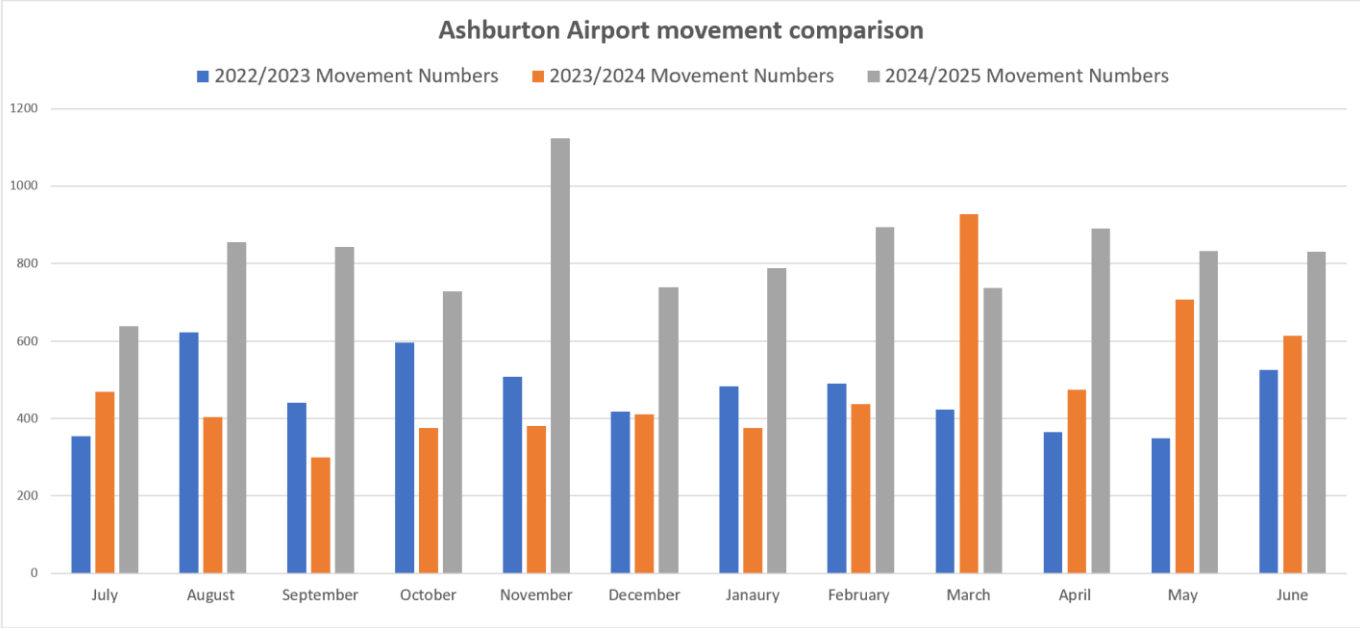
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					resource availability, future work has been rescheduled to reflect this.
IT Infrastructure, Server and Desktop					
Cyber Security	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	Ongoing programme in the development of reducing Council's cyber security risk profile and includes access, monitoring, hardware and patch management and identification, investigation and application of security related applications and enhancements. Following recent audits and internal reviews a programme of security related priorities have been identified, confirmed and planning for these to commence.
Core Switch and Security Infrastructure Renewal (Scoping)	July 2025	December 2025	Yes	Yes	Forms part of our planned renewal programme. This work covers the design and identification of required hardware, ahead of physical renewal works.
Mobile Phone Fleet renewal	August 2024	July 2025	Yes	Yes	Forms part of our management and maintenance programme of renewals. These renewal works have been completed.
Exchange (email)	August 2025	October 2025	Yes	Yes	Transformation of this service to full cloud operation and retirement of provider services that are due for retirement.
Information Management					
Physical and Digital Record Management - continuing work to identify, record, appraise and manage	BAU Activity		N/A	N/A	Continuing and ongoing activity with business teams to assess digital and physical records held by Council as part of the management of the life of that record, including that of protected or permanent retention under statutory Acts including the Public Records Act

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
remaining Council physical records.					and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act. Work includes the decision to retain or dispose a record based on Council's adopted retention and disposal schedule. Work continues with Museum staff in recording detail on Council archives (pre-1990) held at the Museum. Assessment to date has included Ashburton Borough, County and Road Board records. These records form part of the Archives collection that is available on the Whakatere Heritage Website https://whakatereheritage.catalogaccess.com/archives?search=&page=1&size=10&withImages=false On the digital side, works are ongoing to assess and manage unstructured and structured data held on business file shares and within our document management systems. This works includes retention and disposal activity.
EDRMS Renewal	July 2025	June 2028	Yes	Yes	Our EDRMS system is scheduled for replacement in the financial year 27/28, with budget allocated. In a product area that has advanced over the past decade our first action is to complete investigation on what market offerings exist which can support our record management responsibilities, confirm our requirements and prepare to go to market in 26/27
Information Asset Register	September 2025	June 2026	Yes	Yes	Phase 2 in the development of an Asset Register for information which council holds. This work will build on the current listing of identified Council Systems adding further information to support its legislative

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Within budget	Comments
					and required management of records that it creates or receives.

1.2 Property

Current	Brief Project Description / progress
Ashburton Business Estate	• In total, approximately 43-hectares of the Business Estate remains unsold, with 39-hectares sold. • Lots 8, 13 and 16 in stage two are on hold for a potential purchaser to complete due diligence.
Elderly persons housing	• 97 units are occupied with 5 ready to be filled or renovated. After a few false starts, the last rebuilt Friendship Lane unit will be occupied on 23rd September. • There are 21 applications on the waiting list, with 10 people requesting single units and 11 requesting double units (comprised of 4 couples and 7 individuals). • 19 people on the waiting list are current residents in the Ashburton District, with 2 being from out of town. • The occupancy rate is currently at 95% of available units.
Airport	• Council officers are currently working through entering into new ground leases with legal entities. • The below table provides an update of aircraft movements for the past 12 months.  • The below table provides an update of aircraft movements over the past three years.

Current	Brief Project Description / progress
	 • Landing fees over these years are as follows: 2022/2023 - $10,155 2023/2024 - $17,233 2024/2025 - $15,987 • Airport users can register for the 2025/2026 Annual Landing Fee for the Airport via the Ashburton District Council Website. At the time of writing this report 15 Annual Landing Fees have been issued. • In accordance with the resolution from the Long-Term Plan, officers are currently investigating alternative management and operation models for the Ashburton Airport. • The Ashburton Speedway have a new Committee. They reported that their first meet on the new season went really well. Officers have been provided with the 2025/2026 meeting calendar for speedway events and meetings.
Clock Tower Lights	• Replacement LED strip lights are no longer available for the current lighting system. Officers are currently obtaining quotes to replace the lights.

Current	Brief Project Description / progress
Old Polytech(Cameron St) Demolition	• Asbestos removal is underway. Temporary fencing will remain in place for the duration of the project. Once the asbestos removal is complete, demolition will commence. A public update will be provided later in the year.
Forestry	• Bowyers Stream harvest commenced on 12th September. This is approximately 2.5ha within a larger Forestry block. Due to the age of the remainder of the trees, they are not yet due for harvest. Harvest is likely to take a couple of weeks.

1.3 Finance

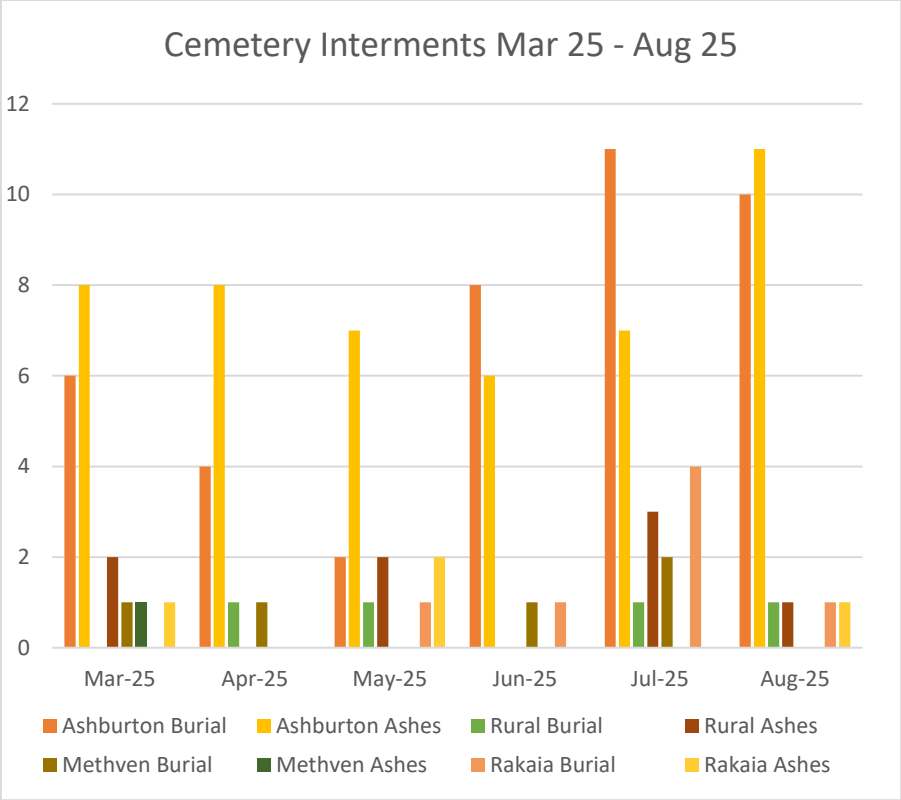
1.3.1 Projects

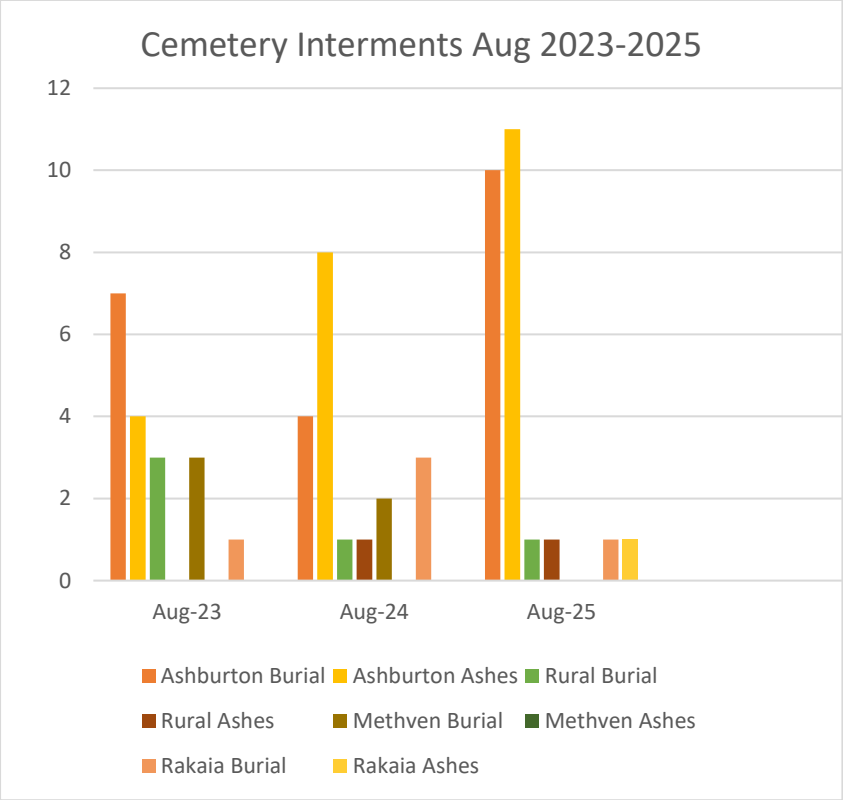
Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track (yes/no)	Within budget (yes/no)	Carry-over (yes/no)	Comments
Annual Report	July 2025	29 October 2025	Yes	Yes	No	Audit New Zealand have a draft off the Annual Report and Financial Statements and are on site for five weeks from 22 September.
Financial Modules and Management Services	Current	30 June 2025	Yes		Yes	IS and Finance continue to work though the stages of this multi-stage, multi-year project. Work is progressing as scheduled. End of Year system roll over process in the CiA environment proceeded successfully. Implementation timeframes can be reconsidered once the Systems Accountant has been appointed.
Vehicles (Fleet)	Current	30 June 2025	Yes	Yes	No	Two new fleet vehicles are now fully in use along with the replacement open spaces truck. A vehicle is on order to replace the fleet vehicle written off in late May.

2. *Infrastructure & Open Spaces*

2.1 Open Spaces

2.1.1 Cemeteries





2.1.2 Activities – items of importance

Cemeteries
• Cemetery staff are now into Spring maintenance mode with their main focus being vegetation control. Spring has also seen an upswing in community visitations to District cemeteries. • Interment activity is constant but slightly down on last month. • Staff continue to have regular contact and dialogue with undertakers on various cemetery matters. • Regular cyclical maintenance continues to occur at closed district cemeteries. • Another section of the RSA section of the Ashburton Cemetery, is scheduled turf renovation. Work is weather dependent. • Staff have prepared a mock Muslim burial pit in preparation for when this service is required by the community. • Painting of the Bremners Road fence is imminent and weather dependent • The Ashburton Cemetery Historic Kiosk is to have some repairs undertaken in September. The work is replacement of failed exterior timber and as this is a scheduled Heritage Building, it requires a higher level of workmanship including approvals from Heritage New Zealand.

Open Space Management
• Customer service requests are being closely monitored for timely resolution – as they may impact upon the non-financial performance measures. • Staff are now working on the 2025-26 capital renewal programme. Some projects are in the detailed design phase, others in the tendering phase. • Open Spaces Planning staff are dealing with subdivision and land use applications with the aim of ensuring assets are designed, constructed and maintained to Council standards prior to handover. Also ensuring existing parks and reserves aren't adversely affected by neighboring developments. • Planning staff continue work on standardising and detailing Open Spaces technical requirements for subdivisions and developments and are currently underway with detailed design in for the Domain playground upgrade. Also working with the developers of Strowan Fields on the developer's new park/playground which is part of Stage 6 of the development. • Open Spaces Planner has compiled the non-financial performance report and benchmarking survey – which are now complete. • Lake Heron and Rakaia South River-mouth replacement public conveniences are currently out for tender. • Staff have tendered for development of the next iteration of Asset Management Plans (AMP). This year, the Open Spaces AMP will be an omnibus plan incorporating Public Conveniences, Cemeteries and Parks and Reserves – in one document. The successful tenderer of three

was XYST. An initial meeting has been held to scope the project, and a proposed timeline of work is under development. It will include a significant amount of time for Open Spaces management staff.

- Management staff have been working with the Communication Team to update and improve ADC website information pertaining to Open Spaces, this work is now complete.
- Open Spaces management hosted a Cemeteries Masterclass for Councils. Attendees were present from Waitaki and Selwyn District Councils as well as Ashburton staff. It covered various aspects of Cemetery operation and management. It was run by a consultant on behalf of Recreation Aotearoa and the Cemeteries and Crematoria Collective (CCC). The CCC is the national professional body for cemetery practitioners in NZ.
- Open Spaces Management staff have been working with a consultant to undertake a revaluation of Open Space assets. This work involved compiling a complete inventory of parks assets and the associated validation of the data and assumptions. This process has been carried out under the lens of Audit NZ compliance. This is needed as we know there are lost and found assets from past iterations of valuations.
- Refurbishment work required on the Rakaia Salmon Sculpture has been tendered and a report has been drafted for the Council to consider in relation to funding the remedial work on the sculpture
- Specialist staff from Play Central in Auckland assessed all District playgrounds during September. This work was last completed in 2022. The current assessment will also inform the AMP in relation to asset renewals and capital spend, and compliance with NZS 5828:2015 and past standard iterations. This time these assessments will also include accessibility and shade. The resultant information will feed into the AMP to then inform the LTP of work required, renewals and capital requirements.
- Open Spaces staff are currently recruiting two Horticulturists. This is to replace one retiring staff member and another who is off overseas.
- Staff have commenced initial discussions with the Policy and Strategy team to start scoping a project to update the Open Spaces Strategy.

Ashburton Domain

- Recent public visits to the Domain are increasing as the days lengthen. On fine weekends there is a noticeable upswing especially around the playground area.
- The rose garden refurbishment has concluded, and the replanting of bushes complete with growth bursting forth. The lawn areas have been topped up to level after the irrigation heads were raised to what is the correct finished height. Staff had their challenges with this project as wet winter weather paused work on several occasions.
- Staff have realigned the edges of gardens on the western side of the Domain adjacent to Park Street. This is to allow for better flow around the driplines of the specimen trees. Areas where in the past lawns have struggled to grow and the trees will be better served with gardens at their feet rather than areas devoid of vegetation and weekly compaction from mowing operations. Rhododendrons and underplanting of groundcover species will be ongoing here after a layer of compost is applied.

- The annual bedding displays are looking good and developing by the day we the weather becomes more favorable. Some plots that have had bulbs added to provide for an additional layer of colour, once they grow up and flower above the flowering annuals. Having this added dimension of colour to the displays creates more of a wow factor for the community to enjoy
- The reconfigured wildflower/butterfly garden area is looking good with final pruning undertaken and all the plantings primed for Spring growth.
- Early September saw the Monarch Butterflies bust on a Prunus blossom tree:
- The steering group driving the Ashburton Bike Skills Park has completed the detailed design phase and continue in fundraising mode - preparing and lodging funding applications.
- The Depot nursery is currently filling with new seasons annuals being pricked out and grown on through the series of growing houses. Some species are already out on the hardening off area in the open. Staff are also working to divide up a number of species from the CBD gardens. This is a cost-effective way of reproducing perennial species which will ultimately be replanted in the CBD.
- The final two replacement Ashburton Domain signs, at the corner of Grigg and Elizabeth Streets and West and Wills Streets, have now been installed. These renewals replaced dilapidated wooden signs.

General Parks and Reserves and Gardens
• Playground weekly and monthly safety checks and maintenance continue throughout the district. • The Council has taken delivery of another shipment of endangered rhododendrons from Pukeiti Rhododendron Gardens in Taranaki. This is part of an ongoing partnership whereby several district councils around New Zealand are being host to worldwide threatened species. Staff are learning a lot from the various connections and relationships programmes such as this present. • The Chinese village has had some more flowering cherries planted along the figure eight shingle path. Additional trees and Kowhai have been planted in the border gardens and the re-contoured lawn areas have been resown. • Native plantings have been planted in the re-contoured entry/exit to EANC. This planting mirrors the plantings adjacent to the steps. • Replacement street trees have been planted in Churchill Avenue. The new planting is Ulmus 'Lobel', a species with upright growth habit and spectacular Autumn tones. A letter-drop informed all residents of the work. • Additional and renewal seating is underway in Westpark Close, Whiteoak Ave, Miller Ave, Jordan Drive and Charlesworth Drive. They are being fitted on concrete pads to prevent under-seat scuffing and to enable easy future maintenance around them with mowing equipment. • Annual beds in both Methven and Rakaia are looking good with colour now on display and plots where bulbs have been planted to add a further dimension to the displays are starting to poke through the ground.

- Two significant Walnut Avenue Street trees are pending removal. Sadly, this is due to ill health with infill housing a big contributor over time. All residents have been informed by way of a letter drop of the impending work which are scheduled for the school holidays. The trees will be replaced in realigned positions away from driveways and services.
- Maintenance pruning of a large, protected tree on the Balmoral Hall site is also pending. This work will strategically remove some weight from specific limbs. This follows a past limb failure over an adjacent property.
- The Methven CBD lighting project - installation of inground lighting under three trees outside the IHub is complete. There are some remedial works to occur with the underground cabling and an issue with condensation and the volume/direction of light. The luminaries are showing signs of internal moisture, and the strength of the light is not up to expectation. All issues are in the hands of the installer, and the Christchurch based designer/supplier/importer. Staff are now working with all stakeholders to endeavour to get the situation rectified for the community.
- Solar path lighting extensions are occurring in Digby Park, Geoff Geering Drive linkages and Braebrook.

Public Conveniences

- All facilities are working well.
- Rakaia Domain, new RFC clubrooms and public toilet has a grand opening scheduled for late September. This new facility is a real step up as a community asset on the Rakaia Domain, and a real credit to the hard work of all involved.
- Building condition assessments have been carried out on all public toilet facilities. This work shall prioritise the maintenance requirements in the future and feed into the Asset Management Plans and inform future renewal requirements.
- Seeding around the refurbished Hakatere Shelter is now complete, as is the seeding of the area around the Ashburton Domain Picnic Ground toilets.
- Recently, staff have replaced several baby change tables where inappropriate use is causing issues. Consideration is being given to removing these if the negative attention they are receiving continues.
- Work is progressing on assessing the capacity and capability of the Hinds Domain septic system and disposal field. Currently the system designer and the installer are working with staff to ascertain current utilisation against assumed utilisation when the system was designed and installed ten years ago. We can confirm at this point; current utilisation exceeds the design capacity. The use of the public conveniences by the community and more-so passing state highway travellers is one key driver. The other driver is system inputs from the RFC and Fire Station, and a proposed RFC extension with new changing facilities including toilets and showers. While the solution is at this point unknown, what is known is that there will be a resource consent implication and a funding resource will be required. This issue is expected to land in the Annual Plan discussions later this year, for the 2026/27 financial year.

2.1.3 Biodiversity

Recent/Ongoing Activity
• Council Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor continues to provide input into the land use change consenting process and applications with more than minor environmental effects, as well as internal expertise input into the Second Ashburton Bridge Project mitigation packages. • The Council Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor continues to work with the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan 2024 Action 4 proposed working definition – blue-green network project development, which overlaps with some ADC biodiversity strategy actions. • Council Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor is collaborating with the Legal Team and QEII Trust to develop Council conservation covenants under Section 77 of the Reserves Act. This section enables local authorities to create conservation covenants on private land on behalf of the Minister. Due to funding cuts, the QEII Trust can support only two covenants per annum. Note: entering into a conservation covenant incurs no financial obligations for Council, aside from staff time. • Weed control on Council reserve land between ACL and the MTB Bike Park, the drainage swales running from Smallbone Drive to the Ashburton River, is ongoing. We will be seeking a community group to assist with planting in the coming months. • Council Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor attended the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions meeting held on 8th September—the final meeting of the current term. The revitalised Regional Biodiversity Strategy is scheduled for Regional Council adoption on 17 September. The group hopes the Mayoral Forum will continue to support and maintain the Biodiversity Champions Group into the next Council term. • Support for the management of the Harris Scientific Reserve continues, with efforts focused on understanding the current management's vision for the site. Council staff supported the planting day held on Sunday 14 September, which saw over 30 community members in attendance.

Completed and Planned Projects

• 2025 Proposed Future Plantings (Timeline: ~ until September 2025)
  ○ Robilliard Park – infill planting completed.
  ○ ABE site planting. Infill planting of existing planted areas- ongoing
  ○ Taylors Stream planting. Bridge side slope and infill planting - in planning phase.
  ○ Bowyers Stream planting. Wet areas beside the plantation that are difficult to mow and infill if needed - in planning phase.
  ○ Hinds septic soakage field planting.
  ○ Lake Camp/Clearwater – replacement plantings.
• 2025 Proposed weed control on Council land
  ○ Ashton Beach (November 2025)
  ○ Lake Camp/Clearwater (November 2025)

- Wakanui Beach Restoration site (October 2025)

2.2 Solid Waste Management

2.2.1 Solid Waste Management Contract

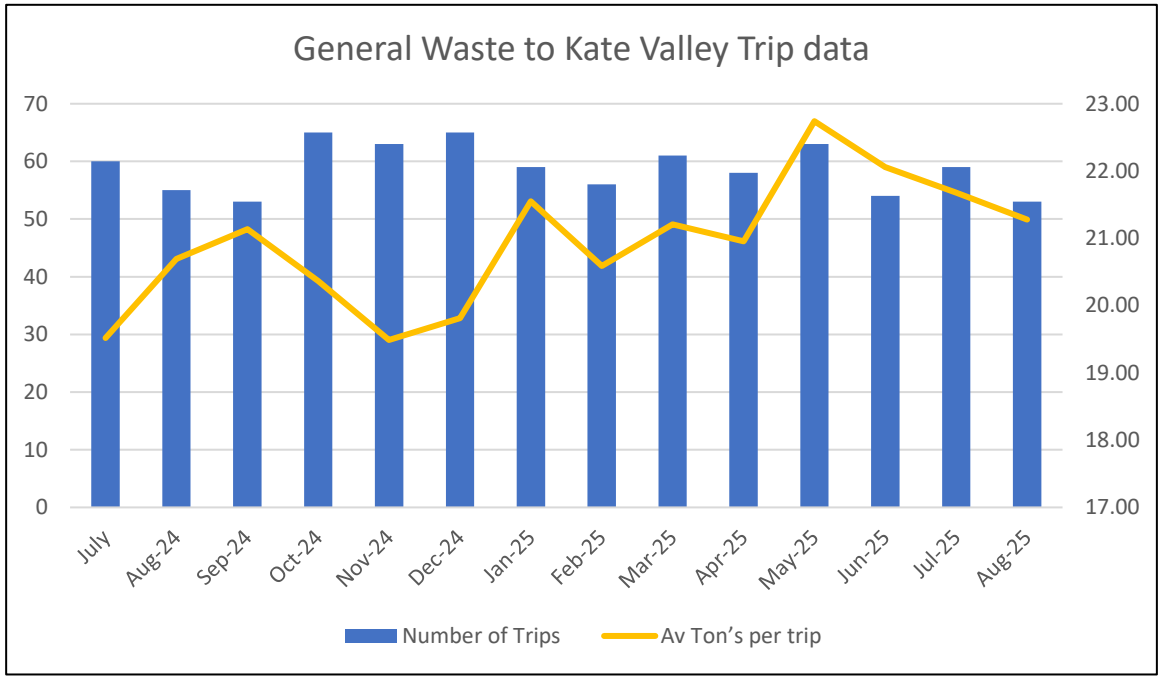
- Mobilisation activities are progressing for Contract REFU0343. Fortnightly meetings are being held with WasteCo to discuss the following:
  - Purchase of FOGO Bins. The contract to supply 12,000 Green Bins has been awarded to Sulo.
  - Equipment and Plant Procurement
  - Branding
  - Communication campaigns (FOGO and others)
  - System & technology integration requirements
- Transwaste has announced a change in TCL's business model with the appointment of the following management to operate the business:
  - Hayden Leach – General Manager
  - Jeremy Parker – Commercial Manager

2.2.2 Solid Waste Kerbside Refuse and Recyling Collection

- A total of 177 CRMs were received in August. This is lower than July which had the highest number of CRMs for the year. A summary of the CRMs for the last seven months is shown below:

Request Enquiry	**Monthly Total Number**						
	Feb	**Mar**	**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**August**
Illegal dumping	10	7	7	10	5	19	8
Kerbside - Bin Accessory	7	7	4	3	6	6	4
Additional Bins	31	26	22	39	23	30	23
Damaged Bins	12	15	17	12	23	33	41
New Bins	24	12	22	16	17	26	27
Missing Bins	3	4	6	11	7	12	19
Missed Collections	24	34	14	34	27	71	45
Contractor Complaints	3	3	0	1	3	4	4
Satellite Drop Off Site Issues	3	7	0	1	4	6	0
Other Miscellaneous Complaints	7	5	2	3	**2**	4	6
Total	**124**	**120**	**94**	**130**	**117**	**211**	**177**

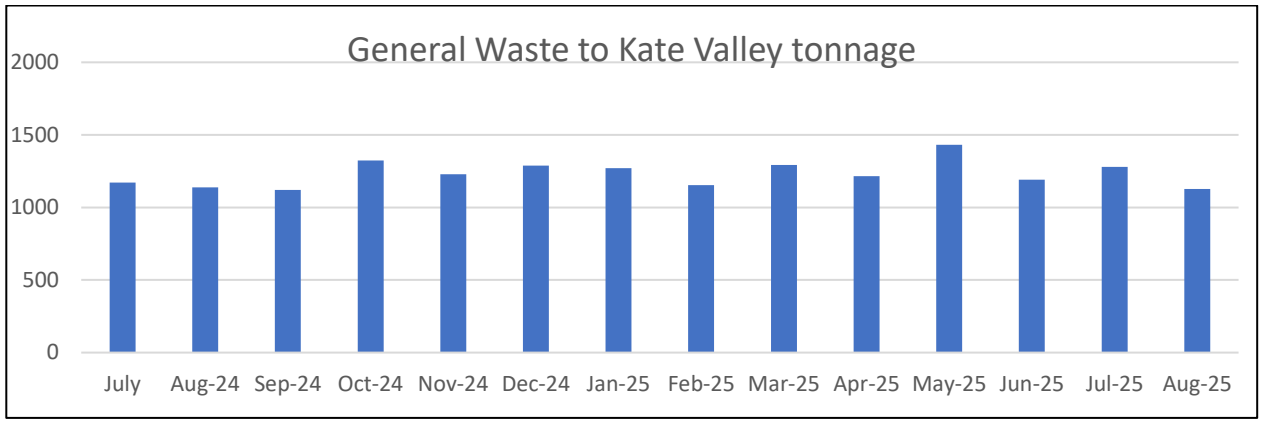
- Of the 45 missed collections, 23 were actually missed, 9 did not have their bins out when the truck went through and one bin was missed as it was hidden behind an obstruction (e.g. a vehicle). New drivers missing streets while still learning the collection routes has been the reason for some missed collections, however we have seen a reduction of missed bins this past month. The missed bins are collected the following day.
- The number of damaged bins has also increased due to new drivers learning to use the truck lifts. The contractor pays for every bin damaged by their drivers.
- A total of 53 trips were made to Kate Valley in August. The average number of trips per month for the past 12 months is 59 trips.



- The average trip weight in August was 21 tonnes. Since the tonnage per trip is dependent on the weight of the materials dumped in the pit, the operators are segregating lighter materials, whenever possible, to try and maximise the bin weight for each trip. The average weight per trip the past 12 months is 21 tonnes.

Month	Tonnes	Number of Trips	Ave Ton's per trip
Sep-24	1120.07	53	21.13
Oct-24	1323.8	65	20.37
Nov-24	1227.78	63	19.49
Dec-24	1287.88	65	19.81
Jan-25	1271.04	59	21.55
Feb-25	1153.079	56	20.59
Mar-25	1293.59	61	21.21
Apr-25	1215.27	58	20.95
May-25	1432.65	63	22.74
Jun-25	1191.18	54	22.06
Jul-25	1278.97	59	21.68
Aug-25	1127.71	53	21.28

- The weight of residual waste sent to Kate Valley for the month of August is 1,128 tonnes. For the first 2-months, a total of 2,380 tonnes were sent to Kate Valley. The average volume of waste sent to Kate Valley the past 3-years is 14,700 tonnes per year.

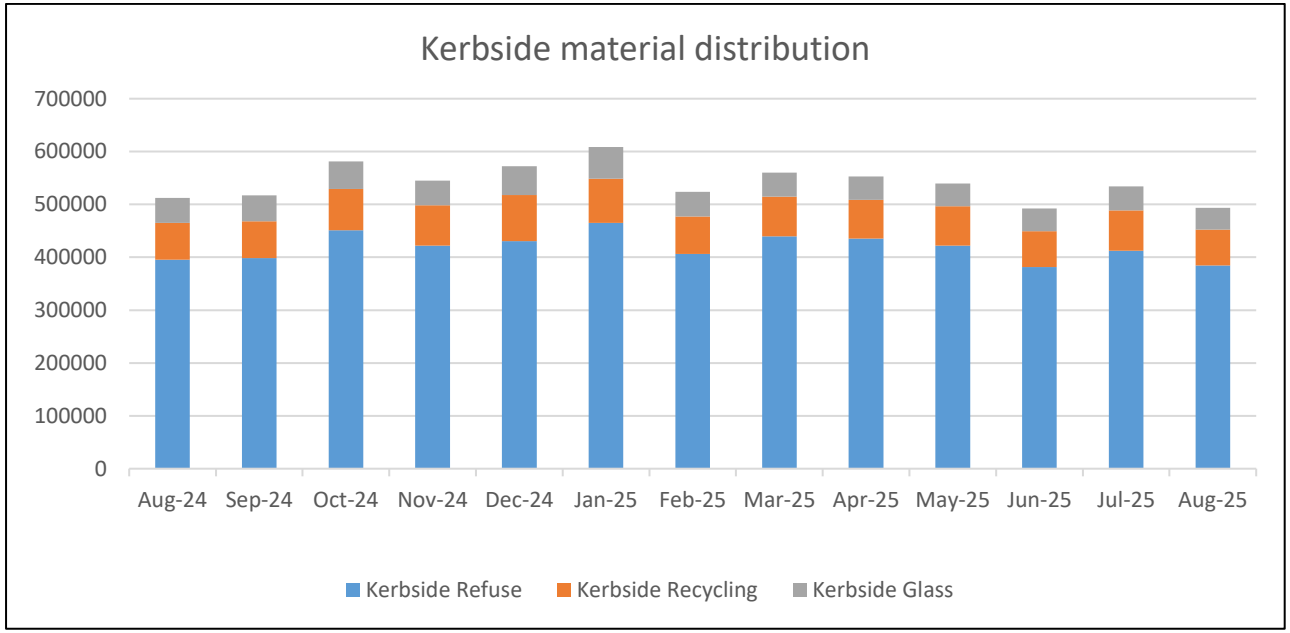


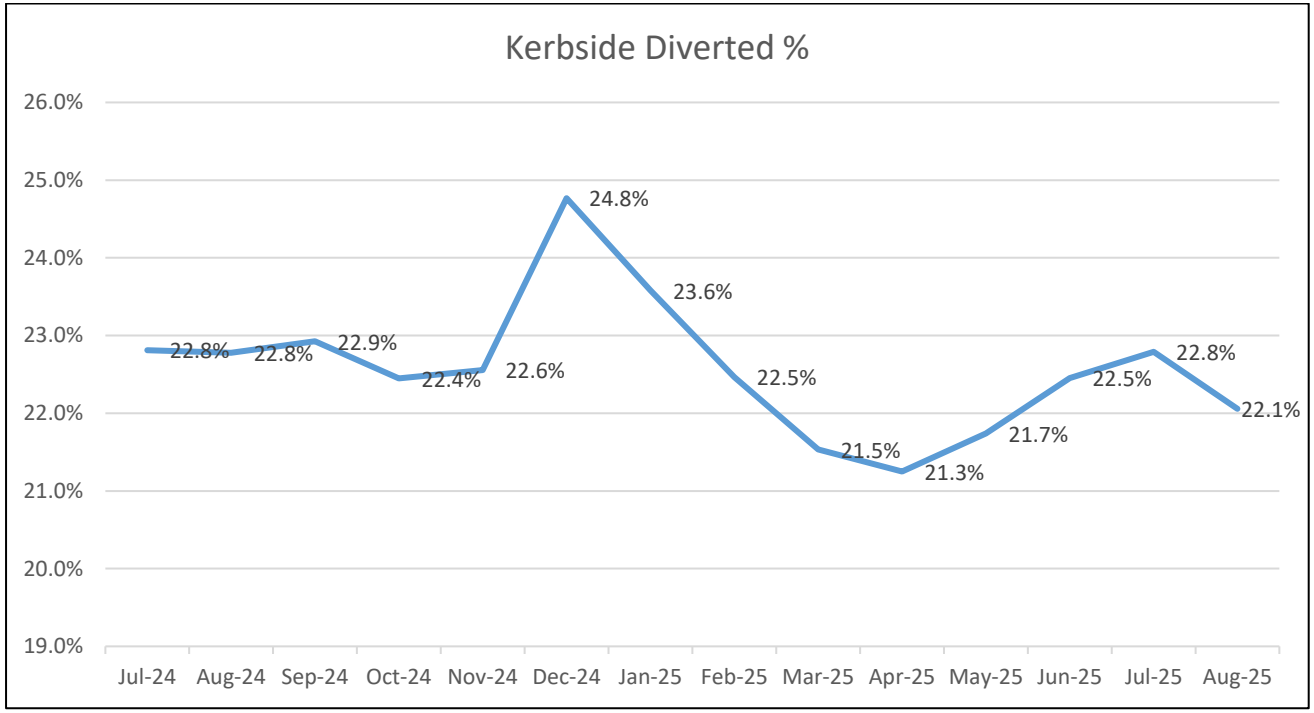
- The volume of recyclable materials received from the drop off stations was lower in August when compared to July which had seen an increased volume from the Methven and Mayfield sites. Rakaia Huts site has only been collected first week of September therefore the figure will be reported that month.

Site	Last 6-months Recycling Volumes						6-month total tonnes
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	August	
Methven Recycling Centre	17.56	11.36	15.04	11.07	18.77	12.98	86.78
Rakaia Huts	0.21	0.44	0.25	0.0	0.25	0	1.15
Pendarves	4.30	1.94	0.68	2.98	2.15	0.73	12.78
Hakatere Huts	0.63	0.40	1.78	0.47	0.475	2.00	5.755
Willowby	4.02	5.44	0.60	2.77	3.37	0.78	16.98
Rangitata huts	0.21	2.27	0.38	0.07	0.0	2.01	4.94
Hinds	2.63	2.42	0.80	4.32	0.92	2.45	13.54
Mayfield	2.45	4.11	1.20	1.08	4.78	0.78	14.4
Mt Somers	0.55	0.42	3.74	3.65	0.58	0.57	9.51
Staveley	2.97	0.67	2.32	0.38	0.99	2.18	9.51
Fairton	2.41	0.64	3.52	2.68	0.65	1.88	11.78
Rakaia Resource Recovery Park	6.58	20.30	5.95	3.68	5.77	5.22	47.5
Monthly Totals	**44.52**	**50.41**	**36.26**	**33.15**	**38.705**	**31.58**	**234.625**

- The volume of recyclable materials collected from households in August is 67.81 tonnes, slightly lower than July's 76.59 tonnes. July saw the highest volume of recyclable materials collected over the past 6 months averaging 72.36 tonnes. This was slightly higher than the same period last year which averaged only 69.28 tonnes.

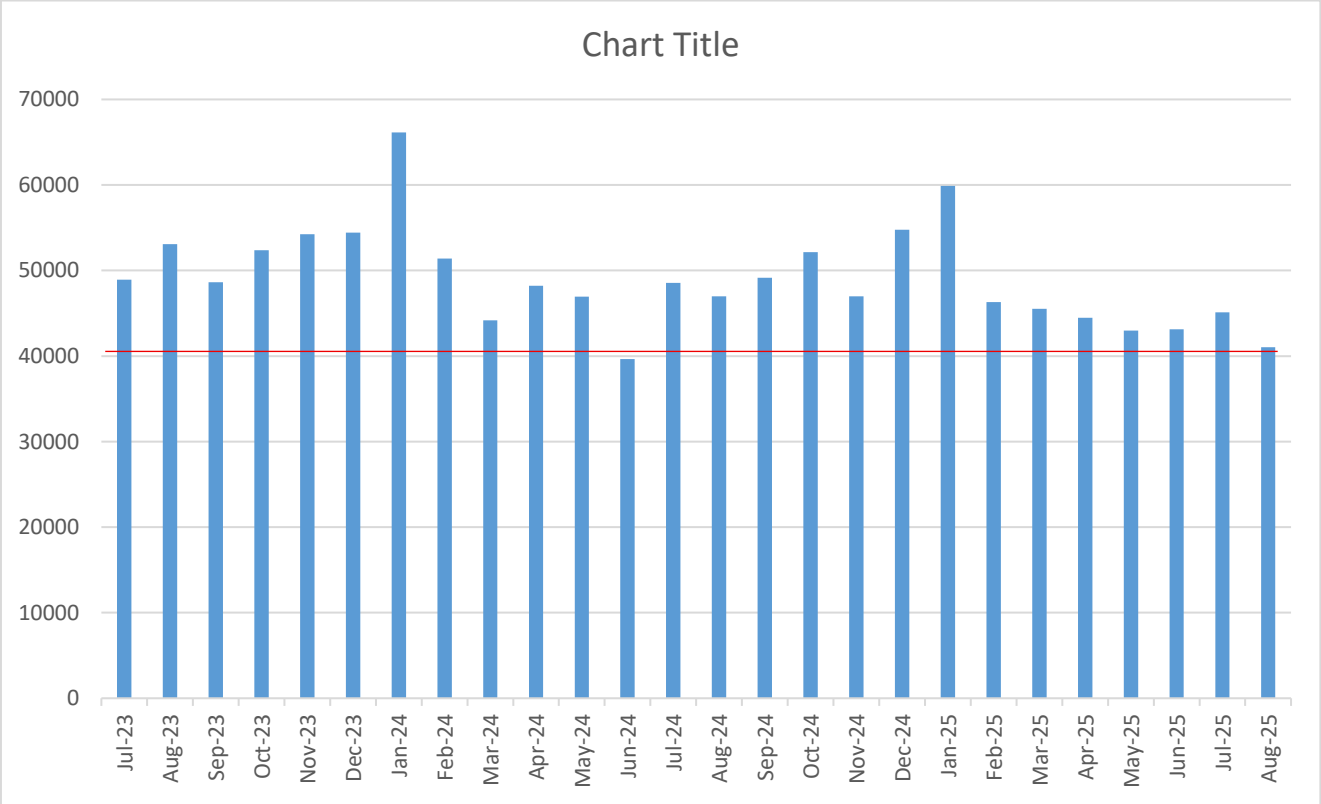
- Glass collection slightly decreased in August at 41 tonnes from 45.13 tonnes in July and 43.72 tonnes in June. This is the lowest weight in the past 12-months. The average volume of glass collected the past 6 months is 43.70 tonnes. Lower glass collection amounts are being reported across New Zealand as people appear to be moving away from drinks in glass bottle to aluminium cans instead.



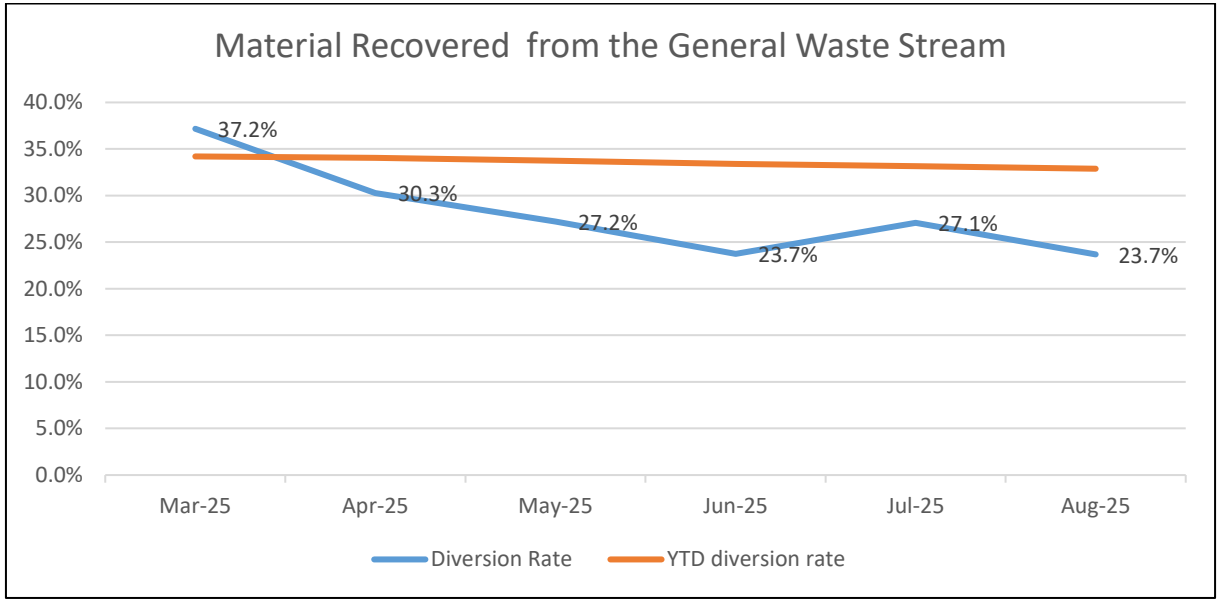


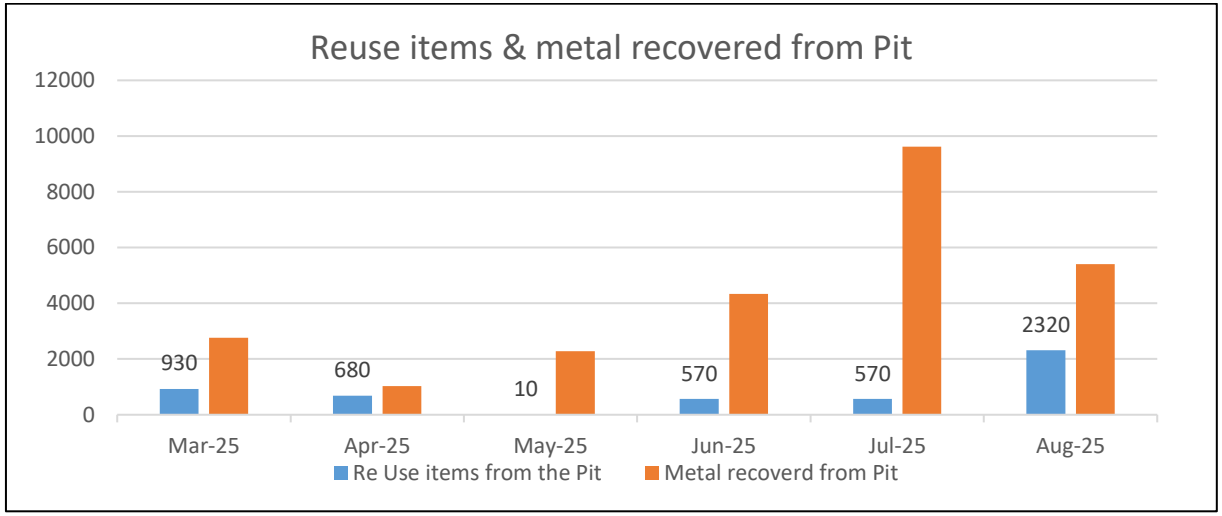
- Kerbside refuse for August is 384.70 tonnes which is slightly lower than July at 412.35 tonnes but is similar to June at 381.74 tonnes. The June volumes were the lowest collected over the past 6-month period.

- Kerbside diversion rate (volume of kerbside recycling against volume of kerbside general waste collected) for August was 22.10% being lower than July at 22.80%. The kerbside diversion rate is influenced by the decrease in the weight of glass collected from kerbside.



- The average weight of glass during the last 12 months period was 47.63 tonnes compared to 50.15 tonnes the same period the previous year. Weight of glass has substantially decreased since January 2025.

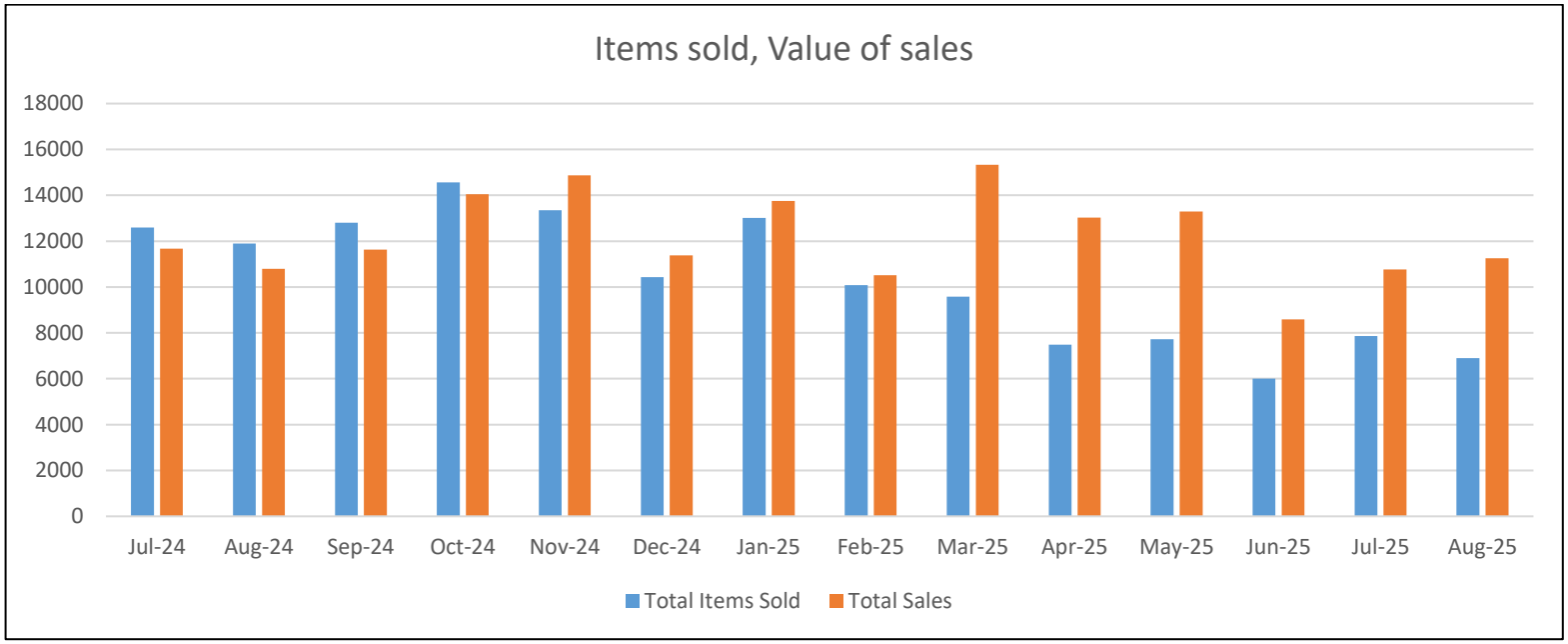




- Items recovered from the pit has been steady at around 570 items during June and July but increased in August to 2,340 items.

- The weight of recovered metal increased over the past 3 months with July reaching 9.620 tonnes. This is the highest recovery volume since January 2025. The weight in June was 4.34 tonnes and August was 5.41 tonnes. The increase in weight comes from various items including chairs, tables, BBQs, iron furniture and other metal being recovered from the pit.

- The RRP recycling center received 9,753 visitors in August, which was slightly higher than the 9,446 visitors in July. The average weight per person for recyclable material drop-off (*visitors in the yard divided by the amount materials in kgs being dropped off*) in August is 1.8 kg compared to 1.30 kg in July. Residents seem to bring heavier items during the months of November through to January when the average weight of items being dropped off at the ARRP averaged 2 to 3 kgs.
- The re-use shop sale figure for August is $11,255, slightly higher than July at $10,769 and much higher than the sales achieved in June at $8,593.



Breakdown of Items Sold at the ARRP												
Month	Household items	Kitchen items	Linen	Clothing	Outdoors/ Garden	Toys	Sports items	Bike/ scooters	Tag tested	Lawn mower	Total Items Sold	Total Income
Mar-25	3888	2501	310	1064	973	570	141	65	34	30	9576	$15,330.30
Apr-25	3243	1994	252	778	612	431	70	53	35	19	7487	$13,023.60
May-25	3258	2007	268	817	792	401	77	53	39	13	7725	$13,294.51
Jun-25	2460	1532	269	823	426	293	69	52	72	8	6004	$8,593.77
Jul-25	3041	1789	187	1375	740	546	123	34	14	9	7858	$10,769.60
Aug-25	3346	1561	83	723	521	428	164	38	27	4	6895	$11,254.90

- The most saleable items over the past 6 months continues to be household goods, kitchen items, clothing, outdoor/garden products, toys and linens.

2.2.3 Solid Waste Capital Projects

- The contract for the Ashburton closed landfill slope remediation has been awarded to Grant Hood. They have completed 10% of the scope of work as of end of August 2025.

Before

After

- The fencing around the Rakaia resource recovery park has been completed. The contract was awarded to DJ Gleeson Contracting Limited. The side of the RRRP that was fenced is shown in the picture below in **red**.

2.2.4 Waste Education

- The kerbside audits are ongoing.
- Water conservation, worm farm and recycling sessions were held at schools, kindies and early childhood centres across the district in July and August.
- Various groups continue to take advantage of the free ARRP site tours.
- The team attended the July school holiday library programmes at Methven and Mayfield with wastewater displays and recycling games for the kids. Community education sessions with local Kea groups were held in August.

2.3 Stockwater Operations

2.3.1 General

- All intakes have been stable over the past few weeks.
- A shutdown of the RDR took place from 1 to 21 September, and has been the focus for the team over the few weeks as there is no water available at the Klondyke offtake when the RDR race is empty. We have installed and are operating all our usual pumping/siphoning infrastructure from local farm irrigation ponds, but with these ponds providing lower flow rates it is a struggle to supply water to all properties in the Ruapuna/Montalto area served by the Klondyke offtake. Lambing and calving season has complicated this as there is more demand for water at present.
- Repairs to the leaking Klondyke offtake concrete chamber have been undertaken during the shutdown. Once the chamber was drained, a large hole was found in the bottom which has been re-concreted. The RDR assisted with pumping water while this work was being carried out.
- Spring growth is just starting to kick in, so programming main race cleaning is underway.
- We are still receiving the occasional enquiry for smaller, end of line race or insignificant closures.

Klondyke offtake chamber when running

Damaged floor of offtake chamber

Newly concreted floor

2.3.2 Applications

- A summary of the current applications is listed below:

Stockwater closures/alterations/culvert installation applications as at 15 September 2025

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

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

2.4 Stockwater Exit Transition

Pudding Hill

- Archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed
- No further progress has been made – waiting for BCI Heads of Agreement to be finalised.

Methven Auxiliary

- Stormwater and archaeological assessments are yet to be progressed.
- Methven Auxiliary stockwater user properties have been categorised and follow up emails have been sent to all users confirming that the Melius assessment of their future stockwater requirements for their property is correct as to whether they do or don't need an alternative.
- Cultural assessment undertaken on 26 August. Report provided to STWG on 18 September.
- No further progress has been made – waiting for BCI Heads of Agreement to be finalised.

Bushside

- Draft Melius report received late August.
- Proposals for Ecological assessments closed on Friday 5 September and are being evaluated. Intention is to have work undertaken by end of September.
- Cultural assessment will follow.

Stoney Creek

- Melius currently preparing their draft report.
- Proposals for Ecological assessments closed on Friday 5 September and are being evaluated. Intention is to have work undertaken by end of September.
- Cultural assessment will follow.

Limestone Creek

- User survey results have been provided to Melius.
- No public survey as only 5 properties and race often doesn't run due to weather conditions.

Brothers

- Drop-in session held on Tuesday 2 September which was attended by 40 people.
- Users survey is open until - 110 responses have been received as of 10 Sept. 44 want to keep the race, 66 don't.
- Reminder letter sent and a further email has gone to the remaining properties requesting they complete the survey.
- Public survey remains open; 10 responses received to date.

Alford Forest

- No user survey carried out as there are no stockwater ratepayers on this race.
- 14 properties that have the race running through were sent letters advising the public survey was underway.
- Five surveys were received.

Other

- 222 people have signed up to receive the stockwater exit project newsletter updates.
- Langdons Creek North & South Intake user survey letters sent out on 8 September.

- The next meeting of the Stockwater Transition Working Group is to be held on 18 September.
- The user survey for Clearwell Springs will go out in late September.

2.5 Roads and Footpaths

2.5.1 2025/26 financial year

	ADC budget	NZTA approved budget	Spend as at 31/08/2025	Comments
Local Road Operations				
Structures Maintenance	$321,662	$321,662	$14,861	
Environmental Maintenance	$662,624	$662,624	$180,943	
Network Services Maintenance	$795,641	$897,437	$216,332	
Network Operations	$14,370	$17,370	$0	
Level Crossing Warning Devices	$35,704	$35,704	$538	
Minor Events	$96,499	$96,499	$26,769	
Network and Asset Management	$1,064,484	$1,061,484	$250,550	
Structures Component Replacement	$418,160	$568,160	$236	
Traffic Services Renewals	$184,060	$184,060	$31,724	
Total Local Road Operations	**$3,593,204**	**$3,845,000**	**$721,953**	19% of NZTA budget
Local Road Pothole Prevention				
Sealed Pavement Maintenance	$1,311,779	$2,233,333	$384,949	
Unsealed Pavement Maintenance	$719,628	$866,667	$227,029	
Routine Drainage Maintenance	$510,000	$510,000	$46,328	
Unsealed Road Metalling	$1,200,000	$1,200,000	$952,952	
Sealed Road Resurfacing	$2,198,223	$3,100,000	$4,800	
Drainage Renewals	$550,000	$550,000	$70,310	
Pavement Rehabilitation	$2,032,816	$2,440,000	$5,746	
Total Local Road Pothole Prevention	**$8,522,446**	**10,900,000**	**$1,692,114**	16% of NZTA budget
Walking and Cycling				
Cycle Path Maintenance	$2,160	$2,160	$0	
Footpath Maintenance	$115,863	$115,863	$37,018	
Footpath Renewals	$220,643	$220,643	$1,080	
Total Walking and Cycling	**$338,666**	**$338,666**	**$38,098**	11% of NZTA budget
Road Safety Promotion				
Road Safety Promotion	$78,000	$78,000	$22,162	

Total Road Safety Promotion	**$78,000**	**$78,000**	**$22,162**	28% of NZTA budget
Local Road Improvements				
LCLR Roading Improvements	$0	$600,000	$0	
Total Local Road Improvements	**$0**	**$600,000**	**$0**	
TOTAL SUBSIDISED ROADING	**$12,532,316**	**$15,761,666**	**$2,474,327**	16% of NZTA budget
Unsubsidised Roading				
Ashburton Second Urban Bridge	$4,600,000			
Unsealed Road Metalling	$500,000			
Replace Concrete Streetlight Poles	$220,000			
New Streetlights - Power Undergrounding	$225,000			
Sealed Road Resurfacing	$1,000,000			
Drainage Improvements	$100,000			
Curve Warning Signs	$50,000			
Road marking	$150,000			
Footpath Maintenance	$50,000			
Road Safety Promotions	$20,000			
Additional structural refurbishment	$365,000			
Street Cleaning	$205,000		$36,647	
NZTA State Highway	$112,750		$26,677	
TOTAL UNSUBSIDISED ROADING	**$7,597,750**		**$63,324**	

2.5.2 2025/26 Work completed as at 31/08/2025

- 1,681 km of unsealed grading completed
- 26,360 m^3 of maintenance metal placed
- 3,097 potholes repaired
- 2,808 m^2 of sealed dig out repairs

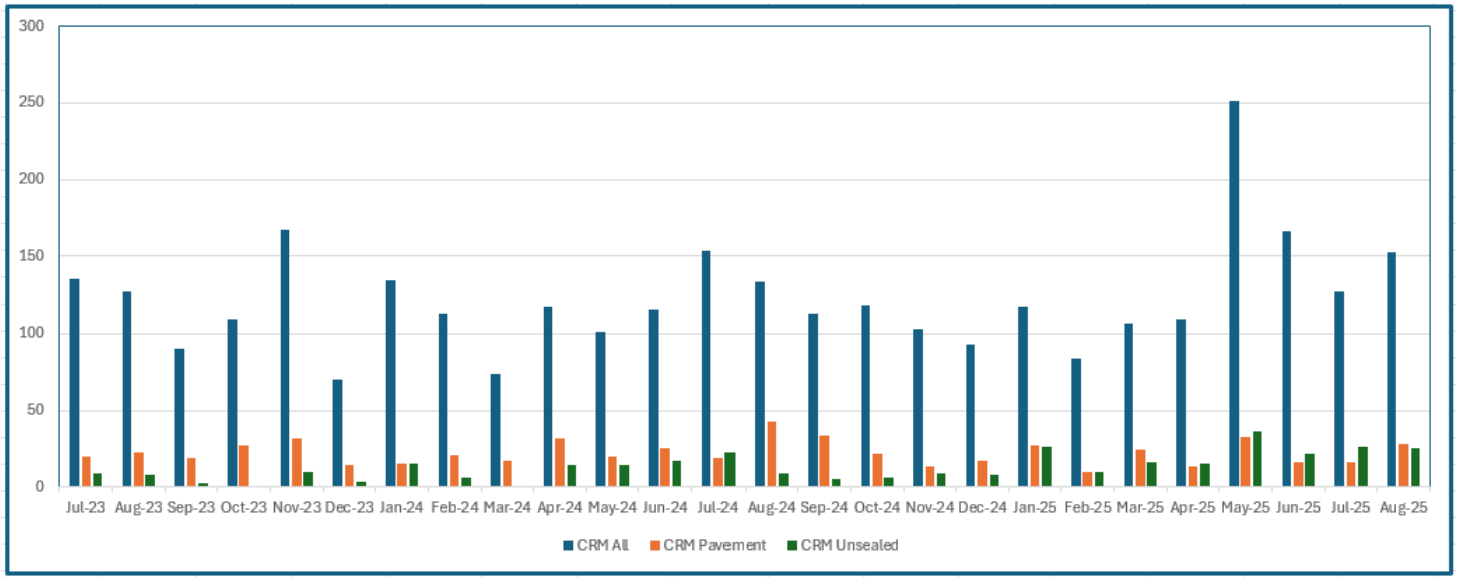
2.5.3 Main areas of work

- Routine maintenance work on sealed and unsealed roads.

- Maintenance metalling on unsealed roads.
- Start of pre reseal repairs.
- Winter maintenance with ice gritting and snow clearing when necessary.

2.5.4 Roading CRM data – July 2023 to August 2025

Roading CRMs showing the fluctuations through the year (All 3,184 - Pavement 580 - Unsealed 336). The higher numbers for recent months is largely a result of the above average rainfall over the autumn and winter months.



2.5.5 Corridor access data

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

2.5.6 Forward Works Progamme

Sealed roads work (resealing, rehabilitations and heavy maintenance) for the next three years and the initial unsealed roads maintenance metalling for 2025/26 are shown on the forward works programme on the Council website:
https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/transport/road-and-footpath-programmemes

2.5.7 Sealed road rehabilitation

Sites scheduled for the 2025/26 financial year are:

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

Contract ROAD0446 includes both the Ealing Montalto Rd sections, both Longbeach Rd sections and Fords Rd. This contract has been awarded to Fulton Hogan.

Contract ROAD0424 includes both the Thompsons Track sections, Fairfield Rd, and Seafield Rd. This contract is out to tender and closes 7 October.

2.5.8 Local road improvements

The work programmed with the unsubsidised Council funding is:

- Reseals $1,000,000.
- Streetlights as part of power undergrounding $290,000.
- Replacement of concrete streetlight poles $200,000
- Curve warning signs for out of context curves $70,000.
- New sumps and soak pits for drainage $100,000.
- Footpath maintenance $150,000.

2.5.9 Road Closures for Motorsport Events

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

2.5.10 Ashburton Second Urban Bridge

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

A drop-in session was held at Te Whare Whakatere on 11 September with NZTA and contractor staff available to answer queries.

2.5.11 Wills Street Rail Footbridge

The scope of works, schedule of prices, specification and contract conditions is being worked on with the intention to tender and award the contract before Christmas 2025.

2.6 Contracts – Tenders

Current Contracts/Tender	Closing Date
Replacement of Public Conveniences at Lake Heron and Rakaia River Mouth RFP	19 September 2025
WWAT0464 Ocean Farm Inflow and Overflow Monitoring RFP	19 September 2025
ROAD0424 Sealed Road Rehabilitation Rural North 2025-26	7 October 2025

Awarded Contracts	Awarded to	Value	Estimate	Tenders received	TTM
Rakaia Salmon Structure Repair	Phil Price Sculpture Ltd	$215,000	n/a	One	
ROAD0400 Road Network Maintenance & Operations Contract	Fulton Hogan	$40,660,916.59	$45,000,000	Two	$2,866,594.62
ROAD0446 Sealed Road Rehabilitation Rural South 2025-2026	Grant Hood Ltd	$1,047,263.46	$985,500	Three	$22,485.00

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

2.7 Lake Hood

A monitoring buoy has been deployed at the deepest area of the lake to provide crucial data for the hydrodynamic modelling of the lake. Work is also underway planning trials for different products that could be used to mitigate the development of algal blooms. 15 Expressions of Interest were received from companies wanting to take part in the trials, and these are currently being evaluated to determine which companies will be selected to participate in the trials. The trials are planned to take place in November 2025 and February 2026.

3. *Compliance & Development*

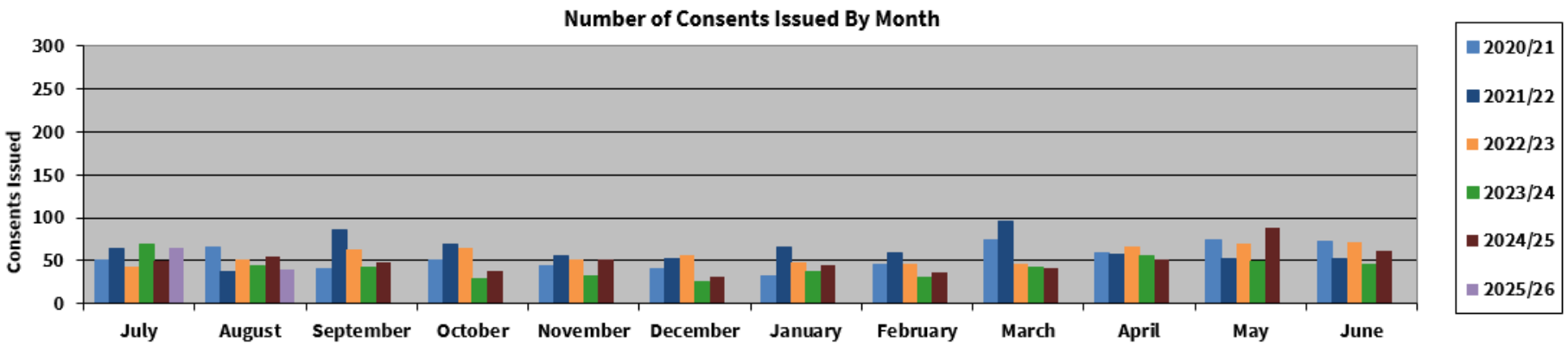
3.1 Building Services

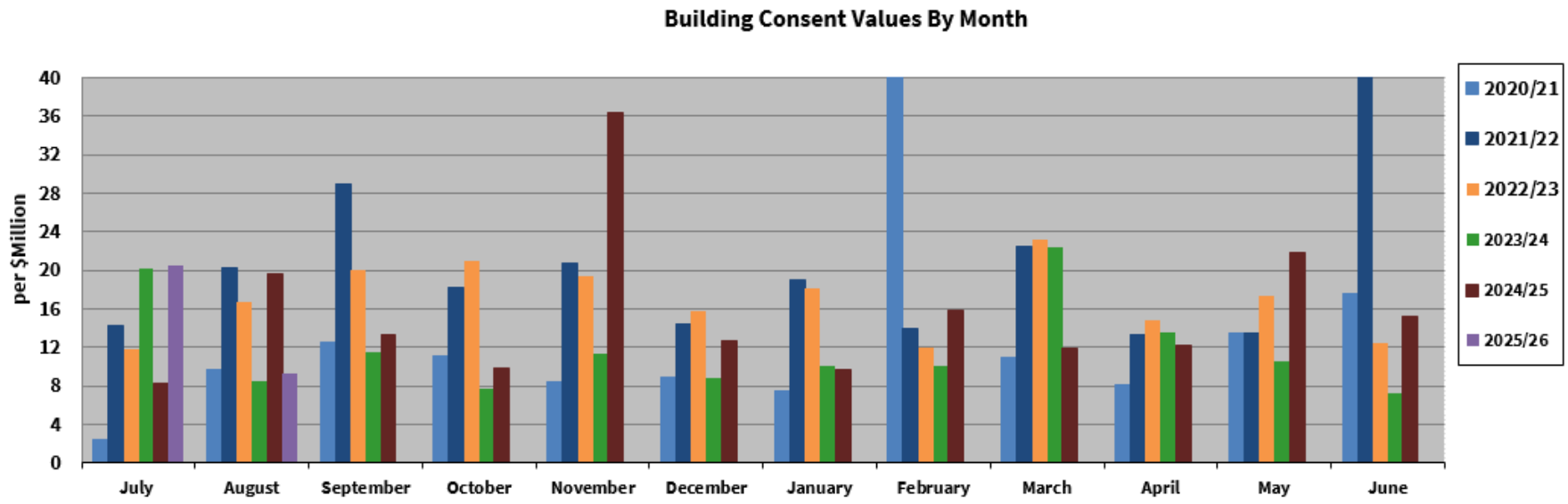
3.1.1 Building consents / amendments

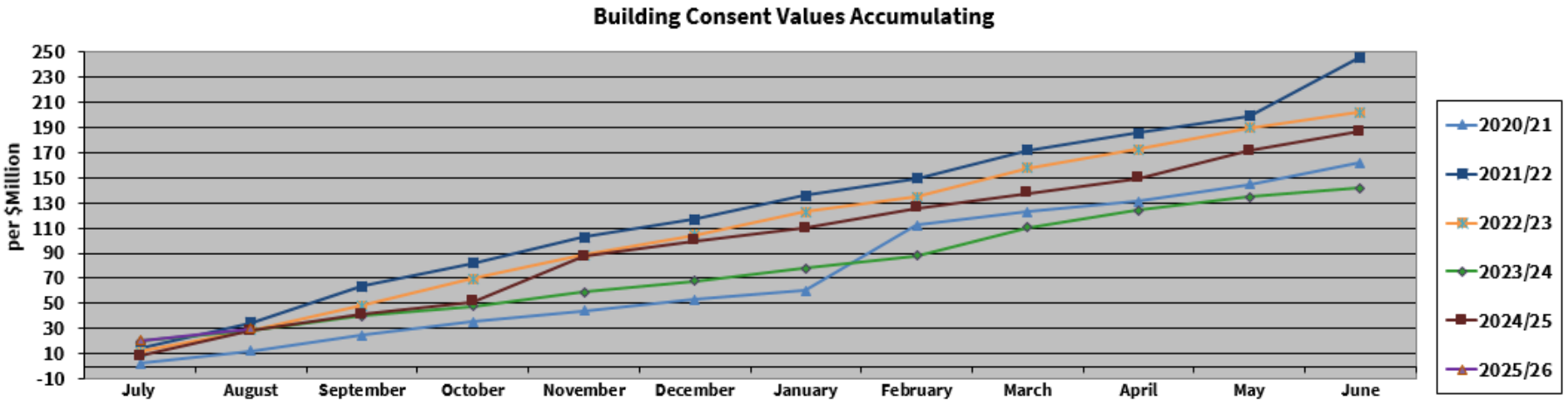
Month	Building Consents				% Processed within 20 Days	Average Processing Days	Inspections Carried Out (80% within 3 working days)	CCC Issued within 20 Days
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD				
July 2025	50(62)	50(62)	65(50)	65(50)	98.5%	15.4	387 (94%)	95.2%
August	55(50)	105(112)	40(55)	105(105)	100%	15.3	425 (96%)	100%
September	(41)	(153)	(48)	(153)				
October	(57)	(210)	(38)	(191)				
November	(41)	(251)	(51)	(242)				
December	(24)	(275)	(32)	(274)				
Jan 2026	(40)	(315)	(45)	(319)				
February	(49)	(364)	(36)	(355)				
March	(75)	(438)	(41)	(396)				
April	(50)	(488)	(53)	(449)				
May	(83)	(570)	(89)	(538)				
June 2026	(60)	(630)	(61)	(599)				
Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.								

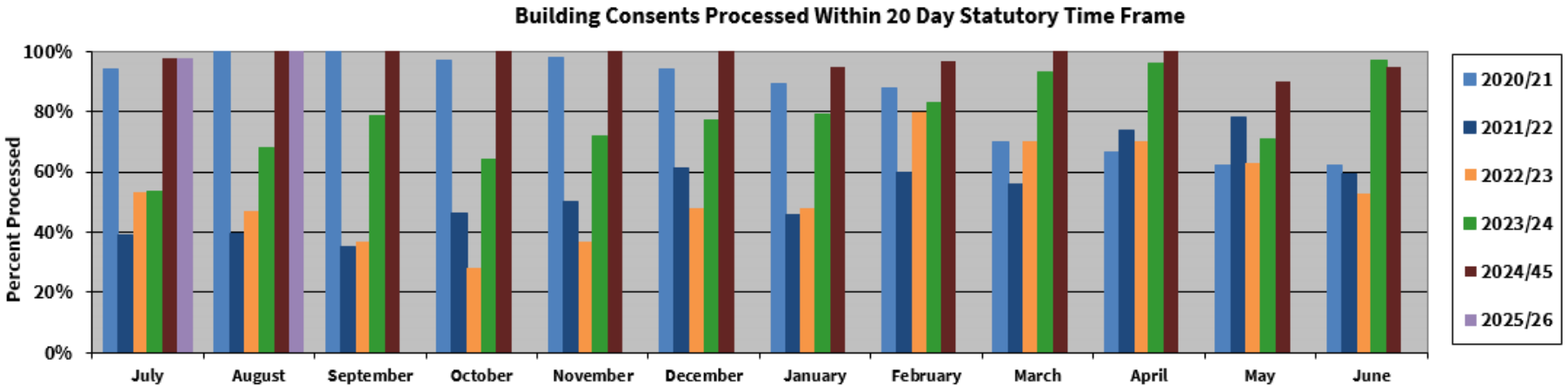
Month	BC Value of Work			
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD
July 2025	$10,421,600 ($13,258,955)	$10,421,600 ($13,258,955)	$20,595,200 ($8,284,275)	$20,595,200 ($8,284,275)
August	$14,065,800 ($35,950,457)	$24,487,400 ($49,199,412)	$9,256,600 ($19,649,100)	$29,851,800 ($27,933,375)
September	($12,819,396)	($62,013,808)	($13,232,786)	($41,166,161)
October	($17,397,800)	($79,416,608)	($9,879,454)	($51,050,815)
November	($11,425,350)	($91,411,958)	($36,348,600)	($87,399,215)
December	($12,247,950)	($103,659,908)	($12,725,573)	($100,124,788)
January 2026	($12,465,350)	($116,125,258)	($9,752,450)	($109,877,238)
February	($17,146,000)	($133,271,258)	($15,809,850)	($125,687,088)
March	($17,197,917)	($149,671,175)	($11,837,300)	($137,524,388)
April	($11,364,300)	($161,435,475)	($12,193,217)	($149,717,605)
May	($20,492,831)	($181,593,306)	($21,851,400)	($171,569,005)
June 2026	($14,231,250)	($195,919,371)	($15,218,696)	($186,737,701)
Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.				

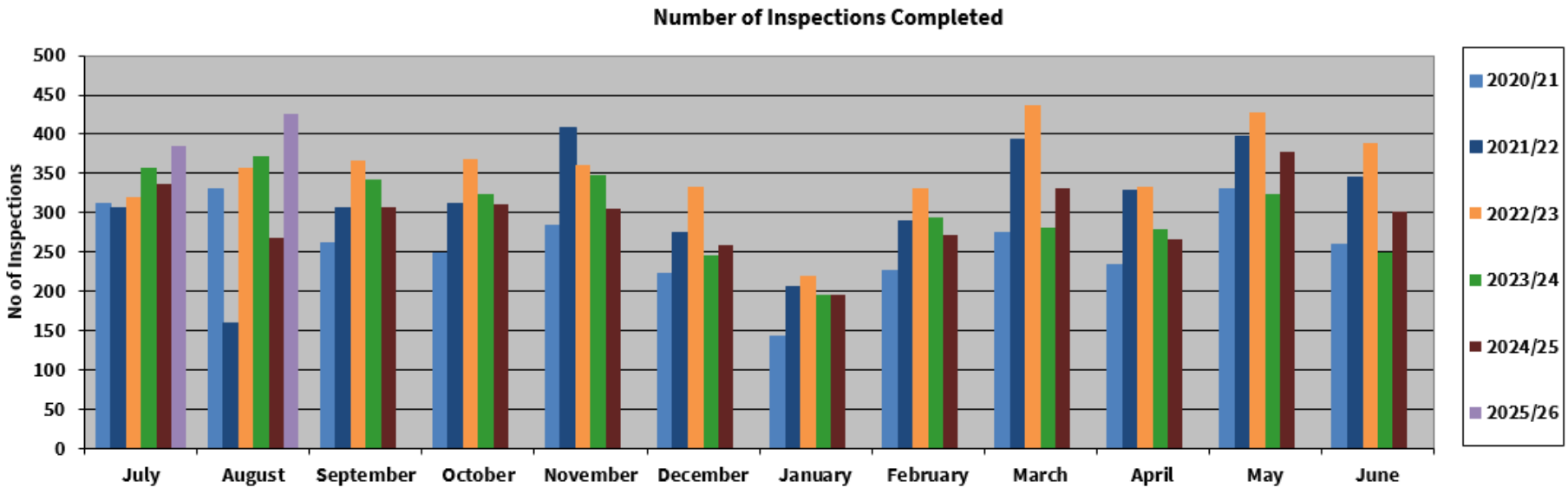
Month	Building Amendment				% Processed within 20 Days
	Received	Received YTD	Issued	Issued YTD	
July 2025	11 (13)	11 (13)	10 (8)	10 (8)	100%
August	19 (10)	30 (23)	12 (9)	22 (17)	92%
September	9 (28)	32 (80)	4 (27)	21 (77)	100%
October	14 (20)	48 (100)	15 (20)	36 (97)	93.3%
November	10 (35)	56 (135)	8 (28)	44 (125)	100%
December 25	2 (22)	58 (157)	5 (28)	49 (153)	100%
January 26	9 (20)	67 (177)	10 (14)	59 (167)	100%
February	12 (46)	79 (223)	11 (33)	70 (200)	100%
March	14 (24)	93 (247)	7 (26)	77 (226)	100%
April	8 (22)	101 (269)	12 (18)	89 (244)	100%
May	9 (22)	110 (291)	8 (18)	97 (262)	100%
June 2026	14 (10)	124 (301)	13 (7)	110 (269)	100%
Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month during the previous year.					

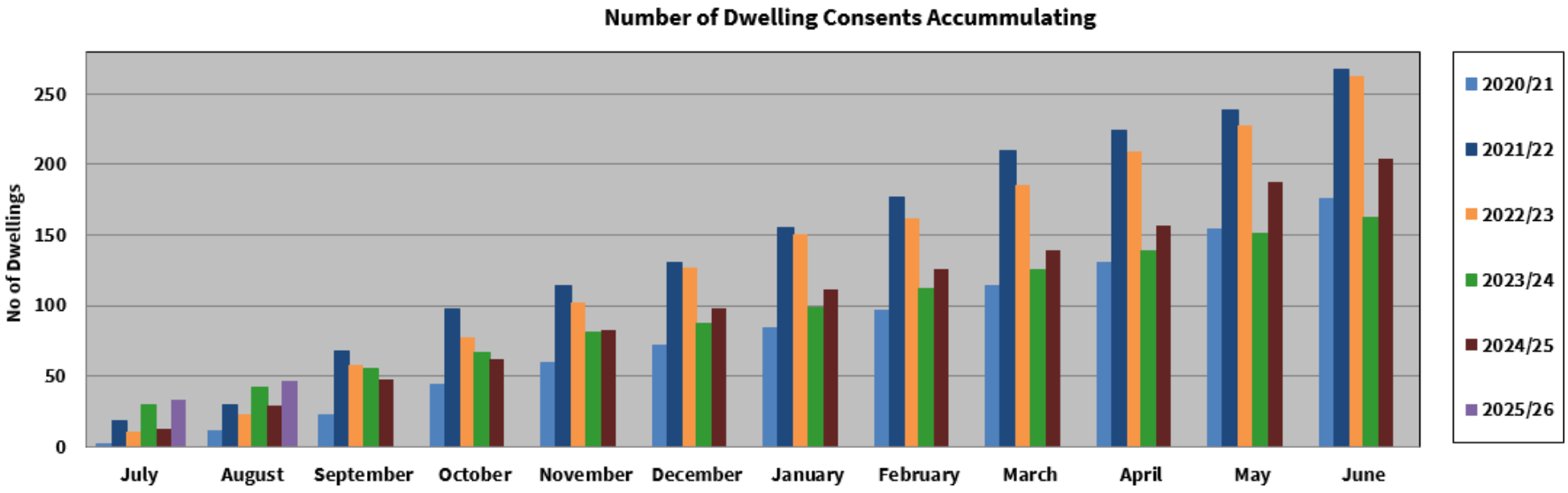

Number of Consents Issued By Month
Consents Issued
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
July
August
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25
2025/26


Building Consent Values By Month
per $Million
40
36
32
28
24
20
16
12
8
4
0
July
August
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25
2025/26


Building Consent Values Accumulating
per $Million
250
230
210
190
170
150
130
110
90
70
50
30
10
-10
July
August
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25
2025/26


Building Consents Processed Within 20 Day Statutory Time Frame
Percent Processed
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
July
August
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/45
2025/26


Number of Inspections Completed
No of Inspections
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
July
August
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25
2025/26


Number of Dwelling Consents Accummulating
No of Dwellings
250
200
150
100
50
0
July
August
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25
2025/26

3.1.2 Consent volumes

We have started the financial year the same as last year (105 consents issued). The main difference comparing the numbers is that we have issued 47 new house consents compared to 29 same period last year. So the trend of high housing numbers continues.

3.1.2 Legislative change.

We have implemented the mandatory reporting of inspection timeframes into this Activity Briefing Report. Legislation which came into effect from July 2025, requires that 80% of inspections are carried out within three working days of the applicant's requested date. This requirement forms part of our accreditation criteria to ensure we have systems in place to manage our resourcing.

We are preparing for the proposed changes in legislation regarding liability changes, self-certification and granny flats but at this early stage while there will be changes it appears there will be other responsibilities arising. As the changes become clearer the team are actively searching for efficiencies and opportunities.

3.2 Civil Defence Emergency Management

3.2.1 July 2025

- July commenced with a period of leave for the EMO, unfortunately followed up with a bout of flu that made this an extended break. Upon return the EMO attended the training evening for our Emergency Support Team (EST) volunteers, where we took the opportunity to farewell a longstanding member of the team as they headed into retirement. The training portion of the evening involved completion of online Needs Assessment using the Survey 123 and ArcGIS product that has been developed by Canterbury CDEM Group.
- The EMO provided a presentation on the Risks we Face in the district to members of Elizabeth Daycare, and also to the Tinwald Scout Group along with a tour of the EOC to the latter. These activities focussed on the risks and how we can all prepare ourselves for the consequences of them.
- The EMO met with a board member from the Ashburton Returned & Services Association (RSA) to discuss the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) focussing on the use of the RSA facilities during disaster events. The MOU is in draft form and currently sitting with the RSA Board for ratification before signing.
- The EMO made contact with members of FENZ from around the district to ensure these valuable relationships are maintained. He also took the opportunity to speak with the Chief Fire Officer of the Mt Somers Brigade regarding the installation of a generator plug on the Mt

Somers Hall, deployment of a 16 KvA generator to Mt Somers on a permanent basis and providing them with a portable Starlink device. He was appreciative of the conversation and we agreed to continue to discuss these matters as we get closer to deploying the items. It is agreed that this will provide an enhanced level of resilience to major events to the town.

- The EMO attended the 6 weekly Response Planning Group (RPG) meeting mid month. This meeting brings together members of Canterbury CDEM Group office, EMO's and representatives from emergency services to conduct major event planning. The focus of recent meetings has been Tsunami planning for Christchurch City who have a significant risk from this type of event.
- The monthly stand up and training for our Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) staff was conducted to ensure our trained volunteer staff maintain their currency in the EOC. The focus for this training continues to be on three key areas, the stand up, the Incident Management Team (IMT) meetings and development of the Initial Action Plan (IAP).
- The EMO attended a demonstration, in Christchurch, from the Rapid Relief Team (RRT) on their Rapid Sandbagging machine. This machine (based on a potato/onion bagging machine), is able to fill 800 sandbags per hour. There is one machine in the South Island and the RRT are happy to deploy volunteers and the machine into any area that has received a weather warning and has a flood risk. The machine received a good work up and excellent reviews in the severe weather events that hit the Nelson/Tasman region over successive weeks.
- The EMO visited both the North and South Rangitata Huts communities on 30 July. These visits were to allow the EMO from Waimate, Timaru, MacKenzie, and Ashburton AKA the "Southern Republic" to conduct reconnaissance to gain a better understanding of the make-up of the communities and the risks they face. As it turned out this was also the day that a large Earthquake off the coast of Kamchatka triggered a large Pacific Tsunami.
- At 1125 (NZT) a magnitude 8.8 earthquake, 74 km deep off the coast of Kamchatka, Russia triggering a Tsunami posing a beach and Marine threat to the pacific including New Zealand. As part of the response from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) a number of alerts and warnings were sent out. Some of these were sent as Emergency Mobile Alerts (EMA). Warnings, EMA and media updates continued for three days until the threat had passed for New Zealand.
- EMA are an alert issued via text using the cell towers within designated areas (known as polygons) within the area that will be affected by an event. The EMA remain in effect for 12 hours, so anyone who enters the threat area covered by the polygon in the 12 hour period will receive the EMA as they enter the polygon. At the 12 hour mark, if there remains a threat, a new EMA will be issued (as happened at 6 am on 31 July). EMA can not be unsubscribed, but if your phone is on flight mode you will not receive the EMA until you turn off flight mode and you remain in the polygon.

One positive to emerge from the Tsunami alert and my visit to Rangitata Huts was that I was able to engage with committee members who then invited me to prepare a draft Community Response Plan (CRP), for them to consider at a future meeting, with the hope that this CRP can be added to those we have in place with our other communities in the district.

- The EMO met with three potential volunteers for our EST over the month. Each of these people have worked through the vetting process and will attend a training activity with us to ensure they are suitable to join the team and that they are comfortable with the level of commitment required.

3.2.1 August 2025

- August commenced with the EMO, along with other Council Officers, attending the Aoraki Environmental Consultancy (AEC) Hui, where the EMO provided an update on what projects ADC CDEM is currently working on and provided a look forward to future projects and events planned in the next few months.
- The six weekly meeting of the Canterbury Training Advisory Group was conducted online. This group is made up of staff from Canterbury CDEM Group and representatives from some of the local EMO's, with a focus on streamlining training, creating content and lessons and enabling a training pathway for EOC volunteers.
- The EMO met with members of Te Whatu Ora, Health New Zealand to continue our discussions and planning to complete the work on the Health Stand Up SOP for our district. This ongoing and important work is trying to create a plan and procedure for Ashburton District health providers and emergency services to be able to effectively respond to any mass casualty event.
- An EMO Forum was conducted mid-month, along with the monthly Recovery Forum and the Multi Agency Briefing. Each of these meetings were hosted by the Group Office via teams. These meetings provide EMO's and emergency services, lifelines and health partners a chance to provide updates on current work across the region and allow us to look for efficiencies in the work we do. It also provides an opportunity for the Group Controller and the Group Recovery Manager to provide us with updates on projects, planning and legislative work that is happening at a national level. They are also an excellent method of maintaining our relationships with people we will work closely with during emergencies.
- The EMO and Communications Manager met with staff from Great Scott Communications Limited to discuss collaboration in the Public Information Management (PIM) space during emergency events. Great Scott have a number of PIM trained staff and off the back of a networking meeting at a conference the Communications Manager identified this opportunity. The meeting was a chance to understand the synergies between the two organisations. The next step in this work is the creation of an MOU between ADC and Great Scott Communications Ltd.

- The EMO hosted members of the Ashburton Amateur Radio Club (AARC) in the EOC. This allowed the EMO to provide a presentation to the club on our current communications plan, what we have implemented and how we manage comms in an emergency. It also allowed club members a chance to have a look at our comms suite and make suggestions on improvements and how they can support us not only in emergencies, but also in "peacetime". An outcome of the meeting was that the AARC have a High Frequency (HF) network within the district and they are looking to provide access to this for ADC CDEM. This will provide us with another reliable layer of communications, including HF to email capability.

  A further meeting with the President of the AARC in his "day job" capacity, has also led to discussions about the supply of fixed Starlink and VOIP phones to be installed at a number of halls that have been identified in the district as likely locations of Civil Defence centres. This capability would provide for enhanced resilient communications (both phone and internet) for the community centres during emergencies, allowing for a large number of connections at a central location.

- Staff from ADC attended training in Timaru on Emergency Operations Centre level III, Operations and Welfare courses, with the EMO instructing on the Operations course. These courses were well received by our staff and enhance our EOC capability to respond to emergency events.

- The monthly stand up and training for our EOC staff was conducted to maintain their/our currency. The focus for this training continues to be on three key areas mentioned earlier, the stand up, the IMT meetings and development of the IAP

- The EMO hosted the Mid Canterbury Principals Association meeting in the EOC. This meeting maintains a good working relationship between the Principals and CDEM. This will be an important communications avenue during both response and recovery to an emergency event.

- Our EST volunteers were provided with a training opportunity to attend a Mental Health First Aid course. This course hosted in the EOC and facilitated by Hato Hone/St John taught our volunteers strategies to help them when dealing with displaced people and others affected by emergency events.

- A two day, in person, EMO Forum was hosted by Christchurch City Council at their Response Base in Wigram. Day one consisted of a workshop presented by ECan Flood Controllers on understanding our flood risk within Canterbury. This workshop was very well received and provided all EMO's a better understanding of the state of rivers and stopbanks within each of our districts. The second day was a chance for Group staff and all EMO's to reconnect, get updates from across emergency management, and receive presentations on a number of topics including our Group Work Programme and other projects.

3.3 Alcohol Licensing

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

3.3.1 Withdrawn or Opposed applications:

One OFF licence application was withdrawn.

3.3.2 – District Licensing 2024-2025 Annual report

See below link to the DLC Annual report 2024-25 which was submitted electronically to ARLA within the statutory timeframe and made publicly available on the ADC website.

https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/health,-food,-alcohol-and-gambling/alcohol/district-licensing-committee

3.4 Animal Control

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

Month	Dogs currently registered	Known un-registered dogs	% of dogs registered	Dogs Impounded	Dogs Euthanized	Dogs rehomed	Infringement
July 2025	5310	1409	79%	2	0	0	1
August	6165	409	93.7%	3	0	1	1
September							
October							
November							
Dec 2025							
Jan 2026							
February							
March							
April							
May							
June 2026							

3.4.1 Dog registration

For July period - 5 NTR's (Notices To Register) issued for known unregistered dogs, 6 NTR'S for undeclared dogs.
For August period – 2NTR (Notices To Register) issued for known dogs, 7 NTR for undeclared dogs

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

Month	Attack	Fouling	Barking	Wandering /Lost	Welfare	Rushing	Other	Reports of wandering stock
July 2025	3	1	18	27	0	5	8	2
August	6	0	16	32	1	1	6	0
September								
October								
November								
Dec 2025								
Jan 2026								
February								
March								
April								
May								
June 2026								

3.4.2 Ongoing matters at the end of the period:

Ashburton: Three ongoing complaints
Methven: No ongoing complaints
Rakaia: Two ongoing barking complaints.
Tinwald: Two ongoing complaints

3.5 Food Safety

The following is a breakdown of food licensing activities for the reporting period:

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

3.6 Planning

Resource Consents	July 2024	July 2025
No. of resource consent applications decided[1]	20	26
No. of resource consents decided within statutory timeframe	20	26
Resource consent KPI Compliance (accumulating)	100%	100%
Notified/ Limited notified applications decided	0	0
Other:		
No. of 223 Certificates processed	5	5
No. of 224 Certificates processed	8	5
No. of building consents reviewed against District Plan[2]	14	17

Land information memoranda	July 2024	July 2025
LIMs Produced	73	79
LIMs Produced within 10 working days	73	79
LIMS (accumulating)	73	79

Resource Consents	August 2024	August 2025
No. of resource consent applications decided[1]	21	22
No. of resource consents decided within statutory timeframe	20	22
Resource consent KPI Compliance (accumulating)	97%	100%
Notified/ Limited notified applications decided	0	0
Other:		
No. of 223 Certificates processed	7	4
No. of 224 Certificates processed	10	6
No. of building consents reviewed against District Plan[2]	12	20

Land information memoranda	August 2024	August 2025
LIMs Produced	74	106
LIMs Produced within 10 working days	74	106
LIMS (accumulating)	147	185

3.6.1 Notified Plan Changes

Further information to complete the acceptance of proposed Change 7 to the Ashburton District Plan was received in the period. The change was notified on Wednesday the 4th of September and submissions will be open until the 1st of October at 5pm. This is a Private Plan Change application by Coniston Park Limited to rezone 16.3 Ha of Residential D land to Residential C on Farm Road and Racecourse Road. Information on the proposed change can be viewed here.

3.6.2 LIM Volumes

The 106 LIM reports processed in August were the highest for that month on record, with historical averages being around 75.

3.7 Economic Development

3.7.1 Events

Events Programme 2024/25
Council events in the reporting period: • **Supporting activities** During the period staff provided support to other Council Teams for event related activities. **Upcoming Council Events:** • **Citizenship Ceremony**: The next ceremony is scheduled for Thursday 18 September. There are 60 new citizens registered for this ceremony. • **Hakatere Noodle Festival**: This event is scheduled for Saturday 13 September with 20 food vendors. An exhibition that will be display the life stories of 7 newcomers to Ashburton will be in place in Baring Square East during Welcoming Week and in the lead-up to the event. • **Business of the Year Awards:** The launch event was held on 5 August at Smoke Restaurant with a good turnout of around 140 people attending. Applications are now open and businesses are encouraged to enter. Information can be found here.
Community events and activities within the reporting period: • South Island Half Marathon, 3 August • Winter Football Tournament, 22 August **Applications received for Upcoming Community events and activities:** Staff are working on 11 events: • Peak to Pub, 13 September • Ashburton Car Club Scott's Shingle Sprint, 13 September

- Chill Fest (Spring Rail Jam), 20 September

- Ashburton Market Day, 22 September
- Ride the Rakaia, 25 October
- Mission Mt Somers, 1 November
- Rakaia Fireworks Night, 8 November
- South Island Akro Fest, 20 November
- He Waka Tapu Whanau Day, 22 November
- Active As – Colour Splash, 28 November
- Multi-Cultural Bite: Autumn Food Festival, 7 March 2026

Events General

- Work has continued on the development of a new online application tool. It is hoped this will be launched publicly in September.
- At the time of writing, entries for Business of the Year are on track with the previous year. Planning for the awards evening, marketing and judging are underway.

3.7.2 Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Referrals

- There were seven candidate referrals from MSD in the period (from the beginning of the financial year).

Placements

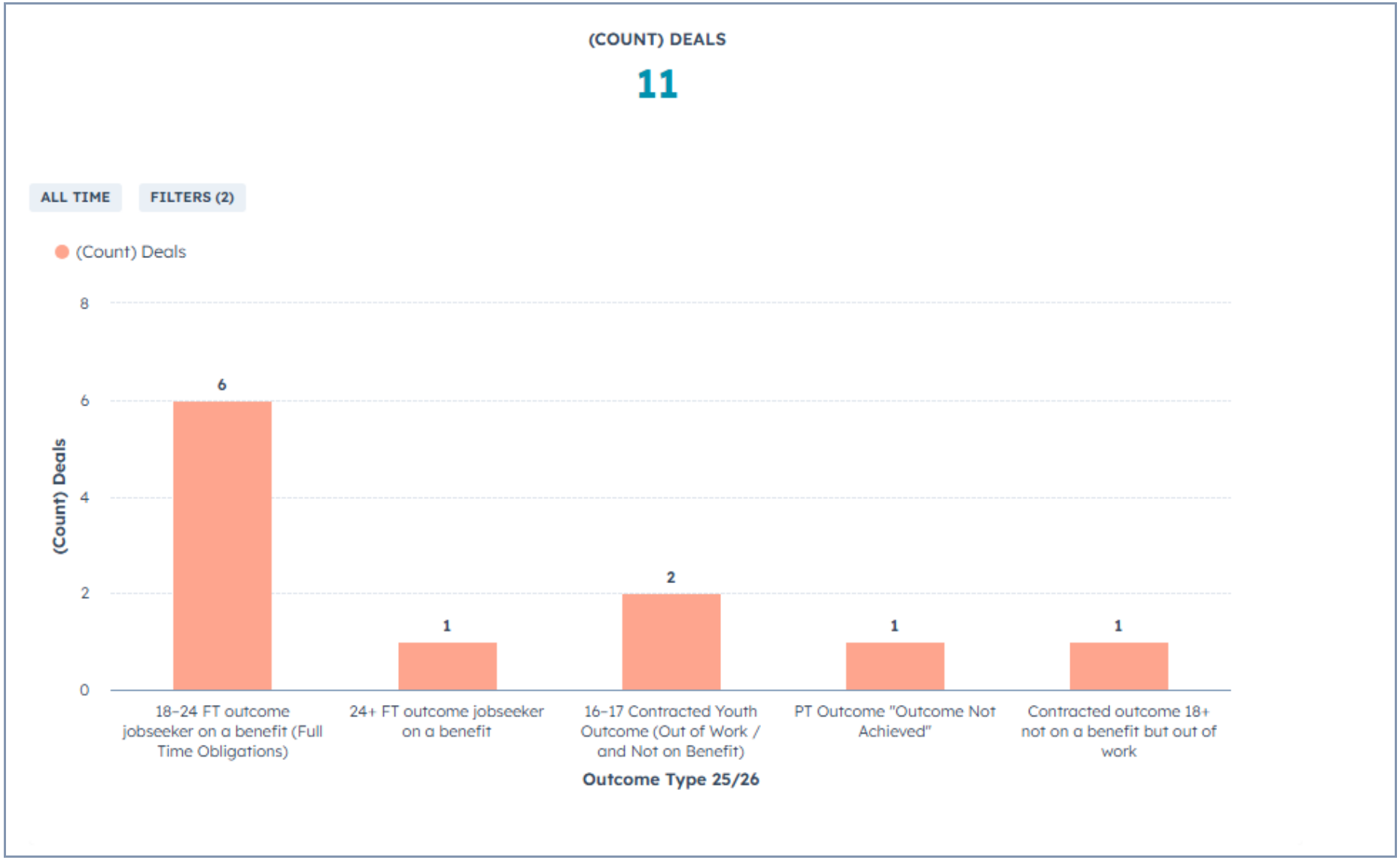
- There were 11 people in total placed into work in July and August. Broken down as per the following:
    1. Six placements met the new MSD contractual criteria for being on a jobseeker's benefit and between the ages of 18-24 years old (contract requirement is 30 for the full financial year to end June 2026).
    2. 2 were 16–17-year-old and fit into the NEET criteria (criteria is a minimum of 5 for the year),
    3. 1 was 24+ so was outside the age range of the MSD criteria

4. 1 was employed part time with hours that do not meet the MSD employment obligation,
5. 1 was 18+ and on a stand down period before receiving the Job Seeker's benefit. However, they were employed during this stand down so did not technically meet the MSD criteria.

- There are another 3 clients with interviews underway
- The coordinator is currently working with 24 clients who are seeking work, and the pastoral care of the 14 others in various stages of the programme.

Driver Licensing

- There has been 1 learner license and 1 full license obtained
- 4 people attended a Defensive Driving course


(COUNT) DEALS
11
ALL TIME
FILTERS (2)
(Count) Deals
8
6
4
2
0
(Count) Deals
6
1
2
1
1
18-24 FT outcome jobseeker on a benefit (Full Time Obligations)
24+ FT outcome jobseeker on a benefit
16-17 Contracted Youth Outcome (Out of Work / and Not on Benefit)
PT Outcome "Outcome Not Achieved"
Contracted outcome 18+ not on a benefit but out of work
Outcome Type 25/26

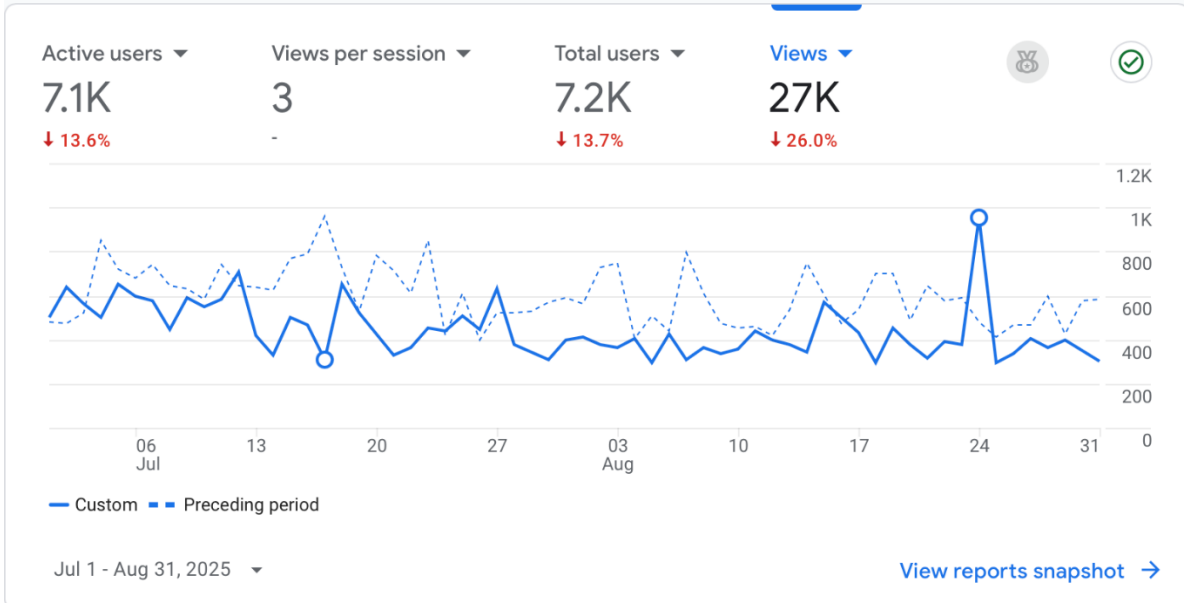
3.7.3

3.7.4 District Promotion

District Promotion – July August

- Recruitment and appointment of a new District Promotions Marketing Advisor was completed during the period.
- An updated 5 day itinerary has been completed for Brit Cunningham and her family who are returning to the district at the end of September. Their trip will be centred in Methven and feature Mt Hutt, Brinkley Resort and many other activities and hospitality sites. The posts and reels from the visit will begin rolling out in early October.
- A large amount of time has been spent developing backend website functionality. The improved tools now allow for emails to be sent directly from the website to operators, providing them with their login information and asking them to update their listing on the Experience Mid Canterbury site.
- Additional imagery owned by ADC has been added to the website and is available for free download to the public pending several terms and conditions agreements. Images have been used by a range of businesses such as Rosebank Retirement Village for a mural, Jet Star for a potential promotional campaign, tour promotions and for use in building websites for local businesses.

Website Statistics – 1 July – 31 August

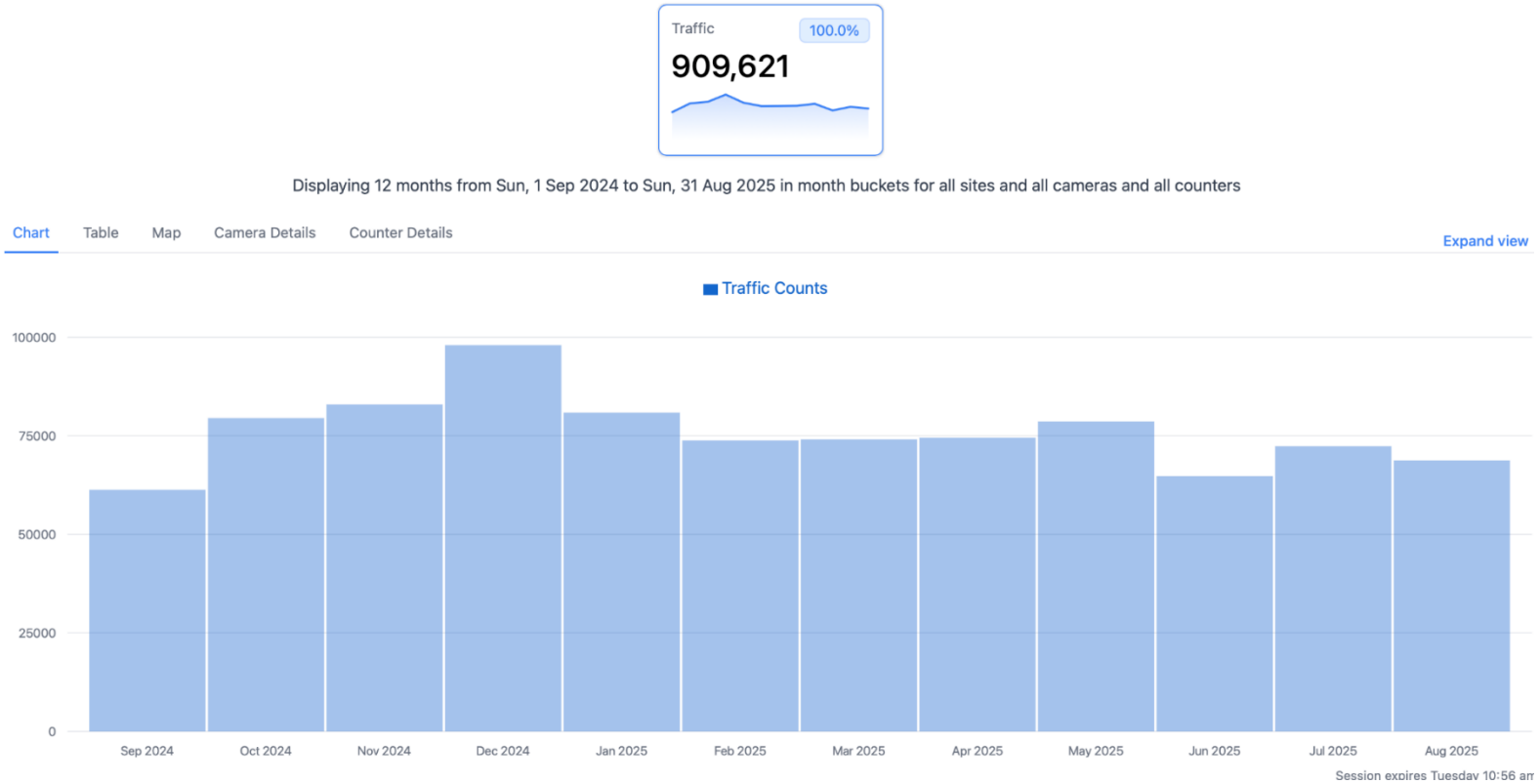


Overall active users were down so far for this quarter to date. This is likely due to the absence of paid campaigns directing users to the website. 7k users came directly to the EMC website – i.e. they typed in the web address. This is a good indicator for brand awareness.

The most popular page of the site this quarter has been the new 'See, Do & Stay' page which allows users to filter their search requirements across all attractions and amenities on the site. This page has 2.9k views and also comes in an interactive map format.

3.7.5 Pedestrian Counters

	Reporting

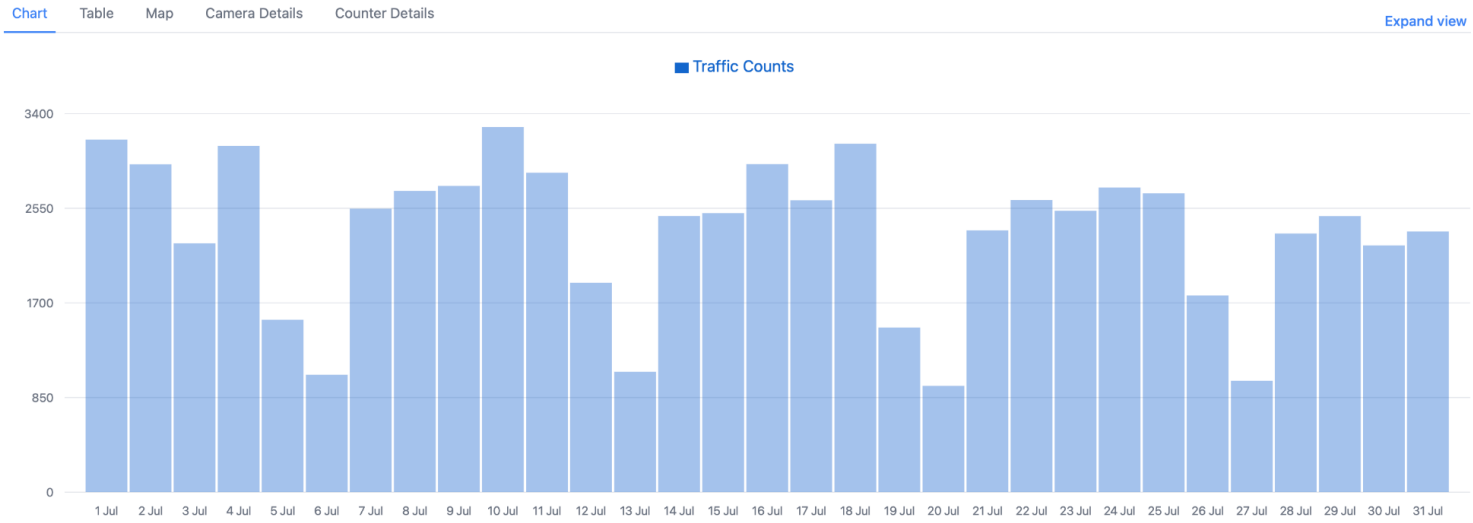


The number of pedestrian movements counted in July was 72,350 and 68,754 counted in August.

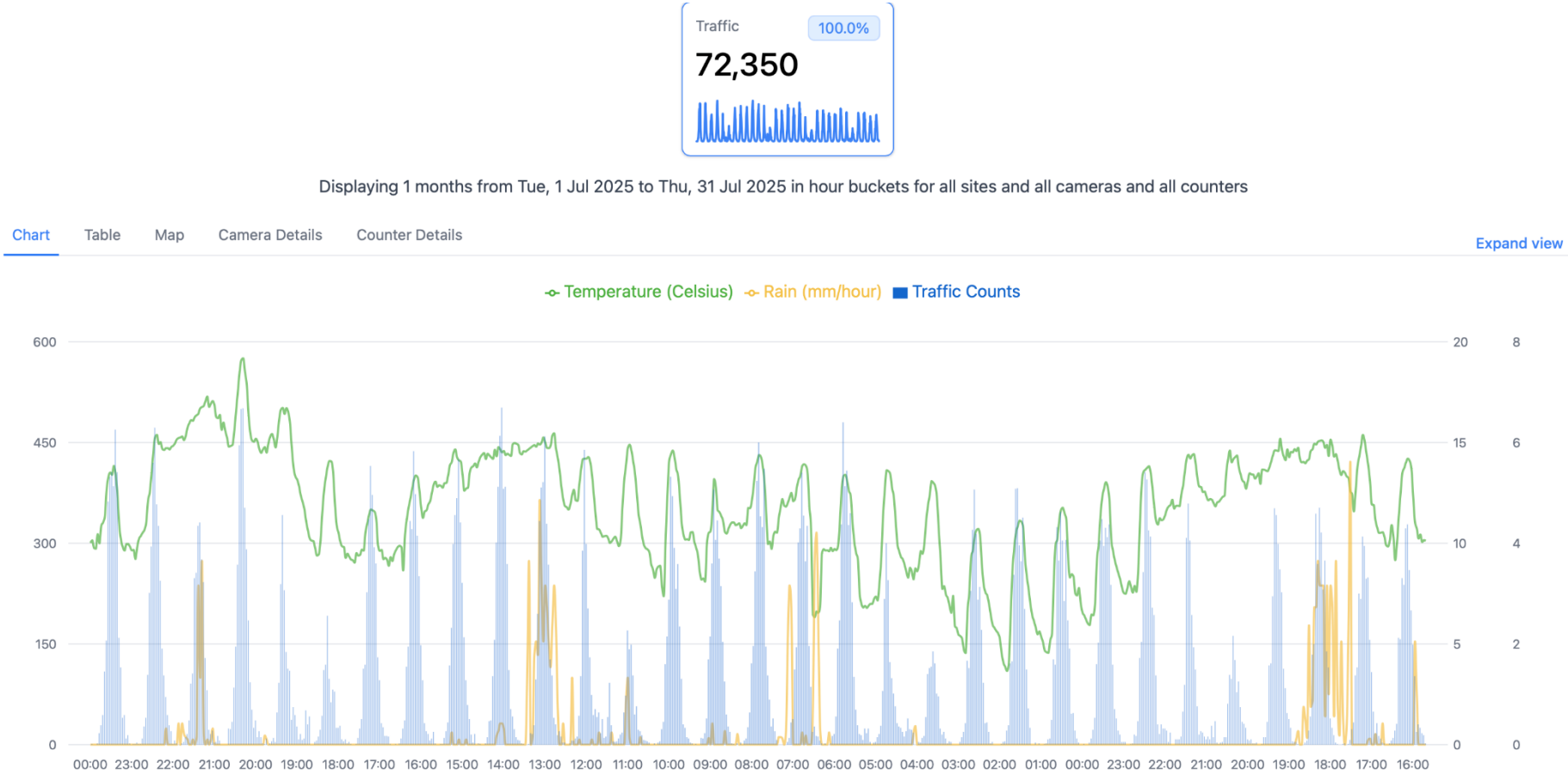
- July had more fluctuations than August, largely due to weather events and public holidays.
- With eleven months of data now captured, early trends are beginning to emerge. A full 12 months will establish a solid baseline, enabling meaningful year-on-year comparisons. This will give a more complete picture of the CBD's overall health and provide elected members and staff with greater confidence when planning future projects to support CBD activity.

Graphs for July

Displaying 1 months from Tue, 1 Jul 2025 to Thu, 31 Jul 2025 in day buckets for all sites and all cameras and all counters



- This graph shows traffic count of pedestrians through July by day of the week



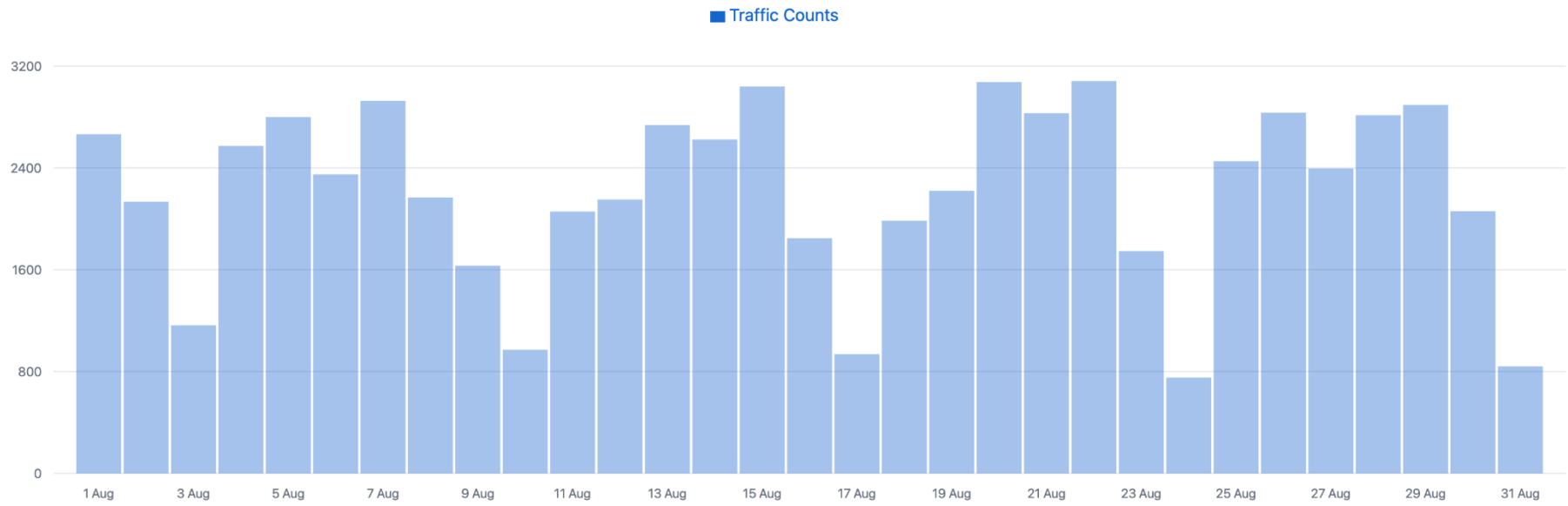
The graph above shows the spikes in pedestrians being counted on an hourly basis in July

- The dark blue spikes are pedestrians which is read using the left hand key
- The green is temperature that can be read against the right hand key and
- The orange spikes are rainfall which again can be read against the right hand key.

Graphs for August

Displaying 1 months from Fri, 1 Aug 2025 to Sun, 31 Aug 2025 in day buckets for all sites and all cameras and all counters

Chart Table Map Camera Details Counter Details Expand view



- This graph shows traffic count of pedestrians through August by day of the week

The graph above shows the spikes in pedestrians being counted on an hourly basis in June

- The blue spikes are pedestrians which is read using the left hand key
- The grenn is temperature that can be read against the right hand key and
- The orange spikes are rainfall which again can be read against the right hand key.

3.7.6 Economic Development General

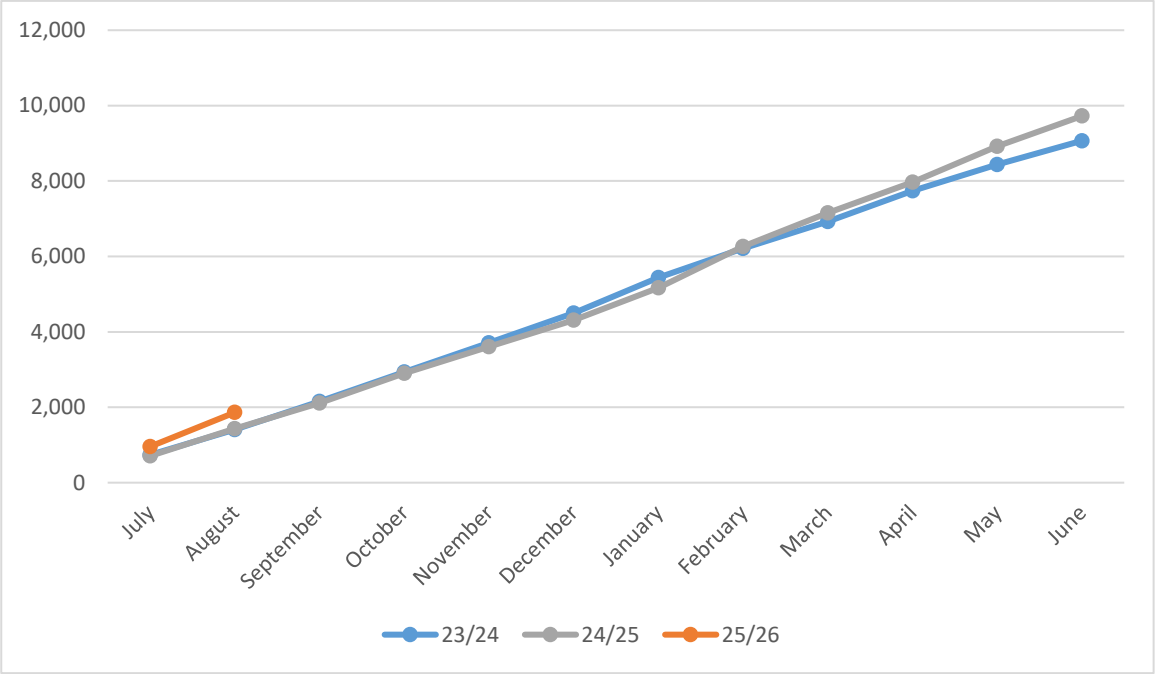
	Reporting
	• Officer has been collaborating with Keep Learning Mid Canterbury to scope out a series of learning sessions that will be free to attend and open to the public as part of the Council's Learning Network programme. The sessions will all be focussed on areas that Council are subject matter experts on and will be held at Te Whare Whakatere. All presenters will be provided and/or coordinated by Ashburton District Council. Four sessions have been planned – one per quarter. Topics include: Food Handling and Safety, Dog Ownership 101, Social Media and Digital Training for Businesses, and Entering or Re-Entering the Workforce. The first session on food handling and licencing was held in August with 58 registrations. 37 people attended the session and their was excellent interaction with the presenter. Feedback was collected and the majority of attendees indicated they would like to progress their food safety knowledge and/or be a food provider for a Council event. • Cycle Trail – at the time of writing there is no update on the cycle trail. • Officers ha made connections with a number of businesses within the district as well as industry connections Canterbury wide, such as Ashburton College, Placemakers, New World, Robert Harris, MSD, MBIE, other Councils in Canterbury, Horticulture NZ, CECC (Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce), Business Canterbury. • A scoping document is being prepared to commission a feasibility study to investigate the opportunities available to increase the foot traffic in the CBD. • A review has taken place of the current Economic Development Strategy and suggested updates are being developed.

4. People & Facilities

4.1 Council Services

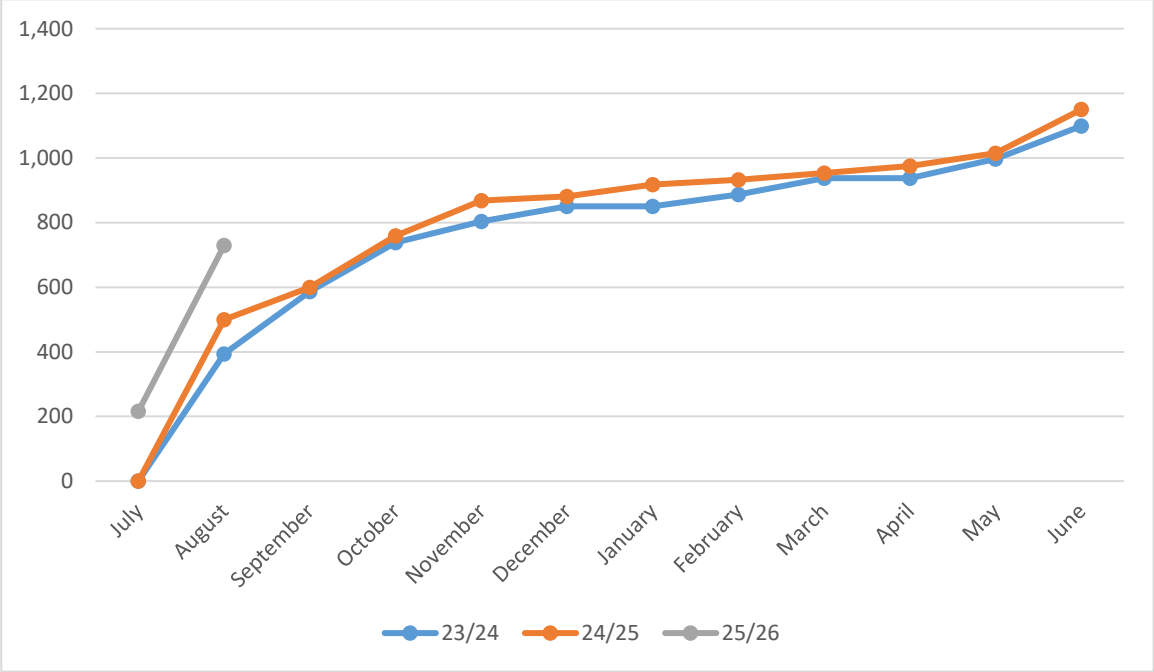
4.1.1 Key Performance Measures

a) Customer Requests Raised



25/26	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Kerbside	340	332										
Roading	161	173										
Water	120	147										
Animal	65	65										
Info Req	127	67										
Noise	34	33										
Property	14	25										
Other	95	63										
Total CRM's	956	905										

b) Rates Rebates



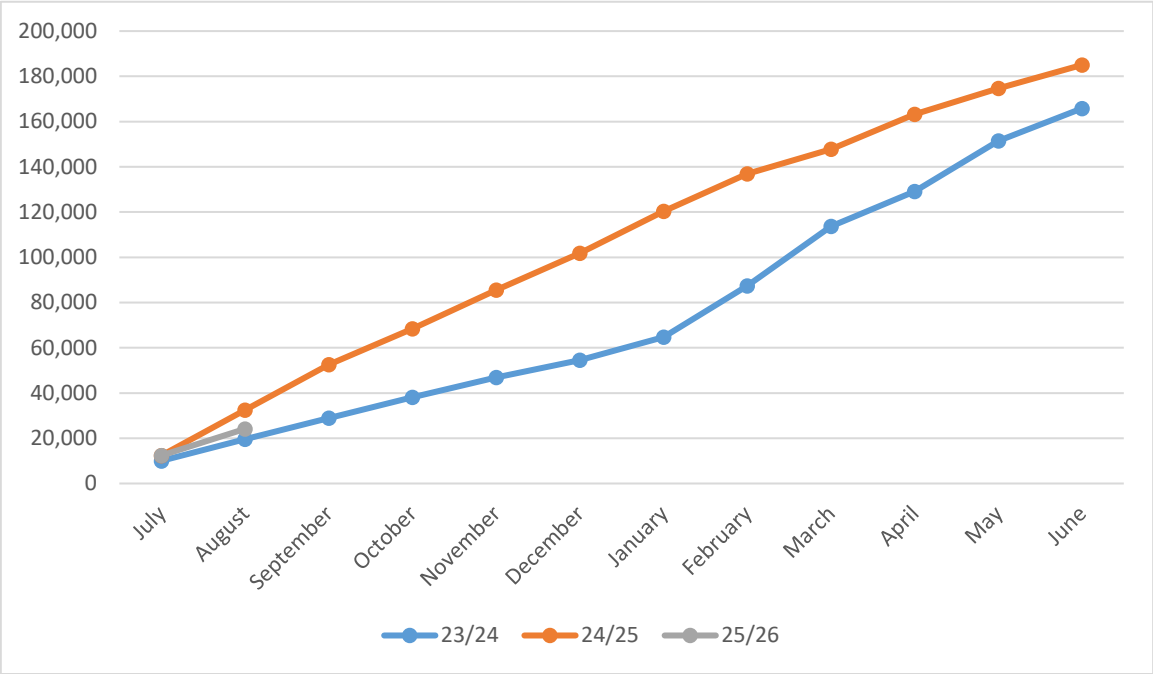
4.1.2 Operational Activities

	Description
Other:	July started with Dog Registration well underway. Rates Rebate applications started being received very shortly after Rates applied to properties mid-July and by end of July, we had received and processed 216. 3 visits were made to the Senior Centre to advise members on the new income range for SuperGold Holders. We also have visits to Rosebank Villas and Lochlea Retirement Village plus Methven and Rakaia scheduled in the coming weeks. Applications received for August are 513, giving us a running total of 729.

4.2 Library

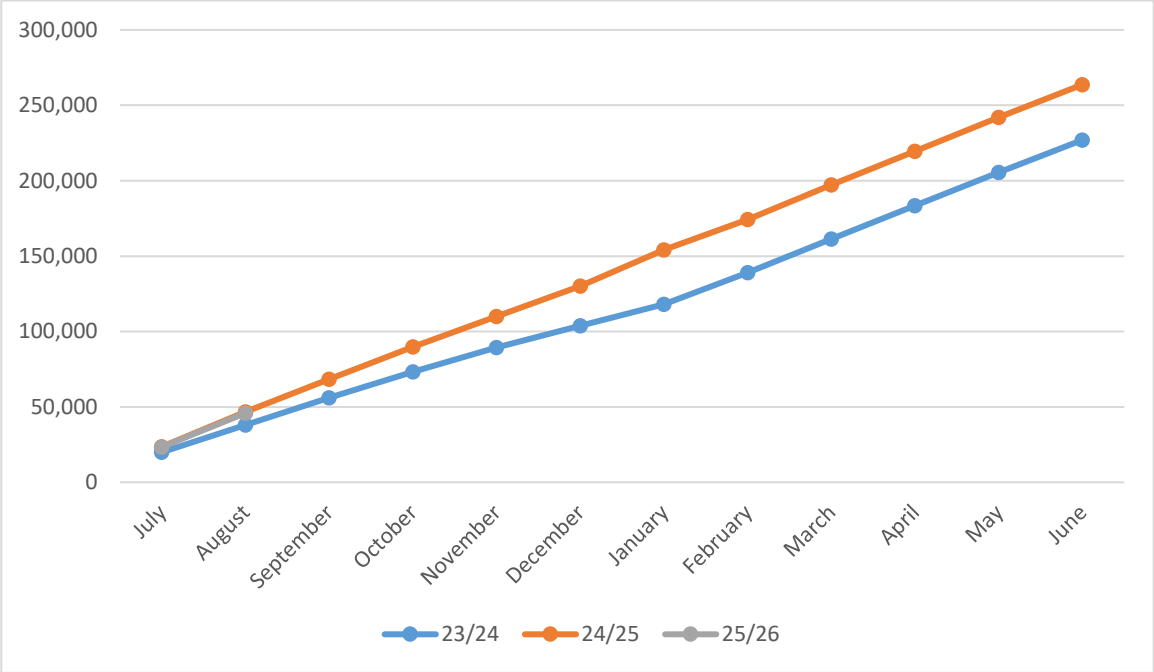
4.2.1 Key Performance Measures

a) Te Whare Whakatere Visitation*

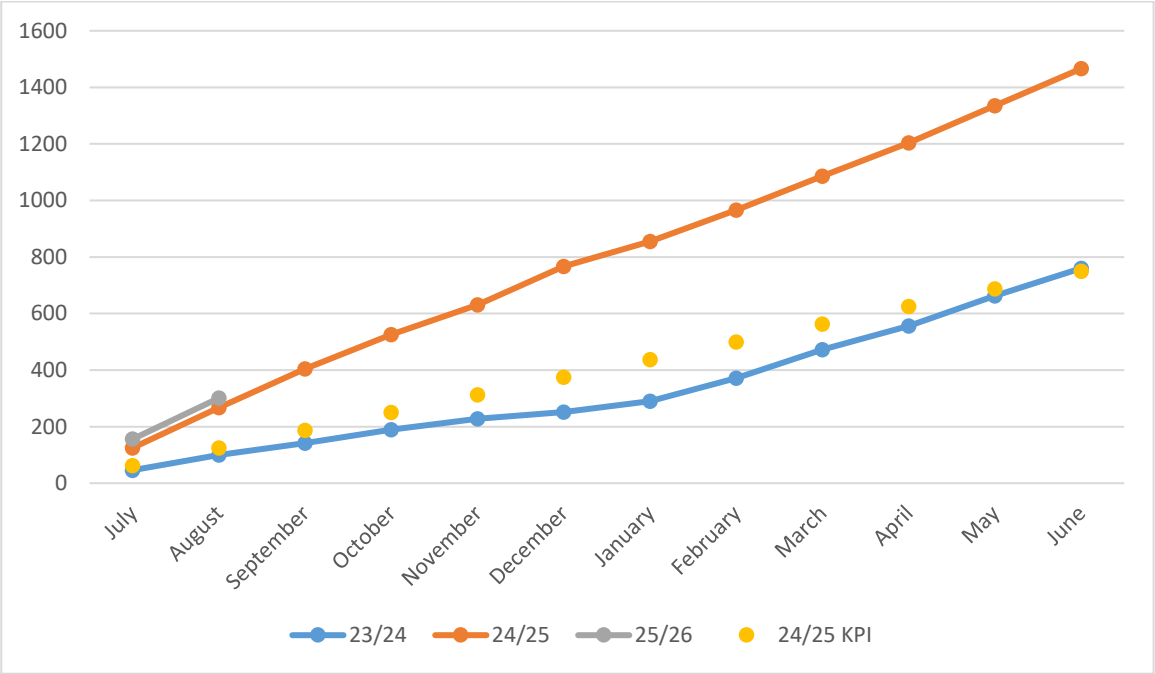


*June to December 2023 data is visitation numbers from the previous Library.

b) Issues



c) Activity & Programme Sessions



d) Other Activity Measures

25/26	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Memberships - Child	2144	2137										
Membership - Teen	1306	1320										
Membership - Adults	7300	7327										
APNK Sessions	1506	1207										
Paid Meeting Rooms	46	18										
Approved free Meeting Rooms	32	34										
Adhoc Meeting Rooms	263	280										

4.2.2 Activity/Programme Attendees July & August

		Child	*Teen*	*Adult*
Brain Injury Group 2 Sessions	Facilitated by the Brain Injury Association, this monthly group offers peer support and education on concussion and all types of brain injury.			**25**
Knitting Group 9 sessions	A weekly social group which encourages people to knit alongside others instead of sitting knitting at home alone.			**166**
Crafting with Dies 2 sessions	A fortnightly session where participants can create cards using elements created with a die cutting machine			**12**
Spinner Drop in 7 sessions	In partnership with Ashburton Creative Fibre. These sessions provide an opportunity to spin in a social environment, new spinners are encouraged to come and learn from members of Ashburton Creative Fibre.			**44**
Makerspace Equipment Class 32 sessions	Training all ages to use the equipment in the Maker Space with varying lesson lengths and group sizes		15	**44**
AV Studio 59 sessions	3-hour individual or group sessions that cover training in audio engineering and mastering & 30-minute open demo drop-in sessions	**53**	**36**	**58**
Book Club 2 sessions	Monthly community book club			**47**
Steady As You Go 9 sessions	Age Concern's peer-led exercise initiative designed to help older people reduce their likelihood of having a fall. The exercises are like those learned from a physiotherapist.			**118**
Elderly Outreach 1 session	Literacy based activities for groups of elderly living in rest homes or attending a daycentre.			**19**
Sign Language Course 14 sessions	A course designed to teach the basics of sign language to members of the community. Participants will be able to communicate in sign language on simple everyday matters			**168**
English Language Drop In 7 sessions	A weekly drop-in session with a trained and experienced teacher to practice English.			**58**
CV Help	This drop-in service is available when required.			**8**

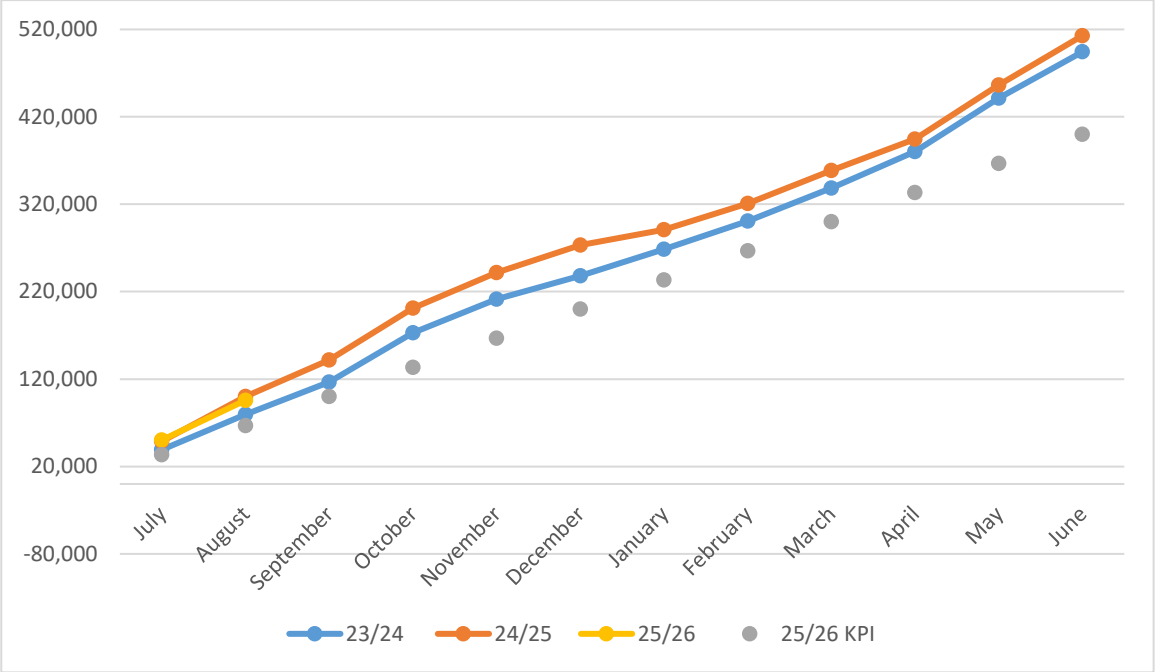
8 Sessions				
Next Chapter 1 Session	A monthly programme of literacy-based activities designed for those living with a diagnosed dementia			**7**
Adult Winter Reading Challenge	Adult readers participated in the challenge to read 6 or 12 books covering various genre over the months of July and August			**25**
Books on Wheels 5 deliveries	A fortnightly service to library users who are housebound or who find it difficult to get to the library. Books are curated by library staff and delivered by volunteers from Altrusa.			**195**
Recycle a Device 7 sessions	Training young people to refurbish devices, diverting them from landfill and donating them to families in need • We gave out 7 laptops in July/August • We had 9 added to the waitlist. • There are 71 people on the wait list currently.		**28**	
Dungeons & Dragons 4 Sessions	The age of participants is between 13- 18 years. This is a teen led group. This is run once a week during term time. School Holidays was during April so there are two less sessions.		**19**	
Teen Sub box 2 issues	Each teen subscription box consists of three books, a craft, and snack and are based on a theme. Available to teens aged 12 -18 years and are issued monthly.		**24**	
Crafting Magic with paper 2 sessions	Teen school holiday programme: Paper Cut out art Teens 12-18 years could use the laser cutter to cut out a artwork to create a unique with a water colour backing that they created.		**3**	
Crafting Magic with paper 2 Sessions	Teen school holiday programme: Zine making Teens 12-18 years could come to this session and create a zine. These are mini magazines filled with art or information.		**2**	
Makerspace Mondays 2 Sessions	Teens 12-18 years can come and use the equipment in the makerspace. Each week there is a different project to do.		**4**	
Create Explore Discover 8 Sessions	STEM learning through play	**141**		**122**
Micro Bytes & Mega Bytes 8 Sessions	Coding Clubs	**65**		
Minecrafters 5 session	Mine Craft Club	**51**		

Build – Lego Club for kids 5 sessions	Build – Lego Club	**34**		**13**
School class visits 25 sessions	Story and browsing Schools that visited the library included Ashburton Christian School, Saint Joseph's, Hampstead, Wakanui and Allenton Schools. This also includes a visit from the Ashburton College Assisted Learning Programmes' group.	**803**	**20**	**113**
Wriggle and Read 8 sessions	• Movement to music for ages 0-3	**222**		**208**
Boredom Busters School Holiday 5 activities	**Activities included:** String games & Elastics Making Board Games Pen and paper Games Laser Cut Spirographs Make your own ball and cup game	**123**		**63**
Matariki Escape Room School Holiday 31 sessions	**Matariki themed escape room** Families had to solve puzzles and find clues to unlock the hidden stars of Matariki in this creative Escape Room.	**77**		**31**
Term 2 Holiday Outreach	**Taking elements of the holiday programme out to Methven and Mayfield.**	**60**	**5**	**28**
Kids Winter Reading challenge	174 books read as part of the winter challenge.	**58**		
275 Sessions/ Activities	**Totals**	**1687**	**156**	**1572**

4.3 EA Networks Centre

4.3.1 Key Performance Indicators & Activity Updates

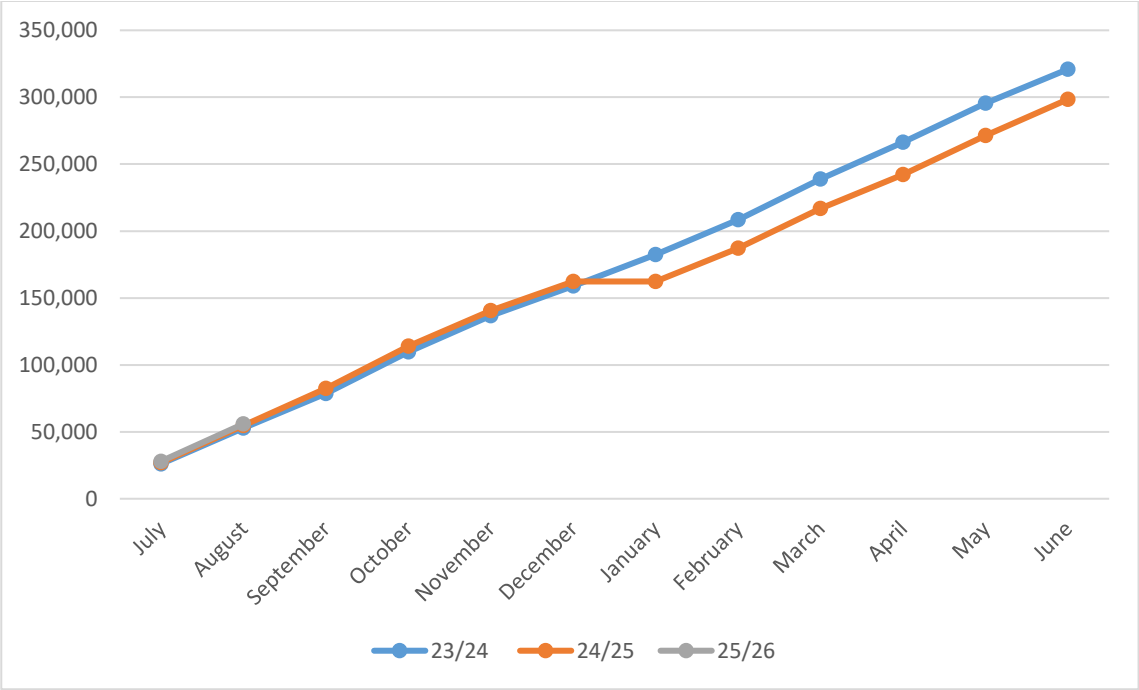
a) Facility-Wide Visitation



Comments:

- Strong visitation continues.
- Informal feedback from National Sports Organisations through Sport NZ Hui is that a 6 court facility is likely to become the minimum for many events, dropping EANC off the radar and shifting our focus to smaller – regionalised events.
- The mini golf course construction continues on track for summer opening with some progress photos later in the report.

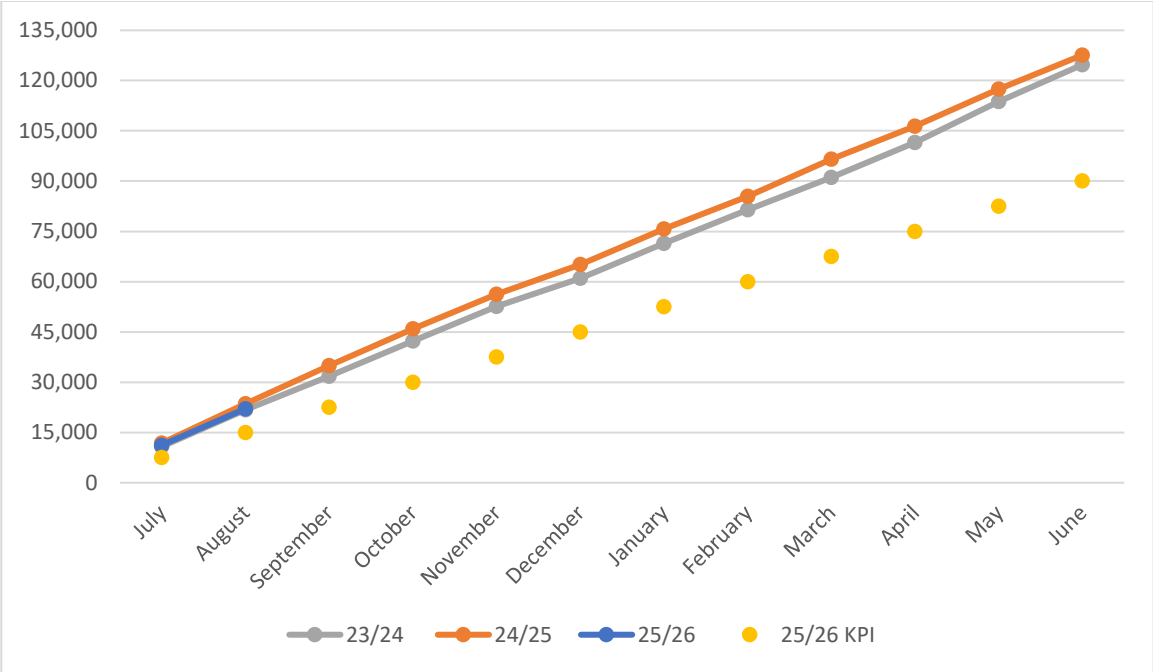
b) Pool Visitation



Comments:

- Pool Visitation continues strong despite some reduced hours due to sickness and vacant positions across the Lifeguard team.
- In October the Pool area will receive the remediation of the splash deck – commencing 6th October for 2 weeks.
- The lifeguard team are going to be undertaking a new lifeguard qualification – International Lifeguard Training Programme, (ILTP) and will be the first pool in NZ to fully adopt this programme as its standard.
- The ILTP programme will see improved knowledge and skills across the lifeguard team, with the internationally transferrable programme significantly lifting the game for our aquatics supervision environment and we will be able to train lifeguards in house.
- Due to staff illness, unfortunately the August Women's Swim Night had to be cancelled, with officers informing participating groups in advance where possible. Officers also recently shared full body swimwear suggestions for attendees who previously wore clothing within the pools while attending this event.

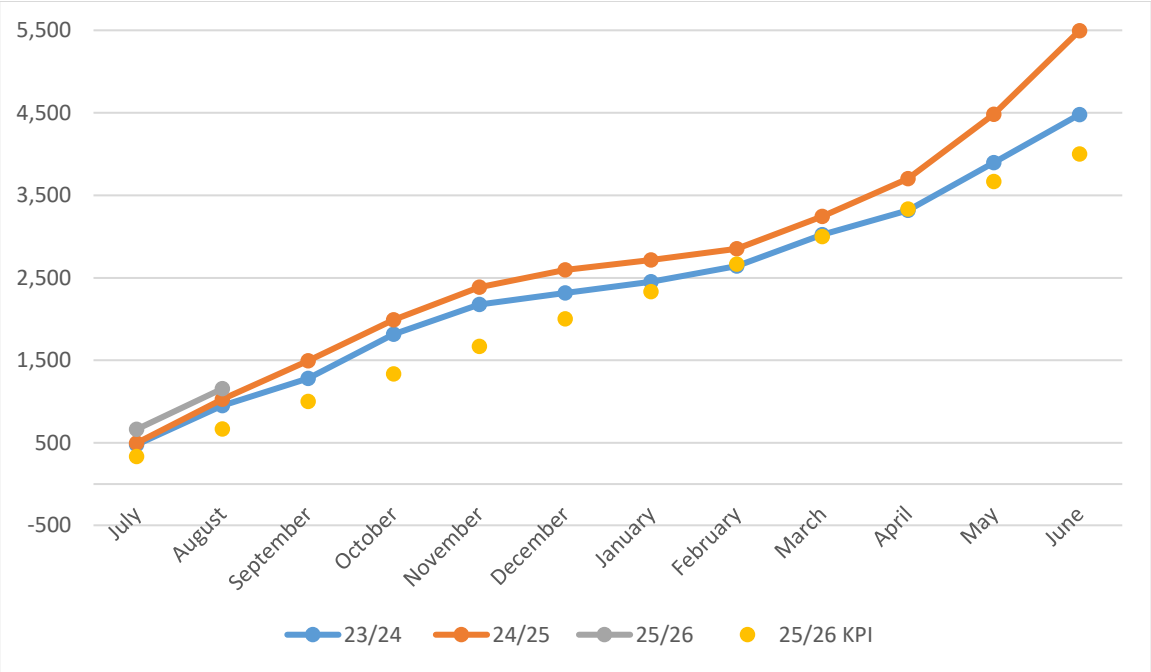
c) Gym & Fitness Visitation



Comments

- Strong gym and group fitness attendance continuing despite the cooler weather.
- Our Dry July campaign raised $1,000 for the Prostate Cancer Foundation and saw fantastic community engagement in support of ProstFit.
- At the end of August, we celebrated Daffodil Day with a Train the Trainer fundraiser alongside other Council events, raising over $500 and creating a lively, supportive atmosphere in the gym.
- Looking ahead, the October Couch to Wellness block is already fully booked, and planning is underway for the Aging Well Expo on October 1st, which will bring together local services, health professionals, and community members here at the Centre.

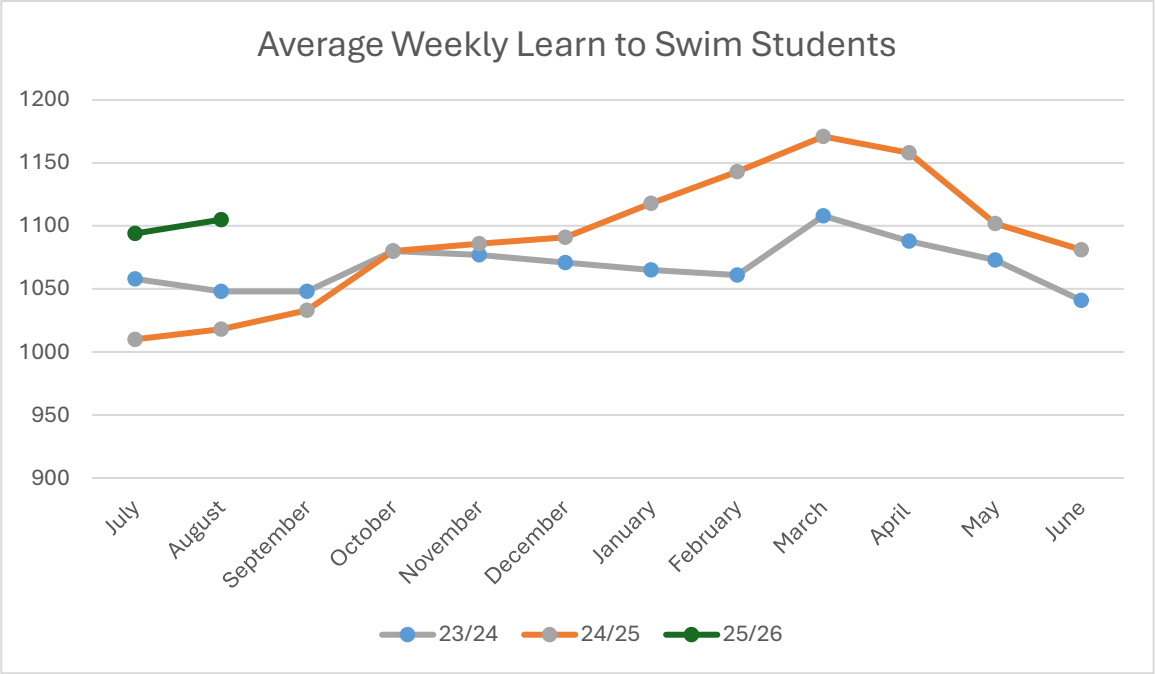
d) Stadium Booked Hours



Comments:

- With the end of netball season approaching, bookings in the stadium start to change at the end of August, with Basketball replacing many netball training slots.
- While there were no large tournaments for the July/August period, there were several smaller group bookings, such as Sport Canterbury's COSARS.
- Staff continue to work towards the planned closure of the stadium in December for routine floor maintenance.

e) Swim School



Comments:

- Our LTS numbers for Term 3 have been higher than previous Term 3's and we are seeing an increase in booking activity for Term 4.
- The Lion Foundation funding (which subsidises our School Swim Programme) enabled 854 students from eight schools to benefit from swimming lessons during July and August.

4.3.2 Activities/Programmes (July/August)

Attendees		*Child*	*Teen*	*Adult*
Couch to Wellness 9 Sessions	Runs During term in 10-week blocks Designed to get people active again			**130**
Daffodil Wahine 9 Sessions	Every Wednesday at 12.15, this special population class is designed for women to build healthy bones after cancer treatment			**75**
Prostfit 9 sessions	Every Monday at 11 am, this special population class is designed for Men as part of their rehabilitation from prostate cancer			**180**
O2go 9 Sessions	Every Wednesday at 10.30am, this special population class is designed to support people with significant breathing Issues like COPD & asthma.			**198**
Parkinsons Play 9 Sessions	Every Thursday at 1.30 pm, this special population class is designed for people diagnosed with Parkinsons to slow progression and build control of the condition.			**81**
Fitmums 0 Sessions	Runs during term on Thursdays at 10.45 am - this special population class is designed for new mothers to improve their general strength and fitness in a safe environment, with your baby. – Not held this term			**0**
Hospice – Offsite programme 28 Sessions	Every Tuesday Wednesday and Friday at 10am – this special population class is designed to maintain movement and mobility.			**280**
Squad 153 sessions	The current number of squad members at the end of August.		**66**	
Active Adventures 3 sessions	Fortnightly 2-hour toddler play session in the stadium.	**63**		
Learn to Swim 1,744 group sessions & 341 individual sessions	Total number of private funded swimming lessons over 7 weeks of Term 3 2025	**7,732**		
School Swim Lessons 239 group sessions	This programme is co-founded by schools and the Lion Foundation. Lesson delivery at EANC. Numbers reflect 7 weeks of Term 3	**854**		
Learn to Swim Holiday Block Courses	-For the first week of the school holidays 30/6-4/7. The school holiday lessons are a week block of lessons.	**31**		

Learn to Swim Holiday Pop Up Classes 4 activities	The second week of the school holidays we trialled pop-up classes to offer another interactive route for the community and water -Splash into Fun! Family Morning: 6mth-7yrs space for games, skills and bubbles -Splash into Fun! Get Active: 5-12yrs, obstacle courses and Teen Aqua Board class was offered. -Family Water Safety Session: open to all, a journey through different stations to help stay water safe in the district. -Low Sensory Swim Session: open to all, an environment that is calm to help provide a space enjoyable to those who need lower sensory.	**25** **25** **15** **3**		
July School Holiday Programme 9 sessions	424 attendees over the 9 days during the holiday period	**424**		
Women's Swim Night 1 session- July	Held on the second Wednesday of each month 7-8.30pm.	**10**		**40**
2,198 sessions	Totals	**9,151**	**66**	**984**

4.3.3 Mini Golf Update

- The first 2 holes of the course were installed on Friday 5th September and likely by time of this report another 4 will have landed.
- Officers are working through the operational aspects, with hire putters and balls already on site.
- Civil works with Grant Hood Contracting continue on track with the course expected to be open to the public for summer.
- A local school has offered to undertake the planting of garden areas around the course for a community service project for their William Pike Challenge (similar to Duke of Edinburgh programme).

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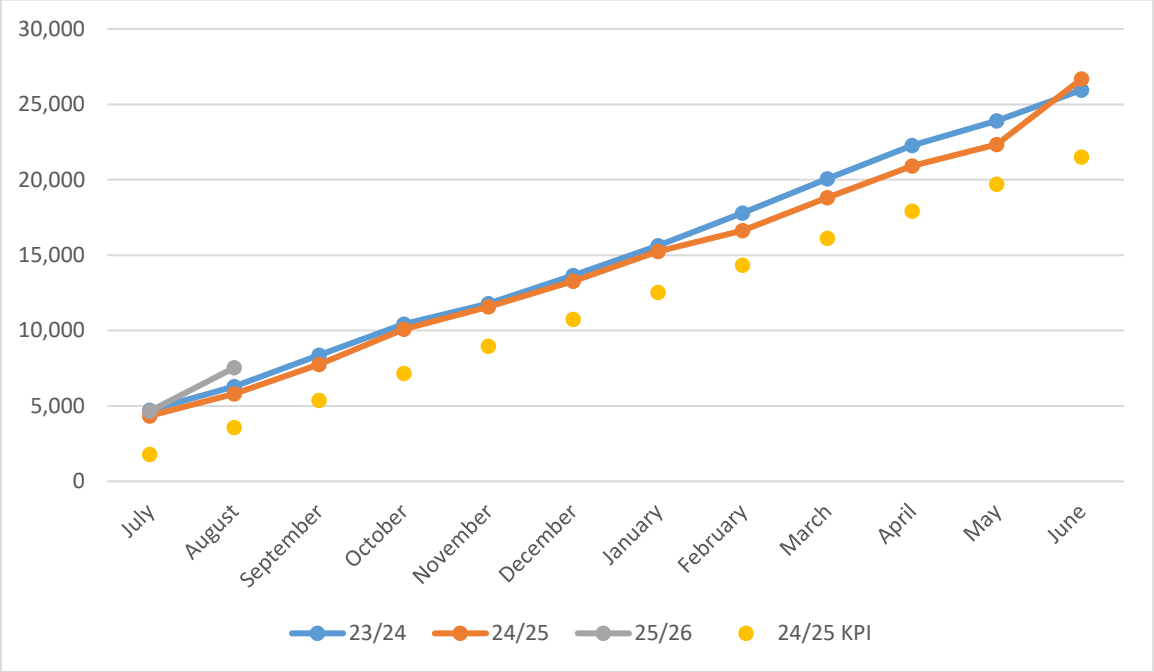
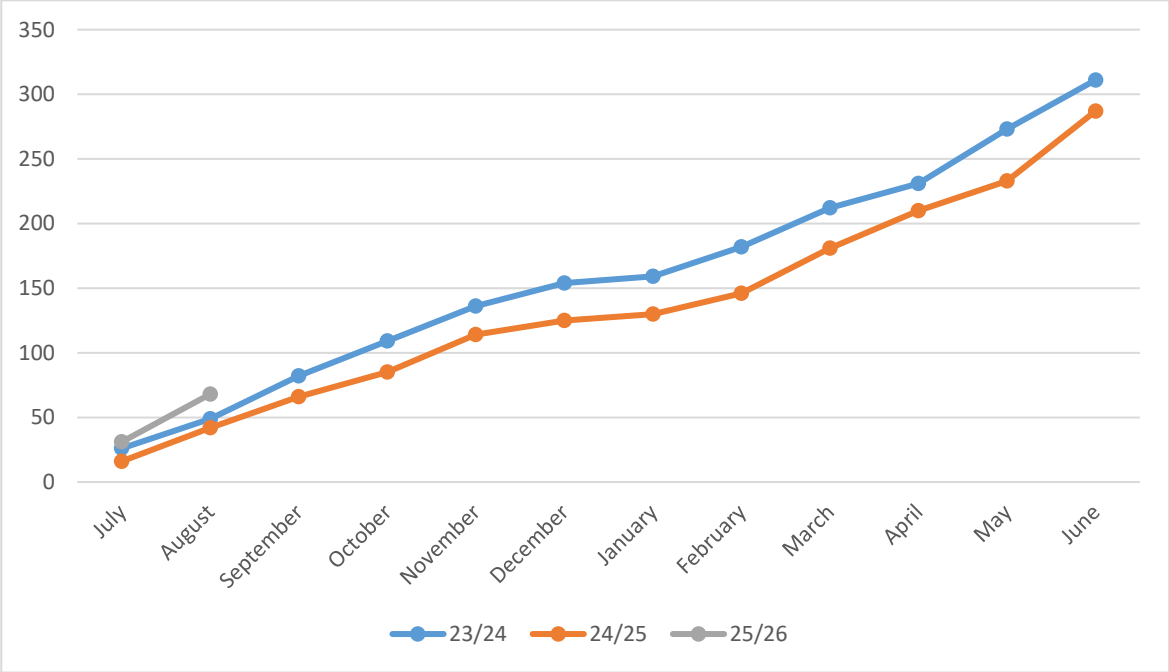
4.4 Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

4.4.1 Key Performance Measures

a) Visitation



b) Activity & Programme Sessions



c) Other Activity Measures

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

4.4.2 Operational Activities July and August

	Description	*Date*
Research Enquiries	• In July 2025, 24 research enquiries were responded to, 19 of which were from the public. • In August 2025, 27 research enquiries were responded to, 24 of which were from the public.	July - August 2025
Collection Development and Management	• Acquisition of new items, cataloguing and rehousing projects, environmental monitoring and pest management continues. • Ashburton District Council's historical archives are being re-catalogued in order to make the collection more accessible to council staff and to the public, in line with Public Records Act obligations. • Ashburton Museum & Historical Society collections and Ashburton District Council historical archives continue to be made available to researchers on Whakatere Heritage Collections Online.	July - August 2025
ADC Art Collection	• Tapa cloth found in the previous Library has been returned to its community of origin for inspection and aid in identification.	July - August 2025
Ashburton Wikipedia Project	• Nineteen Bobbie Barwell images uploaded to Category:Bobbie Barwell and added to the articles Weet-Bix, Lake Pukaki, Kodak, Ashburton Art Gallery and Heritage Centre, Ngaio Marsh, *The Last Hour* (play), Mount Somers / Te Kiekie, Rangitata Gorge, Mount Harper / Mahaanui, Lake Heron, and a gallery of photos on the Bobbie Barwell article itself. New Wikidata items were created for the Ashburton Tramping Club	July - August 2025

	Description	*Date*
	(Q133800095) and Ashburton Repertory Society (Q133800210), and images added to them as well. • A new article Ashburton Lakes created (C class), and new articles about Lake Camp, Lake Emma, Lake Emily, Lake Roundabout, and Māori Lakes. The Lake Heron, Lake Clearwater, and Lake Hood articles have been improved, though more information and photos are needed for the last one. Lake Clearwater village and Hakatere Conservation Park articles are also improved. • A new article on Harris Scientific Reserve, and following a field trip 21 photos added to Category:Harris Scientific Reserve. • New article on the Ashburton Clock Tower • New articles on Bowyers Stream and Sharplin Falls • Ashburton Aviation Museum article created, and 20 photos secured from Flickr photographers. • Tinwald Domain article created, more photos and historical information to be added. • Major expansion of the Ashburton Domain article to C class to better cover its history, with a nice selection of photos, along with a much-expanded article about its curator William Smith by a volunteer. • Major revision of the Methven article to B class by a volunteer. • Mount Hutt article expanded. • Beatrice Silverwood (1978) *Ashburton Borough Centenary 1878–1978: One hundred years of progress* has been fully transcribed and proofread by volunteers and is available as an eBook. Harry Scotter (1972) *Ashburton: A History with Records of Town and County* is in progress.	
Articles/Blog Posts	• In July 2025, 4 articles were written about the 1893 election in Ashburton, Ashburton's nightsoil man, Ashburton inventions and Ashburton school's "Class of 1872". • In August 2025, 5 articles were written about Wilfred M. Dawson, local wireless radio pioneer, "Ake ake" bicycle - local invention, Ashburton County cricket team vs. New South Wales, 1924, William Thompson's story (flour mills owner) and unusual shoelaces in the collection.	July - August 2025
Reviews/Features	• What's On guide interview with Hoops on *Guardian* Facebook Page • Nadia Curnow exhibition featured in the Top Ten Exhibitions in the *Press* • Winner of ASA exhibition featured in *Guardian* • *Enmeshed* exhibition review published in *Art New Zealand*	July - August 2025

4.4.3 Exhibitions opened in July and August

Description	*Date*
Ashburton Society of Arts 61st Exhibition • The popular Ashburton Society of Arts (ASA) Annual Exhibition returned to the AAGM, bringing together works from local, national, and guest artists in a variety of media. • All exhibited works in this exhibition were available to purchase. The commissions from sales directly contribute to the running of the ASA studio at 53 Short Street. • The ASA 61st Annual Exhibition guest artists included Gawie Bosman, Maysie Willis, Mark James, Jan Byres, and Renata Przynoga.	7 July – 1 August
Kura Pounamu Our Treasured Stone • *Kura Pounamu* is an exhibition presented by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu featuring more than 200 taonga pounamu. It tells the story of this most precious of stones, its significance for Māori, and its enduring value from ancient times until today. • The exhibition includes some very rare cultural taonga, including some 95 hei tiki, 20 mere, and four large pounamu touchstones, the largest of which, "Te Hurika", weighs in at 170kg. • Developed and presented by Te Papa and Ngāi Tahu.	17 August – 07 October
The Same Coing • Painting exhibition by artists Chloe Summerhayes and Sam Walker. • As friends and parties to a contract, the artist began an exchange of what they considered 'failed' paintings – works they had abandoned, left incomplete or otherwise considered deficient. They then allowed each other to work on these exchanges, inviting unanticipated developments.	17 August – 19 October
Before Black and White there was Colour • Solo exhibition by Ashburton-based artist known as Bobby Kurb. • Exploring the complexity and contradiction of today's society, Kurb's practice is characterised by an enthusiastic embrace of a variety of media. • This exhibition takes a walk in a funhouse hall of mirrors that reflect images distorted through the filter of contemporary media. They echo some aspects of our world that the forces that shape it would rather remain hidden, but also provide solace and hope in unbounded creativity.	09 August – 21 September
SS Ventnor • A poignant touring exhibition centred on the the SS Ventnor, which sank off Hokianga Harbour in 1902 carrying the remains of nearly 500 Chinese goldminers being returned to their villages. When those remains washed ashore, local iwi and hapū buried them, and passed the story down through the generations.	02 August – 16 November

4.4.4 Activities & Programmes – July and August

Attendees		Child	Teen	Adult
Talks, workshops and exhibition openings 5 events	• Special events included the opening of the ASA annual exhibition, the ASA talk, Ashburton Writers Group prizegiving, Nadia Curnow artist talk and a Rotary Club group tour. In August, events included the opening of four new exhibitions and two public talks on SS Ventnor.	**8**	**12**	**501**
Able Art Collective 2 sessions	• Able Art Collective is a monthly programme that provides a supportive space for individuals with disabilities to explore, learn, create, connect and express themselves through art. • These sessions are delivered in collaboration with The Chris Ruth Centre Ashburton.			**21**
Island Breeze 2 sessions	• Island Breeze is a monthly programme for Pasifika and Māori wāhine in Whakatere Ashburton to come together for traditional arts, crafts, singing, socialising and kai. • These sessions are delivered in partnership with Tangata Atumotu Trust and Plunket.	**14**	**4**	**28**
Kōwhai Mums 2 sessions	• Kōwhai Mums is a monthly group for parents/carers with tamariki aged 0-5 years. • These sessions are delivered in collaboration with Hakatere Multicultural Council and have an emphasis on engaging newcomers to Whakatere Ashburton.	**2**		**3**
In Colour 2 sessions	• In Colour is a monthly group that supports mental health, mindfulness, and social connection through creativity. Classes are relaxed and art activities are guided by the interests of the group.			**14**
Art Addicts 7 sessions	• Art Addicts is a weekly after school art space for tamariki and whānau. • Classes encourage exploration and experimentation with different artists, themes, materials and techniques.	**149**		**81**
Artzheimers 2 sessions	• Artzheimers is a monthly session delivered in collaboration with Dementia Canterbury, designed to provide a meaningful community-based art experience for people living with dementia.			**20**
Cultural Awareness Talk 1 session	• Cultural Awareness talks are monthly sessions delivered in partnership with Hakatere Multicultural Council that explore the history and customs of people from different cultures living in Whakatere Ashburton. • In the August session we explored Samoan culture.			**23**

Community visits/outreach 7 sessions	• In July 2025, three outreach sessions were delivered to members of the Rosebank Retirement Home, Terrace View Rest Home and Elizabethe Street Daycare. Officers also delivered outreach activities for children Methven and Mayfield during the holidays and Judged the Wearable Arts Competition at Ashburton College. • In August 2025, One outreach session was delivered to members of the Elizabeth Street Daycare. Oner onsite visit was arranged for them also.	**60**	**113**	**148**
School visits/outreach 30 sessions	• In July 2025, eight classes from St Joseph's School, Rakaia School and the Home Education network visited AAGM and engaged in an education programme or participated in an outreach session at their school. • In August 2025, nineteen classes from St Joseph's School, Rakaia School, Mt Hutt College, Ashburton Intermediate, Tinwald School, Rakaia School, Hinds School, Methven Primary, Rising Star Preschool and the Home Education network visited AAGM and engaged in an education programme or participated in an outreach session at their school. Three sessions were held for Kāhui Ako (Communities of Learning) to develop our local education networks and collaborative opportunities.	**497**	**100**	**159**
July school holiday activities 5 activities	• A varied grouping of holiday activities were delivered across the two-week holiday period as family drop-in sessions focused mainly on Will *Hadwen's Erebus: Negativeland* and Matariki. • The activities were Snowlace Wonders, design your own Matariki Mā Puaka star, Become a 1975 Reporter, Penguin Parade Collage and Erebus Explorer Snow Globes.	**694**	**116**	
65 sessions	**Totals**	**1,424**	**345**	**998**

5. *Democracy & Engagement Group*

5.1 Communications

5.1.1 Overview

- Main workstreams **progressed** in the last reporting period include: local body elections, promotion of the Hakatere Noodle Festival, the Spring What's On Guide, dog registrations, grants and funding - Creative Communities, and promotion of Snap Send Solve.
- We are currently **working on:** the local body elections, the MTFJ Career Fest (October), Business of the Year Awards 2026* (Aug-Jan), supporting NZTA with communications on the second Ashburton Bridge, Stockwater Exit Transition Plan communications.
- We are currently **planning for**: Consultation on the Draft Gambling Policy; and Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy, the Summer What's on Guide (Sept/Oct) and the upcoming work programme with Strategy and Policy.
- *Please note: for Business of the Year awards, the event company is responsible for the marketing, however our team is represented on the project group, so we support and participate as necessary.

5.1.2 Ongoing workstreams

Brief Description	Objectives/comments
News updates	• Number of news updates remained high since the last report, **29 in July and 32 in August.** • Produced regular updates on the Council news site. • Produced weekly editions of Council Brief for distribution on our website and by the local newspapers.
Media relations & enquiry	• An increase in number of media enquiries, **28 in July and 29 in August** (up from 18 in May and 23 in June).
Website, digital engagement and e-mail	• Transition to new text message alert service, as old one retires September 30. • Looking for an e-newsletter provider which is more aligned with our communication goals. • Developed a website RFP project brief, group and timeline with a plan to complete this work in 2026. • In June we launched an e-newsletter for Lake Hood, and the number of subscribers continues to increase organically. We have since provided four updates and we have **148 subscribers**

Brief Description	Objectives/comments
	(September). We have received positive feedback from residents on this, it's looking like the cadence for this will be monthly over the cooler months, increasing in frequency over the warmer months when water quality is impacted.
Graphic and multimedia design projects	• Key design work over this period was for Hakatere Noodle Festival, Spring What's On Guide, local body Elections. • Number of projects: **25 in July, 22 in August.** • We continue to develop a modular signage system to produce more consistent and cost-effective signage across the organisation. We are aiming for completion by the end of this calendar year.
Digital signage and social media	• We continue to manage content across 19 digital signage channels, produce Council livestreaming, video production and administrate several social media pages owned by Council.
Public Information Management (PIM) – Emergency management	• Continued development of templates and systems to make communications as efficient and simple as possible during an emergency.
Internal (staff) communications and engagement	Following a staff survey, improvements are being rolled out for our internal communications. • Enhancing delivery and improving production efficiency of the eNewsletter & digital signage • Enhancing the staff intranet by simplifying navigation and decluttering layout • Introduced a new communication portal for EA Networks Centre staff to stay better connected

5.1.3 Campaigns, consultations and communications planning

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

Brief Project Description	Comms start date	Est. End date	On track	Objectives/comments
What's On Guide	October 24	Ongoing	Y	[ONGOING] • The **Spring What's On Guide** is currently being promoted with a 2.5 week lead time before the school holidays commencing. Feedback from facilities is that people are starting to ask for the guide in advance of its arrival.
Stockwater Exit Transition Plan	2024	2027	Y	[ONGOING] • The community and stakeholders are regularly informed of the Stockwater Exit Transition Plan and its progress. • Those interested generally understand the Stockwater Exit Transition Plan and its methodology. • Feedback about intakes and races is received from landowners and stakeholders at appropriate stages. • It's easy to find information on the Stockwater Exit Transition Plan. • **Newsletter subscribers continue to steadily increase from 188 in May, to 213 in July and 222 in September.**
Hakatere Noodle festival – Event marketing	Apr	May	Y	[IN PROGRESS] • Supporting the event held on Saturday 13 September to celebrate Welcoming Week. • Awareness marketing campaign including all branding and event signage, including media partnerships. • 'Welcoming Ashburton' newcomer profiles.

Brief Project Description	Comms start date	Est. End date	On track	Objectives/comments
Local Body Elections	Feb	Oct	Y	[IN PROGRESS] • Adapted LGNZ design templates for efficiency • New work: livestream of the Candidates Briefing, coordination and production of candidate videos, and coordination of Meet the Candidates evenings. **Communication objectives:** Phase One (completed) • Encourage residents to check they are enrolled to vote. • Encourage out-of-town ratepayers to enrol to vote. • Inform the public about who can vote and what they're voting for. • Inform the public about the key election dates. • Encourage people to start thinking about nominations Phase Two (completed) • Encourage people to stand for Mayor, Council, Methven Community Board and Licensing Trust • Inform potential candidates of the requirements for nominations • Inform potential candidates of the role/responsibility of elected members • Encourage candidates to complete their nomination early, so there's time to resolve any issues with their application. • Provide candidates with information about the election process. • Monitor election activity across Council channels.

Brief Project Description	Comms start date	Est. End date	On track	Objectives/comments
				Phase Three (in progress) • Encourage electors to vote • Inform voters of deadlines for posting/voting • Promote locations where voting papers can be returned • Provide access to voters for information about candidates • Provide access to voters with information about voting and the election process. • Monitor election activity across Council channels. https://www.voteashburton.nz/

5.2 Strategy & Policy

5.2.1 Current projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Stage	On Track	Comments
Planning and Reporting					
Annual Residents Survey 2025/26	Aug 2025	July 2026	In progress	Yes	The first wave of surveying for the 2025/26 survey commenced Friday 12 September.
Annual Report 2024/25	May 2025	October 2025	In progress	Yes	Final audit commenced 15 September with a draft Annual Report provided to Audit NZ. Audit will progress over the next month with a final report planned for adoption on October 29.
Annual Plan 2026/27	Oct 2025	June 2026	Project Planning	Yes	Work has commenced on project planning for the 2026/27 Annual Plan.

Bylaw or Policy Development/Review					
Five Bylaws project	June 2025	Sept/Oct 2026	In progress	Yes	Five bylaws are due for review over the next year, including Open Spaces, Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry, Dog Control, Brothel Location and Water Supply. The Water Supply bylaw is anticipated to be delayed as enabled under the Local Government (Water Services) Act, while the other four bylaws are likely to be consulted on in two tranches. Work is underway to finalise review requirements and timing. A workshop will be planned early in the new term of Council.
Gambling Venue Policy	May 2025	December 2025	Consultation	Yes	A public workshop on the policy was held with Council on 31 July. Council will consider adopting the Draft Statement of Proposal, including the draft policy on 17 September. Consultation, using the Special Consultative Procedure, is scheduled to begin on 29 September.
Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy	August 2025	December 2025	Consultation	Yes	Minor changes are proposed to this policy to meet legislative requirements. Consultation is required to use the Special Consultative Procedure. Council will consider adopting the Draft Statement of Proposal, including the draft policy on 17 September, to be consulted on jointly with the Gambling Venue Policy. Consultation is scheduled to begin on 29 September.
Development Contributions/Levies Policy Work Programme	January 2025	June 2027	In progress	Yes	The programme to develop and review the development contributions policy has commenced. A draft Bill outlining and implementing the new system is expected in towards the end of this year. Work will progress in stages through to the final adoption of a new policy in 2027, incorporating the new legislative changes
Sportsfields and Domains Policy	May 2025	Dec 2026	In progress	Yes	Work is progressing on the policy review, including assessing what still remains relevant in the policy following the development of the Reserve Management Plans. The revised policy will come to the new Council term.

Rates Remission Policy	April-May 2025	Mid 2026	Delayed	Delayed	Following consultation with Finance, work planned to coincide with the LTP 2027-37 development, so that remissions and their rating impact, can be considered alongside other rating changes. Work is likely to commence in early 2026.
Strategy or Plan Development/ Reviews					
Local Water Done Well (LWDW)/Water Services Delivery Plan	July 2024	September 2025	WSDP lodged with DIA	Yes	Council adopted the Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) on 20 August and lodged it with the Department of Internal Affairs on 21 August. The Plan is now being assessed by DIA and Council awaits their feedback.
Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy	July 2025	TBC	Early engagement	Yes	Work continues on development of an Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategy, with feedback received from 25 stakeholders via an initial survey sent to a range of arts, culture and heritage stakeholders. A stakeholder workshop is being planned for early in the new Council term.
Forestry Strategy	August 2024	TBC	Research	Ongoing	Work on information gathering continues with two initial outputs planned – one a workshop to report back and a broader report for Council on the current activity, future issues and options for the future. The workshop is planned for early in the new Council term.
Open Spaces Strategy 2016 - 2026	June 2025	TBC	Project Planning	Yes	Initial work has commenced, including project planning, project team setup and scoping the review.
Other Projects/Work					
Elderly Housing	January 2025	TBC	Research	Ongoing	Work on information gathering continues with a workshop planned for early in the new Council term to report back and outline possible options. A formal report would then be prepared for Council. Any decision would potentially be subject to engagement.
Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan – Action 7	July 2024	July 2027	In progress	Yes	Ashburton is the lead agency for Action 7. This relates to integrating climate change considerations into Council processes. Work has been scoped and the next stage of work is underway.

Section 17A Reviews	Ongoing	Ongoing	Work not currently progressing on Section 17A reviews currently subject to government decisions via the LG Systems Improvements Bill to remove Section 17A requirements.
Aoraki Environmental Consultancy (AEC)	Ongoing	Yes	Officers continue to meet regularly with AEC.

5.2.4 Completed projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Completion Date	Comments
Annual Residents Survey 2024/25	Aug 2024	July 2025	Final 2024/25 survey results were presented to Council by Key Research on 3 September. Survey results can be found online here.
End of Year Non-financial performance, Strategy and Plan reporting	June 2025	August 2025	Both end of year reports were presented to the 3 September Council meeting. Progress and performance information being collated for the end of year reporting, including Non-Financial performance reporting and Strategy and Policy progress reporting. outlining Council
Water Races Bylaw	Jan 2025	September 2025	Deliberations on the submissions was held on 13 August, with minor adjustments made. The final bylaw was adopted by Council on 3 September.
Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy	Nov 2024	September 2025	Deliberations on the submissions was held on 7 August, with minor adjustments made. The final strategy was adopted by Council on 3 September.

5.2.5 Upcoming projects

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Comments
LTP 2027-37	Oct 2025	Jun 2027	TBC	Work is commencing to plan for delivery of the LTP 2027-37 and associated requirements.
Policy reviews	Ongoing	Ongoing	Some overdue	Several policy reviews are due over the next 12 months, including Corporate Risk, Communications, Asset Disposal and Community Grants.

Brief Project Description	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	On track	Comments
Strategy/Plan Reviews	Ongoing	Ongoing	Yes	Various strategies are due for review/development over the next 12 months, including Walking and Cycling.

5.2.6 External Submissions/Reports of interest

Submissions made:

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
Government and Administration Committee	**Local Government (Systems Improvement) Bill** This bill aims to reduce pressure on council rates by refocusing the purpose of local government, better measuring and publicising council performance, prioritising core services in council spending, strengthening council accountability and transparency, and providing regulatory relief to council.	Council	27 August	Lodged
Ministry for the Environment	**RMA National Direction** Submissions were lodged on Packages 1-3 and Package 4 separately of the RMA National Direction. The packages covered *Package 1: Infrastructure and Development* – to make it easier for councils to plan and deliver infrastructure by making four new national direction instruments and amending four existing national direction instruments. *Package 2: Primary Sector* – aims to enable growth in the primary sector by making changes to eight existing national direction instruments. *Package 3: Freshwater* - seeking feedback on options to amend freshwater national direction to better reflect the interests of all water users, and on whether changes should be implemented under the existing RMA or under new resource management legislation. Package 4: Going for Housing Growth – seeking feedback on how the proposals in the first pillar of the Going for Housing Growth programme	Council	27 July/17 August	Lodged

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
	could fit into the new resource management system. Pillar 1 aims to free up land for development and remove unnecessary planning barriers.			

Consultations underway or considering

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
Local Government Commission (LGC)	**Standardised Code of Conduct** In February 2025 the Minister of Local Government referred to LGC the task of developing of a standardised code of conduct for local authorities. The Code for elected members will be made binding by the Local Government System Improvements Bill. It includes a process for investigation, a set of sanctions and provisions governing the freedom of expression.	Council	26 September	Underway
Commerce Commission	**Economic Regulation of Water Services – Information Disclosure** Draft determination by the Commission covering the information it will require of water providers. It recommends readers begin with the summary of decisions.	Likely Technical	20 October	Assessing

Consultations not submitting on

Organisation	Name of initiative	Due Date
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	**Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development** The GPS-HUD sets out the government's long-term direction for housing and urban development, alongside five priority actions aimed at addressing the causes of Aotearoa New Zealand's housing challenges.	21 September
Governance and Administration	**Regulatory Systems (Internal Affairs) Amendment Bill** Omnibus Bill that makes minor, non-controversial changes to legislation administered by the Department of Internal Affairs. Includes a lifting of the limit on the contracting rule from $25K to $100K.	24 September

Organisation	Name of initiative	Due Date
Select Committee		

Future Submission opportunities (once full details are known).

The information has been provided by Taituara and other sources.

Organisation	Name of initiative	Expected Timing[1]
TBC	**RMA Replacement Bill** A new act to "manage environmental effects that arise from the use of natural resources".	Late 2025
TBC	**Urban Development and Infrastructure Bill** Bill to enable urban development and infrastructure. This act will also be aligned with the Government's Going for Housing Growth plan and its 30-year National Infrastructure Plan.	Late 2025
TBC	**Building Act Amendment Bill** More comprehensive changes to Building consenting making it easier for private BCAs, address barriers to voluntary consolidation, national consenting body, ensuring national consistency, strengthening roles and responsibilities, new consent pathway for commercial buildings, new assurance pathways more self-certification – further streamlining, risk and liability.	Late 2025?
TBC	**Emergency Management Bill** The Government will implement a programme of changes in five broad areas: • Give effect to the whole-of-society approach to emergency management. • Support and enable local government to deliver a consistent minimum standard of emergency management across New Zealand. • Professionalise and build the capability and capacity of the emergency management workforce. • Enable the different parts of the system to work better together.	Late 2025?

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

Organisation	Name of initiative	Expected Timing[1]
	• Drive a strategic focus on implementation and investment to ensure delivery.	
TBC	**Local Government (Infrastructure Funding and Financing) Amendment Bill** Bill will replace development contributions with a system of development levies. Possible changes to targeted rates.	Sept 2025?
TBC	**Biosecurity Amendment Bill** Bill to give effect to any policy decisions to modernise this legislation	Mid-Late 2025
TBC	**Land Transport Legislation Bill** Bill to place government under an obligation to prepare the GPS Land Transport with a ten-year investment horizon (as signalled in the draft GPS). Will empower road tolling. Will be needed to empower transition away from fuel excise, and value capture.	Late 2025
TBC	**Public works Act Amendment Bill #2** Bill to implement results of the wider PWA review.	TBC
TBC	**Waste Management Bill** Possible bill to implement the conclusions of the consultation on waste management.	TBC
TBC	**Climate Adaptation Bill** Bill sets the legal framework for powers and responsibilities with respect to climate adaptation. If there is a climate adaptation fund it will be in this Bill.	Late 2025
DOC	**Consultation on proposals for inclusion in the next implementation plan for Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and Aotearoa New Zealand's response to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** Consultation on proposals for inclusion in the next implementation plan.	TBC

Reports/releases of interest

The following are reports/releases recently released of interest.

Organisation	Name of initiative	Status
Minister Emergency Management and Recovery	**New Emergency Management System** Cabinet has agreed to a series of policy proposals following public consultation for a new Emergency Management Bill. As part of its response to the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events, the Government intends to pass a new Emergency Management Bill during this term of Parliament. The Bill will replace the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.	Available
Minister of Building and Construction/Regulation	**Green light for garden sheds and garages** Cabinet has agreed to remove the minimum required distance between single storey buildings under 10 square metres and a property boundary or other residential building (setback distance). Cabinet has also agreed to reduce the setback distance to one metre for single storey buildings between 10 and 30 square metres.	Available

5.3 Memorial Halls & Reserve Boards

5.3.1 Activities – items of importance

Memorial Hall and Reserve Board Meetings
Mayfield Reserve Board and Memorial Hall Committee • In response to a thoughtful request from the Reserve Board, Open Spaces has enhanced accessibility by installing a change table in the accessible public toilet. • Following the receipt of some wonderful historical photos, the Board has agreed to showcase a curated collection of historical images and items in the two alcoves of the main hall, celebrating the area's rich heritage. **Mt Somers Reserve Board** • The Mt Somers Rugby Club presented a proposal to reconfigure the main rugby field to better support current and future sporting needs. The Board has formally endorsed the proposal, recognising its potential to enhance the facility for the wider community. **Tinwald Memorial Hall** • The Hall Committee and volunteers held another successful 'Big Hall Clean' on Saturday 23 August, which also included some minor repairs and general maintenance. **Methven Reserve Board** • Construction of the reinforced concrete block hitting wall for the Methven Tennis and Netball Clubs is now underway. The project is progressing well and is expected to be completed in time for the warmer months, providing players with a valuable training resource and enhancing the overall facilities available to the community.

- The Methven Reserve Board met on the 29 August to decide on the construction of a formed helipad on the Methven Reserve. The Board has resolved to continue with the status quo arrangements where emergency helicopters can land on the reserve without the formed helipad. The rationale for the decision was based on the increased responsibility and liability for the Reserve Board and Council that a formed helipad would create under the Civil Aviation Act. Further information can be found here.
- The Methven Reserve Board would like to write a joint letter with the Methven Community Board to the Minister of Transport and the South Island Minister to request that these rules are reviewed to allow a pragmatic solution. CAA have acknowledged that these rules are cumbersome.

Hinds Reserve Board

- The Hinds Reserve Board is progressing with its enhancement and landscaping project, which will include the removal of three of the six Douglas Fir trees. This will create space for native plantings and improve the playground and picnic areas.

5.4 Welcoming Communities

- Civic participation: Welcoming Communities and Communications are working together in a campaign to raise awareness with the migrant communities about the importance of voting in local elections and how decisions affect them. Governance will support with a drop-in session on Saturday 4th and 11th of October, to help people enrol and cast a special vote. A brief message has been translated into three different languages Tongan, Samoan and Tagalog and has been recorded to play the audio over a video. (Pictures of our volunteer translators and voices attached).
- Supporting the Lifelong Learning Festival on 9th September, organised by the Library and Keep Learning Mid Canterbury. Welcoming Communities was a navigator, which allowed us to talk to people and find out if they are newcomers, introduced ourselves and provided them with resources and direct them wherever they wanted to go. These types of connections are important to give Welcoming Communities an idea of the number of migrants and newcomers participating in these events and what channels they are using to find out what is happening in the district.
- Food handling talk: Four different community groups approached Welcoming Communities to organise a food handling course, as they wanted to sell food at events, farmers' markets, fundraisers, etc. Welcoming Communities took the query to Compliance, and Economic Development alongside Keep Learning Mid Canterbury, organised the event. The training took place on August 12. We had 58 people booked and 37 present, including a group of eight participants from the Neurodiverse Hub (Māori and Pasifika) young people, a couple of Pākehā,

and the rest were Kiwis from other ethnic backgrounds, contacted by Welcoming Communities. The communities that approached Welcoming Communities have passed on their appreciation for listening to their needs. (Pictures attached).

- Welcoming Communities and Hakatere Multicultural Council have held six learning community hubs, funded by the Ministry of Education and supported by the schools, Kahui Ako, and ESOL teachers. So far, we have engaged with 60 different families, and 98% of attendees have expressed that these sessions are necessary and useful. Parents have provided feedback on other topics related to education that they would like to learn about, which we have passed on to the schools. Several teachers have also expressed that they are pleased with the sessions. The principal at one of the hubs requested specific parenting training for families from diverse backgrounds, and Welcoming Communities coordinated this with a local organisation to facilitate it. The next hubs are booked on the 15th, 17th, 22nd and 25th of September. (Pictures attached).
- Cultural Awareness Talk: Samoa. We invited Percy Tilialo from Tangata Atumotu Trust to lead the talk, and she shared with 30 attendees useful information about social protocols and values that make interactions with Samoan clients, students, friends and whānau easier for teachers, community workers, emergency services, health staff and other members of the public.
- Welcoming Week (5 – 14 September) and Hakatere Noodle Festival. As part of Welcoming Week, we displayed stories of migrants and newcomers in Baring Square. These profiles provided community members with an opportunity to learn more about the individuals choosing to move to Ashburton, the range of skills they bring, and the diversity of their backgrounds. They also offered insight into the fact that settlement in the district includes not only families but also young people who decide to make Ashburton their home and contribute their skills.
- The Hakatere Noodle Festival was also promoted on The Urban List Site, in The Feed, an article from the NZ Food News https://www.theurbanlist.com/a-list/new-zealand-food-news.
- We also partnered with local media, who supported the promotion of events through advertising and activities. In addition, this year we collaborated with the Ashburton Art Gallery to introduce a new initiative. Instead of a colouring competition, we provided a creative space where participants could draw self-portraits on canvas. These artworks will be exhibited at the Library.
- Welcoming Communities organised a training session on Te Ao and Tikanga Māori for staff. Dr. Toni Torepe from UC will provide a tailored session explaining the role of Arowhenua / Ngāi Tahu as mana whenua, the Tiriti-based responsibilities for council staff, and the application of Māori values in practice. The training will cover their context and how to incorporate these values into workplace practices.

- Welcoming Communities is organising a free training session for the Afghani Community in Ashburton about Te Tiriti o Waitangi through The Treaty People, a not-for-profit organisation from Hamilton, which will be travelling to the South Island and will stop in Ashburton for this session. They will explain Te Tiriti in Farsi/Dari. Additionally, they have offered a second session that will be open to anyone else in the community.
- The Cultural Whānau Fun Day will be held for the third consecutive year, with 20 community organisations confirmed to participate.

  In 2024, the event attracted approximately 500 attendees, including former refugees, newcomers, migrants, and returning members of the community. This year, the goal is to reach the 500-plus-attendee mark again, while strengthening direct engagement between community organisations and participants.

  Neighbourhood Support applied to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities for funds, as the Council is not eligible to be the fund holder.

  Beyond its cultural and social value, the event also supports resilience in the Ashburton District by:

  - Connecting newcomers with local organisations and services, ensuring they know where to find resources that enable them to settle and contribute productively.
  - Building community resilience, which helps retain newcomers, reduces turnover and supports a stable, engaged population.
  - Encouraging long-term settlement, which increases local participation in housing, education, and business activity.

- Welcoming Communities invited several leaders from the former refugee community to participate in a webinar facilitated by a Christchurch-based steering group of former refugees. This opportunity allowed them to learn from the group's experiences in self-organisation, governance, and community-led support, as well as to hear directly about the challenges and successes they encountered.

  Following this, Welcoming Communities and the Resettlement Service co-hosted an information session led by Safer Mid Canterbury. This session introduced the advantages and responsibilities of formally organising as an incorporated society or trust, like all other migrant communities in Ashburton.

  Establishing such an organisation offers multiple long-term benefits:

  - Financial independence: the ability to open a community bank account and manage funds.
  - Event delivery: capacity to organise cultural, social, and educational activities that engage both newly arrived families and the wider community.

- Funding access: eligibility to apply for grants and resources to support initiatives.
- Governance skills: opportunities to practice leadership and participate in governance, strengthening pathways for involvement in other community boards and decision-making forums.

By encouraging and supporting this process, Welcoming Communities is helping to build leadership capacity, strengthen community resilience, and increase participation in governance. (Pictures attached).

- With the Meaningful Refugee Participation Fund we are also working on organising a Homework Hub with young leaders of the Afghani Community who are excelling in their studies, have tutoring experience from the refugee camps and are happy to support their peers in understanding Math, Science, English and History. They are planning to run it on Saturday afternoon from the library.
- Welcoming Communities is exploring the option of offering newcomers and migrants training in 2026, on how to fill in job applications on digital platforms like TradeMe, Seek, and how to use LinkedIn as an employment tool, as in some cases these processes differ from those in their home country. From preparing a video interview to keeping a LinkedIn profile relevant and learning how to use the “Quick Apply” button on Seek and TradeMe.
- The Welcoming Guide page has had 3,157 views in total for the last 12 months.

Nau Mai,
Welcome!
Food
Safety
Keep Learning
Ashburton
DISTRICT COUNCIL

GATEWAY
Education & Training Act 2020
Multi Cultural Council
We're
here to help!

CAREERS

TE REO
Welcoming Communities

Multi Cultural Council
Welcoming Communities
TE REO

خوش آمدید
WELCOME