

Ashburton District Council

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

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

Date: Wednesday 18 October 2023

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Council Chamber

Membership

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

Meeting Timetable

Time	Item
1.00pm	Council meeting commences

1 Apologies

2 Extraordinary Business

3 Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes

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Business Transacted with the Public Excluded

12	Council 4/10/23		PE 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA Networks Centre proposal EA Networks Centre membership People & Capability annual report Lake Hood management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural persons Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities 	
	[Now in open meeting]		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community grants & funding (Round 2) Award of road resurfacing contract ROAD0298 2023-25 ACL Directors' fees 		
13	Library & Civic Centre PCG 10/10/23	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 4
14	Sale of Council land	Section 7(2)(g) Maintain legal professional privilege	PE 8
15	Methven Community Board 16/10/23	Section 7(2)(a) Protection privacy natural persons	PE 32
	- Discretionary grant applications		

4. Council Minutes – 4 October 2023

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 October 2023, commencing at 1pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan; Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Dan Huismann (Senior Communications Advisor) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Tania Paddock (Legal Counsel), Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager), Katie Perry (People & Capability Manager) and Ann Smith (Community Liaison Officer).

1 Apologies

Cr Cameron (for part of the meeting)

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Item 13 – Cr Ellis gave notice that he would withdraw from the debate and decision.

Presentation

Youth Council – 1.10pm-1.26pm

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 20/09/23

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 September 2023, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

5 Audit & Risk Committee – 13/09/23

That Council receives the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 13 September 2023.

Cameron/Ellis

Carried

• Riskpool progress update

That Council receives the updates from Riskpool on the progress of winding up, and is aware of their ongoing liability.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

6 Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group – 13/09/23

That the Council receives the minutes of the Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group meeting held on 13 September 2023.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

- **Potential projects with historical significance**

That Council considers the potential for the Wakanui Beach and 1914 Chertsey oil well sites to be included in the District Plan heritage listing review.

McMillan/Todd

Carried

- **Ng King Bros. Chinese Market Garden Settlement**

That Council funds the Ng King Bros. Chinese Market Garden Settlement up to \$2,500 from the heritage activity budget.

Braam/Cameron

Carried

- **Terms of Reference**

That Council adopts the Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group terms of reference.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

7 Youth Council

Council welcomed Youth Councillors Maddie Page, Summer Foster, Sophia Aquila, Cherish Moti, Carina Lupse and Addison Judd. The presentation highlighted the Youth Council's desire to see –

- Affordable housing
- Visitor attractions (a waterpark would be good) and youth-friendly events
- Celebrating the cultures of people who have chosen to live here – 'language weeks' to promote the diversity of our district
- Road safety – reinforce speed limits around schools and increase pedestrian crossings
- Youth friendly spaces – such as Timezone or Laser Strike and youth friendly clothing stores and food
- Public transport is an issue – Youth Councillors like the My Way bus concept in Timaru and/or lime scooters / bikes that can be hired
- Improved access to healthcare – make it more appealing to attract health professionals through provision of scholarships for young people entering training in the health sector
- Rubbish bins – appears to be a need for more education and awareness of where bins are located and how they should be used
- More public toilets and consider their location
- Water quality – form a group of volunteers to help clean waterways

The Youth Council would like to have input into Council decision-making, especially on issues that concern young people.

In conclusion the Mayor thanked the Youth Councillors for their observations and suggestions. Council has taken on board the public transport issue and will share this with ECan as part of the wider public transport discussion.

The presentation concluded at 1.26pm.

8 Plains Museum Trust Lease

That Council approves the granting of a Deed of Lease under section 54(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 to the Plains Museum Trust for part of the Tinwald Domain (as contained within all or part of Reserve 41245, Part Rural Section 41347 and Rural Section 399930) for a term of 10 years, plus two rights of renewal of 10 years each.

Ellis/Cameron

Cameron

9 Speed Limit Changes

1. That Council approves the speed limit changes to take effect from 1 November 2023 at:

- a) Ashbury Grove Subdivision, Tinwald - new 40 km/hr urban area.
- b) Grahams Road, Tinwald 50 km/hr – reduce from 80 km/hr to 50 km/hr for 150m from existing 50 km/hr urban traffic area.
- c) Strowan Fields Subdivision, Ashburton 40 km/hr – new 40 km/hr urban area.
- d) Wakanui Road, Ashburton 50 km/hr – reduce from 60 km/hr to 50 km/hr for 140m from existing 50 km/hr urban traffic area.
- e) Carrfields Subdivision, Tinwald 50 km/hr – extend 50 km/hr urban traffic area.
- f) Westview Drive, Tinwald 40 km/hr – new 40 km/hr urban area.
- g) Holmes Road, Methven 50 km/hr – reduce from 100 km/hr to 50 km/hr.
- h) Albert Street, Ashburton 50 km/hr – reduce from 60 km/hr to 50 km/hr from existing 50 km/hr urban traffic area to existing 30 km/hr Ashburton Christian School speed limit.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

10 Mayor's Report

• 'Talk it up Tuesday' sessions

Council supported continuing the sessions with a further review of how it is working to be undertaken in the new year. The Mayor and Councillors will be rostered for the remainder of this year, taking into account the period when the library will be closed for relocation.

That Councillors resume the 'Talk it up Tuesday' sessions on a weekly basis from 1pm to 2pm, commencing 17 October 2023 in the Ashburton Public Library.

Todd/Cameron

Carried

• Mid Canterbury Vision presentation to Environment Canterbury

The Mayor reported on the meeting he attended, along with the Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive and representatives of the Mid Canterbury working group (formed to engage with ECan). The Group prepared a draft Vision to help ECan understand what's important to this district. The collective views and feedback from the wider community, including businesses and conservationists, are aligned to the four well-beings and will contribute at the 'front-end' to ECan's Regional Policy Statement.

Formal consultation is to come, and there's ongoing work with iwi, as ECan works through the RPS process.

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Mayor/Hooper

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 1.46pm

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

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
11	Council 20/09/23 • Settlement Steering Group 29/08/23	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy natural persons

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library & Civic Centre PCG 12/09/23 Sale of Council land CE annual performance review [Now in open meeting] Sale of library site ACL Director appointments 	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(a)	Commercial activities Commercial activities Protection of privacy natural persons
12	Audit & Risk Committee 13/09/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EANC proposal EANC membership Health & Safety 	Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons Commercial activities Protection of privacy of natural persons
13	Community grants & funding (Round 2)	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
14	Award Contract ROAD0298 – road resurfacing	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
15	ACL Directors' fees	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
16	People & Capability annual report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy natural persons
17	Lake Hood management	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Mayor/Ellis

Carried

Council resumed in open meeting at 3.08pm.

Welcome to Staff

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager introduced new staff members – Ryan Henderson (Systems Officer Building) and Laurika Strydom (Information Management Officer).

Council also acknowledged Abbie Shirley (People & Capability Officer) for her five years of service.

Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.11pm

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

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
17	Lake Hood management	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 3.11pm to 3.25pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- Community grants and funding**

- That** Council allocates \$49,000 in community grants and funding 2023/24 as per the following categories:

- 1.5 Natural & Built Environment – Biodiversity Grant - \$30,500
- 1.6 Natural & Built Environment – Community Infrastructure Grant - \$13,500
- 1.9 Trail Maintenance Fund - \$5,000

- That** Council allocates \$15,000 for the Discretionary Fund for 2023/24.

Lovett/Todd

Carried

- Award of Contract ROAD0298 road resurfacing 2023-25**

That Council accepts the tender from Ashburton Contracting Limited for the contract ROAD0298 Road Resurfacing Ashburton District 2023-25 and awards the contract for \$6,475,354.35.

Ellis/McMillan

Carried

- **ACL Directors' fees**

That the Ashburton Contracting Limited Directors' fees are set at \$39,000 and the Chairman's fee at \$78,000 per annum, effective from 1 November 2023.

Todd/Braam

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.07pm.

Confirmed 18 October 2023

MAYOR

5. *Methven Community Board – 16 October 2023*

Minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 16 October 2023, commencing at 9.00am, in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room, 160 Main Street, Methven.

Present

Kelvin Holmes (Chair), Megan Fitzgerald, Robin Jenkinson, Richie Owen, Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and Cr Rob Mackle.

In attendance

Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Linda Clarke (Communications Advisor) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Support).

Officers in attendance (for post-meeting discussion) – Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Femke van der Valk (Policy Advisor), Ian Hyde (Planning Manager) and Shelley Donnelly (Marketing Advisor- District Promotion).

1 Apologies

Mayor Neil Brown and Allan Lock (absence)

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 4 September 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Jenkinson/McMillan

Carried

5 Activity Reports

That the reports be received.

Jenkinson/Mackle

Carried

5.1 Democracy & Engagement

• Local alcohol policy

The Chair will respond to Council's second round of consultation and advise that the Methven Community Board supports the proposed changes to the Local Alcohol Policy.

• Representation review

Information showing mesh block boundaries for the MCB area will be discussed with the Board after the meeting.

- **Economic Development Strategy**

The Board asked for the opportunity to view the revised Strategy before it is adopted by Council.

- **Office of the Auditor General**

The Board noted the OAG's advice that the Board members, who are also members of the Lions Club of Methven, are not deemed to have financial conflicts of interest in funding applications submitted by the Club for discretionary funding.

- **2024 Community Board meetings**

Board members agreed that the current schedule is continuing to meet their needs and will allow flexibility to include workshops, when required. Monday meetings will be retained but an earlier start time is proposed.

Recommendation to Council

That the Methven Community Board meeting dates for 2024, as scheduled in Option 1, be confirmed, and that Board meetings continue to be held on Mondays with a 9am start time.

Holmes/Owen

Carried

- **Methven Hockey 5's discretionary grant**

The Methven Hockey 5's committee has written to the Board with an explanation about a small change to the purpose for which grant funding was received in 2022. The funding was used to manufacture sideboards for two hockey 5's courts for a competition that was to have been held last year between Mt Hutt College and Ashburton College. That event was deferred, and for various reasons may not happen as originally proposed, but the sideboards have been successful and the committee is taking the opportunity to introduce the 5's game more informally from this month with the expectation that the sport will attract interest, leading to more organised events.

The Board was satisfied that the grant has been used appropriately, and was appreciative of the accountability feedback received.

5.2 Business Support

- **Finance report**

The income and expenditure report for August was received. The Board noted that the carry-over of \$10,034 wasn't shown (approved by Council in September) but will appear in subsequent income and expenditure reports.

- **CRM report**

It was reported one of the town centre seats was damaged over the weekend. Officers were asked to check whether a request has been lodged through the CRM process.

5.3 Compliance and Development

- **Methven Resort**

Three objections have been received to Methven Resort's proposed expansion. A public hearing will be held at the Mt Hutt Hall on 26 October, 10am.

- **Visitor promotion / tourism**

The Board noted that officers are looking to reinstate the 'Experience Mid Canterbury' brand and business case in the coming year.

5.4 Infrastructure & Open Spaces

- **Methven Mall footpath access**

Officers were advised that the way in which the parking area is constructed in the Methven Mall makes it difficult to access the footpath, due to the raised concrete kerb. The Board asked if Roading officers could investigate and report back on options to resolve the issue.

- **Membrane treatment plant**

The Board recorded its appreciation of the community members who turned out to the opening of the new treatment plant on 6 and 7 October. It was noted that approximately 50 members of the public viewed the facility on the Saturday.

- **Water main renewals 2023/24**

Clarification was sought on the programmed completion date which has reportedly moved from October 2023 until next year.

- **Gardens of Harmony and historic pipe site**

The Chair reported on the meeting that the Methven Lions Club held with the Open Spaces Manager. Consideration is being given to the potential for adjoining land to be developed to create a link between the two sites. An additional feature (Highbank turbine runner) may also be able to be relocated to the pipe site which would create further interest. Lions have undertaken to re-shingle the pathways in the garden with Council to meet the cost of the shingle.

Additionally, the Lions are assisting with plants donated for the Methven Cemetery.

- **Methven drop-off yard**

The Board has previously discussed Line Road as an option for a transfer station / cost-neutral operation.

Discussion on the current drop-off site identified concerns about the type of product being left. This site allows whiteware and electrical. Officers were asked to check CCTV to identify who dumping what.

Business transacted with the public excluded

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Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
6	Discretionary grant application	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy natural persons
7	Discretionary grant application	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy natural persons

McMillan/Owen

Carried

The Board resumed in open meeting and concluded at 10.02am.

Confirmed on 27 November 2023

Chairman

6. Creative Communities Grants Assessment – Round 1 2023/24

Minutes of a meeting of the Creative Communities Fund Assessment Committee, held in the Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton, on Friday 22 September 2023, commencing at 4pm.

Present

Kay Begg (Chair), Femke van der Valk, Peter Muir, Martine Tait, Cr Leen Braam

In attendance

Shirin Khosraviani (Art Gallery & Museum Director) and Ann Smith (Community Liaison Officer)

1 Apologies

That apologies for absence be accepted from Cr Tony Todd, Naneh Manoa, Kate Beaumont-Smith and Tiipene Philip.

Femke/Peter

Carried

3 Conflict of interest

- Kate Beaumont-Smith - Hakatere Ceramics & Pottery Ashburton and Zonta Club of Ashburton

5 General Business

- Kate Beaumont-Smith emailed through her recommendations, Femke read these out on Kate's behalf
- Anna Lundy gave a five-minute presentation on her application at 4.15pm
- Jo Jago had requested presenting her application virtually and was sent a Teams invite but did not join the meeting at the agreed timeslot (or afterwards)
- Methven Primary School requested a presentation time and were sent an invite but did not join the meeting.

That the list of grant applications be approved.

Femke/Peter

Carried

6 Creative Communities Scheme grant applications

A total of 16 applications were received for funding requesting a total of \$61,436. There was \$17,850 available for distribution. 13 applications were approved.

The merits of each application were discussed, and the following funding decisions were made:

No.	Applicants	Amount requested	Amount granted
1	Agape Siva Kingdom Dance Group	\$8,580	\$850
2	Anna Luddy	\$1,600	\$800
3	Arts Canterbury Inc	\$1,000	0\$

- Declined application due to not enough information

4	Ashburton Intermediate School	\$1,800	\$1,800
5	Connecting Mid Canterbury Charitable Trust	\$2,438	\$1,440
6	Edward Sampson and Terry Kingi	\$3,000	\$0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declined application due to project already started and limited benefit to the district 		
7	Hakatere Ceramics & Pottery Ashburton	\$2,625	\$1,500
8	Jo Jago Art	\$7,864	\$0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declined application due to the high cost and limited applicants 		
9	Joshua Holland and Harvey Hyde	\$2,453	\$2,400
10	Mayfield Memorial Hall	\$320	\$160
11	Methven Primary School	\$3,025	\$1,800
12	Methven Theatre Company	\$3,000	\$1,500
13	Mount Hutt College	\$3,982	\$1,500
14	Newah Guthi New Zealand	\$3,450	\$1,600
15	The Big Little Theatre Company Inc	\$14,500	\$1,500
16	Zonta Club of Ashburton	\$1,800	\$1,000
Total		\$61,436	\$17,850

Communication to Grant Recipients

Emails and/or letters will be sent to the groups to inform them of the outcome of their application. This will include a reminder of the requirement to acknowledge the CCS funding for the project in the activity promotions.

Recommendation to Council

That Council receives the minutes of the Creative Community Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on 22 September 2023.

The meeting concluded at 5.15pm.

7. Draft Biodiversity Strategy for Public Consultation

Authors	<i>Femke van der Valk; Policy Advisor Christian Chukwuka; Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor</i>
Activity Managers	<i>Ian Hyde, District Planning Manager Mark Low; Strategy & Policy Manager Ian Soper; Open Spaces Manager</i>
Executive Team Members	<i>Toni Durham; GM Democracy & Engagement Neil McCann; GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces Jane Donaldson; GM Compliance & Development</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to approve the draft Biodiversity Strategy for consultation.
- Council has the following options regarding the policy:
 - Consult on the draft Biodiversity Strategy (no changes), or
 - Make changes to the policy prior to consultation.

Recommendation

- 1. That** Council approves the Biodiversity Strategy for public consultation from 23 October to 26 November 2023.

Attachments

Appendix 1	Draft Biodiversity Strategy
Appendix 2	Biodiversity Strategy consultation document

Background

The current situation

1. Ashburton District is a home to several biodiversity values - threatened species (both flora and fauna), distinctive landscapes, wetland systems and several lake ecosystems.
2. These biodiversity values are found within highly modified landscapes with estimates of about 25% native vegetation left in the high country and less than 1% on the low plain.
3. Great progress has been made in the last ten years within the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan led by the Biodiversity Advisory group (ADBAG) to enhance and protect these biodiversity values.
4. Some of this progress has led to the protection and enhancement of native vegetation remnants both within the public and private lands, surveys of native vegetation on roadsides and in some private farmlands, institution of a biodiversity grant program to support landowners' efforts and biodiversity projects on Council lands.
5. The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) had since lapsed and following an ADBAG Biodiversity Workshop on 4 June 2022, a recommendation was made to the Ashburton District Council to elevate the BAP into a community-wide and led Biodiversity Strategy.
6. In February 2023, the Council adopted a recommendation to proceed with the development of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Strategy.
7. The project aims to identify the current and future pressures on biodiversity and formulate measurable actions/outcomes that would help to halt and reverse the continuing decline of indigenous biodiversity and the habitat of threatened species in the Ashburton District.
8. As part of the Council's obligations to the Resource Management Act 1991, the Biodiversity Strategy will complement the Ashburton District Plan which is the key legal document for the protection and enhancement of the environment within the Ashburton District.
9. The Biodiversity Strategy would also be used to support and enable the implementation of the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity at the territorial authority level.

How the strategy has been developed

10. On 1 June 2023 a workshop was held with key stakeholders to undertake a SWOT analysis (strength, weakness, opportunities, and threats) of Ashburton District Biodiversity, to gather input on the strategy vision and to identify required actions.

11. The summary of the SWOT analysis, research, officer and Council discussion and input from Te Rūnaka o Arowhenua has been used to formulate new goals, objectives and future actions for the draft Biodiversity Strategy.
12. With the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) coming into force on 4th August 2023, the goals have been drafted to align with the NPS-IB and the strategy would be used to aid the implementation at the Ashburton District Council level.
13. Elected Councillors workshops were held on 30 August, 14 September and 27 September 2023. During these workshops the vision, goals, actions and the related budget implications were discussed.

Options analysis

Option one – Approve draft Biodiversity Strategy for public consultation (recommended option)

14. Under this option, Council approves the draft strategy for public consultation from 23 October to 26 November 2023.

<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community's views will be heard and able to be included in the strategy to refine a shared vision for the district. This timing allows the draft strategy to be consulted on with the community at the Ashburton A&P show held on 27 and 28 October 2023. 	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No disadvantages have been identified.
<p>Risks: There is no risk associated with this option.</p>	

Option two – Approves the draft strategy for public consultation with amendments.

15. Under this option, Council approves the Strategy with amendments, for public consultation. Depending on the nature of the changes the timeline could be affected.

<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community's views will be heard and able to be included in the Strategy to refine a shared vision for the district. 	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing for the consultation may be delayed and the opportunity to collect public feedback on the draft during the Ashburton A&P show might be missed..
<p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending on the nature of the changes the timeline could be affected, which could risk the option of consulting with the community during the A&P show on 27-28 October. 	

Legal/policy implications

Resource Management Act 1991

16. [The Resource Management Act 1991](#) under s31 summarises TAs' functions as it relates to indigenous biodiversity and land use management:

- *Every territorial authority shall have the following functions for the purpose of giving effect to this Act in its district:*
 - *the control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including for the purpose of*
 - *the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity*

National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB)

17. The [National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity](#) commenced on August 4, 2023, with a mandate to complete Significant Natural Area (SNA) surveys in the next five years by the territorial authorities.
18. The Policy Statement also advocates for increasing vegetation cover, establishing ecological connectivity and providing awareness and education to the landowners on restoration of indigenous biodiversity.
19. The Council biodiversity strategy would be used to support and enable these NPS-IB policies at the territorial authority level.

Ashburton District Plan

20. [Ashburton District Plan](#) objective 3.2 stated to *protect, maintain and/or enhance indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems by controlling and managing activities that have the potential to affect the life-supporting capacity of soils, and water quality in the lakes, rivers and wetlands and significant nature conservation values."*

21. This objective in the ADC District Plan would be achieved fully within the Biodiversity Strategy.

Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (Under review)

22. The [Canterbury Regional Policy Statement](#) provides an overview of the resource management issues in the Canterbury region, and the objectives, policies and methods to achieve integrated management of natural and physical resources.
23. Its first two objectives are to halt the decline of and protect significant ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity in Canterbury.
24. The Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (Under review) states that “*Territorial authorities will be solely responsible for specifying the objectives, policies and methods for the control of the use of land for the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity on all land outside of wetlands, the coastal marine area, and beds of rivers and lakes.*”

Other associated legislation and government policy statements

25. The Biodiversity Strategy has potential implications for and from other legislation and policy statements. This includes Local Government Act 2002 and the Natural and Built Environment Act and will complement other National Policy Statements on Environment (Freshwater and Coastal Policy Statements).

Climate change

26. Ashburton District Council’s [Climate Resilience Plan 2022](#) emphasises continuing investment in biodiversity.
27. Consultation on this strategy will not have a direct impact on climate change. However, the Biodiversity Strategy recognises indigenous biodiversity's role in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

Review of legal / policy implications

Reviewed by In-house Counsel	Tania Paddock; Legal Counsel
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Strategic alignment

28. The recommendation relates to Council’s community outcome of A balanced and sustainable environment (*He taiao toitū*).

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	We value our District's natural assets in supporting economic Development. Both agricultural productivity, food security and human health depends on functions biodiversity provides.
Environmental	✓	The project shows the value in our indigenous biodiversity, signals the need to maintain, enhance and protect it, including a range of current and future actions.
Cultural	✓	The project values Māori culture and connection to the environment
Social	✓	Increased abundance of native biodiversity can provide opportunities for learning, enhance people's personal development, physical and mental wellbeing while promoting social interactions and connections with nature.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Consultation costs covered by existing budgets. However, the strategy implementation may have some budget implications going forward.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Communications Budget for Community Consultation
Are there any future budget implications?	If the strategy gets adopted there will be budgetary implications. Will be addressed in the relevant report.
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	/No
Level of significance	Medium
Rationale for selecting level of significance	N/A
Level of engagement selected	3. Consult – formal two-way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The draft strategy development process has been outlined in this report, including pre-engagement with key stakeholders, Council workshops and partnership with Te Runanga o Arowhenua. While pre-engagement with stakeholders has occurred, this consultation allows the wider community to have their say, and for stakeholders to provide their feedback in a more formal process.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

Our Natural Place

Te Reo translation added once received

Draft Ashburton District Biodiversity Strategy 2023

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From the Mayor

Text to be added

Note

This document uses the Kāi Tahu dialect where “k” replaces the use of “ng” in words, for example “kaitiakitanga” becomes “kaitiakitaka”.

Part 1: The Strategy

Introduction

The Ashburton District is bordered by the Pacific Ocean in the east, Southern Alps in the west, the Rakaia River in the north and the Rakitata (Rangitata) River in the south. It is a district that identifies itself with these special natural environments and at the same time relies on them as the backbone of our economy. While parts of the district are rich in biodiversity, our indigenous biodiversity remnants on the plains are acutely threatened. Managing these threats requires a collective action to ensure that the processes for species survival are in place and biodiversity is thriving.

This strategy, *Our Natural Place* (**add Te reo translation**), is a community-led initiative to preserve the remnants of indigenous biodiversity in Ashburton District, which provide us with ecosystem services and functions. It also contributes towards Council's wider community outcome of "He taiao toitū - A balanced & sustainable environment", sustaining people's connection with nature and our climate change resilience initiatives. The purpose is to ensure that our current and future biodiversity is protected, restored and enhanced; and to encourage people to value, care and respect it.

We can achieve these objectives by connecting people to the natural environment and by introducing indigenous species for ecosystem restoration, new greenfield development, township landscape design, stormwater channel enhancement and shelterbelt planting. This strategy shares ownership for protecting our district's environment equally among the community.

This shared ownership requires us to work together. Whether that's volunteers helping at a planting day, mana whenua sharing their knowledge on taoka species, Council funding projects through biodiversity grants and stakeholders collaboratively engaging with schools to improve environmental education. Urban residents, farmers, developers, agencies, Council and community groups all have an important role in implementing the actions of this strategy.

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a short term for "biological diversity". Biodiversity describes the level of diversity in natural life. This includes the variety of different species (micro-organisms and fungi, trees, plants and animals), the genes they comprise, and the ecosystems they are a part of.

Indigenous biodiversity refers to those species that occur naturally anywhere in New Zealand, including migrant species. It includes New Zealand's ecosystem functions and processes, indigenous vegetation, endemic fauna and their habitats.

The Ashburton District is home to indigenous plant and animal species, and rare ecosystems such as limestone rocks, coastal dongas, wetlands, lakes, and braided rivers. These 'he awa whiria' (braided rivers) are unique to us.

The strategy is mostly concerned with the protection and management of these indigenous species and habitats; but also acknowledges species, habitats and systems that support indigenous biodiversity and our communities.

Biodiversity protection for non-native, introduced species in Ashburton District is addressed in this strategy where it serves as a buffer or corridor for indigenous value protection, is a protected tree in the district plan or used for urban forest initiatives for climate change resilience. This exotic vegetation provides habitat for native animals (highly mobile fauna), helps to connect people with nature (e.g. *Rhododendron dell* in Awa Awa rata reserve), is used as street trees or is located within the town domains and rural reserves. The strategy recognises the important biological role now played by some introduced species, while acknowledging that indigenous biodiversity remains our priority.

Why is biodiversity important?

Biodiversity contributes to important natural processes that are necessary for ecosystems to sustain life. These are called ecosystem functions or services. Ecosystem services are the benefits people derive from nature. In a functioning environment, we need a stable and resilient ecosystem to sustain all our activities. Examples include the provision of pollen and nectars to attract beneficial insects, berries and plants for native lizards and birds, improved soil fertility and productivity through naturally enriched nitrogen sources, weed suppression, nutrients recycling, and control of plant and animal pests.

Biodiversity is connected with our culture and heritage and represented in the symbols of our national identity. Our economic development relies on the raw materials, clean air and water that biodiversity provides, for consumption and production. Healthy environments also provide tourism and recreational opportunities.

The loss of biodiversity disrupts natural systems and can have irreversible consequences such as species loss, land degradation, erosion, declining soil structure and salinisation. This loss is increasingly recognised as a significant environmental issue which requires our immediate action, underlining the relevance and urgency of this strategy.

New Zealand Biodiversity

Globally, the natural processes that are supported by biodiversity are becoming strained, because of increasing levels of human consumption and industrial production. The situation has reached critical levels, and biodiversity loss is now occurring on an immense scale. The Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted in 1992 and has become one of the world's most significant agreements with 180 countries, including Aotearoa New Zealand, ratifying the agreement.

New Zealand is unique because our indigenous biodiversity includes an extraordinary number of endemic species – species that only occur naturally in New Zealand.

This includes:

- 80% of all vascular plants
- 70% of all native terrestrial and freshwater birds
- all our bats, native amphibians and reptiles
- 90% of freshwater fish.

There are 34 global biodiversity 'hotspots' - regions with a high level of endemic species, as well as high habitat destruction and biodiversity loss. New Zealand is one of these hotspots, with the declining biodiversity regarded as our "most pervasive environmental issue¹".

New Zealand has a wide range of unique ecosystems, including terrestrial ecosystems (kauri, kahikatea, pohutukawa, podocarp, mixed broadleaved and red beech forests) or tussock grasslands and scrubs, freshwater ecosystems and marine ecosystems like seamounts, estuaries and coral reefs.

Other New Zealand ecosystems include wetlands, riparian areas, coastal donga, dunelands, indigenous forests, shrublands, lowland tussock grasslands, and alpine and mountain ranges. These ecosystems perform significant environmental functions. For example, wetlands help the moderation of run-off and the provision of consistent water flow in dry conditions while also trapping sediment and filtering nutrients and heavy metals.

Biodiversity in the Ashburton district

The Ashburton District is rich in biodiversity and outstanding landscapes. We host three braided river systems and several lowland streams, Ō Tū Wharekai (Ashburton) lakes and wetlands, coastal dongas, the marine environment of the Canterbury Bight, and outstanding mountain ranges. The district is home to a variety of native fish, birds, lizards and vegetation, some of which are rare or threatened.

Historically, Ashburton District was once referred to as a monotonous expanse of tussock grasslands extending to the mountain range from the coast, with a "rugged and romantic appearance". The plain was divided using vegetation characteristics. It included the alpine grasslands, montane and subalpine tussock grasslands, subalpine scrub, beech forests, and lowland and upland scrub. The tussock grasslands were somewhat distinctive covering almost the entire Ashburton plains, with the brown grasslands contrasting sharply with the green beech forest of the foothills.

Today, the district is considered a highly modified environment with few native vegetation remnants left on the low plains and around 25% native vegetation in the high country. There is an ongoing significant loss of habitat in our lowland streams, and our unique braided river habitats are threatened by weeds, pests, and human behaviour.

¹ Willis, G (2017). Addressing New Zealand's Biodiversity Challenge: A Regional Council Thinkpiece on the Future of Biodiversity Management in New Zealand. Published by Local Government New Zealand.

The Plains

Within the Ashburton District, the plains are the most highly modified natural landscape, as is the case across New Zealand. The Ashburton plains vary in species composition, with extensive and conspicuous stands of vegetation on riverbeds and wetland areas, most of which were burnt before-European settlement. In the past, vegetation on the plains consisted mainly of matagouri and kanuka/manuka with silver tussock ferns, and danthonia grassland undergrowth. Kanuka/manuka scrub formed a large dark-coloured cover resembling a low forest. Whereas kanuka was found on alluvial-rich soils, matagouri inhabits a great variety of sites including stony and well-drained sites with constant water flow. Matagouri thrived as they were able to colonize shingly areas due to its root-nodule-forming fungus-like features that fix nitrogen. Exotic grasses and rock shingles support a few populations of Southern grass skinks and native gecko species.

The indigenous vegetation cover remaining on the Canterbury plains is low, and fragmentation has occurred with most remnants too small and isolated to survive without assistance. Indigenous biodiversity remnants on the plains are acutely threatened, with threats including land use changes, the loss of roadside remnants of significant indigenous vegetation, animal and plant pests, urban growth and intensification.

Outstanding biodiversity sites in the Ashburton plains include the Harris Scientific Reserve (remnant of kanuka dry grassland), Wakanui Beach, Ashton Beach and vegetation remnants around the ADC Ocean Farm, numerous patches of kowhai trees and matagouri shrubs along Rakaia River berms, undeveloped plantation road with remnants of original Canterbury plain vegetation, coastal dongas on the Ashburton coastline, and numerous roadside vegetation remnants (e.g. Swamp, Timaru Track, Upper Downs and Shepherd Bush Roads).

Foothills

The foothills are situated between the low and high plains and extend along the inland scenic route. They are highly modified in some parts with patches of native beech forests in private farmlands. The foothill forests are dominated by the beech trees, pokaka, broadleaf, lancewood, totara, matai, ribbonwood, kowhai and lemonwood, with an understorey of scrub vegetation such as ferns, sedges, coprosma, kiokio, rautahi and several others. Notable examples are the Department of Conservation forest and Awa Awa rata forest. The soil type in the foothills is moist and deep with natural springs seeping through the ground to support plant growth.

Threats to the foothill's biodiversity are animal and plant pests, such as wilding conifers and including weeds that originate from domestic gardens. Land use changes have led to a loss of wetlands, tussock grasslands and indigenous cover. Fire is also a threat to biodiversity in this area.

High Country

Ashburton District's high country is an iconic landscape with high biodiversity values and the only area with up to 20% remaining indigenous biodiversity. The high country includes areas of the Hakatere, Armoury, Arrowsmith, Mathias, Browning and Mt Hutt Ecological District. Despite extreme weather patterns and vegetation modification through burning, grazing and agricultural development, there are still large areas of indigenous vegetation remnants. Significant indigenous forest exists at the boundaries of the foothills. Other native vegetation in the high country includes extensive areas of tussock grassland in public conservation lands and on some private land, patches of beech forests and shrubland vegetation.

Ongoing threats to the high country include pest plant invasions such as wilding conifers and animals such as rabbits, possums, hares, deer, mountain goats and pigs. Significant land use changes, intensification and subdivision have also led to the loss of wetlands, tussock grasslands and shrubland.

Braided Rivers and Lowland Streams

Three braided rivers are connected with the Ashburton District. The Hakatere (Ashburton) River flows through the middle of the district while the Rakitata and Rakaia rivers form its northern and southern boundaries. These rivers are rare and internationally significant features with national priority for protection. Most of the lowland streams in the Ashburton District are spring-fed and empty into the braided rivers or to the ocean. These include small ephemeral streams running through farmland.

These rivers and lowland streams form wildlife corridors and are unique habitats for many indigenous fish, animals and plants, significant habitats for over 39 threatened and endangered bird species.

Significant loss of habitat has occurred in streams and riparian areas. Continued biodiversity decline is likely due to factors including flood events, plant and animal pests, human behaviour, land use intensification, water abstraction, channelisation and changes in flow levels, declining water quality (e.g. due to stock access and contaminant discharge), and vegetation clearance. Didymo and other invasive aquatic species also pose a threat, along with barriers to fish passage and habitat disturbance from gravel extraction and recreational threats such as uncontrolled vehicle access. However, several projects, like weed control and riparian plantings to restore riverbeds are ongoing.

Estuaries and river mouths associated with the braided rivers provide a network of significant habitats for invertebrates, fish, birds and plants. Continuing agricultural and urban development poses further threats, while other challenges affecting this environment include coastal erosion, recreational use, sediment load changes, climate change, weed encroachment, pests, changing river flows and ocean swells.

Wetlands and Lakes

Wetlands include shallow water and water margins in and around swamps, bogs, lakes, rivers, streams and estuaries. Wetlands (waterlogged sites) exist because the topography prevents water from draining freely away and water is supplied continuously from upslope springs or streams. Although wetlands are

an ecosystem with one of the highest levels of species diversity, they are now rare in New Zealand and have been identified as a national priority for protection. In Ashburton District, over 90% of historical wetlands have been drained and lost, and many remaining wetlands are threatened.

Wetlands are characterised by distinctive vegetation and include plants that are capable of coping under anaerobic conditions where water lies above, at or not far below ground level. These obligate plant species include sedges *Eleocharis acuta*, mingimingi, tussock sedge, bog-rush *Schoenus pauciflorus*, raupo and *Potamogeton cheesemanii*.

A notable wetland system in Ashburton District is Ō Tū Wharekai in the high country of the district. The Ō Tū Wharekai wetlands system includes the 12 Ashburton lakes, streams, swamps and bogs, and ephemeral turfs. Ō Tū Wharekai is also home to several rare native plants, such as endangered marsh arrowrush (*Triglochin palustris*), pygmy forget-me-not (*Myosotis pygmaea* var. *minutiflora*), and pygmy clubrush (*Isolepis basilaris*). The area has one of the largest known populations of the native lily, *Iphigenia novae-zelandiae*. The Lakes provide habitat to endangered crested grebes, New Zealand freshwater mussels and numerous bird and fish populations.

Wetlands perform vital functions by improving water quality and providing important habitat for many species, particularly migrant birds. Wetlands can also mitigate carbon impacts, in some cases at higher rates than our native forests. Several remaining wetlands have been mapped by Environment Canterbury, but there are still others in private properties yet to be mapped.

Continued threats to wetlands across the district include a lack of awareness of the values of wetlands, vegetation clearance, land drainage, channelising and impoundment. Further issues include stock grazing, predators, pest invasion and agricultural practices. The Ashburton wetland system and lakes are part of a Department of Conservation-led initiative that focuses on the protection and enhancement of water quality, habitat and species diversity, as well as monitoring and research efforts.

Marine Environment

The district's marine environment runs along the Canterbury Bight with high deposition of shingle gravel washed down to the coast from the Southern Alps. Our coastal marine environment supports relatively few native species due to its vigorous high tides and shingly nature. However, it contains fish migratory paths that link the marine environment to the freshwater bodies.

In recent times, there has been occasional sightings of marine mammals including the New Zealand fur seal and hector dolphins. The low occurrence of native biodiversity may be due to the nature of the coastal areas, vehicle access to beaches, coastal erosion and the effect these factors have on water quality. All of these pose challenges to marine biodiversity.

Manawhenua relationship to biodiversity

Manawhenua have lived on the fertile coastal plains of mid and south Canterbury for hundreds of years, venturing up the river valleys into the mountains of the takiwā, crossing the passes inland to the many lakes or over to Te Tai Poutini/the West Coast and out into the ocean. The Indigenous flora and fauna of these environments have sustained Manawhenua for hundreds of years, providing food, fibre, building materials, fuel, medicine and other necessities. The relationship between Manawhenua and indigenous biodiversity has evolved over centuries of close interaction. We continue to put considerable effort into preserving, restoring and enhancing our relationships ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea) through the practice of mahika kai.

Manawhenua have a strong sense of 'tūrangawaewae' where one belongs and has a right to stand as their ancestors stood before them. Whakapapa bestows us our identity, rights and responsibilities. It defines our relationship with the land and waters – how they should be used, how to move across them safely and how to care for them as kaitiaki. In return, our takiwā provides physical and spiritual nourishment for our whānau, with plentiful food, medicine, water and natural resources for survival.

Prior to 1840 and the implementation of the new colonial order, mana and kaitiakitaka were often synonymous. Manawhenua traditionally invoked and exercised kaitiakitaka over the resources of the land and sea and Kāti Huirapa collectively protected to the fullest extent their territory and its resources. They maintained and developed their tikaka for the well-being of the people. It was the kaitiaki duty to protect and sustain the resources mō ā mātou mokopuna ake tonu ake (for us and our children after us). The bottom line for all decisions therefore was the sustainable management of the resource and the continuing well-being of the hau kāika. For Kāti Huirapa, kaitiakitaka is not only about the physical resources, but also about being Manawhenua and maintaining a relationship to the spiritual dimension and influences, including the primary principle of protection of the mauri of an ecosystem from desecration.

Mauri is imbued in all things and is a special power derived from the supreme being². At birth the two parts of body and wairua are joined together as one by the mauri. On death, the mauri is no longer able to bind these elements together and the physical and spiritual parts are separated. The forest, waters, the life supported by them, together with natural phenomena such as the mist, wind and rocks, possess a mauri.

Mahika kai is a contemporary philosophy that lies at the heart of Kāti Huirapa culture and takes place throughout whole catchments. For us, mahika kai is a way of life; it is both traditional and contemporary. Mahika kai refers to interests in traditional food and other natural resources and includes the species, related habitats and conditions required to support our mahika kai practices. Mahika kai is at the heart of Kāti Huirapa culture, identity and practice. The lakes, lagoons, rivers and wetlands throughout the takiwā of Kāti Huirapa are of paramount importance for our continuing practice of mahika kai. Taoka and kai species today are wide ranging and include tuna, kanakana, īnakawai kōura, birds and many species of plants, like harakeke, ti kōuka and pīngao. Species gathered have changed over

² Crengle (2003)

time as new species have become available or traditional species become unavailable and may change again in the future.

However, our ability to continue mahika kai practices in the catchments of Ashburton has greatly diminished in the last 150 years. We have restricted or no access to mahika kai resources due to changes in land tenure and management (including draining of wetlands), water use and tenure, the introduction of pests, and development of land for primary production or urbanisation. This has meant that our mahika kai practices in the catchments of Mid and South Canterbury have had to adapt. Where we can continue the practices of our tūpuna, in the places they used, we treasure this greatly.

Our mahika kai sites do not stand in isolation. They are at the heart of treasured landscapes that support and enable the processes of whakawhanaukataka (the process of establishing relationships and relating well to others).

The progress so far- Biodiversity achievements by Council and the Community

In 2010, Council introduced the Biodiversity Working Group, and through collaboration and the combined effort of stakeholders, important progress has been made for biodiversity in the district. Our actions towards native vegetation have improved and there is an increased awareness of the need to enhance and restore the environment.

Two notable achievements are the development of the Biodiversity Action Plan and subsequent review in 2017, and surveys to identify remnants of indigenous native vegetations on the plains, especially on roadsides (Plantation and Ferryman Road), two private farms along the Rakaia River berm and Council's Ocean Farm. There remains more work to do in this space, as the extent of biodiversity remnants on private land and other public land are not yet fully known.

Other accomplishments include the introduction and administration of Biodiversity Grant funding, improved Rūnaka engagement, appointment of a full-time Council Ecologist and Biodiversity Advisor, increased awareness of biodiversity values in regards to Council's operations, regular biodiversity media briefings, increased education around native vegetation clearance rules, and biodiversity projects on Council land such as the Wakanui Beach Restoration Initiative and Lake Camp/Clearwater Landscape Management Plan.

The Ashburton Community Conservation Trust that was constituted in 2010 continues to manage the Harris Scientific Reserve, a dryland kanuka remnant, with biannual planting in the last five years to extend the kanuka forest and other native vegetation plant coverage.

The Council, through its Biodiversity Grant program, has funded biodiversity restoration planting projects, weed controls and environmental education programs. These include Sycamore control at Mt Hutt Road, a pest control program at Alford Forest and Maori Lakes, Galloway wetland restoration, the Beginners Guide to Biodiversity in Mid Canterbury project, sycamore weed control (Rakaia Gorge), and Upper Rakitata Landcare Group weed control.

Private landowners and farmers have also contributed to increasing native vegetation enhancement in the district through wetland restoration projects and native shelterbelt planting.

Climate Change and Biodiversity

Climate change is an important driver of biodiversity loss in New Zealand. Biodiversity is affected by every aspect of climate change which includes more frequent and intense droughts, storms, heatwaves, rainfall, increasing bushfires, changes in ocean currents and water temperatures, estuary and ocean acidification and sea level rise. These events can result in changes to ecosystem services and species biology.

Biological changes include shifts in some species range, bird migration, changes in plant phenology such as flowering time and earlier timing of leaf-unfolding, and changes in gestation length in some species³ are being observed locally and globally. Climate change can also encourage changes in predator behaviour and weed proliferation.

Locally, the 2021 flooding event resulted in the loss of an important lizard species and habitat. Landslides led to vegetation loss in the high country and foothills, and flooding contributes to the loss of aquatic animals and their breeding sites. Other noticeable impacts of recent climate events are changes to land ecosystem productivity, and disruption of freshwater ecosystems due to warmer water and lower flows in rivers and streams.

Our strongest natural defence against climate change lies in biodiversity⁴. Biodiversity acts as a natural carbon sink, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and acting as a nature-based solution to global warming. Biodiversity helps provide stability and resilience to our environment as we adapt to the fluctuations and disturbances brought about by extreme weather events.

With current and future climate predictions for the district⁵, these changes and events will continue. Further research is necessary to identify what this means for the biodiversity of our district and what actions need to be taken.

Council has a Climate Resilience Plan which guides the actions and decisions of ADC to meet the goals of our Climate Change Policy, and this includes continued investment in biodiversity.

Why do we need a strategy?

Despite the existence of biodiversity action plan, the regulations in the RMA and the Council's awareness, the threats to Ashburton District's Biodiversity remain. These include but are not limited to, changes in land use, lack of habitat corridors and declining water quality, increasing native vegetation

³ Macinnis-Ng et al., 2021

⁴ United Nation (2023) <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/biodiversity#:~:text=Conserving%20and%20restoring%20natural%20spaces,as%20forests%20or%20coral%20reefs.>

⁵ Macara et al (2020). Climate change projections for the Canterbury Region. National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd Wellington.

clearance, and plant and animal pests⁶. The increasing threat of a changing climate, is also likely to aggravate the existing pressures.

As a result, Council adopted the recommendation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group to develop a Biodiversity Strategy. This living document identifies the biodiversity pressures, has included stakeholder, mana whenua and community input, and contains measurable and achievable actions that will help to halt /reverse the decline of indigenous species in the Ashburton District.

The timing of the strategy development has also coincided with the release of the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) and the strategy will be used to help implement the NPS. The NPS-IB commenced on 4 August 2023, and mandates the Council to undertake a district-wide assessment of significant natural areas for the protection and restoration of biodiversity within the Ashburton District. Ashburton District's current and future responsibility under the NPS-IB, as currently understood has been captured in the Action Plan.

What does this strategy include?

The strategy provides specific guidance that will help us, together as a community, to achieve the shared vision for our district.

It describes how we will:

1. Identify the remaining biodiversity values in the district and protect and maintain these values.
2. Restore indigenous biodiversity.
3. Gather and share knowledge on biodiversity with our stakeholders and community.
4. Have communities and stakeholders work together to encourage wider participation in the conservation and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity.

The goals, objectives and actions sit within a regional and national framework for biodiversity protection. The document showcases the local stakeholders and partners, and activities that have been identified as important, including those already underway or that need to happen in the future.

The Action Plan sets out how we intend to achieve each objective over the next 20 years. It is intended to be a living document and the progress of actions and projects outlined in the Action Plan will be monitored.

How has this strategy been prepared?

This draft strategy was prepared in partnership with Te Rūnaka o Arowhenua. It builds on an initial workshop with the Biodiversity Advisory Group and a review of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) progress to date, consideration of other Council's plans and strategies, integrating the latest legislation

⁶ Harding, 2022

and the outcome of the SWOT analysis from a workshop with key stakeholders in the district held in May 2023.

The key stakeholders included representatives from Environment Canterbury, QEII National Trust, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Primary Industry, Federated Farmers, Ashburton Community Conservation Trust, Fish and Game, Fonterra, Foothills Landowners, Synlait, Forest and Bird, Awa Awa Rata Reserve Society, Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Foothills Landcare Group, Kanuka Trust, Mt Somers Walkway Society, Mid-Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC), Whitcombe Landcare Group, , Lake Heron Conservation Society and farmers. We also work with other Councils (Environment Canterbury and Timaru and Selwyn District) along the two major rivers through stakeholders' collaborative projects.

Alignment with other Strategies and Plans

The Biodiversity Strategy aligns with national, regional and local strategies and plans. Its central purpose is to give effect to the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity and Canterbury Regional Policy Statement at the district level, and align with other relevant Canterbury Regional Strategies.

These policies, strategies and legislation include:

National

- National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity 2023
- Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity strategy – *Te Mana o te Taiao* 2020
- Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991
- New Zealand Biodiversity Action Plan 2016
- Local Government Act (LGA) 2002
- Statement of National Priorities 2007
- Predator-Free 2050

Regional:

- Canterbury Regional Policy Statement 2013 (under review)
- Biodiversity Strategy for the Canterbury Region 2008
- Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) 2009

Ashburton District:

- Long-Term Plan (LTP): specifies Council’s intentions for the next 10 years and how we will fund them. One of the four Community Outcomes is ‘A balanced & sustainable environment “He taiao toit-ū’, referring to biodiversity.
- Ashburton District Plan 2014: provides the land use planning framework for our district.
- Climate Change Policy 2022/ Climate Resilience Plan 2022
- Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2022/23

Part 2: Our Vision, Goals and Action Plan

Our vision:

A district where biodiversity is protected and enhanced from the mountains to the sea (ki uta ki tai) by a community that values and cares for it.

This vision links to all four Community outcomes as envisioned in our current Long-Term Plan:

			
Residents are included and have a voice Ka whai wāhi, ka whakaputa kōrero kā kainoho	A district of great spaces and places He tiriwā pai, he wāhi pai i tēnei takiwā	A balanced & sustainable environment He taiao toitū	A prosperous economy based on innovation and opportunity He ōhaka whai rawa i ruka i te aroka hou me te whai āheika

Our GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: The remaining indigenous biodiversity in the Ashburton District is protected and maintained.

This means (objectives):

- 1.1 Ecological values within the district are identified and protected.
- 1.2 Taoka species and sites with takata whenua cultural values are identified and protected.
- 1.3 Further loss of threatened and at-risk indigenous species is prevented by the control or eradication of pest species (fauna and flora)
- 1.4 Impacts of development and human activity on significant ecological values are properly managed.

Goal 2: The indigenous biodiversity in the Ashburton District is restored, enhanced and ecologically interconnected for the benefit of the community.

This means (objectives):

- 2.1 Indigenous vegetation cover within the district has increased over time.
- 2.2 Biodiversity sites and habitats of indigenous species and taoka are interconnected.
- 2.3 Community projects that aim to restore and ecologically link indigenous biodiversity sites and habitats in the district are identified and supported (support: time / expertise / biodiversity grant)
- 2.4 Eco-tourism through biodiversity is encouraged and promoted in Ashburton District

Goal 3: Knowledge on biodiversity is gathered and shared, informing and empowering the stakeholders and the community.

This means (objectives):

- 3.1 Research into and collection of data on the state of biodiversity in the district is improved.
- 3.2 Knowledge of mana whenua world view /Biodiversity within the district is documented and shared.
- 3.3 Knowledge of Ashburton indigenous biodiversity is shared with the community and stakeholders (landowners, industry groups, environmental protection groups, local and regional government agencies).
- 3.4 School environmental programmes are sustained and improved.

Goal 4: Collaboration and participation among Council, Rūnaka and Stakeholders in the wider community for conservation and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity is encouraged.

This means (objectives):

- 4.1 Cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders is encouraged.
- 4.2 Council takes a leadership role in working together and encouraging conservation and enhancement.
- 4.3 The general public is encouraged to participate in conservation and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity.
- 4.4 Community projects that aim to protect, maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity are supported.

Implementation timeframe

The lifespan for the strategy is expected to be 20 years. However, some actions may be achieved sooner. Achievement is also dependent on financial availability, legislative changes and commitment. As a guide, we have split the timeframes into the four categories below. Actions that run for the entire life of the strategy are designated as “ongoing” and actions associated with NPS-IB statutory provisions or implementation are designated in bold.

Short-term (ST)	: 1-3 years
Medium-term (MT)	: 3-10 years
Long-term (LT)	: 10+ years
Ongoing	

Reporting and review

We will report annually on the progress of the Action Plan’s implementation. An interim review of the Action Plan is to be undertaken after the first 12 months and a full review, to ensure it remains current and meets the needs of our community, every three years.

A full review of the entire Strategy will be undertaken every five years.

Role of Ashburton District Council

The role of Council in the Strategy and Action Plan is defined in broad terms below:

- **No role** – not an issue, role of other agencies and organisations.
- **Advocate** – collecting and sharing community views with government, agencies or organisations to help improve the district. This can be active or passive.
- **Influence** – educate and work to change people’s perceptions or behaviour to provide positive community outcomes.
- **Support** – support agencies leading the work (e.g. research, funding or bringing stakeholders together).
- **Plan and Resource** – take direct lead and involvement to achieve specific outcomes (e.g. developing plans, consultation, funding, resourcing).

Resource and Funding

Resourcing will come from a range of sources, with significant contributions to the success of the strategy coming from other agencies and the community. Reference is made in the Action Plan as to whether resources and funding are available within the existing Council operations or budgets (staff time or operational budget) or may come from specific NPS-IB funding, external contractors or other sources. There will also be a potential to seek external grants/funding from other agencies involved with biodiversity and conservation. This is described further below:

- **NPS-IB funding:** central government funding and ECan resource support expected. At time of writing the actual costs are unknown.
- **Biodiversity Grant:** \$15,000 available per year for community projects (ADC-funded).
- **No new resource:** means that the action is currently already being done within an ADC staff role and will continue without the requirement to reserve any new resource.

The Action Plan

Protect and maintain

Goal 1: the remaining indigenous biodiversity (rare, threatened, taoka and other significant species and their habitats) in the Ashburton District are protected and maintained.

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	When
1.1	Ecological values within the district are fully identified and protected.	A. Complete assessment of the district's ecological values, including significant natural areas (SNA's)	Plan & resource	ADC, ECan, DOC, Rūnaka, community	Medium Term 5 years from 4 August 2023
		B. Encourage covenants and other forms of land protection in private properties and Council reserves with ecological values	Influence	ADBAG, QEII, Landowners	Ongoing
		C. Identify and protect Ashburton District's special features with ecological values (e.g. coastal dongas)	Plan & Resource	ADC, ECan, DOC, community	Short term
		D. Undertake ecological assessment of the Hinds drain and make recommendations on protecting the values	Support	Rūnaka, ECan, MCCC, ADC	Short term

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	When
		E. Prepare for plan changes to protect SNA and recognise land covenants	Plan & Resource	ADC or Regional Planning Committee	MT-LT
1.2	Taoka and their habitats are identified and protected	A. Undertake an assessment of mana whenua cultural/ heritage sites and determine taoka species present in the district	Support	Rūnaka, ADC	ST
		B. Develop a joint plan to ensure the protection and restoration of the cultural sites	Support + Plan & Resource	Rūnaka, ADC	MT
1.3	Further loss of threatened indigenous species is prevented by the control, or eradication, of pest species (fauna and flora).	A. Support pest management approach with other stakeholders to control plant and animal pests.	Support	ECan, DOC, LINZ, Rūnaka, ADBAG, MPI, ADC	ST (develop) MT (implement)
		B. Continue pest management program in all Council reserves and Open Spaces.	Plan & Resource	ADC	Ongoing
		C. Promote weed prevention, for instance, by engaging with nurseries and garden centres	Advocate	ECan, ADC, Stakeholders	ST

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	When
		throughout the district.			
		D. Continue implementation of Lake Camp/Clearwater Management plans for the eradication of wilding trees in the area.	Plan & Resource	ADC, Hut holders, ECan, DOC.	Ongoing
1.4	Impact of use and development and human activity on biodiversity is properly managed	A. Promote collaborative response to degradation of Ō Tū Wharekai	Advocate	ECan, ADC, Rūnaka/Iwi, DOC, Stakeholders	Ongoing
		B. Review ADC vegetation clearance rule for Rural zones to provide better protection for indigenous biodiversity.	Plan & Resource	ADC	ST – MT
		C. Ensure existing biodiversity is conserved and enhanced in nWeew subdivisions and development projects.	Plan & Resource	ADC	ST – MT

Restore and interconnect for the benefit of the community.

Goal 2: The indigenous biodiversity in the Ashburton District is restored, enhanced and ecologically interconnected for the benefit of the community.

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
2.1	Indigenous vegetation cover has increased over time within the district.	A. Advocate to increase the indigenous vegetation cover target as set in the NPS-IB or by the regional council at the local level.	Advocate	ADC, Rūnaka, ECan	ST – MT (NPS-IB stated 10%, final target dependent on ECan)
		B. Promote integration and use of appropriate indigenous species for shelterbelt planting and replacement on private farmland within the district to increase vegetation cover.	Influence	ADC	ongoing
		C. Investigate the use of stormwater swales, MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge) sites, rivers and stockwater race networks to improve native vegetation cover in the district.	Plan & Resource	ADC, Rūnaka, Irrigation Companies, ECan, Landowners, MCCC	ST

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
		D. Encourage the use of native vegetation for council planting projects (street trees, reserves and berms)	Plan & Resource	ADC	ongoing
		E. Investigate the ecologically suitable riparian buffer and promote it to the community	Plan & Resource	Rūnaka, ECan, ADC	ongoing
2.2	Biodiversity sites and threatened species habitats are interconnected.	A. Investigate and develop a plan to establish biodiversity corridors from the mountains to the sea to sustain its functions⁷.	Plan & Resource	ADC, Rūnaka, Irrigation Companies, ECan, Landowners, MCCC	MT
		B. Prioritise areas for restoration that provide important connectivity or ecological buffering functions.	Plan & Resource	ADC, Rūnaka, ADBAG	MT-LT
		C. Support landowners' biodiversity projects	Support	ADC	MT

⁷ Linking reserves, stockwater races, 3 major rivers, unproductive farm blocks, MAR sites and irrigation channels

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
		that will improve ecological corridors.			
2.3	Supporting projects that aim to restore and interconnect indigenous biodiversity sites in the district (support = time / expertise / biodiversity grant / funding)	A. Investigate incentives to landowners with indigenous native vegetation sites on their farmlands.	Plan & Resource	ADC	ST-MT
		B. Provide incentives to landowners with indigenous native vegetation sites on their farmlands.	Plan & Resource	ADC	MT-LT
		C. Continue to support biodiversity projects undertaken by other stakeholders in the district	Support	ADC, Water Zone Committee, Dairy (Synlait/Fonterra) and Irrigation Companies.	Ongoing
2.4	Eco-tourism through biodiversity is encouraged in Ashburton District (Economic benefit of biodiversity)	A. Investigate and implement how biodiversity can contribute to eco-tourism in the district. (E.g. Harris Reserve and Ashton Beach)	Plan & Resource (Economic Development collaboration)	Stakeholders, Community, ADC	LT
		B. Address the barriers that could hinder eco-tourism through biodiversity	Influence	ADC, Stakeholders, Community	LT

Educate and enhance awareness

Goal 3: Knowledge on biodiversity is gathered and shared, informing and empowering the stakeholders and the community.

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
3.1	Research into and collection of data on the state of biodiversity in the district is improved. <i>Knowledge gathering</i>	A. Compile general biodiversity information on the Ashburton District and its characteristic features and make it available to the public.	Plan & Resource	ADC, ADBAG	ongoing
		B. Investigate climate change implications for Ashburton district Biodiversity to plan for future resilience programs.	Plan & Resource	ADC, ECan, Stakeholders	ST
		C. Undertake a desktop assessment of native species groups within the district and make predictions on their adaptability for future climate change scenarios.	Plan & Resource	ADC, ECan, Universities, Stakeholders	MT
		D. Complete GIS mapping of Ashburton District ecosystems and make it available to the public.	Resource	ADC, DOC, ADBAG	Ongoing / ST

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
		E. Initiate and support biodiversity research within Ashburton District to foster relationships and increase the knowledge base and available information.	Support + Influence	ADC, Universities, Rūnaka/Iwi, Stakeholders	MT
3.2	Knowledge of mana whenua world view /Biodiversity within the district is documented and shared. <i>Knowledge sharing</i>	A. Collate information on sites of cultural/heritage values and taoka and make it available to the community.	Support	Rūnaka, ADC	MT
		B. Promote the mahika kai concept to share knowledge and increase awareness.	Influence	Rūnaka, ADC, ADBAG	MT
3.3	Knowledge of Ashburton indigenous biodiversity is shared with communities. (Landowners, industry groups, environmental protection groups, Council local and regional	A. Advocate and distribute information to landowners regarding biodiversity values.	Advocate	ADBAG, ECan, Stakeholders, ADC	Ongoing
		B. Initiate citizen science programs to involve communities in data gathering on Ashburton Biodiversity	Plan & Resource	ADBAG, ECan, Stakeholders, ADC	ST
		C. Initiate and support regular media publication of Ashburton District Biodiversity information	Plan & Resource	ADC, ADBAG	Ongoing

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
	government agencies)	on external media channels.			
		D. Maintain relevant biodiversity updates on ADC website and use it as an information portal.	Plan & Resource	ADC	Ongoing
		E. Provide accessible knowledge and professional services to landowners when required.	Influence	ADC	Ongoing
		F. Create greater awareness of the importance of biodiversity and native vegetation across the primary industry.	Influence	ADC, Stakeholders	ST
		G. Organise seminars and workshops for landowners, stakeholders and primary sectors on environmental issues and outcomes.	Plan & Resource	ADBAG, ECan, Stakeholders, Community	ST-MT
3.4	School environmental programmes are	A. Support and extend school environmental programmes and biodiversity projects to	Support	ADC, ECan, ADBAG, Stakeholders	Ongoing

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
	sustained and improved.	more schools in Ashburton District.			
		B. Celebrate International Biodiversity (22 May) and Conservation Days (28 July) with the schools and community	Support	ADBAG, Stakeholders, Community	ST

Cooperate, encourage and celebrate community participation.

Goal 4: Collaboration and participation among Council, Rūnaka and Stakeholders in the wider community for conservation and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity is encouraged.

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
4.1	Cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders are encouraged.	A. Strategic partnerships with stakeholders and relationships are fostered through regular ADBAG meetings.	Influence	ADBAG, Stakeholders	Ongoing
		B. Maintain appropriate Council representation in stakeholders with an interest in biodiversity.	Influence	ADC	Ongoing
4.2	Council takes a leadership role in working together and encouraging conservation and enhancement.	A. Advocate for biodiversity protection and enhancement within Council as an organisation and communicate these principles regularly to staff.	Advocate	ADC	Ongoing
		B. Investigate and support the review of project code/standard to reflect biodiversity protection and enhancement (e.g. culvert allowing fish passage and migration, sediment protection and floodplain repairs and enhancement using native plantings)	Influence + Support	Rūnaka, ECan	ST
		C. Foster active partnership with the manawhenua at all levels	Influence	ADC, Rūnaka	Ongoing

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
		of decision-making in biodiversity management.			
		D. Integrate biodiversity principles across Council activities. For example, increasing the percentage of native planting used in Council reserves, street trees and road berms.	Advocate	ADC	Ongoing
		E. Support implementation of Council surface water strategy to improve biodiversity.	Influence	ADC	Ongoing
		F. Investigate and develop an urban/residential zone forest plan to increase tree cover for the district as a mitigation for climate change.	Plan & Resource	ADC, ECan	MT-LT
4.3	General public is encouraged to participate in conservation and enhancement of and celebrate biodiversity	A. Continue collaboration of stakeholders and volunteer networks for biodiversity projects within the district	Influence	ADBAG, Stakeholders	Ongoing
		B. Investigate and promote biodiversity funding/resource pool to support biodiversity projects in the community.	Advocate	ADBAG, Stakeholders	Ongoing
		C. Introduce the Environment Champions Award to celebrate local biodiversity achievements.	Plan & Resource	ADC	ST

	Objectives	Actions (bold = NPS-IB)	Role of ADC	Who	Date
4.4	Community projects that protect and maintain indigenous biodiversity are supported	A. Support projects that aim to protect and maintain biodiversity in the district.	Support	ADC, ADBAG	Ongoing

Glossary

- **Adaptability** – ability to adjust to changes in the environment.
- **Biodiversity ‘hotspots’** – an area with at least 1,500 species of vascular plants found nowhere else on Earth and have lost at least 70 percent of its primary native vegetation
- **Biodiversity**- the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world.
- **Ecosystem** - A community or group of living organisms that live in and interact with each other in a specific environment.
- **Indigenous Biodiversity** - the living organisms that occur naturally in New Zealand, and the ecological complexes of which they are part, including all forms of indigenous. flora, fauna, and fungi, and their habitats.
- **NPS-IB** - National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
- **Phenology** – timing of biological events or activity. e.g. plant flowering or fish spawning events.
- **SNA** – Significant natural area - an area that has significant indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna. A SNA may include remnant native bush or native forests, wetlands, frost flats, lakes and rivers, or geothermal vegetation
- **Species range** – where plants or animals can be found in their lifetime.
- **SWOT analysis** – analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- **Terrestrial** - living or growing on land
- **Vascular plants** - Any plant, which have specialised vascular tissues for the transport of water, minerals and food. All plants are vascular except algae, bryophytes (moss, liverworts and hornworts) and fungi.

Te reo

Hau kāika	Home, true home
Harakeke	New Zealand Flax
Īnaka	Whitebait
Kai	Food / meal
Kaitiaki	Guardian
Kaitiakitaka	The exercise of customary custodianship, in a manner that incorporates spiritual matters, by takata whenua who hold Manawhenua status for particular area or resource.
Kanakana	Lamprey
Kati Huirapa	Reference to “Kāti Huirapa” and “Manawhenua” should be interpreted as including the whānau who whakapapa to Te

	Rūnaka o Arowhenua and whānau of other Papatipu Rūnaka who share interests with Te Rūnaka o Arowhenua
Ki uta ki tai	Mountains to sea
Kōrua	Crayfish
Mahika kai	Places where food is produced or procured
Mana	Authority, prestige, influence
Manawhenua	Those who exercise customary authority or Rakatirataka (Chieftainship, decision making rights).
Mauri	Essential life force or principle; a metaphysical quality inherent in all things both animate and inanimate. (Ngāi Tahu Fresh Water Policy)
Pīngao	golden sage sedge
Takiwā	Area, region, district
Taoka	Treasure
Tapu	sacred
Tikaka	Customary values, practices
Ti kōuka	cabbage tree
Tuna	Eel
Tupuna	Ancestors
Turakawaewae	Place of belonging through ancestral rights linked to land, place to stand
Wairua	Life principle, spirit
Whakapapa	Genealogy
Whanau	Family
Whakawhanaukataka	The process of establishing relationships and relating well to others

Draft Biodiversity strategy - Consultation document

Our Natural Place

The reo translation (to add once confirmed)

Biodiversity Strategy

We're developing a strategy to help protect and restore our district's precious biodiversity. We want to hear what our community thinks so find out more and have your say inside.

We are accepting feedback until Sunday 26 November 2023.

Introduction

The Ashburton District is bordered by the Pacific Ocean in the east, Southern Alps in the west, the Rakaia River in the north and the Rakitata (Rangitata) River in the south. It is a district that identifies itself with these natural environments and at the same time relies on them as the backbone of our economy. Through this special environment biodiversity is connected with our culture, our heritage and our economic resources.

While parts of the district are rich in biodiversity, our indigenous (or native) biodiversity remnants on the plains are acutely threatened. Managing these threats requires collective action from the community to ensure that we plan for their survival and that our district's biodiversity thrives.

Ashburton District Council recognises the importance of indigenous biodiversity in our district and so we've asked local environmental organisations, iwi, landowners, government agencies and many other stakeholders to help us develop a new kaupapa (strategy).

In our draft strategy, we've developed a vision, goals and objectives that aim to support the protection, maintenance and restoration of biodiversity, to gather and share knowledge, and to encourage community collaboration and participation into the future. The document is a long-term commitment and has a lifespan of 20 years. It is intended to be a living document and the progress of actions outlined in the Action Plan will be monitored to ensure it remains current and meets the needs of our community.

Now it's time for you to have your say. We want to know what you value about our native environment, whether you support the draft strategy and what you think the Council should be doing to protect and enhance our indigenous biodiversity.

This document includes a summary of the draft strategy, the proposed vision and goals and a submission form for your feedback. If you'd like to find out more, we'd encourage you to read the full strategy on our website at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

We are accepting feedback until Sunday 26 November 2023.

Note: This document uses the Kāi Tahu dialect where “k” replaces the use of “ng” in words, for example “taonga” becomes “taoka”.

Why do we need a strategy?

Biodiversity contributes to the important natural processes that are necessary for ecosystems to sustain life. It provides us with clean water, air, food and resources like wood and fibre, and services like pollination.

The Ashburton District is surrounded by special natural environments, the rivers in the north and south, the alps and the sea. While parts of the district are rich in biodiversity, our indigenous biodiversity remnants on the plains are threatened.

The community plays an essential role in caring for our district and has already done amazing mahi in the area of biodiversity protection and restoration, like the Lake Camp Management Plan implementation initiative, Wakanui Beach Restoration projects, several native planting projects and pest control.

To get even more community members onboard, the strategy also focusses on education and empowerment of the community and on working together to achieve the goals.

We are keen to hear from you what you think about the proposed vision for Biodiversity in our district, the goals we aim to achieve and the actions on how we plan on getting there!

Government Direction

Apart from the actions that were identified with the stakeholders during the development of the strategy, there are also legal requirements for a Council to contribute to the management of Biodiversity in the district. One notable example is the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB), which came into force in August 2023 and mandates Council to complete the assessment of Significant Natural Areas (SNA's), within the next five years. The NPS-IB advocates for increasing vegetation cover, establishing ecological connectivity and providing awareness and education to landowners on restoration of indigenous biodiversity. It also highlights takata (tangata) whenua as partners in indigenous biodiversity management.

In the draft strategy, actions required under the NPS-IB are marked in bold. You can view the full strategy document including the action plan at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

A bit of background

What is biodiversity?

When we talk about biodiversity we talk about the variety of plants, animals and their environment. From micro-organisms and fungi, trees, plants and animals - the genes they comprise, and the ecosystems they are a part of.

In the strategy we refer to indigenous biodiversity, meaning all living organisms that occur naturally in New Zealand, and how they interact with their environment. From our unique mosses, fungi, ferns, trees, lizards, birds, and their habitats. Most of this indigenous biodiversity are endemic – meaning they are found nowhere else in the world.

The challenges of today

The Ashburton District is rich in biodiversity and outstanding landscapes. We host three braided river systems and several lowland streams, Ō Tū Wharekai – Ashburton lakes and wetlands, coastal dongas, the marine environment of the Canterbury Bight and outstanding mountain ranges. The district is home to a variety of native fish, birds, lizards and vegetation, some of which are rare or threatened.

Today, the district is considered a highly modified environment with few native vegetation remnants left on the low plains and around 25% native vegetation in the high country.

Unfortunately, there is an ongoing significant loss of habitat in our high countries, lowland streams, and our unique braided rivers with remaining native vegetation being threatened by weeds, pests, land use changes and human behaviour.

Another important driver of biodiversity loss is climate change. More frequent events like floods and droughts and the sea level rise can result in changes to ecosystem services and species biology. At the same time, our strongest natural defence against climate change lies in biodiversity¹. Biodiversity acts as a natural carbon sink, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and acting as a nature-based solution to global warming. Biodiversity helps provide stability and resilience to our environment as we adapt to the fluctuations and disturbances brought about by extreme weather events.

What does Council currently do?

In 2010, Council introduced the Biodiversity Working Group and along with the combined efforts of stakeholders, important progress has been made for biodiversity in the district.

Notable achievements include the development of Biodiversity Action Plan in 2011, the introduction of Biodiversity Grant funding, improved Rūnaka engagement, appointment of a full-time Council Ecologist and Biodiversity Advisor and biodiversity projects on Council land such as the Wakanui Beach Restoration Initiative.

Over the last five years, Harris Scientific Reserve, a dryland kanuka remnant, has seen biannual planting to extend the kanuka forest and other native vegetation plant coverage.

And Council's grant programme continues to fund biodiversity restoration planting projects, weed controls and environmental education programs right across the district.

Who else is involved?

Protecting our district's natural environment and achieving the strategy's goals, will require all parts of the community to work together. The strategy includes actions such as connecting people to the natural environment, introducing indigenous species for ecosystem restoration to new greenfield developments and township landscape design and extending school environmental programmes.

Successful implementation will see volunteers helping at a planting day, the landowner replacing pine trees in their shelterbelt with natives, mana whenua sharing their knowledge on taoka (taonga/treasure)

¹ United Nation (2023) <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/biodiversity#:~:text=Conserving%20and%20restoring%20natural%20spaces,as%20forests%20or%20coral%20reefs>.

species, Council funding projects through biodiversity grants and stakeholders collaboratively engaging with schools to improve environmental education.

Urban residents, farmers, developers, agencies, Council and community groups all have an important role of turning the strategy's vision into reality. This strategy shares ownership for protecting our district's environment equally among the community.

How has this strategy been prepared?

This draft strategy was prepared in partnership with Te Rūnaka o Arowhenua. It builds on an initial workshop with the Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group (ADBAG) and a review of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) progress to date, consideration of other Council's plans and strategies, integrating the latest government direction and the outcome of the SWOT analysis from a workshop with key stakeholders in the district held in May 2023.

The key stakeholders included representatives from Environment Canterbury, QEII National Trust, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Primary Industry, Federated Farmers, Ashburton Community Conservation Trust, Fish and Game, Fonterra, Foothills Landowners, Synlait, Forest and Bird, Awa Awa Rata Reserve Society, Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Foothills Landcare Group, Kanuka Trust, Mt Somers Walkway Society, Mid-Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC), Whitcombe Landcare Group, Lake Heron Conservation Society and farmers.

Following the stakeholder workshop, the draft strategy has been further developed by Council staff with the input from Elected Member discussions and workshops.

Proposed new vision and goals

Our vision:

A district where biodiversity is protected and enhanced from the mountains to the sea (ki uta ki tai) by a community that values and cares for it.

Our goals:

Goal 1: The remaining indigenous biodiversity in the Ashburton District is protected and maintained.

This means (objectives):

- 1.1 Ecological values within the district are identified and protected.
- 1.2 Taoka species and sites with takata whenua cultural values are identified and protected.
- 1.3 Further loss of threatened and at-risk indigenous species is prevented by the control or eradication of pest species (fauna and flora)
- 1.4 Impacts of development and human activity on significant ecological values are properly managed.

Goal 2: The indigenous biodiversity in the Ashburton District is restored, enhanced and ecologically interconnected for the benefit of the community.

This means (objectives):

- 2.1 Indigenous vegetation cover within the district has increased over time.
- 2.2 Biodiversity sites and habitats of indigenous species and taoka are interconnected.
- 2.3 Community projects that aim to restore and ecologically link indigenous biodiversity sites and habitats in the district are identified and supported (support: time / expertise / biodiversity grant)
- 2.4 Eco-tourism through biodiversity is encouraged and promoted in Ashburton District

Goal 3: Knowledge on biodiversity is gathered and shared, informing and empowering the stakeholders and the community.

This means (objectives):

- 3.1 Research into and collection of data on the state of biodiversity in the district is improved.
- 3.2 Knowledge of mana whenua world view /Biodiversity within the district is documented and shared.
- 3.3 Knowledge of Ashburton indigenous biodiversity is shared with the community and stakeholders (landowners, industry groups, environmental protection groups, local and regional government agencies).
- 3.4 School environmental programmes are sustained and improved.

Goal 4: Collaboration and participation among Council, Rūnaka and Stakeholders in the wider community for conservation and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity is encouraged.

This means (objectives):

- 4.1 Cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders is encouraged.
- 4.2 Council takes a leadership role in working together and encouraging conservation and enhancement.
- 4.3 The general public is encouraged to participate in conservation and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity.

- 4.4 Community projects that aim to protect, maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity are supported.

Draft strategy

The full draft strategy is available at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Review process and timeline

We're accepting feedback from the community until Sunday 26 November.

On Thursday 14 December, submitters will have the opportunity to present their views to Council in person at the hearing, after which Councillors will consider and deliberate on all the submissions received.

Wednesday 25 October - Sunday 26 November

Community Consultation

Thursday 14 December

Submission hearings and deliberations

15 December – January 2024

Strategy finalisation

First quarter 2024 (exact date TBC)

Final Strategy Adoption

Have your say

Your feedback will help us to know whether we are on the right track.

Please note all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included.

Submissions presented in the form of a petition or accompanied by multiple signatures will be processed as a single submission.

The easiest way to provide your feedback is online at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Alternatively, you can provide feedback by filling in the attached submission form and getting it back to us using one of the following methods:

Freepost to Ashburton District Council
 Freepost 230444
 PO Box 94
 Ashburton 7740

Email to submissions@adc.govt.nz

Hand in to Council reception, Baring Square West

You have until Sunday 26 November 2023 to get your feedback in.

Your details

Name*

Organisation (if appropriate)

Address

Phone

Email*

*these fields are required

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

(if no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

☐ Yes:

The hearing will be held in the Council Chamber on Thursday 14 December 2023.

☐ No:

I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.

Please note that by making a submission, your information will be used in the following ways:

- Submission material, including your name and organisation (if applicable) but excluding your contact details, will be included in material available to Council, media and the public at our office and on our website.*
- The contact details you provide will be used for administration of the consultation process, including informing you of the outcome of the consultation.*
- The information you have provided will be stored and held by Council. If you would like to request access to, or make a correction to your personal information, please contact the Council staff.*

You can submit on any or all of the questions below. You don't have to complete every question and you can comment on any aspect of the draft strategy. You can provide attachments to support your submission. The full draft strategy is available at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Our vision for the district in the future is:

A district where biodiversity is protected and enhanced from the mountains to the sea (ki uta ki tai) by a community that values and cares for it.

Think about what our district thriving with biodiversity could look like in 20 years' time. What do you see?

Do the goals and objectives of the strategy capture what you see as the key issues facing biodiversity in the district?

Yes/No

Please explain:

What are your top 3 priorities for the district from the objectives mentioned in the strategy:

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Indicate top 3 priorities</i>
• Identify and protect ecological values	
• Identify and protect taoka (taonga) and their habitats	
• Prevent further loss of threatened indigenous species via pest control	
• Properly manage human activity on biodiversity	
• Increase indigenous vegetation cover	
• Interconnect biodiversity sites and threatened species habitats	
• Support projects that aim to restore and interconnect indigenous biodiversity sites	
• Encourage ecotourism	
• Research and collect data on the state of biodiversity	
• Document and share knowledge of mana whenua on biodiversity	
• Share knowledge on indigenous biodiversity with the community	
• Sustain and improve school environmental programmes	
• Encourage cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders	
• Council to take a leadership role in working together and encouraging conservation and enhancement	
• Encourage the public to participate in conservation and celebration of biodiversity	
• Support community projects that protect and maintain indigenous biodiversity	

We have identified 55 actions to reach the goals in the strategy. You can read about them in the Action Plan on page XX - XX of the draft document. Is there any specific action or anything else Council should be doing to support Biodiversity in the district?

Note – Goals and objectives related to water quality for rivers, lakes and wetlands are regulated via the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan and therefore not part of this strategy.

Any other comments or feedback:

8. *Representation Review 2023-2025*

Author	<i>Femke van der Valk; Policy Advisor</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Mark Low; Manager Strategy & Policy</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham; GM Democracy & Engagement</i>

Summary

- The purpose of the report is to advise Council of the representation review process and key dates for the process.
- The purpose of this report is to confirm the Representation Review topics that are to be considered in the pre-engagement as indicated by Council during the workshop on the Representation Review process on 16 August 2023.
- The topics suggested by Council are referring to the following arrangements;
 - Total number of councillors; elected in wards or at large
 - Option of district wide voting as well as wards
 - Option of a single rural and single urban ward
 - Option of southern and northern rural ward
 - Maori representation options
 - Ward names in Te reo
 - Methven Community Board Boundary

Recommendation

1. **That** Council receives the report.
2. **That** Council approves the proposed approach to the 2023 Representation Review, which includes the following elements:
 - a) Pre-engagement completed by end of December 2023
 - b) Initial proposal adopted by Council for consultation by end of April 2024
 - c) Final proposal notified by end of July 2024.

Background

1. Council must carry out a representation review in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001 requirements prior to the next triennial elections which are to be held on 11 October 2025.
2. The representation review occurs every six years and takes up to two years to complete.
3. The Council must determine by resolution:
 - the basis of election - whether Councillors (excluding the Mayor) are elected under wards, 'at large' (district wide) or a mixture of both.
 - where wards are to be used, Council must determine the number, boundaries and names of those wards, and the number of members per ward.
 - the structure and membership of any Community Boards that will operate in the district.
4. The arrangements that need to be reviewed are:
 - Total number of Councillors
 - Use of wards, 'at-large' or mixed approach to representation
 - Māori ward or other representation
 - Number of Councillors per ward, 'at-large' or mixture
 - Whether to have community boards (and if subdivided)
 - Number of elected and appointed members per community board
 - Boundaries and names of wards, community boards (subdivisions if applicable)
5. By carrying out a review, Council is looking to achieve effective and fair representation of all the communities of interest within the district. The Local Government Commission Guidelines identify the following three key steps for representation proposals:
 - determining communities of interest
 - considering effective representation of communities of interest
 - considering fair representation of electors.
6. Representation reviews must be conducted following the process outlined in the Local Electoral Act (LEA). Where a final proposal is objected to or appealed to the Local Government Commission, Council needs to provide evidence for its decisions and of the process it has followed.
7. Public consultation, with iwi and other groups, will be undertaken and will involve both pre-consultation and formal consultation under the Local Electoral Act (LEA).
8. Council conducted its most recent representation review in 2017-2018 which led to a change in the number of Councillors (from 12 to 9), the transfer of an area from the Eastern Ward to the Western Ward and the transfer of two areas from the Eastern Ward to Ashburton Ward (Lake Hood and Tarbottons Road).

9. A Council workshop was held on 16 August 2023 where Officers introduced the Representation Review process and timelines. During the workshop, Council considered the following topics:

- Who will be involved?

The possibility of a working group with representatives from the community or other compositions was discussed. Council noted the full Council should be involved in the representation review process.

- Total number of Councillors and number of Councillors per ward, 'at-large' or mixture:

Council noted that the pre-engagement consultation should include a discussion on the number of councillors whether elected in wards or at large (across the district). There was also a view that the reduction of 12 to 9 Councillors has worked well and support for retaining the status quo.

- Wards, 'at-large' or a mixture:

It was noted that consultation include the option of 'at large' district-wide voting as well as wards. Consultation could look at the option of a single urban and a single rural ward, or potentially having northern and southern rural wards using the Ashburton River as the boundary.

- Māori ward or other representation

It was noted that the Ashburton District currently doesn't meet the LEA threshold for establishment of a Māori ward but the Local Government Electoral Legislation Act 2023 that went through Parliament in August 2023 will require councils to consider Māori representation prior to the next local election. These changes will not come into effect until after the 2025 local elections.

The question was raised on how Arowhenua were consulted in 2017/18. Officers confirm that the discussion with Arowhenua at the time was that their then resource levels did not make this a priority to progress. However, this discussion will be reignited through this process and will consider other ways of Māori representation and including iwi – e.g. appointments / inclusion on committees / advisory groups.

- Whether to have community boards (and if subdivided) – Methven Community Board

There is currently only one Community Board in the District – the Methven Community Board (MCB). Council noted that a request from the MCB in 2020 to extend the boundary was declined at that time by the Local Government Commissions but that this will be reconsidered in this representation review process.

Council anticipates the community board will be retained with the current membership numbers.

On 4 September 2023 the Methven Community Board had a workshop and discussion on the review, and the future of the community board. The Board felt it functioned well in providing a voice for the Methven Community. They confirmed to want to make a proposal for an updated boundary of the Community Board area and referred to a discussion on the current delegations/responsibilities the board has.

The current situation

10. During the latest hui with AEC in September it was discussed that a memo will be prepared to start the conversation with the wider Rūnaka on possible Māori Representation.
11. A second Council workshop, to present Officer's research on Council's considerations from the first workshop, is scheduled on 26 October 2023.
12. A proposed timetable is outlined below in terms of the work required to meet legislative deadlines. This includes community engagement to arrive at an initial proposal.

2023	
26 October	Council workshop 2 - Representation Review
October - November – December	Pre-engagement (Community, Rūnaka)
15 November	Council meeting: Consultation document presented for approval
20 November – 18 December	Public consultation (part of pre-engagement)
2024	
Jan – March	Initial Proposal development
March (exact date TBC)	Report to Council on initial proposal
April (,,)	Adoption of Initial (Draft) proposal
April (,,)	Public Notice of Initial proposal (max 14 days after adoption initial proposal)
May (to prevent overlap LTP consultation)	One month consultation period
June / July	Council Hearing on submissions and Final proposal developed
July	Final proposal via public notice
Not later than Tuesday 3 December	Public Appeals/Objections to final proposal due
20 December	Latest date that Appeals/Objections can be forwarded to the Local Government Commission
2025	
Not later than Thursday 10 April	Determinations by LGC on representation arrangements review
Not later than Sunday 11 May	Latest date by which the Local Government Commission can determine Appeals/Objections

Legal/policy implications

13. The process is governed by the [Local Electoral Act 2001](#) (the Act) with the Local Government Commission acting as the authority charged with making the final decision on arrangements. Statutory requirements are extensive and are provided for in the Act, with the review process set out in section 19H to 19Z of the Act.
14. The [Local Government Electoral Legislation Act 2023](#) contains date changes for the Representation Review process and Amendments relating to the establishment of Māori wards and constituencies, but their implementation is delayed until after the 2025 local elections.
15. Further statutory requirements are provided for under the [Local Government Act 2002](#), in particular s.14 which requires councils to:
 - make itself aware of, and have regard to, the views of all its communities
 - take account of the diversity of the community's interests
 - provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes.

Review of legal / policy implications

Reviewed by In-house Counsel

Tania Paddock; Legal Counsel

Strategic alignment

16. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcome of 'Residents are included and have a voice', Ka whai wāhi, ka whakaputa korero kā kainoho. The Representation Review relates to all well-beings.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	Having the correct representation arrangements will contribute to Economic well-being for the community.
Environmental	✓	Having the correct representation arrangements will contribute to Environmental well-being for the community.
Cultural	✓	Having the correct representation arrangements, where the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and identities are reflected, will contribute to Cultural well-being for the community.
Social	✓	Social wellbeing refers to 'Involved individuals, their families, whanau, hapu, iwi, and a range of communities that is being able to set goals and achieve them'.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	Having the correct representation arrangements will contribute to Economic well-being for the community.
Environmental	✓	Having the correct representation arrangements will contribute to Environmental well-being for the community.
Cultural	✓	Having the correct representation arrangements, where the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and identities are reflected, will contribute to Cultural well-being for the community.
Social	✓	Social wellbeing refers to 'Involved individuals, their families, whanau, hapu, iwi, and a range of communities that is being able to set goals and achieve them'.

Significance and engagement assessment

17. The review of representation arrangements is considered significant, given the impact on the wider community, but this is an information report with no decision to consider for Council.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	Not Applicable
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform – one way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The review of representation arrangements is considered significant, given the impact on the wider community. As this is an information report, the decision to receive the information regarding the process for the representation review is not deemed significant, however, future engagement and consultation is likely to be of moderate interest to the community.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham: GM Democracy & Engagement

9. 2024 Schedule of Council Meetings

Author

Phillipa Clark, Governance Team Leader

Executive Team Member

Toni Durham, GM Democracy & Engagement

Summary

- A meeting schedule has been prepared for the Council and Methven Community Board meetings in 2024 for Council's consideration and adoption.
- The draft meeting schedule is prepared on the same basis as the 2023 calendar with two Council meetings generally on the first and third Wednesday each month.
- The Methven Community Board will consider whether to retain the six weekly meeting cycle or propose an alternative. The Board meets on 16 October and will make a recommendation to Council.
- Other Council related meetings and workshop dates will continue to be included to help elected members plan their commitments over the year.

Recommendation

- 1. That** Council adopts the 2024 schedule of Council and Methven Community Board meetings.

Attachments

Appendix 1: 2024 meeting calendar

Background

The current situation

1. Council adopted the 2023 schedule of meetings on the same basis as in 2022. The new Council took into account feedback from the previous term showing that the structure worked well and there was no compelling reason to change it. The two Council meetings each month provided timeliness of reports and reduced the need for extraordinary meetings.
2. The use of regular, scheduled workshops and activity briefings for the provision of information and discussion remains. It is proposed that Wednesdays will continue to be the primary meeting day, with Thursdays being additional / alternate meeting days.
3. Workshop dates for the Long-term Plan 2024-34 have been tentatively scheduled –
 - 17 January – workshop draft consultation document
 - 21 February – LTP consultation document adopted for consultation
 - 23 & 24 April – submitter hearings
 - 2 & 9 May – deliberations
 - 26 June – adopt LTP
4. The Methven Community Board's six week meeting cycle has been retained on the proposed schedule. Board members were asked for feedback and have opted to consider this at their meeting on 16 October, from which a recommendation will be made to Council.
5. The schedule provides for two meeting-free periods – 3 to 12 January and from 1 to 26 July.
6. To assist with programming of work, a number of other workshop and meeting dates are included on the 2024 calendar. This will also help elected members plan their commitments over the year.
7. The meeting schedule is subject to amendments and additions which the Council's business dictates. If it is necessary to cancel a scheduled meeting, all reasonable effort will be taken to notify elected members and the public as soon as practicable of the cancellation and the reasons for the cancellation.

Options analysis

Option one – Don't adopt a schedule of meetings

8. Council could choose not to adopt a schedule of meetings as there is no statutory requirement to do so.

Advantages

- Meetings could be tentatively scheduled, but brought forward or deferred,

Disadvantages

- Frequent updating of meeting schedules is time consuming and disruptive.

depending on work programme and other commitments.

- Need to be alert to timeliness of meeting notification as the Chief Executive is required to give notice to each member of any meeting at least 14 days before the meeting.

Option two – Adopt the schedule of meetings (Recommended)

9. It is recommended that Council adopts the 2024 schedule of meetings for the Council and Methven Community Board meetings, as presented, or adopt an amended version.

Advantages

- Council will be proceeding with a schedule that proved to be efficient in the past term.
- Council meetings are scheduled around a number of local government sector and external meetings that are unlikely to change.
- Provides elected members the ability to plan their commitments over the year and allows for programming of work.
- Adopting a schedule doesn't prevent Council from amending it from time to time.

Disadvantages

- The schedule creates an expectation of meetings happening on set dates regardless of whether there are sufficient items on the agenda to consider.
- Unforeseen circumstances may require a meeting schedule to be amended.

Legal/policy implications

Local Government Act 2002

10. Schedule 7, clause 19(5) sets out the requirements for notifying elected members of meetings. If adopting a schedule of meetings, the schedule may cover any future period that the Council considers appropriate, and may be amended. Notification of the schedule, or of any amendment to that schedule, constitutes a notification of every meeting on the schedule.

Strategic alignment

11. Council meetings are part of the democratic process. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcome of "*Residents are included and have a voice*" because Council meetings provide opportunity for residents to influence Council decision-making through attending Council meetings and having their say.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic		
Environmental		
Cultural	✓	We celebrate our identity, heritage and cultural diversity and we are an organisation that collaborates with partners and engages in two-way dialogue with our communities in order for them to have the opportunity to influence local outcomes and decisions, and to gain a sense of ownership of our plans, strategies and decisions.
Social	✓	Our community feels a sense of belonging, inclusion and social connectedness. The numbers responding to consultations is also a measure.

Financial implications

12. There are no budget implications arising from the proposal to adopt a meeting schedule.

Significance and engagement assessment

13. Consultation with the wider community isn't required. Council's governance arrangements are guided by legislation and best practice.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No.
Level of significance	Low.
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform – one-way communication.
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	Council establishes its governance structure within the parameters of legislation. The community is informed through notices of meetings and web based communication.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham: GM Democracy & Engagement

ADC MEETING CALENDAR 2024

DRAFT for Council 18/10/23

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
MON	1 Closed						1						MON
TUE	2 Closed						2			1			TUE
WED	3				1 Council		3			2 Council			WED
THU	4	1			2 Submission deliberations		4	1		3			THU
FRI	5	2	1		3		5	2		4	1		FRI
SAT	6	3	2		4	1	6	3		5	2		SAT
SUN	7	4	3		5	2	7	4	1	6	3	1	SUN
MON	8	5	4	1 Easter	6 CE Forum	3 King's Birthday	8	5	2	7	4	2 MCB	MON
TUE	9	6 Waitangi	5	2 RDRML	7 RDRML	4	9	6	3	8	5	3	TUE
WED	10	7 Council	6 Council	3 Council	8 Briefings Audit & Risk	5 Council	10	7 Council	4 Council	9	6 Council	4 Council	WED
THU	11	8	7 R&P	4	9 Submission deliberations	6	11	8	5	10	7	5	THU
FRI	12	9	8	5	10	7	12	9	6	11	8	6	FRI
SAT	13	10	9	6	11	8	13	10	7	12	9	7	SAT
SUN	14	11	10	7	12	9	14	11	8	13	10	8	SUN
MON	15	12	11 MCB	8	13	10 MCB	15	12	9 MCB	14	11	9	MON
TUE	16	13 RDRML	12	9	14	11	16	13 RDRML	10	15	12 RDRML	10	TUE
WED	17 LTP Workshop	14 Briefings Audit & Risk	13	10	15 Council	12 Briefings Audit & Risk	17	14	11 Briefings Audit & Risk	16 Council	13	11	WED
THU	18	15	14	11 LGNZ Combined	16	13	18	15	12	17	14	12	THU
FRI	19	16	15	12	17	14	19	16	13	18	15 Canterbury Anniversary	13	FRI
SAT	20	17	16	13	18	15	20	17	14	19	16	14	SAT
SUN	21	18	17	14	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	15	SUN
MON	22	19	18	15	20	17	22	19	16	21 MCB CE Forum	18	16	MON
TUE	23 PCG	20 PCG	19 PCG	16 PCG	21 PCG	18 RDRML	23	20 Council	17 RDRML	22 RDRML	19	17 RDRML	TUE
WED	24	21 Council	20 Council	17 Council	22	19 Council	24	21 LGNZ Conference	18 Council	23 Briefings Audit & Risk	20 Council	18 Council	WED
THU	25	22 Mayoral Forum	21	18	23	20	25	22 LGNZ Conference	19	24	21 LGNZ Combined	19	THU
FRI	26	23 Mayoral Forum	22	19	24	21	26	23 LGNZ Conference	20	25	22 R&P	20	FRI
SAT	27	24	23	20	25	22	27	24	21	26	23	21	SAT
SUN	28	25	24	21	26	23	28	25	22	27	24	22	SUN
MON	29 MCB CE Forum	26	25	22 MCB	27	24	29 MCB CE Forum	26	23	28 Labour	25	23	MON
TUE	30	27	26	23 Subms hearings	28	25	30	27	24	29	26	24	TUE
WED	31	28 Agencies	27 Briefings Audit & Risk	24 Subms hearings	29	26 Extra Council	31 Briefings Audit & Risk	28	25 Agencies	30 Extra Council	27 Briefings Audit & Risk	25 Closed	WED
THU		29	28	25 ANZAC	30 CMF	27		29 CMF	26	31	28 CMF	26 Closed	THU
FRI			29 Easter	26	31 CMF	28 Matariki		30 CMF	27		29 CMF	27 Closed	FRI
SAT			30	27		29			28		30	28	SAT
SUN			31	28		30			29			29	SUN
MON				29					30			30 Closed	MON
TUE				30								31 Closed	TUE
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	

Meeting	Start time	
Council	1.00pm	Generally 1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays each month (except Jan & July)
Council Briefings	9.30am	Wednesday, generally 6 weekly
Audit & Risk Committee	1.30pm	Wednesday, generally 6 weekly (same day as activity briefings)
Council Workshops	am/pm	Wednesdays (when free) / Thursday (contingency)
Youth Council	4.00pm	Dates/times tbc
Library & Civic Centre PCG	9.30am	Generally 2 nd Tuesday each month <i>[Will cease early/mid year]</i>
Biodiversity Advisory	1.00pm	Generally 1 st Monday x 4 per year
Road Safety Committee	9.30am	Generally 1 st Tuesday x 4 per year
Methven Community Board	9.00am	Mondays, 6-7-weekly (x 8 per year)
Water Zone Committee	1.00pm	Generally 4 th Tuesday (monthly)
Mayoral Forum Canterbury mayors, Canterbury Regional Council Chair, Canterbury council chief executives		
CE Forum (Canterbury council chief executives		
LGNZ Sector meetings Zone 5/6 and R&P (Rural & Provincial) LGNZ Combined (Combined sector)		

Dates to Note	
Waitangi Day	Tue 6 February
Adopt draft Long-term Plan	Wed 21 February
Good Friday	29 March
Easter Monday	1 April
Anzac Day	Thu 25 April
Kings Birthday	Mon 3 June
Adopt Long-term Plan 2024-34	Wed 26 June
Matariki	Fri 28 June
Meeting-free period 3-12 January & 1-26 July	
LGNZ Conference	21-23 August
Labour Day	Mon 28 October
Adopt Annual Report	Wed 30 October
Canterbury Anniversary Day	Fri 15 November
Council Agencies (6 month reports)	28 Feb & 25 Sep

10. Financial Reports

Author *Erin Register, Finance Manager*
GM responsible *Leanne Macdonald, GM Business Support*

Attachments

Financial variance report – August 2023

***Ashburton District Council
Financial Variance Report
For the period ending
31 August 2023***

Variances greater than \$100,000 are highlighted in **red bold**. If the variance is permanent an explanation is provided.

F (favourable variance) means that either actual revenue is greater than budget or actual expenditure is less than budget.

U (unfavourable variance) is **when** actual revenue is less than budget or actual expenditure is greater than budget.

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Income and Expenditure – Overview

For period ending 31 August 2023

\$15.06 M Actual YTD Operating Income	\$91.34 M Budget Full Year Operating Income	(\$76.28) M Variance Operating Income	16% % of Budget Operating Income
\$12.74 M Actual YTD Operating Expenditure	\$81.58 M Budget Full Year Operating Expenditure	(\$68.85) M Variance Operating Expenditure	16% % of Budget Operating Expenditure
\$0.01 M Actual YTD Capital Income	\$26.63 M Budget Full Year Capital Income	(\$26.62) M Variance Capital Income	0% % of Budget Capital Income
\$7.72 M Actual YTD Capital Expenditure	\$42.60 M Budget Full Year Capital Expenditure	(\$34.88) M Variance Capital Expenditure	18% % of Budget Capital Expenditure
\$0.00 M Actual YTD Loans Repaid	\$7.02 M Budget Full Year Loans Repaid	(\$7.02) M Variance Loans Repaid	0% % of Budget Loans Repaid

Note: Budgeted Capital Expenditure excludes carry forward of \$37.04 M. As at the end of August, Capital Expenditure equates to 10% of Forecast Capital Expenditure (including carry forwards).

Income and Expenditure – Summary

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Full Year Budget	Variance	Percentage of Budget
Revenue				
Rates	7,949,829	46,905,992	(38,956,163)	17%
Fees and Charges	2,436,520	11,044,099	(8,607,579)	22%
Subsidies and Grants	3,075,694	10,881,403	(7,805,709)	28%
Finance Income	70,645	417,200	(346,555)	17%
Other Revenue	1,324,613	5,394,060	(4,069,447)	25%
Other Sales	70,492	1,139,074	(1,068,583)	6%
Development / Financial Contributions	133,127	632,800	(499,673)	21%
Gain on Sale of Assets	0	12,107,828	(12,107,828)	0%
Vested Assets	0	2,816,100	(2,816,100)	0%
Total Revenue	15,060,920	91,338,557	(76,277,637)	16%
Operating Expenditure				
Payments to Staff and Suppliers	9,069,052	59,802,669	(50,733,617)	15%
Finance Costs	789,399	4,576,131	(3,786,733)	17%
Other Expenses	42,444	205,155	(162,711)	21%
Depreciation	2,835,143	16,998,015	(14,162,872)	17%
Total Expenditure	12,736,038	81,581,971	(68,845,933)	16%
Net operating surplus (deficit)	2,324,882	9,756,586	(7,431,704)	24%
Capital Income				
Loans Raised	0	21,728,878	(21,728,878)	0%
Land Sales	0	4,797,800	(4,797,800)	0%
Other Asset Sales & Disposals	13,913	104,300	(90,387)	13%
Total Capital Income	13,913	26,630,978	(26,617,065)	0%
Capital Expenditure				
Infrastructural Assets	2,863,447	22,700,929	(19,837,482)	13%
Cyclic Renewals	1,778,988	14,278,380	(12,499,393)	12%
Plant	56,960	456,834	(399,874)	12%
Additions/Alterations	2,820,691	1,696,627	1,124,064	166%
Other Assets	195,305	3,464,551	(3,269,245)	6%
Total capital expenditure	7,715,391	42,597,322	(34,881,931)	18%
Loan Repayments	0	7,024,840	(7,024,840)	0%
Total capital to be funded	7,701,478	22,991,184	(15,289,706)	33%

Transportation – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Footpaths	288,096	1,331,840	(1,043,745)	22%	No
Roading	2,819,350	15,805,183	(12,985,833)	18%	No
	3,107,446	17,137,023	(14,029,577)	18%	
Operating Expenditure					
Footpaths	234,527	1,451,336	(1,216,809)	16%	No
Roading	3,075,138	15,805,184	(12,730,046)	19%	No
	3,309,665	17,256,520	(13,946,855)	19%	
Capital Income					
Footpaths	0	11,053	(11,053)	0%	
Roading	0	2,342,897	(2,342,897)	0%	No
	0	2,353,950	(2,353,950)	0%	
Capital Expenditure					
Footpaths	281,574	521,500	(239,926)	54%	No
Roading	1,269,458	9,378,039	(8,108,580)	14%	No
	1,551,032	9,899,539	(8,348,507)	16%	
Loan Repayments					
Footpaths	0	60,728	(60,728)	0%	
Roading	0	254,177	(254,177)	0%	No
	0	314,905	(314,905)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Development Contributions	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	0	0	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Drinking Water – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Group Water Supplies	1,094,318	6,135,928	(5,041,609)	18%	No
Methven/Springfield Water Supply	11,914	356,307	(344,393)	3%	No
Montalto Water Supply	64,591	383,282	(318,691)	17%	No
Lyndhurst Water Supply	2,736	17,974	(15,238)	15%	
Barhill Water Supply	817	4,830	(4,013)	17%	
	1,174,377	6,898,321	(5,723,944)	17%	
Operating Expenditure					
Group Water Supplies	684,517	5,990,197	(5,305,679)	11%	No
Methven/Springfield Water Supply	38,407	359,541	(321,135)	11%	No
Montalto Water Supply	40,001	386,087	(346,086)	10%	No
Lyndhurst Water Supply	1,289	4,926	(3,637)	26%	
Barhill Water Supply	374	1,405	(1,031)	27%	
	764,588	6,742,156	(5,977,568)	11%	
Capital Income					
Group Water Supplies	0	4,944,341	(4,944,341)	0%	No
Methven/Springfield Water Supply	0	3,586,089	(3,586,089)	0%	No
Montalto Water Supply	0	363,847	(363,847)	0%	No
	0	8,894,277	(8,894,277)	0%	
Capital Expenditure					
Group Water Supplies	2,069,057	5,614,829	(3,545,772)	37%	No
Methven/Springfield Water Supply	0	3,689,960	(3,689,960)	0%	No
Montalto Water Supply	202	490,210	(490,008)	0%	No
	2,069,259	9,794,999	(7,725,740)	21%	
Loan Repayments					
Group Water Supplies	0	734,823	(734,823)	0%	No
Methven/Springfield Water Supply	0	46,006	(46,006)	0%	
Lyndhurst Water Supply	0	13,048	(13,048)	0%	
Barhill Water Supply	0	3,425	(3,425)	0%	
	0	810,161	(810,161)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Development Contributions	42,071	178,232	(136,161)	24%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	1,189,020	(1,189,020)	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Wastewater – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Ashburton Wastewater	961,037	5,041,400	(4,080,362)	19%	No
Methven Wastewater	97,560	479,331	(381,771)	20%	No
Rakaia Wastewater	58,049	424,516	(366,468)	14%	No
	1,116,646	5,945,247	(4,828,601)	19%	
Operating Expenditure					
Ashburton Wastewater	771,058	4,699,136	(3,928,078)	16%	No
Methven Wastewater	85,069	479,480	(394,411)	18%	No
Rakaia Wastewater	59,348	426,096	(366,747)	14%	No
	915,475	5,604,712	(4,689,236)	16%	
Capital Income					
Ashburton Wastewater	0	2,197,148	(2,197,148)	0%	No
Rakaia Wastewater			0	0%	
	0	2,197,148	(2,197,148)	0%	
Capital Expenditure					
Ashburton Wastewater	392,708	2,843,998	(2,451,290)	14%	No
Methven Wastewater	51,796	165,082	(113,286)	31%	No
Rakaia Wastewater	16,370	0	16,370	0%	
	460,874	3,009,080	(2,548,206)	15%	
Loan Repayments					
Ashburton Wastewater	0	1,456,620	(1,456,620)	0%	No
Methven Wastewater	0	16,277	(16,277)	0%	
Rakaia Wastewater	0	54,326	(54,326)	0%	
	0	1,527,223	(1,527,223)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Capital Services Contribution	171,323	383,791	(212,468)	45%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	1,397,620	(1,397,620)	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Stormwater – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Ashburton Stormwater	227,125	1,336,985	(1,109,861)	17%	No
Methven Stormwater	15,213	87,334	(72,121)	17%	
Rakaia Stormwater	8,102	45,619	(37,517)	18%	
Hinds Stormwater	1,942	11,493	(9,552)	17%	
Rural Stormwater	9,130	52,127	(42,997)	18%	
	261,512	1,533,558	(1,272,047)	17%	
Operating Expenditure					
Ashburton Stormwater	177,058	1,387,820	(1,210,762)	13%	No
Methven Stormwater	19,794	90,869	(71,075)	22%	
Rakaia Stormwater	6,543	47,418	(40,875)	14%	
Hinds Stormwater	729	11,729	(11,001)	6%	
Rural Stormwater	14,889	53,535	(38,646)	28%	
	219,012	1,591,371	(1,372,359)	14%	
Capital Expenditure					
Ashburton Stormwater	0	24,140	(24,140)	0%	
	0	24,140	(24,140)	0%	
Loan Repayments					
Ashburton Stormwater	0	273,939	(273,939)	0%	No
Methven Stormwater	0	7,539	(7,539)	0%	
	0	281,478	(281,478)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Development Contributions	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	229,460	(229,460)	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Stockwater – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Stockwater	174,291	1,109,456	(935,165)	16%	No
	174,291	1,109,456	(935,165)	16%	
Operating Expenditure					
Stockwater	170,320	1,141,752	(971,432)	15%	No
	170,320	1,141,752	(971,432)	15%	
Capital Expenditure					
Stockwater	8,674	0	8,674	0%	
	8,674	0	8,674	0%	
Loan Repayments					
Stockwater	0	17,674	(17,674)	0%	
	0	17,674	(17,674)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities</i>					

Waste Reduction & Recycling – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Refuse Collection	511,157	2,966,392	(2,455,235)	17%	No
Refuse Management	832,854	5,117,713	(4,284,859)	16%	No
	<u>1,344,011</u>	<u>8,084,106</u>	<u>(6,740,095)</u>	<u>17%</u>	
Operating Expenditure					
Refuse Collection	194,236	2,966,390	(2,772,154)	7%	No
Refuse Management	825,845	5,463,623	(4,637,778)	15%	No
	<u>1,020,081</u>	<u>8,430,013</u>	<u>(7,409,932)</u>	<u>12%</u>	
Capital Income					
Refuse Management	0	198,707	(198,707)	0%	No
	<u>0</u>	<u>198,707</u>	<u>(198,707)</u>	<u>0%</u>	
Capital Expenditure					
Refuse Management	134,226	182,525	(48,299)	74%	
	<u>134,226</u>	<u>182,525</u>	<u>(48,299)</u>	<u>74%</u>	
Loan Repayments					
Refuse Collection	0	4,462	(4,462)	0%	
Refuse Management	0	27,710	(27,710)	0%	
	<u>0</u>	<u>32,172</u>	<u>(32,172)</u>	<u>0%</u>	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Development Contributions	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	0	0	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Recreation Facilities – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery	322,828	1,850,284	(1,527,456)	17%	No
Library	242,668	1,421,935	(1,179,267)	17%	No
Recreation Facilities and Services	974,583	5,928,186	(4,953,603)	16%	No
	1,540,079	9,200,405	(7,660,326)	17%	
Operating Expenditure					
Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery	310,545	2,288,305	(1,977,760)	14%	No
Library	285,084	1,770,933	(1,485,850)	16%	No
Recreation Facilities and Services	1,047,193	7,038,217	(5,991,024)	15%	No
	1,642,822	11,097,455	(9,454,634)	15%	
Capital Income					
Library	0	157,309	(157,309)	0%	No
	0	157,309	(157,309)	0%	
Capital Expenditure					
Ashburton Museum and Art Gallery	3,659	76,157	(72,497)	5%	
Library	19,482	236,427	(216,945)	8%	No
Recreation Facilities and Services	41,892	316,759	(274,867)	13%	No
	65,033	629,343	(564,310)	10%	
Loan Repayments					
Recreation Facilities and Services	0	10,822	(10,822)	0%	
	0	17,926	(3,718)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Development Contributions	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	0	0	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Recreation & Community Services – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Public Conveniences	210,815	689,305	(478,490)	31%	No
Elderly Persons Housing	110,788	686,938	(576,150)	16%	No
Memorial Halls	64,524	306,558	(242,034)	21%	No
Reserves and Camping Grounds	188,190	808,094	(619,904)	23%	No
Reserve Boards	105,129	596,951	(491,822)	18%	No
Community Safety	8,430	45,436	(37,006)	19%	
	687,876	3,133,283	(2,445,407)	22%	
Operating Expenditure					
Public Conveniences	56,566	591,808	(535,243)	10%	No
Elderly Persons Housing	117,189	750,588	(633,398)	16%	No
Memorial Halls	88,614	595,145	(506,531)	15%	No
Reserves and Camping Grounds	138,998	1,039,379	(900,381)	13%	No
Reserve Boards	125,607	581,370	(455,762)	22%	No
Community Safety	8,468	57,826	(49,358)	15%	
	535,442	3,616,116	(3,080,673)	15%	
Capital Income					
Elderly Persons Housing	0	909,920	(909,920)	0%	No
Reserve Boards	0	54,236	(54,236)	0%	
	0	964,156	(964,156)	0%	
Capital Expenditure					
Public Conveniences	60,954	0	60,954	0%	No
Elderly Persons Housing	1,760	959,560	(957,800)	0%	
Memorial Halls	0	4,172	(4,172)	0%	
Reserve Boards	80,769	74,053	6,717	109%	
	143,483	1,037,785	(894,302)	14%	
Loan Repayments					
Public Conveniences	0	251,946	(251,946)	0%	No
Elderly Persons Housing	0	9,929	(9,929)	0%	
Reserves and Camping Grounds	0	2,252	(2,252)	0%	
Reserve Boards	0	14,587	(14,587)	0%	
	0	278,714	(278,714)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Development Contributions	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	0	0	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Economic Development – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Commercial Property	2,388,240	19,924,084	(17,535,843)	12%	No
Business & Economic Development	314,906	734,060	(419,154)	43%	No
District Promotion	38,726	226,974	(188,248)	17%	No
Forestry	34,875	604,619	(569,744)	6%	No
	2,776,747	21,489,736	(18,712,989)	13%	
Operating Expenditure					
Commercial Property	1,797,050	6,757,575	(4,960,525)	27%	No
Business & Economic Development	126,072	863,517	(737,445)	15%	No
District Promotion	13,649	262,423	(248,774)	5%	No
Forestry	74,035	474,897	(400,863)	16%	No
	2,010,807	8,358,413	(6,347,607)	24%	
Capital Income					
Commercial Property	0	11,363,618	(11,363,618)	0%	No
	0	11,363,618	(11,363,618)	0%	
Capital Expenditure					
Commercial Property	2,765,471	13,594,462	(10,828,991)	20%	No
	2,765,471	13,594,462	(10,828,991)	20%	
Loan Repayments					
Commercial Property	0	3,254,184	(3,254,184)	0%	No
	0	3,254,184	(3,254,184)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Development Contributions	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	0	0	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Parks & Open Spaces – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Cemeteries	110,729	617,045	(506,316)	18%	No
Parks and Recreation	858,046	4,857,121	(3,999,074)	18%	No
	968,776	5,474,166	(4,505,390)	18%	
Operating Expenditure					
Cemeteries	93,840	732,549	(638,709)	13%	No
Parks and Recreation	567,990	4,461,100	(3,893,110)	13%	No
	661,830	5,193,649	(4,531,819)	13%	
Capital Income					
Parks and Recreation	0	397,513	(397,513)	0%	No
	0	397,513	(397,513)	0%	
Capital Expenditure					
Parks and Recreation	338,669	662,305	(323,636)	51%	No
	384,405	662,305	(277,900)	58%	
Loan Repayments					
Cemeteries	0	14,587	(14,587)	0%	
Parks and Recreation	0	199,248	(199,248)	0%	No
	0	213,835	(213,835)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Development Contributions	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	0	0	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

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Community Governance & Decision Making – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Council	473,333	2,768,827	(2,295,494)	17%	No
Methven Community Board	25,804	148,349	(122,545)	17%	No
Youth Council	2,283	12,551	(10,268)	18%	
Community Grants Funding	446,501	1,614,191	(1,167,690)	28%	No
Water Zone Committee	21,563	132,511	(110,948)	16%	No
	969,484	4,676,429	(3,706,945)	21%	
Operating Expenditure					
Council	441,175	3,481,421	(3,040,246)	13%	No
Methven Community Board	10,512	148,517	(138,006)	7%	No
Youth Council	897	13,702	(12,806)	7%	
Community Grants Funding	554,084	1,225,178	(671,094)	45%	No
Water Zone Committee	16,704	154,890	(138,186)	11%	No
	1,023,372	5,023,709	(4,000,336)	20%	
Loan Repayments					
Community Grants Funding	0	99,000	(99,000)	0%	
Water Zone Committee	0	18,000	(18,000)	0%	
	0	117,000	(117,000)	0%	

The above financials include the following:

Development Contributions	263,743	561,984	(298,241)	47%
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The above financials do not include the following:

Vested Assets	0	0	0	0%
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The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Environmental Services – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Environmental Health	4,879	176,314	(171,435)	3%	No
Building Regulation	466,887	2,665,224	(2,198,336)	18%	No
Emergency Management	20,961	124,657	(103,696)	17%	No
Liquor Licensing	28,829	169,995	(141,166)	17%	No
Land Information Memorandum	13,756	104,343	(90,587)	13%	
Parking	36,824	228,184	(191,360)	16%	No
Animal Control	408,745	549,035	(140,291)	74%	No
Resource Consents	138,353	702,232	(563,879)	20%	No
Monitoring and Enforcement	53,853	324,728	(270,876)	17%	No
Planning	64,841	393,592	(328,751)	16%	No
	1,237,928	5,438,303	(4,200,375)	23%	
Operating Expenditure					
Environmental Health	31,379	218,077	(186,698)	14%	No
Building Regulation	382,821	2,685,147	(2,302,326)	14%	No
Emergency Management	6,656	105,112	(98,456)	6%	
Liquor Licensing	29,991	190,185	(160,194)	16%	No
Land Information Memorandum	17,295	104,343	(87,048)	17%	
Parking	43,933	240,625	(196,692)	18%	No
Animal Control	77,688	585,146	(507,458)	13%	No
Resource Consents	115,119	770,783	(655,664)	15%	No
Monitoring and Enforcement	55,560	439,293	(383,733)	13%	No
Planning	50,613	482,052	(431,439)	10%	No
	811,055	5,820,763	(5,009,708)	14%	
Loan Repayments					
Animal Control	0	4,400	(4,400)	0%	
Planning	0	144,302	(144,302)	0%	No
	0	148,702	(148,702)	0%	
<i>The above financials include the following:</i>					
Development Contributions	0	0	0	0%	
<i>The above financials do not include the following:</i>					
Vested Assets	0	0	0	0%	

The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Miscellaneous, Dividends & Internal Overheads – Income & Expenditure Report

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Operating Income					
Dividends and Interest	226,645	1,329,981	(1,103,336)	17%	No
Library and Civic Centre	31,963	416,958	(384,995)	8%	No
Executive Team	285,625	1,781,255	(1,495,630)	16%	No
People & Capability	186,374	1,273,939	(1,087,565)	15%	No
Information Systems	580,218	3,765,936	(3,185,718)	15%	No
Customer Services	91,871	747,023	(655,152)	12%	No
Treasury	187,017	1,586,875	(1,399,858)	12%	No
Rates	96,151	825,430	(729,279)	12%	No
Community Relations	142,691	1,038,306	(895,615)	14%	No
Communications	125,996	990,062	(864,067)	13%	No
Property Administration	226,028	1,693,906	(1,467,878)	13%	No
Service Delivery	579,512	4,051,793	(3,472,281)	14%	No
Parks Administration	409,948	3,830,491	(3,420,543)	11%	No
Plant Operations	76,472	963,206	(886,734)	8%	No
	3,246,510	24,295,161	(21,048,651)	13%	
Operating Expenditure					
Dividends and Interest	10	55,003	(54,992)	0%	
Library and Civic Centre	31,963	416,923	(384,961)	8%	No
Executive Team	285,625	1,781,256	(1,495,630)	16%	No
People & Capability	186,374	1,273,939	(1,087,566)	15%	No
Information Systems	580,226	4,203,764	(3,623,538)	14%	No
Customer Services	91,877	746,909	(655,033)	12%	No
Treasury	187,017	1,586,875	(1,399,859)	12%	No
Rates	136,466	825,430	(688,964)	17%	No
Community Relations	142,692	1,038,305	(895,613)	14%	No
Communications	125,994	990,062	(864,068)	13%	No
Property Administration	226,031	1,785,673	(1,559,643)	13%	No
Service Delivery	579,512	4,051,793	(3,472,281)	14%	No
Parks Administration	409,948	3,749,959	(3,340,010)	11%	No
Plant Operations	131,523	923,573	(792,050)	14%	No
	3,115,258	23,429,465	(20,314,207)	13%	
Capital Income					
Plant Operations	13,913	104,300	(90,387)	13%	
	13,913	104,300	(90,387)	13%	
Capital Expenditure					
Information Systems	75,974	490,210	(414,236)	15%	No
Plant Operations	56,960	456,834	(399,874)	12%	No
	132,934	947,044	(814,110)	14%	

The above financials include the following:

Development Contributions	0	0	0	0%
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The above financials do not include the following:

Vested Assets	0	0	0	0%
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The above financials do not include appropriations - to and from activities

Miscellaneous, Dividends & Internal Overheads – Operating Income

Dividends and Interest

\$1,103,336U

Reason for variance

Dividends and Interest includes a dividend received from Transwaste of \$156,000.

Loan Repayments

For period ending 31 August 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget Full Year	Variance	Percentage of Budget	Permanent Variance
Loan Repayments	0	7,024,840	(7,024,840)	0%	No

Balance Sheet - DRAFT

As at 31 August 2023

	YTD Actual	2023 Actual
Public Equity		
Ratepayers Equity	523,861,946	523,861,946
Revaluation Reserves	361,083,562	360,123,934
Funds and Reserves	66,057,603	66,057,603
	951,003,111	950,043,482
Non-Current Liabilities		
External Loans	95,600,000	85,600,000
Other Term Liabilities	327,626	327,626
	95,927,626	85,927,626
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	1,326,756	7,794,159
Deposits & Bonds	1,540,716	1,287,724
Other Current Liabilities	(30,019)	804,558
Accrued Liabilities	7,147,075	10,128,322
	9,984,529	20,014,763
Total Equity & Liabilities	1,056,915,265	1,055,985,871
Fixed Assets	147,114,533	147,114,533
	0	
Infrastructural Assets	801,957,926	804,793,069
Work in Progress	67,254,089	67,254,089
Advances	390,958	390,958
Shares	9,438,455	9,188,455
Current Assets		
Cash & Bank	3,513,887	7,681,523
Cash Investments	12,000,000	3,100,000
GST	845,400	2,181,615
Receivables	9,603,471	7,173,500
Provision for Doubtful Debts	(58,933)	(58,933)
Stock	86,767	86,767
Accruals	2,823,934	5,327,882
Other Current Assets	1,944,781	1,752,416
	30,759,307	27,244,769
Total Assets	1,056,915,265	1,055,985,871

Net Debt and Borrowings

As at 31 August 2023

Net Debt

95.60 M	-	15.51 M	=	80.09 M
External Loans		Liquid Assets		Net Debt

External Borrowing

LGFA 2023	12,000,000	5.79%	Floating	15-Nov-23
LGFA 2020 Coupon	2,000,000	5.77%	Floating	15-Apr-24
LGFA 2022	5,000,000	6.10%	Floating	15-Apr-24
LGFA 2021	5,000,000	5.83%	Floating	15-Apr-24
LGFA 2022	3,000,000	5.84%	Floating	15-Apr-25
LGFA 2022	5,000,000	5.90%	Floating	15-Apr-25
LGFA 2023	7,000,000	5.92%	Floating	15-Apr-25
LGFA 2020	10,000,000	6.18%	Floating	15-Apr-26
LGFA 2023	5,000,000	6.02%	Floating	15-Apr-26
LGFA 2023	5,000,000	6.19%	Floating	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2020 Coupon	5,000,000	1.23%	Fixed	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2020 Coupon	5,000,000	0.97%	Fixed	15-Apr-27
LGFA 2021 Coupon	16,600,000	2.01%	Fixed	15-May-28
LGFA 2022	<u>10,000,000</u>	6.19%	Floating	20-Apr-29
Total External Funding	95,600,000			

Borrowing by Activity

As at 31 August 2023

Activity	External Borrowing	Internal Borrowing
Commercial Property	45,954,424	1,377,499
Wastewater	19,019,859	-
Drinking Water	12,343,492	-
Environmental Services	833,006	-
Stormwater	2,916,797	-
Cemeteries	1,712,720	23,730
Water Resources	343,360	-
Arts & Culture	2,146,004	-
Refuse and Recycling	776,728	38,419
Stockwater	301,727	31,567
Roading	6,024,463	1,156,952
Footpaths	684,328	-
Recreation Facilities	49,106	-
Civic Building	43,794	-
Parks	1,559,207	196,852
Camping	16,873	-
Public Conveniences	184,112	-
Reserve Boards	690,000	-
Total	95,600,000	2,825,019

Council Investments

As at 31 August 2023

Listed below are the current significant investments held by Council.

Term Deposit	Principal	Interest	Term	Maturity
Westpac	8,000,000	4.86	30 Days	22-Sep-23
	8,000,000			

Local Authority Stock and Bonds	Principal	Interest	Term	Maturity
Bonds				
ANZ	1,000,000	3.00%	6.07%	17-Sep-26
Westpac	1,100,000	6.19%	6.05%	16-Sep-27
Kiwibank	1,000,000	5.74%	5.50%	19-Oct-27
Westpac	900,000	6.73%	6.60%	14-Feb-28
	4,000,000			

Advances

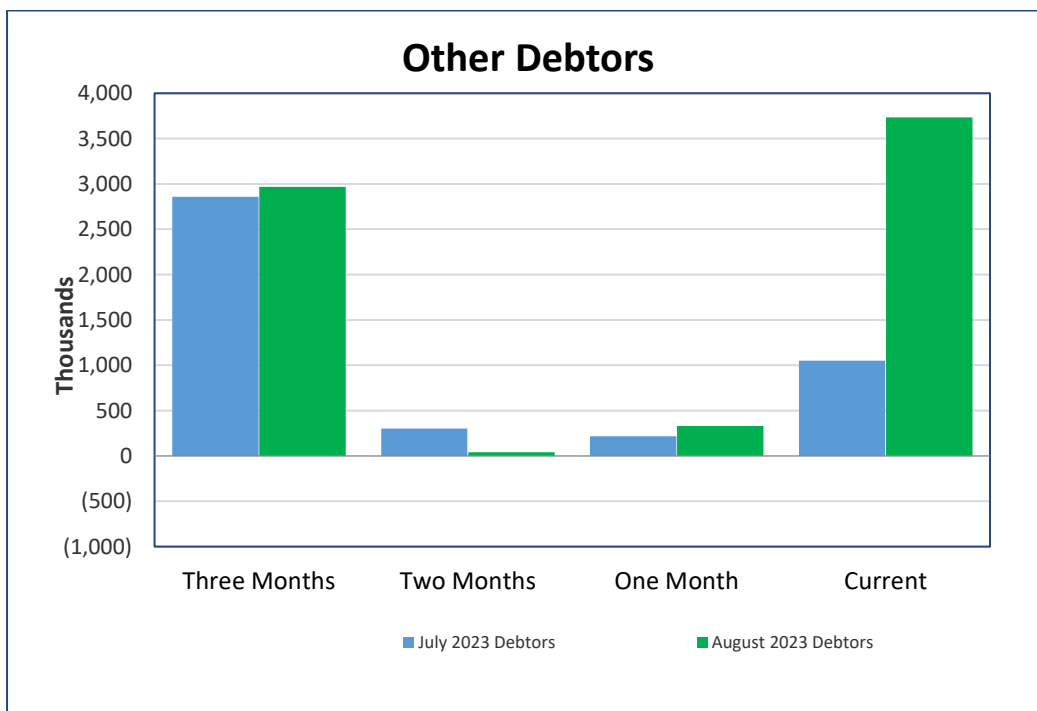
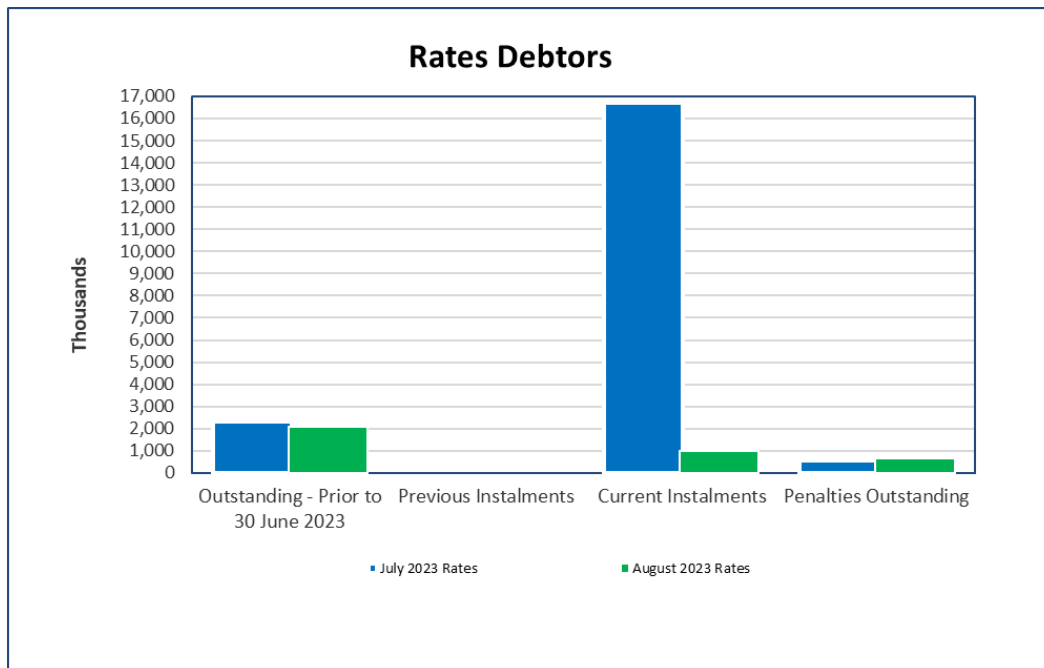
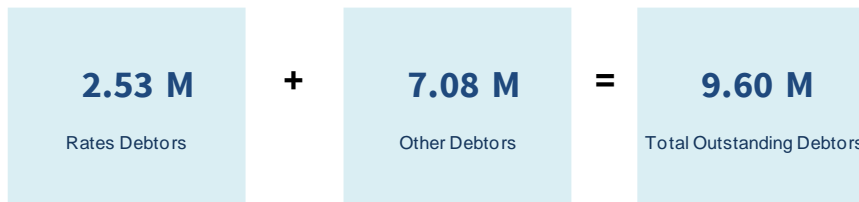
Eastfield Investments	390,958
	390,958

Shares

Ashburton Contracting Ltd	4,500,000
NZ Local Govt Co-op Shares	52,655
RDR Management	30,000
Transwaste Canterbury Ltd	1,044,000
ATS	500
Electricity Ashburton Rebates	1,300
LGFA Equity	2,045,000
Eastfield Investments	1,765,000
	9,438,455

Receivables Summary (Including Prior Month Comparative)

As at 31 August 2023



Receivables Summary continued

Outstanding Debtors over 90 days	
>\$100,000	2
\$50,000 - \$100,000	1
\$30,000 - \$50,000	4
\$10,000 - \$30,000	8

The above debtors are being actively managed or under a resolution process.

11. Mayor's Report

11.1 LGNZ Voting Provincial Sector Chair/National Council Representative

Following the recent election New Plymouth District Council Mayor Neil Holdom was elected as both Provincial Sector Chair and National Council representative.

11.2 Meetings

- **Mayoral calendar**

October 2023

- 5 October: Tim Wilkie with CE Hamish Riach
- 5 October: Canterbury Regional Transport Committee
- 6 October: Methven water treatment plant official opening
- 6 October: LGNZ CE Susan Freeman-Greene and President Mayor Sam Broughton with CE Hamish Riach and available Councillors
- 9 October: Citizen Advice Bureau with CE Hamish Riach
- 9 October: Ashburton Art Gallery Christmas card competition
- 9 October: Hospice Supporters function
- 10 October: Library and Civic Centre PCG meeting and site visit
- 11 October: Development Contributions and Emergency Management Bill submission workshops
- 11 October: LTP pre-engagement workshop
- 12 October: Financial Strategy and Stockwater workshops
- 13 October: Lyndhurst Water, ECan and MP Jo Luxton meeting
- 13 October: HHWET meeting
- 14 October: Ashburton Diwali and Graba Night – Cr Todd deputising
- 14 October: Mid Canterbury Netball 100 year celebration
- 16 October: Ashburton College head student interviews
- 16 October: Advance Ashburton
- 17 October: MTFJ promotion opportunities with Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan
- 17 October: RDRML AGM and Board meeting
- 18 October: NZ Transport Agency draft investment prioritisation method 2024-27 (webinar)
- 18 October: Council meeting

Recommendation

That Council receives the Mayor's report.
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Neil Brown
Mayor