

Ashburton District Council

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

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

Date: Wednesday 19 February 2025

Time: 3pm

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

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
3.00pm	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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Reports

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Business Transacted with the Public Excluded

11	Council – 5/02/25	PE 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">P&C Quarterly reportLand purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Section 7(2)(a) Protection of privacy of natural personsSection 7(2)(h) Commercial activities
12	Methven Community Board – 27/01/25	PE 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities

4. Council Minutes – 5 February 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 5 February 2025, commencing at 1.00pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

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

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Tania Paddock (Acting GM Business Support) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Tayyaba Latif (Policy Advisor), Lou Dunstan (Policy Advisor), Brad Thomson (District Planning Manager), Ravi Trevedi (Asset Engineer Roading), Poppy Surrige (Applications Officer), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Katie Perry (People & Capability Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager) and Michelle Hydes (Property Advisor).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Item 13 – Cr Wilson declared an interest and gave notice that he will leave the meeting for this item.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

- Council – 18/12/24

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 December 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

Lovett/Cameron

Carried

5 Submission – Resource Management Amendment Bill

Council asked for some minor changes to be made to the draft submission which will be updated and circulated for feedback before 10 February.

- Paragraphs 8, 42 & 43 – reference to gas pipelines removed
- Paragraph 20 – Council would expect to be consulted and have assurance there is sufficient monitoring if the discharging into receiving waters change comes through. The submission will request that consents be publicly notified to allow Council opportunity to provide feedback.

- Paragraph 29 – updated statistics to include the most recent GDP data for 2023-24 and added dairy payout information.
- Paragraph 37 – reference to the Lauriston solar farm rephrased to ‘one of the largest’.

A suggestion from Cr Cameron that the comment in respect to heritage buildings be amended wasn’t fully supported and paragraph 62 will remain.

That Council approves the submission to the Environment Select Committee on the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill, as amended and attached in Appendix 1.

Todd/Hooper

Carried

Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion

6 Service Delivery Review – Transportation

1. **That** Council receives the Transportation section 17A review, as attached in Appendix 1.
2. **That** Council continues to deliver the transportation activity through the status quo approach of combination of in-house and contracted services.

Wilson/Braam

Carried

7 Review of Council Delegations (LocoDelegations)

That the matter lies on the table, pending a Delegations workshop.

McMillan/Cameron

carried

8 Elected Members’ Remuneration 2025-26

That Council receives the Remuneration Authority (elected member remuneration 2025-2026) report.

Lovett/Todd

Carried

9 Art Gallery & Museum Mechanical Plant Relocation

Officers acknowledged the feedback and time given by the six individual landowners whose views have helped form the options presented.

Council noted that the recommended location for the construction of the new mechanical plant enclosure, to the east of the existing building, is considered to be least impactful to neighbours.

This option wasn’t fully supported. Councillors speaking against agreed that the alternative option, with the enclosure located in line with the existing building, has more aesthetic appeal as it retains the mature tree that would otherwise be removed and avoids the need to narrow the footpath.

That Council resolves to build the new mechanical plant enclosure for the Ashburton Art Gallery & Heritage Centre to the north of the building (Option 2), subject to obtaining the necessary statutory consents and approvals required to construct the enclosure within the area proposed.

McMillan/Ellis

Amendment

That Council resolves to build the new mechanical plant enclosure for the Ashburton Art Gallery & Heritage Centre to the north of the building (Option 1), subject to obtaining the necessary statutory consents and approvals required to construct the enclosure within the area proposed.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

The amendment became the substantive motion and was passed on a show of hands (6 for and 4 against)

10 Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club Gravel Street Sprint

That Council permits the closure of Upper Downs Road, Mt Somers, from Quarry Road to approximately 518 Upper Downs Road from 8.00am Saturday 15 February 2025 until 6.00pm the same day, to allow the Gravel Sprint event to take place.

Hooper/Lovett Carried

11 Financial Variance Report – December 2024

Further information sought –

- Show separate payment to staff / supplier expenditure (activity briefing report)
- Transportation variance – explanation to be provided showing effect of carry-over expenditure on the variation (activity briefing report)
- Forestry – explanation on the anticipated harvest that is unlikely to occur in this financial year to be reported to Council.

That Council receives the December 2024 financial variance report.

Cameron/McMillan Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 2.06pm

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:	
12	People & Capability Report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
13	Land acquisition	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Ellis/McMillan Carried

Council resumed in open meeting at 2.43pm.

Welcome to Staff

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager, introduced Shanon Williams, recently appointed as Horticulturist in the Open Spaces team.

Council also acknowledged 5 years’ long service of Tayla Hampton (Data Management Officer).

Council adjourned for afternoon tea and concluded at 2.46pm.

Confirmed 19 February 2025

MAYOR

5. *Methven Community Board – 27/01/2025*

Minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 27 January 2025, commencing at 9.00 am, in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room, 160 Main Street, Methven.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Kelvin Holmes (Chair), Megan Fitzgerald, Allan Lock, Richie Owen, Robin Jenkinson; Crs Rob Mackle and Liz McMillan.

In attendance

Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Tania Paddock (Acting GM Business Support), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner), Renee Julius (Property Manager), Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager), Shelley Donnelly (District Promotions Lead), Linda Clarke (Communications Advisor) and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support).

1 Apologies

Nil

2 Extraordinary Business

That pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business, to be taken as Item 5.2:

- Discretionary Fund – Mt Hutt Bike Park application (circulated via email)

McMillan/Owen

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 2 December 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

Fitzgerald/Lock

Carried

Matters arising

- Open Spaces – the concept plan is to be reviewed by the Birdsong Group and not the Methven Lions as stated in the minutes.

5 Discretionary Grant Request

5.1 • Methven Lighting Group

The recommendation in the report had a requested value of \$7,000. It was agreed that this should be increased to \$8,050 to include the gst component of the quote.

That Methven Community Board allocates \$8,050 from its discretionary fund to the Methven Lighting Group to develop a Methven Lighting Plan.

Fitzgerald/Lock

Carried

5.2 Extraordinary Business - Mt Hutt Bike Park discretionary grant request

That Methven Community Board allocates \$3,000 from its discretionary fund to the Mt Hutt Bike Park to engage a professional photographer and videographer for the upcoming South Island Secondary Schools Mountain Biking Championships 2025, on the condition that photographs and video footage of the Methven township is included, with copyright of these specific images being granted to Experience Mid Canterbury (via Ashburton District Council).

Lock/Jenkinson Carried

Cr Mackle recorded his vote against the motion

6 Activity Reports

That the reports be received.

McMillan/Fitzgerald Carried

6.1 Infrastructure & Open Spaces

• Roothing

Methven Chertsey Road drainage states no action required. The Board noted that there were still flooding issues in this area and would like the issue revisited.

6.2 Democracy & Engagement

• Methven Community Strategic Plan

A meeting date for the week of 24/28 February has been proposed for a workshop on the draft strategic plan, these dates do not suit all of the Board members and it was requested that the possibility of scheduling the meeting a week earlier be looked into.

Business transacted with the public excluded - 10.12 am

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:	
7	Economic Development	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8	Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Owen/Lock Carried

The meeting concluded at 11.36am.

Confirmed 10 March 2025

Chairman

6. *Biodiversity Advisory Group – 3 February 2025*

Minutes of a meeting of the Biodiversity Advisory Group held on Monday 3 February 2025, in the Wakanui Room, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, commencing at 1.00pm.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown; Councillors Leen Braam (Chair), Lynette Lovett and Richard Wilson; Adi Avnit, Donna Field, Edith Smith, Val Clemens, Ian Fraser, Kim Wall, Angela Cushnie, Sarah Mason, Mike Salvesen, Barry Austin, Robb Stevens, Cain Duncan, Barry Maister & Mac McElwain.

In attendance

Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Dr Christian Chukwuka (Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor), Lucy Brown (Governance Support) and Linda Clarke (Communications Advisor)

1 Apologies

For absence: Sally Stevens, Tom Munro, Willy Leferink, Gen de Spa & Alice Shanks.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 4 November 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

Austin/ Wilson

Carried

Presentation

Whakamana te Waituna Trust

The Chair welcomed Cain Duncan and Robb Stevens from Fonterra.

Cain and Robb reported on Southland's Wakamana te Waituna Trust, set up in 2018 to co-ordinate activities involved with restoring the mana of the Waituna lagoon and catchment. Fonterra is involved with this Living Water programme along with Te Runanga o Awarua/Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu, Department of Conservation, Environment Southland and Southland DC.

Funding from the Freshwater Improvement Fund (\$13.3m committed over five years) is being used to ensure the long-term resilience of the Waituna community, catchment and lagoon.

Cain and Robb were thanked for the presentation.

Cain left the meeting at 1.30pm (and will email a copy of his presentation to Christian)

Following the presentation, the Group briefly discussed whether there would be opportunity in the Ashburton district for a similar project and how that would be funded.

5 Implication of cats on native biodiversity

Barry Maister & Mac McEwain presented the report seeking Council's consideration of introducing a cat management policy. The Birdsong Initiative Trust wants to see the numbers of feral and stray cats reduced and is suggesting a policy that mandates the desexing and chipping of domestic cats would help reduce the impact.

The group have approached SPCA to initiate a programme with subsidies and general promotion. Local vets are on board, however are looking for further guidance in this area. Discussion followed around the differentiation between companion and strays and the importance of desexing.

The Group asked for information to be requested from other councils, where similar policies have been implemented, as to their effectiveness.

Recommendation to Council

<p>That the Biodiversity Advisory Group recommends that Council investigates a formal cat management policy.</p>

Avnit/Field

Carried

Donna Field, Barry Maister & Mac McEwain left the meeting at 2pm.

6 Ecologist / Biodiversity Advisor's Report

- **Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Revitalisation**

Christian reported on the new Steering Group set up by ECan and managed by Boffa Miskell. It is proposed that ADC will be represented by Crs Braam and Wilson at future meetings, along with Council's Biodiversity Officer and Policy Advisor.

- **Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy**

Council will hold public and stakeholder workshops on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 February. Registration is online via itsourplace.nz

- **Biodiversity Grant Application Round**

Council is calling for 2025 biodiversity grant applications. Applications are open until Friday 28 February 2025.

- **Future Consultation with Biodiversity Inputs**

MPI are inviting submissions on the 'Partnering to plant trees on Crown-owned land' proposal. Individual stakeholders and groups with potential projects within the affected Crown lands may find this of interest. Submissions close on Friday 28 February.

- **Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan 2024 Implementation**

Further to Christian's report [DOC's risk assessment](#) is to be released today.

- **Plantation Road Project**

Val and Edith will meet with Christian to discuss this further and report back to the group.

That the Biodiversity Advisory Group receives the report from the Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor.

Lovett/Wilson

Carried

7 **Group activity updates**

The Chair invited each of the Group representatives to give a brief update on their activities.

Lake Heron Conservation Society & Mt Somers Walkway Society

- Update on recent weed control, pest control and visitor activity.

Forest & Bird

- Overview of Forest & Bird's annual lake and river bird surveys, trapping programmes and wilding / tussock projects.

Department of Conservation

- Update on the continuation of DOC work programmes specifically with pest control programmes for possums, pig, tahr and mice and noting identification of a new lizard species in the lakes district and the white bellied skink project.

Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective

- Angela Cushnie acknowledged the recent passing of Ashburton Forks Catchment Group Chairperson Chris Allen.

Stockwater Transition Plan

- Cr Wilson requested that stakeholders register for updates on the proposed race closures via the ADC [website](#).

Federated Farmers

- Commented on the environmental impacts of pine trees plantings.

Synlait

- Update on recent activities including Synlait's seed workshops and next generation farming, RDR Methven/Methven walkway and A2 initiatives.

Kanuka Trust

- Update on recent activity and operational focus for the school year, including working alongside The Methven Birdsong Initiative.

Fonterra

- Further commented on the Wakamana te Waituna presentation and Fonterra's future partnership opportunities with Landcare Trust.

Ashburton Water Zone Committee

- Update on the remodelling of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee with an alternative model likely to be confirmed May.

8 **Next Meeting**

The Biodiversity Advisory Group will have a field trip on Monday 5 May, departing the Te Whare Whakatere, Council office, 2 Baring Square East at 1pm. Further details will be advised.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4 August, commencing 1pm in the Wakanui Room.

The meeting concluded at 3pm.

7. *Mid-year performance and Strategy & Plan report 2024-25*

Author	<i>Femke van der Valk; Corporate Planner</i>
Manager	<i>Mark Low; Manager Strategy & policy</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham; GM Democracy & Engagement</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is:
 - To provide the mid-year non-financial reporting against the performance measures set for Year 1 of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34; and
 - To provide a summary of our progress towards achieving the actions included in the Climate Resilience Plan 2022.
- These results are for the first half of the 2024/25 financial year, from 1 July 2024 – 31 December 2024.

Recommendation

1. **That** Council receives the mid-year non-financial performance report.
2. **That** Council receives the mid-year progress report on the Climate Resilience Plan.

Attachments

- Appendix 1** 2024/25 Mid-year performance report
Appendix 2 Climate Resilience Plan 2022 – Mid-Year Progress Report 2024-25

Background

The current situation

1. Council monitors its progress towards achieving the non-financial performance measures. These are reported to Council mid-way through the financial year and at the end of the financial year. See Appendix-1 for the 2024/25 Mid-year performance report.
2. Performance measures enable Council and the community to assess whether the levels of service are being delivered to the community. Targets for each performance measure show the level of achievement Council is aiming for each year.
3. As part of the long-term plan process, Council sets levels of service for each activity. Accompanying these levels of services are performance measures and targets. The 2024-25 Mid-year performance report reflects the performance measures of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.
4. The performance measures have been reviewed during the 2024-34 Long -Term Plan process. This resulted in the following new measures, which are included in the report:
 - Community grant reporting
 - Open Spaces:
 - number and location of public conveniences
 - number of hectares of neighbourhood reserve
 - number of playgrounds
 - proportion of playgrounds that comply with NZ Safety Standards
 - Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum:
 - number of exhibitions
 - number of unique education and public programmes delivered
 - user satisfaction with Council-provided Art Gallery and Museum services and programmes
 - Ashburton Library: Use of meeting rooms by external parties
 - EA-Networks Centre: Swim school, gym and stadium utilisation
 - Emergency Management:
 - number of the EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) capacity and preparation exercises
 - annual review of Civil Defence local arrangements standard operating procedures
 - annual training opportunities provided for staff and volunteers
 - EMO attendance of quarterly liaison meetings along with monthly communication and consultation with Iwi/Rūnanga/Marae.
5. Excluded from this mid-year performance report are the results on the Drinking Water performance measures. At the time of writing this report, the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) have updated the drinking water measure but have not yet released the

reporting guidance. To prevent unguided reporting on this measure, and considering the fact that there is no legal requirement for mid-year reporting, it was decided to not include the Drinking water measures in the 2024/25 mid-year report.

6. As stated above, reporting on the drinking water performance measure will be included in the Annual Report 2024/25, which gets audited by Audit New Zealand. Council will also be provided with an update on the activity, its projects and any issues through the water committee.
7. The end of year results for all performance measures are included in Council’s Annual Report.
8. In December 2022 Council agreed on a Strategy & Plan review schedule. The schedule requires a 6 monthly progress report for the Climate Resilience Plan 2022. The latest Climate Resilience Plan 2022 progress report is referred to in Appendix -2.

Legislation

9. Council is required (Local Government Act 2002) to report against the performance targets set for each activity in the Annual Report.
10. A full report on the targets and performance of all Councils strategies and plans is provided to Council at the end of the financial year.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Monitoring Council’s performance is met from within existing budgets.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	284 Community Planning
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Not required

Significance and engagement assessment

11. The progress reporting of Council’s achievement towards its non-financial performance measures and Strategies & Plans is not considered significant and is of low significance to the community.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low; Not significant
Level of engagement selected	1 – Inform the community
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The community will be informed of Council’s progress in achieving the non-financial performance measures through relevant media channels. Final achievement will be advised through the Annual Report 2024/25, to be completed by 31 October 2025.
Reviewed by S&P	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

Appendix 1

Mid-year performance report 2024-25

Note: performance measures with an * are mandatory performance measures set by the Department of Internal Affairs

Target met
Target not met
Awaiting year-end

1. Local Infrastructure

1.1 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – DRINKING WATER

What we're aiming for: To promote the health and safety of the community through the provision of an efficient, safe and reliable water supply.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We provide quality drinking water to connected properties	All Council drinking water schemes achieve bacteria compliance	<i>New DIA water supply compliance – reported below :</i>	100%		<i>Note: Not reporting Mid-Year performance due to DIA reporting guidelines not being available yet.</i>
	All Council drinking water schemes achieve protozoal compliance		100%		
	<i>New target as issued by DIA August 2024.</i>	Ashburton	18.18%		
	The extent to which the local authority's drinking water supply complies with the following parts of the drinking water quality assurance rules:	Methven	88.70%		
	(a) 4.4 T1 Treatment Rules;	Rakaia	49.07%		
	(b) 4.5 D1.1 Distribution System Rule;	Chertsey	48.75%		
	(c) 4.7.1 T2 Treatment Monitoring Rules;	Dromore	49.17%		
	(d) 4.7.2 T2 Filtration Rules;	Fairton	45.83%		
	(e) 4.7.3 T2 UV Rules;	Hakatere	71.04%		
	(f) 4.7.4 T2 Chlorine Rules;	Hinds	53.33%		
	(g) 4.8 D2.1 Distribution System Rule;	Mayfield	50.21%		
	(h) 4.10.1 T3 Bacterial Rules;	Montalto	47.92%		
	(i) 4.10.2 T3 Protozoal Rules; and	Mt Somers	89.38%		
(j) 4.11.5 D3.29 Microbiological Monitoring Rule.					

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS	
Council contractors respond to drinking water failures and requests with median response times	Median response time (in hours) to urgent and non-urgent callouts	Urgent call-out attendance	0.82 (49 minutes)	Ashburton Township: 1 hour ¹	0.42 (25 minutes)	
				Rest of the district: 2 hours	0.58 (35 minutes)	
	Urgent call-out resolution	1.58 hours	4 hours	2 hours		
	Non-urgent call-out attendance	2 days (48 hours)	1 day	0.73 days (17.4 hours)		
	Non-urgent call-out resolution	2.81 days (67.5 hours)	5 days	1.13 days (27.1 hours)		
We provide efficient and sustainable drinking water services	Reduction in real water loss from the reticulated systems*	59%	33%	59%	Not all properties on Council supplies are metered and so the approved water loss calculation yields a coarse figure and includes losses on private reticulation.	
	Reduction in average consumption (per resident per day)*	838 L	≤735 L	680.2 L	Population estimate updated which has reduced average household consumption.	
The majority of residents are satisfied with our drinking water services	Customer satisfaction with drinking water services	a)Clarity b)Taste c)Odour d)Pressure or flow	8.38 complaints / 1,000 connections	≤ 10 complaints / 1,000 connections	4.75 complaints / 1,000 connections	
	<i>The total number of complaints received by Council expressed per 1,000 connections about:</i>	e)Continuity of supply f) Council's response to any of these issues				
	Residents are satisfied with Council's drinking water supplies	86%	80%	81%		

¹ The target has been split based on location due to the time involved in travelling to the call-out

1.2 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – WASTEWATER

What we're aiming for: To help protect community health and safety, and the environment, through the provision of reliable and efficient wastewater schemes.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS	
We provide an efficient and sustainable wastewater service	Dry weather overflow incidents <i>The number of dry weather sewerage overflows from the Council's sewerage systems, expressed per 1,000 sewerage connections to that sewerage system.</i>	1.88 / 1000 connections	≤1.0/1000 connections	0.37 / 1000 connections		
	Compliance with resource consents	Abatement notices	1	0	1	This refers to the Rakaia WWTP sludge disposal. The notice was issued last year and remains "active" until withdrawn by Environment Canterbury. The abatement issue has been addressed through the commissioning of the new sludge beds in December 2024.
		Infringement notices	1	0	0	
		Enforcement orders	0	0	0	
		Convictions	0	0	0	
Council contractors respond to wastewater failures and requests with median response times	Median response time (in hours) to callouts	Call-out attendance time	0.45 hours (27 minutes)	1 hour	0.58 hours (35 minutes)	
		Call-out resolution	2.47 hours (149 minutes)	4 hours	2.05 hours (123 minutes)	
The majority of residents are satisfied with our wastewater services	Customer satisfaction with wastewater services	a) Sewage odour complaints/ 1,000 connections b) Sewerage system faults c) Sewerage system blockages	11.64	≤10 complaints/ 1,000 connections	4.13 complaints/ 1,000 connections	

d) Council's
response to
issues with our
sewerage system



1.3 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – STORMWATER

What we're aiming for: To ensure property and the environment are protected and roads and footpaths continue to be accessible during rain events.

**Mandatory performance measure set by the Department of Internal Affairs*

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS	
We provide protection from flooding for private properties	Flooding events from stormwater overflows *	The number of flooding events	0	0	0	
		The number of habitable floors affected for each flooding event	0	0	0	
	Median response time (in hours) to callouts *	N/A	1 hour	N/A		
We provide efficient and sustainable stormwater services	Compliance with resource consents *	Abatement notices	0	0	0	
		Infringement notices	0	0	0	
		Enforcement notices	0	0	0	
		Convictions	0	0	0	
	Customer satisfaction with stormwater services * (complaints / 1,000 connections)	3.47	≤5	1.19		

1.4 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – STOCKWATER

What we're aiming for: To promote the productivity of rural land through the delivery of stockwater as efficiently as possible, while minimising adverse effects on the environment.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
(Levels of service)					
We minimise adverse effects of stockwater on the environment	Compliance with resource consents	Abatement notices	0	0	0
		Infringement notices	0	0	0
		Enforcement orders	0	0	0
		Convictions	0	0	0

1.5 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – TRANSPORTATION

What we're aiming for: To enable efficient travel throughout the district to support economic and social interaction.

**Mandatory performance measure set by the Department of Internal Affairs*

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We provide a quality roading network for the district	The sealed local road network is smooth * <i>The percentage of kilometres travelled on the district's sealed roads measured by smooth travel exposure</i>	97%	90%	97%	
	The sealed local road network is well maintained * <i>The percentage of the sealed network that is resurfaced.</i>	4.6%	4%	5.6%	Work underway
	Volume of metal replaced on unsealed roads <i>Metal on unsealed roads lost due to weather, usage and other factors will be replaced.</i>	35,684 m ³	≥48,000m ³	39,183 m ³	Work progressing
	Residents are satisfied with Council's unsealed roads	55%	70%	63%	
	Residents are satisfied with Council's sealed roads	32%	55%	33%	
	Roading service requests are responded to within 5 working days*	98%	75%	95%	
	We provide a footpath network that is fit for purpose and well maintained	The footpath network is well maintained * <i>The percentage of footpaths within a territorial authority district that fall within the level of service or service standards for the condition of footpaths that is set out in Council's relevant document (such as annual plan, activity management plan, annual works program or long-term plan).</i>	99%	85%	99%
Footpath service requests are responded to within 5 working days *		96%	75%	87%	
We provide a transportation network to reduce risk of harm to others	Reduction in fatalities on local roads * <i>The change in the number from the previous financial year.</i>	+1	Decrease from previous year	-2	2 (2023/24), 0 (2024/25)
	Reduction in serious injury crashes on local roads * <i>The change in the number from the previous financial year.</i>	+2	Decrease from previous year	-12	18 (2023/24), 6 (2024/25)

1.6 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – WASTE REDUCTION & RECOVERY

What we're aiming for: To develop a cost-effective range of waste management services to ensure sustainable management, conservation of resources, and protection of the environment and public health.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We provide kerbside collection services to the majority of residents in the district	Increase the volume of recyclable material from kerbside collection services	-1.81%	+1%	-2.7%	This number shows a slight decrease in recycling which may be linked to the governments July 2023 plastic phase outs and/or the continued improvement in Ashburton's quality of recyclables
	Residents are satisfied with rubbish and recycling services in the district	83%	90%	83%	
We provide waste reduction and recovery facilities throughout the district	Increase the volume of recyclable/recoverable material recovered from the waste stream	-13%	+1%	0.03%	This number reflects the lower overall waste and recyclables for the half year
We provide green waste collection through the district	Divert green waste from landfill	new	(per 2026/27)		

2. Public Services

Target met
Target not met
Awaiting year-end

2.1 PERFORMANCE UPDATE - DEMOCRACY

What we're aiming for: To engage in meaningful conversations and lead the community with clear and rational decision-making that is based on robust monitoring, research and analysis.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
The community is informed of, and involved in, local decision making	Residents are satisfied that the Council provides opportunities to have their say	89%	80%	92%	
	Residents are satisfied with the quality of information about Council activities and events	96%	90%	95%	
The community's views are taken fully into account for effective governance by elected members	Residents are satisfied with the performance of the Mayor and councillors	89%	80%	90%	

2.2 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – COMMUNITY GRANTS & FUNDING

What we're aiming for: To support other organisations in the community in areas that are far better serviced by these groups than what we could do.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
Community-led projects are well supported to enhance community development and wellbeing	Residents are satisfied that the Council provides opportunities for grants and funding to support community-led projects	97%	90%	97%	
	Community grant recipients provide completed reporting forms within 1 month of end of financial year	New measure	75%	9%	9/101 grants have completed their reporting. This is not unexpected given there remains 6 months to go.

2.3 PERFORMANCE UPDATE - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

What we're aiming for: To support the local economy by assisting tourism, economic and business development initiatives.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
Commercial property assets that are financially sustainable	Occupancy of all commercial tenancies	98%	≥95%	98%	
Council builds relationships and collaborates with all sectors in the business community	Resident satisfaction with Council's roles in economic, business and tourism development	87%	90%	90%	

2.4 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – COMMUNITY SERVICES

What we're aiming for: To provide community services that meet resident's needs

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
Council will provide rental accommodation that meets the specific needs of eligible elderly members of the community	Occupancy rates of available Elderly Persons Housing	98%	95%	99%	
The majority of residents are satisfied with Council-provided public conveniences	Residents are satisfied with Council-provided public conveniences	95%	90%	94%	
The number and location of public conveniences meets the need of local communities and visitors	The provision level of public conveniences per 1,000 residents is above the national median ²	New measure	>0.7	1.15	
We support the safety of Ashburton District	Residents are satisfied with Council's provision of CCTV, street lighting and security patrols within the district	91%	85%	87%	

² National median as measured and defined by Yardstick's annual benchmark survey 2022. Measure is the number of toilet buildings per 1,000 residents.

2.5 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

What we're aiming for: To provide the district with a network of open green spaces that contribute towards the beauty and enjoyment of the area for residents and visitors alike.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We provide residents with accessible, safe and fit for purpose parks and open spaces	Percentage of urban areas within 400 metres of a park or open space.	95%	95%	93%	Expect target to be met when Strowan Fields reserves are completed.
	Residents throughout the district have access to sports parks at a rate above the national median ³ (per 1000 residents)	7.8ha ¹ <i>note 23/24: Formula error</i>	≥3.5 ha	4.0ha	
	The number of hectares of neighbourhood reserve per 1000 residents	New measure	0.4ha	0.7ha	
	The number of playgrounds per 1000 residents aged 17 and under is above the national median ³	New measure	≥4	4.6 ⁴	
	The proportion of playgrounds that comply with NZ Safety Standards is above the national median ³	New measure	59%	The 2022/3 result was 57%.	The next external audit will be conducted later this calendar year and focusses on design elements. Staff undertake weekly safety audits of playgrounds.
The majority of residents are satisfied with our parks & open spaces	Requests are responded to within ten working days	95%	80%	96%	
	Residents are satisfied with Council-provided parks & open spaces	95%	95%	95%	

³ National median as measured and defined by Yardstick's annual benchmark survey 2022.

⁴ Note - this result is for residents aged under 15 years as number of residents aged 17 and under cannot be obtained from census data.

The majority of residents are satisfied with our cemeteries	Requests are responded to within ten working days	100%	95%	100%
	Residents are satisfied with Council-provided cemeteries	98%	95%	97%

2.6 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – RECREATION FACILITIES

What we're aiming for: To provide recreation services that are well utilised and meet the needs of the community.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS	
ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM						
We provide a modern Art Gallery and Museum for residents and visitors to the district	The Art Gallery and Museum programmes and services are well utilised	25,951	21,500	13,653	On track	
	Number of exhibitions hosted	New measure	15 exhibitions (minimum 4 local, 3 national and 3 touring exhibitions)	17 exhibitions (9 local, 7 national, 1 touring)		
	Number of unique education and public programmes delivered	New measure	20 sessions (minimum 10 aimed at schools, 8 aimed at the community)	49 sessions (31 aimed at schools, 18 aimed at community)	Regular programmes are counted once as a unique event.	
	Users are satisfied with Council-provided Art Gallery and Museum services and programmes	New measure	90%	92%		
ASHBURTON LIBRARY – TE KETE TUHINGA						
We provide all residents and visitors with accessible library resources for recreation and discovery	Most households in the district utilise the library	66%	60%	Annual measure		
	Number of activity and programme sessions delivered in the library / by the library team across the year aimed at:	Children	374	450	230	On Track
		Teens	115	100	106	
		Adults	271	200	418	

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We will have a library that is a welcoming and community-centred destination	Users are satisfied with Council's library services	96%	95%	97%	
	Free public internet sessions (Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa) are well utilised	33,620	25,000	25,038	17,205 were Wifi connections, 7833 use of APNK Chrome stations.
	Use of meeting rooms by external parties	New measure	300	1,539	137 were paid bookings
EA NETWORKS CENTRE					
We provide quality gym, pool, and stadium facilities	EA Networks Centre is well utilised ⁵	494,329	400,000	273,413	On Track
	Swim School is well utilised ⁶	New measure	≥80%	82.8%	On Track
	The gym is well utilised ⁷	New measure	≥ 90,000	65,076	On Track
	The stadium is well utilised ⁸	New measure	≥ 4000 booked hours	2,596	On Track
	Users are satisfied with EA Networks Centre services and programmes	89%	90%	92%	

⁵ Measure is foot traffic through entrances to the facility using electronic people counters.

⁶ Occupancy rate of LTS programme using total capacity of the programme against booked spaces.

⁷ Measure is foot traffic through entrance to the gym facility using electronic people counter.

⁸ Measure is count of total court hours booked in stadium area from booking system.

3. Regulatory Services

Target met
Target not met
Awaiting year-end

3.1 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – BUILDING REGULATION

What we're aiming for: To implement the requirements of the Building Act 2004 fairly and impartially so the public has confidence that buildings in the district are constructed in accordance with the building code.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We provide quality building regulation services	Building consents are processed and decisions made within 20 working days	78.5%	100%	99.6%	Year to date - 273 out of 274 building consent timeframes have been met. Average is 11.6 days.
	Code of Compliance Certificates are processed and decisions made within 20 working days	97.3%	100%	99.5%	Year to date - 424 out of 426 code compliance certificate timeframes have been met. Average is 9 days.
	Buildings with compliance schedules are audited each year	12%	10%	6.6%	46 buildings have been audited to date. Target is 70 buildings.
	A third of known swimming pool fences are inspected every year	120.3%	100%	42.6%	69 inspections have been carried out to date. Target is 162 pools.
Council responds to concerns with building regulation services within required response times	Building service complaints are responded to within two working days	100%	100%	100%	No complaints received to date

3.2 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – DISTRICT PLANNING

What we're aiming for: To achieve a fit for purpose function which meets statutory obligations and customer expectations, while anticipating and reacting to the changing needs of the district.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We provide quality district planning services	Resource consent applications and exemptions are determined within statutory timeframes	96.3%	100%	99%	91 out of 92 consents were issued within the required timeframes
	Subdivision plan approval certificates (RMA s.223) are determined within ten working days	87%	100%	91%	31 out of 34 were completed within timeframes
Council responds to concerns with district planning services within required response times	District planning service complaints are responded to within five working days	100%	100%	100%	10 CRMs were attended to.
	Residents are satisfied with the standard of Council's planning services	82%	80%	85%	

3.3 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

What we're aiming for: To support the community's ability to respond to and recover from emergency events.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We support emergency preparedness through community-based emergency management	A community response plan is developed or renewed annually	3	1	2	New plan for Fairton completed, Review of plan for Rakaia completed.
We maintain effective civil defence response capabilities able to manage emergencies across our district	The EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) capacity and preparation is exercised monthly	New measure	12 per year	6 completed to Dec 24	Ongoing monthly standups scheduled and completed
	Our Civil Defence local arrangements standard operating procedures are reviewed annually	New measure	Annual review	Completed	Reviewed Nov 24 post Ex Pandora.
	Annual training opportunities are provided for staff and volunteers	New measure	100%	50%	
	Residents are satisfied with the civil defence services provided by Council	98%	95%	96%	
We foster and maintain relationships with Iwi/Rūnanga/ Marae	The EMO attends quarterly liaison meetings along with monthly communication and consultation with Iwi/Rūnanga/Marae	New measure	4 per year	4 completed	

3.4 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – LAND INFORMATION

What we're aiming for: To provide an efficient production of Land Information Memoranda (LIM) within statutory timeframes and with a high degree of accuracy.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We provide quality land information services efficiently	LIM applications are processed within ten working days	100%	100%	100%	484 issued. Average 3.26 working days (within 10). 62 Commercial (business/farms).

3.5 PERFORMANCE UPDATE – REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

What we're aiming for: To improve, promote, and protect public health within the district by the promotion of sustainable environmental practices and the monitoring and enforcement of associated legislation and bylaws.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS (Levels of service)	HOW WE'LL MEASURE PROGRESS (Performance measures)	2023/24 RESULTS	2024/25 TARGET	2024/25 YTD RESULTS	COMMENTS
We provide quality alcohol licensing services	All medium and high-risk licensed premises are monitored each year	100%	100%	17%	Year to date: 12 of 70 licensed premises risk assessed.
	Stakeholder meetings are held each year	13	10	90%	Year to date: 9 of 10 stakeholder meetings conducted.
	Residents are satisfied with how Council undertakes its role in alcohol licensing	93%	85%	89%	
We provide quality animal control services	Known dogs are registered (includes dogs otherwise accounted for)	99.6%	95%	96%	6820 dogs registered out of 7094 known dogs
	Residents are satisfied with Council's animal control services	89%	80%	87%	
	Urgent incidents are responded to within one hour	93%	100%	90%	2 out of 18 urgent CRMs received had insufficient detail which delayed the response time.
	Found, wandering or barking dog incidents are responded to within five working days	94%	100%	100%	423 CRMs received and responded to within timeframe.
We provide quality environmental health services	Registered food premises are appropriately risk assessed each year	97%	80%	56%	Year to date: 63 of 114 risk assessments conducted.
	Noise complaints are responded to within two hours	82%	100%	91%	Confirmation of address was needed for 18 out of 198 CRMs received, which delayed the response time.

Appendix 2

CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Adopted 17 August 2022. Short-term actions are those identified for completion within the first three years of the plan – i.e. by 30 June 2025.

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
Continue to support regional collaboration in response to climate change	Exec Team, Strategy & Policy	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	Council is lead agency on Action 7 in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan (CCPP) and providing in-kind support to other projects.
Underake a Local Climate Change Risk Assessment	Led by S&P	Short term	Yes	Yes	Scope and budget of the risk assessment to be decided. Priority will be reassessed as part of the work on the Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy.
Continue to be a part of and spread awareness of the 'It's Time Canterbury' campaign	Comms	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	Shared video from the launch of the Canterbury Climate Change Plan. Currently supporting early engagement for the draft Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy which references the It's Time campaign.
Ensure Council's climate change webpage is kept up to date	Comms, S&P	Ongoing	No	Yes	On the work programme for updating in Q4 2024/25.
Form an internal Energy Management Group to investigate and implement energy savings	Exec Team	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	The Energy Management Group is no longer meeting pending the development of the CC&S Strategy. Officers are still focused on reducing energy usage.
Continue investment in biodiversity	Open Spaces	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	Council Biodiversity investment has increased in Year 1 of Biodiversity Strategy implementation by \$35,500. We have planted over 10,000 native trees/grasses on Council land and Reserves, and an additional 7,000 (approx.) plants are to be planted for the rest of the financial year.
Invest in climate-resilient core infrastructure	Assets, Roothing, Projects & Operations	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	Limited roading funding for resilience specific infrastructure but is done where possible as part of maintenance and renewals work (e.g. larger culverts)
Investigate a requirement for developers to provide climate-resilient infrastructure	Planning, Assets	Short term	Yes	Yes	Stormwater assets have been designed to include and adjustment for an increase in rainfall due to climate change up to 16% - RCP6.0 2081-2100

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
					Local Water Done Well reforms propose the introduction of National Engineering Design Standards.
Use sustainable designs in major projects	Led by Assets & Property	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	Changes in standard lighting to LED, Energy efficient heatpumps and Earthwool batts.
Incorporate climate change into Council's report template and guidance to report writers	S&P	Short term	Yes	Yes	The council report template and guidance to report writers includes material on addressing climate-related implications of decisions. It has also been added as a criteria for consideration as part of the significance assessment for decision-making. This is an area of emerging practice in the sector and will improve over time.
Provide information and training to staff and elected members on climate change issues	S&P	Ongoing			There are many aspects of climate change that could offer learning opportunities for elected members and staff. Some work identifying training opportunities and areas of interest is being considered as part of CCPP Action 7.
Repond to Government and other agencies when they seek feedback on climate related proposals	Council, S&P	Ongoing	Yes	Yes	No specific pieces of work this year, although water reform is climate-related.
Pro-actively advocate on issues of concern to the Ashburton district	Council, S&P	Ongoing	No	Yes	Council advocacy has been reactive given the scale and speed of Government Reform programme.
Develop community response plans for all Ashburton communities and review existing plans	Emergency Management	Ongoing	Y	Y	Reviews completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rakaia New Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairton completed. Review Underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt Somers ongoing
Commission a carbon footprint analysis for Council activities	Exec Team	Short term	Yes	Yes	Previously Council received Corporate GHG Emission report for ADC for year FY21. ADC GHG Emission during FY21 were 11, 665t CO ₂ e. This was revised as more accurate data related to wastewater treatment plants was used and the revised report shows ADC GHG Emissions were actually 43,114t CO ₂ e. Emissions for FY22 and FY23 were 32,788t CO ₂ e and 44,834t CO ₂ e.

ACTION	WHO RESPONSIBLE?	DATE BY	PROGRESS ON TRACK?	WITHIN BUDGET?	COMMENTS
Implement the emissions reduction plan and report progress annually	Energy Management	Ongoing	No	Yes	<p>The draft emissions reduction plan is currently in development.</p> <p>Will potentially require additional budget.</p>

8. *Submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill*

Authors	<i>Tayyaba Latif, Policy Advisor</i> <i>Richard Mabon, Senior Policy Advisor</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Mark Low, Strategy & Policy Manager</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham, Group Manager, Democracy & Engagement</i>

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to present a draft submission to the Finance & Expenditure Select Committee on the *Local Government (Water Services) Bill* (“the Bill”).
- In summary, the purposes of the Bill are to:
 - establish a framework for local government to provide water services in a flexible, cost-effective, financially sustainable, and accountable manner; and
 - enable effective and proportionate economic regulation of water services and water quality regulation; and
 - provide the Minister of Local Government with powers to act when a water service provider is facing a problem.

Recommendation

- 1. That** Council approve the draft submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill and direct the Chief Executive to lodge the submission with the Finance & Expenditure Select Committee.
- 2. That** Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive to approve the final wording of any amendments to the draft Submission made at the Council meeting, if necessary.

Attachment

- Appendix 1** Draft Submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill
Appendix 2 Factsheet: Local Government (Water Services) Bill overview

Background

The current situation

1. Parliament's Finance and Expenditure Select Committee (“the Select Committee”) has invited public submissions on the Bill. Submissions close at 11.59pm on Sunday, 23 February 2025.
2. The Bill would:
 - establish a framework for local government to provide water services in a flexible, cost-effective, financially sustainable, and accountable manner; and
 - enable effective and proportionate economic regulation of water services and water quality regulation; and
 - provide the Minister of Local Government with powers to act when a water service provider is facing a problem.
3. The Bill and other information is available [here](#). A factsheet summarising the Bill is enclosed as Appendix 2.
4. Officers have prepared a draft, having
 - reviewed draft submissions from Local Government NZ and Taituarā;
 - attended a Simpson Grierson and Taituarā webinar on the Bill;
 - considered legal review from Russell McVeagh; and
 - considered feedback from elected members
5. In preparing the draft, Officers have examined the three water service management options that Council has resolved to consult on with the community. Officers have considered whether there are matters in the Bill, or omitted from it, that would be obstacles to any of the three options. These matters have been discussed with DIA representatives. The conclusion of those considerations and discussions is that the Bill presents no obstacles that take any of the three options off the table.
6. The submission supports changes to the Bill to improve the streamlining of consultation, in keeping with the intent of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act. These changes do not favour any of the three options and are consistent with community views supporting efficient consultation that enables communities to have their say.

Options analysis

Option one – Approve and submit the draft submission.

7. This option would see Council officers lodge the appended submission to the Select Committee. This option is **RECOMMENDED**.

<p>Advantages:</p> <p>The proposed submission is a draft and ready to be lodged, meaning it will meet deadlines.</p>	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>Current draft may not accurately reflect the elected members' position.</p>
<p>Risks:</p> <p>This is low risk as Council will be able to debate any changes proposed by elected members and pursue Option two if preferred.</p>	

Option two – Amend and submit the draft submission.

8. This option would see Council approve an amended version of the submission for lodging with the Select Committee.

<p>Advantages:</p> <p>Officers recognise that useful points of improvement often arise from elected member input and this option may be preferred for those reasons.</p>	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>Substantial amendments will require a re-write of the draft submission. Recommendation 2 enables this to be managed. Minor amendments could be addressed by motions at the meeting.</p>
<p>Risks:</p> <p>Substantial amendment means a higher risk that the submission is unable to be lodged on-time. This is an unlikely scenario.</p>	

Option three – make no submission

9. This option is not recommended. Council may decide to stay silent and not make a submission on the Bill.

<p>Advantages:</p> <p>Some resource savings of officer time.</p>	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>Council's voice is not heard by the Select Committee.</p>
<p>Risks:</p> <p>Reputational – This would result in Council missing an opportunity to express the views of the District on an issue of local importance.</p>	

Legal/policy implications

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

Climate change

11. Improvements to water services management framework are intended to assist Council and community to respond to pressures for infrastructure investment, including housing growth and climate change adaptation.

Strategic alignment

12. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcomes of:

- Residents are included and have a voice.
- A balanced and sustainable environment
- A district of great spaces and places.
- A prosperous economy based on innovation and opportunity.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	An improved governance framework for water services is expected to improve the quality and reliability of local investment in water services and support economic growth.
Environmental	✓	Reforms are also expected to help support investment that addresses environmental requirements and climate change adaptation.
Cultural	✓	The submissions supports a Local Government Act approach to Māori participation in water service decision-making.
Social	✓	Submissions supporting community views give our residents and ratepayers a voice in central decision-making.

Financial implications

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

Significance and engagement assessment

13. The approval of this submission is not a matter of high significance.

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
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The community will be informed of Council's submission through usual channels. Engagement on options related to the Local water Done Well programme is planned for March/April 2025. No engagement is required related to this submission.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low, Strategy & Policy Manager

Submission

Local Government Water Services Bill



PREPARED BY: Ashburton District Council
PO Box 94
ASHBURTON 7774

SUBMITTED TO: Finance & Expenditure Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Contact: Mayor Neil Brown
mayor@adc.govt.nz

via upload to:
Local Government (Water Services) Bill Submission - New Zealand
Parliament (www.parliament.nz)

Ashburton District Council **does not wish** to make an oral submission to the Committee

Introduction

1. Ashburton District Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to submit feedback on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill. This submission has been prepared by the Council.
2. Located an hour's drive south of Christchurch, more than 38,400¹ residents live in our district. Approximately 50% of our residents live in the main town of Ashburton, with the rest of our residents living rurally or in smaller towns or villages across the district.
3. Ashburton District (the District) has experienced moderate and sustained population increase since the mid-1990s, increasing by 23% between 2006 and 2013 (a 3.3% increase per year). This growth, however, has now slowed, with an average growth of 1.3% per year since 2013.
4. We manage 12 drinking water supply schemes throughout the District. These schemes service approximately 70% of residents and over 10,300 homes and businesses. Of these 12 drinking water supply schemes, nine service less than 500 people including two that are classified as "rural agricultural drinking water supplies".
5. We also help protect community health and safety, and the environment, through the provision of reliable and efficient wastewater schemes. We have three community-based wastewater schemes that service approximately 65% of our population where we manage wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services across the district.
6. In 2021 we engaged our community on the proposed three waters reform advanced by the then Labour Government. The feedback from over 500 of our residents showed:
 - 97% of respondents felt it was important for the community to be able to have its say on how three water services are provided
 - 64% of our respondents believe that the continued improvement of health and environmental standards in three waters from what is currently provided is important
 - 27% of respondents are prepared to pay more for higher standards, with a further 21% happy to do so if the improvements are localised, justified and/or decided upon by local representation

¹ Infometrics, *Regional Economic Profile*, 2024

General comments

7. We wish to express our general endorsement of the Bill, and in particular its role in enabling local control of water in a way that drives improved performance.
8. In this submission we propose improvements to the Bill to enable efficient and effective models for the governance and management of water services in Mid-Canterbury. Our submission is focused on the issues of greatest impact to our District.
9. The Bill includes 432 clauses and 12 schedules. This is a lot of legislative ground to cover. For this reason, Council also endorses the technical points made in submissions from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Taituarā and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).

Recommendations

10. Council makes the following recommendations:

Relationships with Maori

11. That:
 - a. the Committee seek advice from officials on the intent of clause 41 and the relationships between water providers and Māori
 - b. Clause 41 be relocated to a place in the Bill that is more in keeping with its applicability to all water providers
 - c. Clause 40(2) be amended to require that the collective mix of skills of a board of directors must include knowledge of tikanga Māori, te Ao Māori, and te Tiriti
 - d. Clause 187(2) be amended to require shareholders of water organisations to include provisions setting out expectations for how water organisations conduct their relationships with Māori.

Rationale: Maori have specific interest in land and bodies of water which local authorities are required to consider when making decisions under the Local Government Act currently. We suggest that water organisations (including Council-Controlled Organisations) should have the same obligations as Councils do currently.

Objectives of water service providers

12. That:
 - a. the objective that water service providers provide safe drinking water be extended to all water services
 - b. the objective that water service providers operate in a way that does not have an adverse effect on the environment be amended to require that any environmental effect be minimised
 - c. a requirement to support the housing and urban development objectives of shareholding territorial authorities and the Government be added to subclause 15(1)
 - d. a requirement to support the economic development objectives of shareholding territorial authorities and the Government be added to subclause 15(1)
 - e. the objective relating to service be quality be amended to read "are of a quality that meets consumer expectations, subject to regulatory requirements and the other requirements of this Act

- f. clause 15(1) be amended to fully define the objectives of a good employer.
- g. water service providers be placed under an obligation to have regard to the interests of the community in which they operate. This might be based on the equivalent obligation that section 59 of the Local Government Act (LGA) places on CCOs.

Rationale: Council notes that:

- Safety of wastewater and stormwater operations must be addressed (hence 12 a.)
- It is pragmatic and reasonable to require minimisation of adverse environmental effects, unlike the current wording that calls for services that have no adverse effects on the environment (hence 12. b.)
- Central and local government economic development objectives are an important driver of these reforms (hence 12. c. & 12. d.)
- 12. e. recognises that level of services must meet legislative requirements; and
- 12. f. reflects normal LGA expectations of local authorities.

Financial ringfencing

13. That:

- a. the Select Committee seek further advice as to whether payment of a dividend or distribution of a surplus is consistent with the financial ringfencing set out in clause 16(1)(a), and how any conflict might be resolved; and
- b. consider amendments to the Bill requiring reinvestment of any dividend or distribution of a surplus into three water assets

Rationale: The Cabinet paper on this Bill says water organisations can distribute dividends if agreed by their shareholders and provided for in the organisation's constitution. The ring-fencing clause in the Bill provides that water services revenue can only be spent on water services – which strongly suggests that a water organisation cannot distribute a surplus. This conflict needs to be resolved.

Given the historic funding pressures that have initiated these reforms, we find the issue of a dividend or surplus incongruous. It seems to us that reinvestment of the surplus back into the assets would be more appropriate.

Significant contracts

14. That clause 22 be amended to require water organisations to gain shareholder approval before entering into any significant contract to transfer a responsibility to another body.

Rationale: Transfer of significant responsibilities could seriously undermine community acceptance of the new water model. See also paragraph 6.

Transitional arrangements and service delivery plans

15. That the Select Committee note the potential overlap in processes for establishing joint arrangements under this Bill and the Water Services (Preliminary Arrangements) Act and seek further advice on options to resolve this.

Rationale: See paragraph 6. Community expects processes to be open and to have their say. Yet they also expect processes to be efficient and avoid duplication.

References to the Companies Act and the Local Government Act

16. That clause 40(5) be amended with cross-references to the provisions of the Companies Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 2002. Similar provisions elsewhere in the Bill require a similar amendment.

Rationale: Clarity “makes the boat go faster”. Uncertainty and ambiguity are headwinds.

Appointment of Directors

17. That:

- a. Clause 40(2) be amended to specifically mention commercial acumen and knowledge of tikanga Māori, te Ao Māori and te Tiriti without limiting other skill and knowledge sets; and
- b. shareholders of water organisations be required to develop a policy for the capability of the directors of water organisations.

Rationale: 17a. reflects competencies required in a Board that delivers water services. 17 b. reflects the requirement on normal Council CCOs.

Consultation on network plans

18. That:

- a. the consultation requirements for the Drinking Water Catchment Plan, Trade Waste Plan, and Stormwater Network Risk Management Plan be unified into a single provision
- b. the unified consultation process provided under clause 144 include a requirement for the water provider to offer the public at least one opportunity to present their views in person either directly or via technology
- c. that any unified consultation process be open to the general public as well as Taumata Arowai, transport corridor operators and shareholders (if a water services organisation).

Rationale: See paragraph 6. Community expects processes to be open and to have their say. They also expect processes to be efficient and avoid duplication.

Bylaw-making power powers

19. That:

- a. the Bill be amended to unify and standardise the bylaw-making provisions of part 3 subparts 3,5,6 and 7
- b. clause 170 be amended to align the list of agencies with power to make stormwater bylaws with those for drinking water and trade wastes.
- c. clause 349 be deleted by removing redundant requirements to consult
- d. clause 353 be amended to require local authorities to consult all affected parties during a review of water services bylaws
- e. clause 355 be amended to refer local authorities consulting on the review of water bylaws back to the bylaw requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

Rationale: Community expects processes to be open and to have their say. They also expect processes to be efficient and avoid duplication.

Bylaws and infringement offences

20. That:

- a. the Select Committee provides clarification as to whether the Government intends that a bylaw made under this Act can specify any of the offences in the Act as infringement offences and, within that, whether a bylaw made under this Act is able to specify any offence in the bylaw as an infringement offence.
- b. the Select Committee clarifies the reference to specified serious risks in clause 413.

Rationale: Enforcement needs to be proportionate to the behaviour it addresses and efficient to implement. A range of tools that are cost-effective is essential to enable this.

Funding disclosures

21. That:

- a. a disclosure be added to Schedule 3, clause 5 regarding a schedule of prices and charges
- b. that Schedule 3, subclause 5(2)(a)(iii) be amended to read "the water service providers intended approach to funding the water services it provides, including the sources of revenue, and indication of the amount or level, and an explanation of the reasons for the selection of those sources"
- c. that water organisations be required to consider the matters in section 101(3)(a) of the Local Government Act in their explanation of their revenue systems.

Rationale: These measures will enable water service consumers access to the same level of transparency enjoyed by ratepayers.

Charging for stormwater services

22. That clause 60(5) and clause 63 be amended to allow water organisations that provide stormwater services to collect all or part of the charge for these services by a charge based on property value.

Rationale: Stormwater run-off is correlated to the permeability of the surface of the land. Open grassed areas are generally least likely to generate run-off while hard surfaces typically generate more. A charge based on capital value can provide a reasonable proxy as bare land has a typically lower value than residential land and commercial land has the highest value.

Access to rating information

23. That clause 74 be amended by adding:

- a. A requirement that water organisations contribute to the cost of preparing the rating information database, and
- b. Providing a formula for apportioning costs where parties cannot agree, based on section 43 of the Rating Valuations Act 1998.

Rationale: It makes sense to have a cost-sharing formula so that water organisations do not get a "free ride". This is similar to the approach taken under the Local Government (Rating) Act and enables efficient resolution of disputes.

Waivers of charges

24. That:

- a. water organisations be permitted to waive charges for water services provided that these waivers are consistent with a waivers policy adopted by the water organisation
- b. any waiver policy must be adopted only after engagement with the public conducted in accordance with Subpart 1 of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002, as if the water organisation were a territorial authority
- c. water organisations must publish any waiver policy on an internet site maintained by the water organisation.

Rationale: These measures will enable water service consumers access to the same level of transparency on water charges enjoyed by ratepayers.

Concluding comments

25. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Local Government (Water Services) Bill. We submit that, with the refinements highlighted in this submission and submissions from Taituarā and LGNZ, the Bill will provide a useful foundation for the next phase of water delivery reform.

Kā mihi



Neil Brown
Mayor



Hamish Riach
Chief Executive

December 2024

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Factsheet: Local Government (Water Services) Bill overview

This factsheet provides an overview of key aspects of the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, and is designed to help readers to navigate through different parts of the Bill.

It replaces the Factsheet: *Local Government Water Services Bill overview* shared in August 2024, based on the provisions of the Bill as introduced in December 2024.

The Bill sets out the enduring settings for the new water services system. It is the third piece of legislation in the Government's three-stage process for implementing Local Water Done Well.

What is Local Water Done Well?

Local Water Done Well is the Coalition Government's plan to address New Zealand's long-standing water infrastructure challenges. It recognises the importance of local decision making and flexibility for communities and councils to determine how their water services will be delivered in the future. It will do this while ensuring a strong emphasis on meeting economic, environmental and water quality regulatory requirements.

What are the proposed changes?

The Local Government (Water Services) Bill (the Bill) establishes the enduring settings for the new water services system. Changes are proposed to the water services delivery system and to the water services regulatory system. It is the third piece of legislation in the Government's three-stage process for implementing Local Water Done Well.

Overview of the Bill

The Bill provides for:

- arrangements for the new water services delivery system;
- a new economic regulation and consumer protection regime for water services; and
- changes to the water quality regulatory framework and the water services regulator.

It contains standalone provisions and amendments to a number of other Acts.

It is intended that the Bill will be divided by the select committee or at the committee of the whole House stage into separate Bills, as follows:

- Parts 1 to 4, Part 6, and Schedules 1 to 4 will become the Local Government (Water Services) Bill.
- Part 5, and Schedules 5 to 12 will become the Local Government (Water Services Repeals and Amendments) Bill.

Part 1: Preliminary provisions

This part includes:

- the purpose of the Act;
- the interpretation clause, containing definitions of all the key terms used in the Bill.

One of the key terms is “water service provider”. This incorporates:

- territorial authorities;
- water organisations – if responsibilities have been transferred to an organisation through a transfer agreement;
- regional councils, if they provide any water services.

“Water services” is defined as meaning any or all of the following: water supply services; stormwater services; wastewater services. Each of these terms is also defined.

Part 2: Structural arrangements for water services provision

This Part incorporates a number of clauses concerning the structural arrangements for the provision of water services.

- **Subpart 1** provides for territorial authorities’ responsibility for the provision of water services in their districts and the different methods by which they can structure service provision arrangements. It covers:
 - the key role of water organisations as being, along with territorial authorities, water service providers;
 - how responsibilities, infrastructure, and other matters can be transferred to water organisations through transfer agreements (which include the content set out in Schedule 2);
 - the objectives, financial principles, and obligations of water service providers;
 - how water service providers can contract for the provision of services on their behalf or enter into joint arrangements with other water service providers;
 - the decision-making process that must be followed by a territorial authority that proposes to make a change to the structure of water services provision.
- **Subpart 2** provides for the different ways a regional council may provide water services, for those regions in which the regional council also provides water services. This may be relevant in relation to urban stormwater services, for example.

- **Subpart 3** provides for the establishment, ownership, and governance of water organisations. These organisations must be companies, and must be wholly owned by:
 - one or more local authorities; or
 - one or more local authorities and the trustees of one or more consumer trusts; or
 - the trustees of one or more consumer trusts.

Further details on the structural arrangements for water services provision can be found in the factsheet: *Water service delivery arrangements*.

Regardless of the future water service delivery arrangements councils choose to use, existing responsibilities, commitments and obligations between iwi/Māori and the Crown under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA02), and under Treaty settlement legislation will continue to apply.

Part 3: Provision of water services – operational matters

This Part of the Bill covers a range of operational matters that relate to the provision of water services. It gives water organisations powers that already apply to local authorities through other legislation, including charging powers. It also contains new requirements relating to managing water networks that will apply to all water service providers.

- **Subpart 1** enables water organisations to set and collect charges for water services (if they are the water service provider for those services), and contains related matters. (This subpart does not apply to Watercare.)
- **Subpart 2** enables water organisations to require development contributions for growth-related capital costs through a modified version of the development contributions regime in the LGA02.
- **Subpart 3** enables territorial authorities to make water services bylaws for their districts for the purposes of regulating connections to water services networks.
- **Subpart 4** provides for the power of a water service provider to enter land and carry out work in relation to water services infrastructure.
- **Subpart 5** sets out requirements relating to drinking water catchment plans.
- **Subpart 6** sets out requirements relating to trade waste plans.
- **Subpart 7** sets out obligations on water service providers that have responsibility for the management of stormwater networks (including overland flow paths and watercourses), and related matters. It provides for:
 - stormwater risk management plans;
 - stormwater network bylaws;
 - obligations of owners of private land that has an overland flow path or a watercourse crossing over or beneath it;
 - integrated management of stormwater networks, through (voluntary) service agreements.
- **Subpart 8** covers the discharge of sewage and trade wastes.

Part 4: Planning, reporting, and financial management

This Part of the Bill sets out a new planning and accountability framework for water services, which is fit for purpose for the new water services delivery system and supports an enhanced focus on water services.

- **Subparts 1 and 2** provide for a cycle of planning, performance, and reporting that promotes accountability to consumers of water services and to shareholders in water organisations. The cycle includes requirements that:
 - the shareholders of each water organisation must prepare and adopt a statement of expectations for the water organisation;
 - each water service provider must prepare and adopt a water services strategy, an annual budget, and a water services annual report. (Schedules 3 and 4 set out the detailed content requirements for water services strategies and water services annual reports, respectively.)
- **Subpart 3** provides for additional planning, reporting, and performance requirements for water service providers that are water organisations.
- **Subpart 4** sets out financial matters that apply to water organisations, including provisions relating to operating revenues, borrowing in foreign currency, and income tax.

Further details on the new planning and reporting framework for water services, and the associated amendments to the LGA02, can be found in the factsheet *Planning and accountability for local government water services*.

Part 5: Amendments to other Acts

Part 5 of the Bill includes the substantive amendments to other Acts, to give effect to the decisions the Government made in June and July 2024 – including the new regulatory regime for water services.

- **Subpart 1** amends civil defence legislation.
- **Subpart 2** amends the Commerce Act 1986.
- **Subpart 3** amends the Income Tax Act 2007.
- **Subpart 4** amends Local Government Act 2002 (Ministerial powers to act in Part 10, and definition of council-controlled organisation in section 6).
- **Subpart 5** amends the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.
- **Subpart 6** amends the Receiverships Act 1993.
- **Subpart 7** amends the Resource Management Act 1991.
- **Subpart 8** amends the Act previously called Taumata Arowai—the Water Services Regulator Act 2020.
- **Subpart 9** amends the Water Services Act 2021.

Further details on the main amendments are provided below and in separate factsheets. Additional consequential amendments to other legislation (including to the LGA02) are in Schedule 12.

Part 6: Miscellaneous provisions

Subparts 1 to 3 of this Part of the Bill contain a new framework for water services bylaws, including new functions and graduated enforcement tools.

- **Subpart 1** provides territorial authorities with powers to make water services bylaws, and enables the delegation of functions or powers that relate to the administration or enforcement of a water services bylaw to a water service provider operating in the district. It also requires the initial and ongoing review of water services bylaws.
- **Subpart 2** covers compliance and enforcement matters, including providing for infringement offences, compliance officers, and compliance powers.
- **Subpart 3** provides for a range of offences and penalties relating to water infrastructure and water services networks.

Subpart 4 requires the Minister of Local Government to commission a review of the water services system, no sooner than 54 months after the commencement of this Act. The review must examine and report on the overall operation and effectiveness of the water services legislation and local government arrangements for providing water services.

Further details on the amendments to other Acts

New economic regulation regime

The Bill amends the Commerce Act 1986 to provide for regulation of water services by the Commerce Commission (the Commission).

Subpart 2 of Part 5 of the Bill sets out a new regime for water services, based on the existing economic regulation regime in Part 4 of the Commerce Act (which currently applies to electricity lines services, gas pipeline services, and airport services).

Under the new economic regulation regime for water services, the Commission will have a range of regulatory options, including:

- information disclosure regulation;
- revenue threshold regulation;
- quality regulation;
- performance requirement regulation;
- price-quality regulation.

The Commission will also enforce a new “ring-fencing” rule, under which regulated suppliers will be required to spend the revenue they receive from providing water services on providing those services (see clause 3 of new Schedule 7). Pecuniary penalties will be available if the rule is breached.

Alongside the economic regulation regime, the Bill sets up a consumer protection regime that will enable the Commission to collect and analyse information relating to consumer protections, such as service quality and customer engagement. If information gathered reveals that issues exist, the Bill contains a range of tools to allow consumer protections to be strengthened.

Please refer to the factsheet, *Economic regulation and consumer protection*, for further details.

Amendments affecting the Water Services Authority–Taumata Arowai and the drinking water quality regulatory framework

In line with the Government’s intention that government agencies have an English name first, the Bill amends the Taumata Arowai–the Water Services Regulator Act 2020 (and related legislation) to refer to the ‘Water Services Authority–Taumata Arowai’.

The Bill makes changes to the water quality regulatory framework and to how the Water Services Authority (the Authority) regulates drinking water suppliers. It includes changes to the Water Services Act 2021 to reduce the regulatory burden of the drinking water quality regime and improve proportionality in the application of regulatory powers.

The Bill also amends the Authority’s operating principles (in the Taumata Arowai–the Water Services Regulator Act). The Authority will be required to consider the costs of regulatory compliance for drinking water suppliers, in particular mixed-use rural water suppliers, and ensure the regulation is proportionate to the scale, complexity, and risk profile of each supply. The Authority will also be required to proactively engage with suppliers and network operators to ensure there is a path to compliance that takes into account the risk profile and capacity of each supply.

In addition, the Bill amends the Water Services Act to require the Authority to include specific information on mixed-use rural water suppliers in its annual drinking water regulation report and its drinking water compliance, monitoring, and enforcement strategy.

Change in approach to Te Mana o te Wai

The Bill repeals the requirements in water services legislation to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.

A new single standard for wastewater and stormwater environmental performance

The Bill amends the Water Services Act and the Resource Management Act to provide for a single standard for wastewater and stormwater environmental performance. This will ensure regional councils implement a single approach to resource consents, with a mechanism for exceptions.

Regional councils will be unable to set additional requirements either higher or lower than the standard. Wastewater and stormwater environmental performance standards will be made by Order in Council.

Please see the factsheet, *Wastewater and stormwater environmental performance standards*, for further details.

National engineering design standards

The Bill introduces a mechanism for establishing mandatory national engineering design standards to ensure consistent standards for the design and construction of water network infrastructure. National engineering design standards will be made by Order in Council.

Please see the factsheet, *National Engineering Design Standards*, for further details.

Ministerial powers to address problems facing local government water service providers

Subpart 4 of Part 5 of the Bill amends Part 10 of the LGA02: *Ministerial powers to act in relation to local authorities*. The amendments:

- enable the powers in Part 10 to be used in relation to all water service providers (water organisations, as well as local authorities), and shareholders in water organisations (including trustees and consumer trusts);
- expand the definition of a ‘problem’ to cover a range of situations that may be relevant in a water services context (including significant and persistent non-compliance with the economic regulation regime in the Commerce Act);
- provide for two new Ministerial bodies that can be considered in a water services context: a Crown facilitator – water services, and Crown commissioners – water services.

These changes are designed to apply on an enduring basis, if problems or potential problems emerge over the longer term.

Amending the definition of CCO in the LGA02 to include water organisations

Subpart 4 of Part 5 of the Bill amends the definition of council-controlled organisation in section 6 of the LGA02.

It adds a new provision, so that “council-controlled organisation” also includes a water organisation within the meaning of section 4 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2024, if:

- the organisation is owned by 1 or local authorities; or
- the organisation is owned by 1 or more local authorities and the trustees of 1 or more consumer trusts, and the local authorities hold more than 50% of the shares and voting rights in the organisation.

This helps to clarify where a water organisation is also a CCO.

Schedule 1 of the Bill includes a transitional provision for existing water services CCOs, which become water organisations upon enactment.

Other Local Water Done Well legislation

Local Water Done Well is being implemented in three stages, each with its own piece of legislation.

The Water Services Acts Repeal Act (enacted in February 2024) repealed the previous Government's water services legislation and restored continued council ownership and control of water services.

The Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act (enacted in September 2024) established the Local Water Done Well framework and the preliminary arrangements for the new water services system. The Act includes:

- Requirements for councils to develop Water Services Delivery Plans (by 3 September 2024).
- Requirements for councils to include in those Plans baseline information about their water services operations, assets, revenue, expenditure, pricing, and projected capital expenditure, as well as necessary financing arrangements, as a first step towards future economic regulation.
- Streamlined consultation and decision-making processes for setting up council-controlled organisations that deliver water services, and joint local government arrangements, both of which are currently provided for in the Local Government Act.
- Provisions that enable a new, financially sustainable model for Auckland Council's CCO, Watercare.
- Interim changes to the Water Services Act that means the Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy of obligations in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) will not apply when the Authority sets wastewater standards.

As outlined in this factsheet, the third Bill – the Local Government (Water Services) Bill – will establish the enduring settings for the new water services system.

Next steps

There will be an opportunity to provide submissions on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill at select committee.

The Department of Internal Affairs will prepare further guidance material to support the implementation of Local Water Done Well, following the enactment of the Bill. This is expected to be in mid-2025.

Further information

The Local Government (Water Services) Bill is available at www.legislation.govt.nz.

Information about the parliamentary process and timeline for the Bill, including how to make a submission to the select committee, is available at www.parliament.govt.nz.

For further information about Local Water Done Well, including guidance and information for councils, visit www.dia.govt.nz/Water-Services-Policy-and-Legislation

Questions? Contact waterservices@dia.govt.nz

9. *Parking in Ashburton CBD*

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Summary

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Councillors on parking availability and performance in and around Te Whare Whakatere and the wider CBD.
- A review was identified in the Ashburton Town Centre Parking Management Plan (PMP) which was a result of the Ashburton District Parking Management Strategy.
- There have been changes to available off-street parking and the general situation in the CBD since the creation of the PMP.
- Investigations by staff suggest that the existing time limits and criteria are working effectively and do not require immediate change but that there are remaining uncertainties which suggest revisiting this position in the medium term.

Recommendation

- 1. That** Council receive the report.
- 2. That** Council continues to monitor the situation and directs staff to undertake further investigation, including appropriate technical reports on parking in the Ashburton Central Business District, reporting back to Council in August 2026.

Background

1. On 17 November 2021, Ashburton District Council adopted a District Parking Strategy. The Strategy had a number of aims, one of which was the development of a Parking Management Plan (PMP) for the Ashburton Central Business District (CBD). This was subsequently created and adopted in 2021.
2. The PMP made suggestions for action over the short, medium and long term, broadly based around the then current upgrade works to the CBD and the then proposed relocation of the Ashburton District Council from Baring Square West to Baring Square East. Included in these short term actions were the following:
 - *An extensive survey of the town centre parking should be undertaken once the Ashburton Library and Civic Centre has relocated to Baring Square East and the CBD streetscape works are complete. This will help set a baseline for ongoing monitoring and inform parking management changes.*
 - *Monitor parking occupancy on Victoria Street following the relocation of the library and civic centre. If a higher level of overflow commuter parking is observed on Victoria Street, consider implementing time restrictions between Cass Street and Wills Street.*
3. The PMP also contained several other provisions which are addressed subsequently in this report, including the proposed creation of a new public car park on West Street generally opposite the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum.

Changes since the development of the PMP

4. Since the adoption of the PMP, several matters have changed.
 - a. The proposed West Street car park is no longer scheduled to be progressed.
 - b. Council resolved to retain the Balmoral Hall site and this is currently used for parking with upgrades proposed in coming years.
 - c. A new private (paid) parking area catering for up to approximately 30 vehicles has opened on Cameron Street opposite Baring Square East.
 - d. The move of Council to Te Whare Whakaterere was completed in early 2024. A part of the new building remains vacant and potentially available for a third party.
5. Other matters of note.
 - a. The Ashburton District Plan was updated to prioritise the vitality of the town centre through Change 4 in July 2021.
 - b. The Town Centre redevelopment project was also completed in 2021 with public cycle parking facilities provided in the town centre.
 - c. Council adopted an over 80s parking scheme in February 2022.

- d. Parking and related fines rose significantly in October 2024.
- e. Electric charging stations are becoming more popular and are appearing on private land.
- f. The Eastfields parking area remains in place, although its long-term future for parking is not guaranteed.
- g. The Methodist Church on Baring Square has the right to reserve parking spaces for up to eight events per year.

The current situation

- 6. Parking around Te Whare Whakaterere allows for visitor parking with a mix of 30, 60 and 120 minute parking, mostly on-street but also in an onsite park behind the building off Havelock Street.
- 7. Given less staff parking onsite than in the old Council location, alternatives have organically been found. Most staff now park on Cameron Street east of Cass Street or in the Balmoral Hall car park which currently has the capacity for 100 plus cars per day. It is noted that this car park will be temporarily unavailable when demolition of the buildings and refurbishment of the site takes place.
- 8. The Ashburton Cadets did have use of the Balmoral Hall car park for parades but moved out of this location on 31 January 2025 and the Polytechnic buildings at this site were also vacated at that time.
- 9. The private car park on Cameron Street allows all day parking for around 30 cars per day. The car park is controlled by a private parking company who reports that, on average, 12 cars are parked there per day per working week.
- 10. The “Triangle Precinct” has undergone a revitalisation in recent years with new restaurants and businesses opening and increased vitality.
- 11. Parking officers have observed that the relocation to Te Whare Whakaterere does not appear to have significantly impacted the surrounding area. This view is primarily attributed to the ample parking now available at the Balmoral Hall/Polytechnic site.
- 12. Officers have also noted that the carpark bays in side roads near Te Whare Whakaterere have rarely been fully utilised, even during events. Additionally, there appears to have been no significant impact on the availability of bay parking in the Victoria St / Triangle area beyond the usual requirement for enforcement patrols to ensure time limits are followed.
- 13. ADC customer services staff report that no negative comments have been made to them concerning the availability of parking in the area. Other Council staff have commented that the public parking area on Havelock Street behind Te Whare Whakaterere is not well used and may not be well known by visitors as yet.

14. Staff at Café “One Ninety Nine,” located within Te Whare Whakaterere, also report that no negative comments have been made to them concerning the availability of parking within the area.
15. CCS Disability Action staff were approached for comment as part of the preparation of this report. To date, they have not received any negative feedback about the car parking facilities provided for mobility permit holders in the CBD.
16. As part of the process associated with the Te Whare Whakaterere project, the adjoining Ashburton Methodist Church was allowed the use of parking spaces for up to eight events per year. An event on January 2025 required accessible parking spaces outside the church to be reserved. While the event went well it was observed that temporarily moving accessible parking spaces to outside of the café was not ideal. A possible solution to this is to move the spaces or to have them limited for certain purposes at specific times. Staff intend to investigate this further and engage with affected parties on this subject.
17. Based on the above investigations, officers’ opinion is that current parking arrangements around Te Whare Whakaterere and in the wider CBD are operating efficiently and effectively at this time. While investigative work has been undertaken internally, it is officers’ opinion that the results of the survey and the absence of significant issues show that more detailed investigation is not required at this time. However, should the recommended option be adopted, staff will continue to monitor the situation and any recommendations (including from a traffic count if required) would be presented to Council in August 2026.
18. This course of action would, in officers’ opinion, address the short term actions in the PMP referred to previously in this report.

Previous Council decisions or direction

19. Council Plan Change 5 to the District Plan, associated with the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, directed staff to prepare a Plan Change which included the ability to address high trip generating activity. This Plan Change was made operative in June 2024.
20. On 26 June 2024 Council resolved not to proceed with the West Street car park project.

Options analysis

Option one – Status Quo (preferred option) and revisit the situation in mid 2026.

21. A review of the parking situation in the Ashburton CBD was scheduled in the PMP to be undertaken following the completion of CBD works and after the move of the Council to its new location. Work has been done on a number of the intended actions in the PMP but there remain uncertainties which may influence parking in the coming years,

including the future of the Eastfields site, impacts of continued redevelopment of the Triangle precinct and work around the Balmoral Hall site.

22. There remains capacity in the off-street parking areas of Te Whare Whakaterere.
23. This option would allow further investigation to be undertaken , including any technical studies of the parking situation over the next 18 months by which time it is hoped that more clarity will have emerged around outstanding matters discussed in this report.

<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoids premature action that might be affected by short or medium term changes to the parking environment. • Avoids unbudgeted expenditure 	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific analysis of the state of parking has not been undertaken.
<p>Risks: Reputational risk of being seen to not be taking action.</p>	

Option two – Request Staff to undertake further work on parking in the Ashburton CBD

24. This option would require the commissioning of work to assess in more detail the performance of parking in the CBD. This could include public consultation and/or technical reporting such as was undertaken during the preparation of the PMP.
25. The overall cost of the report associated with the previous PMP in 2021 was \$80,000.
26. Broad costs for a formal review survey report by consultancy have been estimated to be between \$10-15,000, however it is understood that additional costs would be involved, including actual counting of vehicles and associated administration. This would require additional resource either in staff time, consultant costs or both.
27. Staff have not been made aware of any fundamental issues with the current parking distribution or management. Experience has been that this would have become clear through customer feedback following implementation of the PMP. Because of this, no resource or budget has been allocated for a more thorough assessment at this time.

<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuller knowledge of the situation backed by scientific evidence. 	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work may be required to be repeated in the near future. • No allocated budget or resource.
<p>Risks: May be seen by the public to be premature or wasteful.</p>	

Legal/policy implications

Ashburton Parking District Parking Strategy

28. [This document](#) sets out the Council’s approach to managing parking for vehicles in the District and was adopted in November 2021.

Ashburton Town Centre Parking Management Plan

29. [This document](#) sets out the Council’s approach to managing parking for vehicles in the District and was also adopted in 2021. It provides a finer grain direction for the management of parking related matters in central Ashburton.
30. The PMP included recommended short, medium and long-term actions to be completed. Officers are seeking to defer some of the short-term actions in the PMP through the recommended option in this report for the reasons outlined earlier in the report.

Climate change

31. Climate Change is relevant to this proposal as the Strategy and PMP promote positive environmental outcomes such as walking, cycling and emerging technologies.

Review of legal / policy implications

Reviewed by In-house Counsel

Tania Paddock; Legal Counsel

Strategic alignment

32. The recommendation relates to Council’s community outcomes of “*a district of great places and spaces*”, “*a prosperous economy built on innovation and opportunity*”. and “*residents are well represented, included and have a voice*” because the recommended option is to investigate further and listen to the needs of the community concerning parking availability in the immediate vicinity of Te Whare Whakaterere and the Ashburton Central Business District.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	This work encourages the efficient use of the town centre and parking within it to maximise the ability of people to work and visit it.
Environmental	✓	The work encourages sustainable transportation solutions.
Cultural		
Social	✓	The work ensures accessibility for members of the community with different needs.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	If the recommended option is adopted, no additional cost is anticipated.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Parking cost centre
Are there any future budget implications?	Yes If full review and PMP report is necessary
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	The report is provided for information only. As indicated, no significant issues have been identified to date.
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform - One way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The report is a follow-up to an action in the Ashburton Parking Management Plan. At this stage no engagement is needed, but should Council agree to a further review, some community engagement would likely be undertaken to gather community views on existing parking issues.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

Next steps

Date	Action / milestone	Comments
August 2026	Present parking survey results and recommendations to Council.	

10. Mayor's Report

10.1 Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Revitalisation Steering Group

We are looking for two appointees to represent Council on the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Revitalisation steering group. The first collective meeting is scheduled to take place at Environment Canterbury's Christchurch office on 18 March, 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Recommendation

That Councillors Braam and Wilson be appointed as representatives on the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Revitalisation steering group.

10.2 Meetings

• Mayoral calendar

December 2024

- 19 December: Aroha Brett, Hakatere Marae with Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan

January 2025

- 22 January: Jim Crouchley and David Killick, Ia Ara Aotearoa/Transporting NZ
- 22 January: Rebecca Whillans, ALIL with CE Hamish Riach
- 27 January: Methven Community Board
- 28 January: Hokonui Radio Interview
- 28 January: Activity Briefings
- 28 January: Executive Committee meeting
- 28 January: Braided Rivers Trust/Lion Foundation
- 29 January: Budget workshop
- 30 January: Budget workshop
- 31 January: Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs briefing with Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and CE Hamish Riach

February 2025

- 1 February: Biodiversity Advisory Group
- 2 February: Budget workshop
- 2 February: Jeff Ryan
- 5 February: Local Water Done Well workshop
- 5 February: Council meeting
- 8 February: Ashburton Aviation Museum Biennial 'Great Plains Fly In' gala dinner
- 10 February: Robert Newlands and Onno Mulder, EA Networks

- 10 February: Mt Hutt College international students
- 10 February: Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs project update
- 10 February: Civil Defence Emergency Management agenda briefing (via MS Teams)
- 11 February: Hokonui Radio Interview
- 11 February: RDR board meeting
- 12 February: Puss n Boots cat rescue representatives
- 12 February: Three Waters Committee
- 12 February: Audit & Risk Committee
- 12 February: Executive committee meeting
- 13 February: Property workshop
- 13 February: Canterbury Regional Transport meeting
- 13 February: Civil Defence Emergency Management
- 13 February: Canterbury Mayoral Forum working dinner
- 14 February: Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting
- 17 February: Bill Thomas, Ashburton Water Zone
- 18 February: Central Friendship Group
- 19 February: Local Water Done Well workshop
- 19 February: Council meeting

Recommendation

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Neil Brown
Mayor