

## Report Strengthens Case for Second Bridge Investment

The Council is set to pursue the government to help fund a 'nationally significant' \$113.6 million second bridge project between Ashburton and Tinwald, after reviewing a detailed business case for investment.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach says, "This is a rigorous and thorough business case which places Council in a strong position to seek funding from the government. It positions Ashburton-Tinwald connectivity as more than just a second bridge for the township, but as a solution for enhancing State Highway One – the spine of New Zealand".

"Now that more detail has been outlined, we have a clear view of the costs as well as the benefits. The revised project cost reflects the ongoing increases in construction costs since the initial estimate for the bridge construction was made over ten years ago," Mr Riach said.

In 2021, Council budgeted \$7.5 million of debt and funding in its 2021-31 Long-Term Plan for the conceptual project when the initial estimate was \$37 million. In light of the detailed business case, and the significant increase in construction costs, Council will consider increasing its own contribution in the next Annual Plan process 2023/24.

Once funding is secured, the detailed engineering design is proposed for 2024/25 with construction planned to begin the following year.

Mr Riach says that the business case demonstrates that the constraints of having only a single connection goes beyond just traffic congestion issues. It shows that travel choice, resilience, community severance, safety and freight movement across the Ashburton Hakaterere



River are significant issues.

The report noted the economic and social impacts of the bridge closure in May 2021 due to severe flooding, which Mr Riach says highlights the role the bridge could play in climate change resilience.

"In May 2021 we saw how the increasing frequency of extreme weather events from climate change is likely to affect communities into the future with the bridge closure. It not only physically divided our community, but it also had serious impacts on the South Island, such as affecting goods being delivered to Dunedin", said Mr Riach.

The report shows that the current Ashburton Bridge has risks that are unique to other similar bridges, such as high usage by its local community and a very long detour route.

The business case unveils detailed concepts to link Chalmers Avenue in Hampstead with Grahams Road in Tinwald. The proposal includes a 360-metre long bridge for vehicles, walkers and cyclists across the Ashburton/Hakaterere River, a 60-metre long bridge in the Tinwald flood plain and new roundabouts at South Street, Wilkins Road and Grahams Road intersections.

## Candidates Confirmed for Local Elections

A late surge of nominations has meant there will be an election held for all of the positions available in the 2022 local elections. 36 nominations were received by the 12pm, Friday 12 August deadline.

On Saturday 8 October, Mid Canterbury voters will be asked via postal vote to elect a mayor, nine district councillors, five Methven Community Board members and six Braided Rivers Community Trust members.

Voting papers and candidate information will arrive in mailboxes from 16 September. Voting closes at noon on Saturday 8 October.

Residents who missed the deadline for the final electoral roll can still enrol for special voting by visiting [vote.nz](http://vote.nz) or calling 0800 367 656. Staff at the Ashburton Public Library are also happy to help people complete their enrolment.

A full list of the candidates and more information about voting can be found at [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz)



## Hamish Riach - Chief Executive Signs of a healthy local democracy

With nominations having closed last Friday for the upcoming local elections it's time to cast our attention to voting, which opens in less than a month's time on September 16.

Pleasingly, we have enough candidates to hold an election for each available position with 36 nominations in total received by the deadline. The positions available are for Mayor, Councillors in the Ashburton, Eastern and Western ward Councillors, as well as the Methven Community Board, and Braided

Rivers Community Trust.

It's pleasing because contested seats is one sign of a healthy local democracy. Another vital sign is a strong voter turn-out.

In the 2019 local government elections, Ashburton District's voting participation was in the top ten in New Zealand, and with a great number of candidates this year, we hope to see a good number of votes.

While it's a time of some uncertainty in local government due to a range of Central Government reforms, that means there's also opportunity.

I would like to encourage people to find out about the candidates standing and what is important to them, read our Pre-Election report to learn about Council's work programme and the issues, then vote on what is important to them, their family and livelihoods.

Another way local residents can take part in democracy is by joining the 100-plus volunteers across the district who are members of their local reserve, pool or memorial hall board.

After the elections take place these boards hold their triennial (three-yearly) meetings, and new board members are elected to govern the



next triennium. These are a great way for people to exercise their governance skills, while helping connect their community with Council.

People can view the final list of candidates and read the Pre-Election report, on our election website - [voteashburton.nz](http://voteashburton.nz)

## Going Wasteless at Public Events

With public events returning to Mid Canterbury, one might also expect to see the return of event-related rubbish and waste.

However, the Ashburton District Council and local sustainability groups are working with event organisers to move towards a zero-waste future.

The Council requires event organisers to show how they plan to minimise waste when applying for funding for community events. They also need to be smokefree and promote sun-smart initiatives.

One of the groups helping to reduce waste is Eco Educate, who are contracted by the Council to audit kerbside recycling bins and provide sustainability education throughout the District. Eco Educate founder, Lesley Ottey, and her team currently work with 54 schools, preschools and colleges across Mid Canterbury.

They're also becoming a common sight at events throughout the District, such as the recent Glow in the Park in the Tinwald Domain. Over three nights, the Eco Educate team worked with the organisers and food vendors to successfully divert a large amount of material from going to landfill.

"Instead of having a skip full of rubbish at the end of the weekend, we had a 240 litre bin full of perfect recycling, over 11kgs of food-soiled cardboard for our worm farm and about 30 litres of food scraps for composting," said Lesley.

Around two large kerbside bins of material were left for landfill. Lesley Ottey says the main culprit was takeaway coffee cups, but notes that there are good alternatives for those as well.

"One of the easiest ways we can help, is to have a reusable coffee cup with us in the car. If more people started bringing these to events, then we could see a really amazing result."

Another area of focus for Eco Educate is helping food vendors learn about



sustainable options for serving food and beverages. Lesley says most operators are making a genuine effort to get it right but can be tripped up by misleading product packaging.

"A lot of takeaway food containers say they're compostable but can actually only be composted in commercial facilities which aren't available to us," says Lesley. "So, we can help businesses avoid products that will end up in landfill, despite their good intentions"

The food-soiled cardboard from Glow in the Park has now found its way into a repurposed bathtub which serves as the Eco Educate worm farm. Inside, a mass of tiger worms are happily munching their

way through the takeaway containers, which will be turned into worm castings and liquid tea - perfect for fertilising the garden.

Lesley Ottey says there's an opportunity for the public to learn more about worm farms at the upcoming Eco Educate Open Day. Anyone interested is invited down to their education centre at the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 3 September.

The open day includes an introduction to Worm Farming at 10.30am, a Love Food, Hate Waste presentation at 12pm and a recycling tour at 1pm.

Find out more about the open day at [ecoeducate.co.nz](http://ecoeducate.co.nz)

## Grrreat Response from Dog Owners

Council staff are thanking Mid Canterbury dog owners for completing their doggy regos on time, with over 6,000 dogs registered in July.

There's still time left for unregistered dogs to get sorted as well. Although a late fee now applies, registering before August 30 will save owners from being issued with a costly infringement.

Registrations can be completed at the Council offices or online at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/dogs)

**COUNCIL OFFICE**  
5 Baring Square West  
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am - 5pm  
Thursday 9am - 5pm

**ASHBURTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
180 Havelock Street, Ashburton 7700  
Mon - Fri 9.00am - 8.00pm  
Sat 10am - 1pm | Sun 1pm - 4pm

**EA NETWORKS CENTRE**  
20 River Terrace  
Mon - Fri 6am-9pm (pools 7pm, gym 8pm)  
Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 5pm, gym 6pm)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Ashburton District Council is proposing to temporarily close the following roads for the purposes described.

- Road proposed to be closed:
- **EAST STREET**, from Moore Street to Havelock Street
  - **TANCRED STREET**, from East Street to Cass Street
  - **BURNETT STREET**, from East Street to Cass Street

**Purpose:** To enable the holding of a community event – Ashburton Market Day

**Period of Closure:** From 7.00am until 6.00pm on Monday, 26 September 2022

**Objections:** By 4.00PM on Monday, 29 August 2022

Road proposed to be closed:  
**WINSLOW WILLOWBY ROAD**, from the Longbeach Road intersection to approximately 500m from the intersection with State Highway 1

**Purpose:** To enable the Ashburton Car Club to hold the 'Winslow Willowby Road Standing Quarter Mile Sprint'

**Period of Closure:** From 9.00am until 4.00pm on Saturday, 10 September 2022

**Objections:** By 4.00pm on Wednesday, 31 August 2022

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 (e)) and will be considered at the Council meeting on 17 August 2022.

Date Change: This event and proposed road closure was previously scheduled for 3 September 2022.

**Objections:** Any person objecting to the proposals above should lodge notice of their objection and the grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, by the date noted.

NEIL MCCANN  
Group Manager  
Infrastructure Service

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, (unless otherwise advised).

**Biodiversity Advisory Group**  
Thursday 18 August, 1.00pm

**Ashburton Water Zone Committee**  
Tuesday 23 August, 1.00pm (live-streamed)

**ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM**  
327 West Street  
10am - 4pm daily