

Waimakariri District Council

Community and Recreation Committee

Agenda

Tuesday 17 October 2023

3.30pm

Council Chambers
215 High Street
Rangiora

Members:

Cr Philip Redmond (Chairperson)

Cr Al Blackie

Cr Robbie Brine

Cr Brent Cairns

Cr Niki Mealings

Mayor Dan Gordon (ex officio)

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**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY
17 OCTOBER 2023 AT 3:30PM.**

**Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as
Council policy until adopted by the Council**

BUSINESS

Page No

1 APOLOGIES

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts of interest (if any) to be reported for minuting.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee
held on 22 August 2023**

8-17

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 22 August 2023 as a true and accurate record.

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

**3.3 Notes of the workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee
held on 22 August 2023**

18

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the circulated notes of the workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 22 August 2023.

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 Redevelopment of Rangiora High Street – David Lows

D Lows will be in attendance to discuss the redevelopment of Rangiora High Street.

4.2 Community Led Housing – Mary Sparrow

M Sparrow will be in attendance on behalf of Social Services Waimakariri Housing Response Working Group to discuss Community Led Housing.

5 REPORTS

5.1 Aquatics October Update – Matthew Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)

19-25

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 231004157525.
- (b) **Notes** Aquatic Facilities progress against key performance indicators including facility Attendance and Financial results.
- (c) **Notes** that Te Whatu Ora notified Council staff that an individual with Cryptosporidiosis visited Dudley pool on the 8th of September during an infectious period.
- (d) **Notes** staff were advised that no further action was required following an investigation by Te Whatu Ora into our water treatment standards.
- (e) **Notes** that further increases in community count with cases directly linked to a pool may require a significant closure, testing, drain down and cleaning of the facility before it is cleared to reopen.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

5.2 Community-Led Housing Response Working Group Report – Tessa Sturley (Community Team Manager)

26-67

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 231004157359
- (b) **Endorses** the Joint Community Working Party paper, to be submitted to Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) to evidence pressing housing need in the Waimakariri District.
- (c) **Notes** that members of the Housing Response Working group will present an overview of the paper.
- (d) **Notes** that the draft paper was used as supporting evidence in Waimakariri District Council's Request for Support submission to MHUD for older persons housing funding.
- (e) **Notes** that, given that local agencies that have a stake in addressing the issues highlighted in the Housing Response Working Group paper operate across wider North Canterbury, the Group has made a request to present it to Hurunui District Council, seeking their endorsement also.

5.3 **Alcohol and Drug Harm Update – Tessa Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

68-98

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 231005158446.
- (b) **Endorses** the Draft paper, “Current Condition 2023 Alcohol and Drug Harm Informative Report.” (Trim: 231005158007).
- (c) **Notes** the broad community engagement approach applied to the preparation of the ‘Current Condition’ report.
- (d) **Notes** that the paper details ‘best practice models’ around which to frame local activity related to addressing alcohol and drug harm.
- (e) **Notes** the intention to apply a holistic approach to addressing the priority issues identified in the ‘Current Condition’ study, including the impact of alcohol and drug use on relationship harm, mental health and suicide.
- (f) **Notes** that the recommendations in the report will inform community-led responses to alcohol and drug harm in the Waimakariri District, led by the Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group, supported by the Community Development Facilitator – Safe Communities; and in line with the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021.

5.4 **Arts Strategy Development Report – Tessa Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

99-128

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 231003155688.
- (b) **Approves** the Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy to go out for community consultation, from 30th October, until 20th November, via Councils ‘Let’s Talk’ community engagement function.
- (c) **Notes** the collaborative, broad scope approach that will be applied to the development of the strategy.
- (d) **Notes** that Councillor Al Blackie is the appointed portfolio holder for this project.
- (e) **Notes** that staff approached both Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd (MKT) and Ngāi Tūāhuriri leadership to identify the most appropriate way forward in ensuring a bicultural, partnership approach could be applied to the development of the strategy.
- (f) **Notes** the intent to actively pursue a bicultural approach to the potential evolving of the strategy, with future iterations being an Arts and Culture Strategy.
- (g) **Notes** that upon adoption of the strategy staff will establish a steering group to guide this work, supported by an appropriately skilled facilitator.
- (h) **Notes** that the facilitator role does not sit within the scope of existing community development provision and that, in the event that external funding cannot be acquired, staff have made tentative provision for this in the Long-Term Plan budget to resource the facilitator role at a cost of \$78,000, including overheads.
- (i) **Notes** that, following consultation period a report will be brought back to Council including consideration of any funding implications for the Long Term Plan.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

- 7.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Al Blackie.
- 7.2 Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Multi-use Sports Stadium, Libraries/Service Centres, Town Halls and Museums) – Councillor Robbie Brine.
- 7.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Brent Cairns.
- 7.4 Waimakariri Arts and Culture – Councillor Al Blackie.

8 MATTERS REFERRED FROM WOODEND SEFTON COMMUNITY BOARD

- 8.1 Woodend Town Centre Public Toilet Upgrade – Chrissy Taylor-Claude (Parks Officer) and Justine Rae (Senior Adviser Community and Recreation - Assets and Capital)

(Report No. 230928153573 to the Woodend-Sefton Community Board meeting of 9 October 2023).

169-138

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee:

- (a) **Approves** the recommendation that the upgrade of the Woodend Town Centre toilets be bought forward from 2037 and is undertaken in the 23/24 Financial Year.
- (b) **Notes** the impact of bringing the Woodend Town Centre toilets forward in the plan is that other scheduled public toilet projects will be pushed out 1 additional year to accommodate this project.

9 QUESTIONS

10 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

11 MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), it is moved:

- 1. That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:
 - Item 11.1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Community and Recreation Minutes of 22 August 2023.
 - Item 11.2 Report from management Team Meeting of 25 September 2023.

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public are excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the 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:

Meeting Item No. and subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public-
11.1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Community Recreation Committee Meeting of 22 August 2023	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To enable the local authority to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial) negotiations as per LGOIMA Section 7 (2) (i).
11.2 Report from management Team Meeting of 25 September 2023	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (s 7(2)(i)).

CLOSED MEETING

See Public Excluded Agenda (separate document)

OPEN MEETING

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee will be held on Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 3.30pm.

Briefing

Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment (s 7(f)(ii) of LGOIMA).

- Kaiapoi Community Hub Update – Tessa Sturley (Community Team Manager) and Martin McGregor (Senior Advisor Community and Recreation) – 20mins.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY
22 AUGUST 2023 AT 3:30PM.**

PRESENT

Councillor P Redmond (Chairperson), Mayor D Gordon (arrived 3:59pm), Councillors R Brine (departed 5:45pm) and B Cairns.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors T Fulton, J Goldsworthy, J Ward and P Williams.

J Millward (Chief Executive), S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), P Eskett (Libraries Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), O Stewart (Airfield Manager and Safety Officer), V Spittal (Principal Policy Analyst – Climate Change and Sustainability), Dr B Dollery (Ecologist – Biodiversity), M Pugh (Community Development Facilitator) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

There were five members of the public present.

1 APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Redmond

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT apologies for absence be received and sustained from Councillors A Blackie and N Mealings. An apology for early departure be accepted for Councillor R Brine who departed at 5:45pm, and an apology for lateness be received and sustained from Mayor D Gordon who arrived at 3:59pm.

CARRIED

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 23 May 2023

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 23 May 2023 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising.

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 Waimakariri Age Friendly Advisory Group – Norman West (Chairperson) and John Mather

J Mather noted that he had been a representative on the Waimakariri Age Friendly Advisory Group for three years. In 2022 the Group presented to the Community and Recreation Committee and contributed to the final Waimakariri Age Friendly report which was a requirement in the district plan and part of the process for becoming an age friendly district. The Group had contributed ideas regarding its role beyond the final report. This deputation

was to report back on the ongoing work to ensure that the Council's vision of an age friendly community continued. The report covered what they had done and what they had achieved and he thanked the Committee for receiving this report. He noted that there had been a change in the Group's leadership as in 2022 Joanne Gumbrell, the inaugural chairperson, had resigned and had been replaced by Norman West.

N West acknowledged and thanked the Council for its support of the Advisory Group and in particular the assistance given by M Pugh. M Pugh had proved to be an excellent replacement for Madeleine Burdon, who had retired. He also acknowledged the contribution to the Advisory Group by Councillor Jason Goldsworthy and Board Member Shona Powell and the other members of the Advisory Group. He noted that the Advisory Group had reviewed its role and purpose as a community group and clarified its advisory role. The Advisory Group had undertaken community consultation which had been summarised and included in the report. During the consultation process they had initially used the essential features of the World Health Organisation priorities in a simpler process by asking what was working and what needed to change. Both processes had identified the same sort of problems facing the elderly which included health services, transportation, housing and safety. Appendix five of the report was the World Health Organisation checklist of essential features in an age friendly community which had become the basis for the way in which they defined good practice and how and what sort of changes needed to be implemented on behalf of older citizens. The Advisory Group had been pleased to note from discussions they had with those involved with planning in relation to transport that there was a good awareness of the checklist by policy staff. He noted that their outgoing action plan would focus on involvement with service providers identified as a priority in their consultation. The feedback received would be shared and would seek their responses from the data they gathered and from client satisfaction surveys and other data gathered. The expectation was that this would assist with the strategic planning and future service deliveries.

Councillor Redmond thanked Councillor Goldsworthy for his work with the Waimakariri Age Friendly Advisory Group.

Councillor Cairns commented that it was an interesting fact that when you lost your licence you also lost any form of ID. He struggled to understand how the elderly could prove who they were when they did not have any form of identification. He asked if they had found other methods to prove their ID. J Mather understood that the Office for Seniors now had a format.

Councillor Redmond noted, as a lawyer in his previous profession, ID for elderly people was an issue. If people had their photo on a gold card that was acceptable. They had discovered that elderly people may not have a drivers licence and may have never travelled overseas and have a passport so it was an ongoing problem. Another way to get over the issue was have a declaration by someone they knew and attach a photo.

Councillor Williams commented that one of the issues was related to transport, and asked if this involved the widening of footpaths and the use of mobility scooters. N West noted that there had been a number of issues which they were trying to address, one was transport such as getting to and from the hospital. There was concern that some of the current transport systems did not work for the elderly and they were working with the regional transport providers however the needs were different for different communities. They were also concerned with the risk to elderly by people cycling on footpaths. They also had some conversation regarding parking spaces for the disabled and if they were located in the correct areas.

Councillor Redmond noted that some correspondence had been sent to the Waimakariri Health Advisory Group and was discussed at its latest meeting regarding transport from Rangiora to Christchurch. N West noted that they had some links with the group which were investigating providing possible transport systems.

Councillor Fulton noted that there were concerns raised regarding the main road crossing in Oxford and asked if this was a particular crossing or if it was something to do with the speed and/or traffic volume. J Mather replied that this had come out of the consultation done in Oxford and he believed the speed of traffic was the main issue.

Councillor Fulton commented that he had seen a report in the media which discussed the potential move away from eftpos payments and being replaced by different types of payment systems. N West noted that it was difficult to get cash from banks and this impacted on the elderly.

Councillor Redmond asked if the Advisory Group had made any submissions on the reduction of banking services. J Mather noted that they had made numerous submissions.

4.2 **Rangiora Airfield – Owen Stewart (Airfield Manager and Safety Officer)**

O Stewart provided the Committee with an overview of his previous work experience. O Stewart identified some of the significant issues he had discovered since starting at the Airfield. MOGAS had proven to be an issue as there was a lot of storage of 91 and 95 petrol in hangers, sometimes up to 10-22 gallon containers. Currently can control specified the ability for people to store up to 50 litres of petrol in their hangers. There was provision to store up to 250 litres of petrol however it had to be stored within specialised and approved containers which cost \$6,000 each. These containers needed to be stored in a test certified area and none of the hangers currently complied with these requirements. O Stewart was currently investigating the possibility of an above ground storage area which would provide a service to the users of the airfield and mitigate petrol being stored in hangers. He was working with the Recreational Aircraft Association who had been doing a lot of work to try and figure out how they might be able to manage this in the future. They had a good pool of information and understanding of the requirements under the health and safety recommendations. He had also received advice from an RT certifier, who had run through the regulations to clarify the requirements.

O Stewart explained that he had been working on a 'fly neighbourly' policy which was a noise reduction and nuisance policy, which all of the smaller aerodromes around New Zealand used. He had received reports of low flying aircraft which had been scaring animals and some had resulted in death with animals ending up in fences. The document was based on an Aviation New Zealand publication which was developed for agricultural operators but was now widely used by others in the industry. He received a briefing from the CEO of Aviation New Zealand where they discussed some significant and substantial changes to the Civil Defence emergency management. Rangiora Airfield was likely to be identified as a critical infrastructure utility during emergencies. The information suggested that a new act would be out in two years and the Council would need to formally declare that they were providing accurate resources to protect the facility. He noted that the Airfield was close to the Ashley River so there may be some challenges in terms of the protection of the aerodrome. There was no mention as yet from the Government whether funding would be provided or allocated to those Councils that had these facilities identified. He noted that in the runway condition, was very much like Christchurch Airports and he had been working with Lincoln University to develop a toxic grass to keep birds off the aerodrome.

He noted that there was the aeronautical study which was completed in September 2022, and he had seen that the risk rating was quite significant. The very high risk, high risk and some of the medium risk would not be addressed if the Council wished to qualify the aerodrome. He explained that he was working on fixing some of the damaged wind socks, all the marker boards needed to be lowered for the type of aeroplanes currently using the airfield and he was looking to establish obstacle limitation services which came from a fan at the end of the runway.

Councillor Redmond asked what mogas was. O Stewart explained that it was the same as the petrol you would put in your car, 91, 95 and 98. Councillor Redmond also asked if there was bulk supply of petrol available. O Stewart replied that the airfield had one approved test certified 1,000 litre tank which one of the organisations was using. He noted that a 5,000 litre above ground tank would serve users of the airfield.

Councillor Redmond understood that the qualifying aerodrome requirements occurred once you got over 40,000 or 50,000 landings, and queried if this was a necessary mandate. O Stewart noted that it was not, it triggered an aeronautical study and then the Council would be required to identify risks or threats.

Councillor Ward asked if it would be better to have a petrol tank that was adjacent to the runway and was able to be accessed by normal cars on the roadway as well as the aircraft taxiing to a pump. O Stewart replied that it could be depending on the turnover for refilling however he would the fuel to be kept for aeroplane usage.

Councillor Cairns noted staff had indicated significant cost for the airfield to become critical in terms of emergency infrastructure enquired what was the estimated cost. O Stewart was unsure however there had been a suggestion of putting in a secondary stopbank in case the primary stopbank overflowed. This would be on the southern side of the aerodrome and therefore would not actually be protecting the aerodrome so was unsure why this had been suggested.

Councillor Cairns queried if all the tenants of the onsite hangers, had their own health and safety plans or did all responsibility fall on the Council. O Stewart replied that the primary liability would fall on the owner of the lease however if you looked at what had happened with White Island the secondary responders had been receiving huge fines and were also held responsible. This was what he was trying to balance in terms of recognising the Council's responsibility as a lessor.

Councillor Williams asked what the difference was between the Rangiora Airfield and others that were very high risk. O Stewart replied that principally the very highest risk was a midair collision and was a risk with most uncontrolled aerodromes. Rangiora, from what he had observed, was a mandatory broadcast zone therefore pilots were required to broadcast their position every five minutes however there were quite a number of pilots who did not report in or use their radios frequently.

Councillor Redmond asked if staff saw a role in education. O Stewart replied that he was building relationships with people and educating them to try to get a change in behaviours. He had also engaged with the Civil Aviation Authority as the field safety advisor who were operating from a flight operations perspective.

Councillor Ward acknowledged that if the Government was going to supply funding towards the development and recognition of becoming a civil defence hub for emergencies and queried if the Council would be able to gain some extra funding towards the required upgrading. O Stewart replied that plane parking was an issue, as there was no identifiable areas for landing planes to park therefore aircraft parked all over and sometimes infringed on the runway. A lot of the issues were due to the lack of planning and where infrastructure was currently placed.

Councillor Goldsworthy asked if repeated bad behaviour from pilots could mean they could be grounded. O Stewart replied that in terms of obtaining a pilot's license, a person was deemed to be a fit and proper (responsible) person therefore deemed not to be a risk however if they were repeatedly offending health and safety protocols they could remove the pilot's status as a fit and proper person.

5 REPORTS

5.1 Community Team Key Project Update Report – T Sturley (Community Team Manager)

T Sturley spoke to the report noting that it provided an overview on a few of the Community Teams key activities over a three month period from May 2023 to July 2023. Staff had acquired funding for a three year period for a half FTE position to develop a Welcoming Communities Plan for the district. Inclusive Communities involved an InCommon programme which was being developed to encourage people to consider what they might have in common with people who were not like them. Capability building detailed the On Track series of capability workshops that had been running for the past four years and continued to attract broad representation. The Kaiapoi Community Hub support had been concentrating on the acquisition of funding and identifying what the needs were on site, who they might collaborate with and how they might get the best value. The Arts Strategy progress had slowed however the core content of the strategy had been developed. She provided an overview of the work that was being undertaken to create a community lead membership model for safe communities across the country and had identified a way forward. She had also provided an update on the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs programme which was seeing some good outcomes.

Councillor Redmond noted under item 4.3 of the report which referring to the Kaiapoi Community Hub design guide. He queried what was envisaged. T Sturley replied that the design guide was in response to the feedback the Council had received from the community. Some members of the community had expressed concern that there was potential for a hodge podge bunch of sheds. Others had expressed concern that the site was going to look like an industrial estate. The design guide was intended to make sure that placement on the site was inline with all the feedback received and that the buildings situated on the site were complementary. It would give a guide around colours and planting, height of buildings and placement.

Councillor Redmond asked if there was going to be any engagement with the residents who were concerned with the standard of building. T Sturley explained that there had already been significant engagement which had been captured in the design guide.

Councillor Cairns noted item 4.3.1 of the report in relation to the Kaiapoi Community Hub had indicated that there were funding discussions with Rata and Lotteries who showed an interest in the shared community space. He asked if staff were also signalling that funding opportunity to the Mens Shed and Food Satisfy to enable them to get funding for their buildings. T Sturley noted that there was quite a bit of work going on in the funding space and four to six weeks ago the Council led a workshop with Satisfy Food Rescue and Kaiapoi Mens Shed who were the two key stakeholders in the Trust. They had done some work prior to that in developing a funding strategy for the project. The workshop was designed to look at that strategy and identifying who was best to apply for what and when was best to apply.

Moved: Councillor Redmond

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 230811122634.
- (b) **Notes** that this report highlighted only a few key initiatives and that a full overview of work undertaken by the Community team would be presented to the October 2023 meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, alongside an update on progress in reviewing the Community Development Strategy.

- (c) **Notes** the collaborative, community-led approach adopted in the development and delivery of these initiatives.
- (d) **Notes** that an Expression of Interest to the Welcoming Communities fund had been accepted, resulting in three years-worth of funding for a much-needed additional 0.5FTE in staffing. This would ensure a broader, more strategic approach to connecting and empowering migrant newcomers into the district.
- (e) **Notes** that a presentation of the draft framework for the Arts Strategy and overview of process would follow the presentation of this report.
- (f) **Notes** that whilst external funding would likely be acquired to support these priority projects, in terms of Long-Term Plan considerations, there may be a need to consider a degree of resourcing to support the implementation of the Arts Strategy, should external funding avenues be unavailable.

CARRIED

Councillor Redmond thanked T Sturley for her report which was a good overview of what was happening. He was particularly interested in the design guide because he thought that the residents had expectations and he would hate to think that the Council were lowering its standards of what it had told them they could expect. The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs was going very well.

Councillor Cairns commented that the Community Team did a huge amount of work in the community and a lot of it was probably not seen as they were always in the background. He was pleased that they were doing a huge amount of work to get this community up and running. He noted the key factor from Councillors point of view was to ensure that communications went out to the community to let them know there was going to be some work on site in September 2023.

Mayor Gordon endorsed his colleagues remarks. The Kaiapoi Community Hub was a high priority as there was a high expectation from those particular groups. He was encouraged by the launch and the fundraising efforts underway. As mentioned in the report both Rata and Lotteries had been approached for their support. He acknowledged the work of E Trevathan, who had done an extraordinary job. This project could well exceed that which the Council had funded for and there was a trial in the Waimakariri district which had been extended by two years for the programme. He believed that the Arts Strategy was on track which was good and he hoped that it would be launched in November 2023. The arts were very important to the district.

5.2 Aquatics August Update – M Greenwood (Aquatic Manager)

M Greenwood spoke to the report which provided the Committee with an update on the aquatic facilities year to date progress. He noted that attendance numbers year on year had been higher in 2023 than 2022 and it was great to see that people were returning to the pools. He noted in item 6.1 of the report that people had not been returning to the pools as anticipated when the Long Term Plan was developed and which was done prior to Covid. The learn to swim programme was currently jam packed and they had very little space which was now becoming a problem with nowhere to move the children who were progressing through the programmes. There was a change in the approach to the learn to swim schools programme which was moving to a programme that more directly addressed water safety rather than the wider system of teaching strokes.

Councillor Redmond noted in item 4.2 of the report referred to Covid on the increase with a number of staff required to follow isolation protocols and enquired what the current protocols were. M Greenwood replied that there were currently no protocols as they had been changed after the report was written. The Council's current approach was to treat it as a cold or flu and that individual was supported to stay home until they felt well.

Councillor Williams asked what efficiencies were staff looking to gain to mitigate running at a loss. M Greenwood explained that while it did not overtly address the financial issue, the learn to swim schools programme was one thing where they were looking to make a change so that people could see that the programme added benefit however they still needed to book in to after school learn to swim programme. The pools were running in the high 90 percent and so were running at full efficiency. There was consideration of bring on more staff to capture the community demand for learn to swim lessons. They had recently switched to sodium bisulphate at \$70 for a bag of to control the PH of the pools. This was a saving of \$150 for a 40kg of CO² gas. They had recently switched to producing their own chlorine on site which had an economic benefit and were also switching to LED lights.

Councillor Fulton noted the reference in the report to a targeted strategy working with the Ministry of Social Development in Oxford with work broker to target clients who were available during school hours. He asked if there was any scope for someone to develop qualifications and take the first steps to a career with the skills developed. M Greenwood explained that first aid based qualifications were all unit standards taught by an outside provider. The lifeguard qualification the Council delivered in house. Currently there was a big push to move people into apprenticeships which was giving them development in leadership, running small teams, the finer points of customer service, dispute resolution which helped people progress through to leadership roles and taking greater responsibility in the business. He noted that the work around the Ministry of Social Development in Oxford was very new.

Councillor Fulton noted that the Council had library system where they rotated staff around the libraries. He asked if there was something similar with the pools so that people were covering gaps and to some extent mentoring others. M Greenwood noted that there were three core staff lifeguards, learn to swim and customer service. They could all opt to be trained up if they wanted to be interchangeable.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 230801116541.
- (b) **Notes** Aquatic Facilities progress against key performance indicators including facility Attendance and Financial results.
- (c) **Notes** the attraction and retention of new staff continued to be a key priority to address staff sickness and movements.
- (d) **Notes** the increased pressure this put on the wider team and the steps being taken to support their wellbeing.
- (e) **Notes** the increased focus on water safety for our schools programme to ensure alignment with Water Safety NZ outcomes and development opportunities for the students.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the community boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Brine commented that his partner was employed and worked at Dudley Pool and his daughter-in-law was also employed by the pools. They were facing some serious challenges.

Councillor Cairns thought that swimming pools in our district were extremely important a fact that was highlighted in item 4.4 of the report with ten drownings within Canterbury which was significant. This was a crucial service that Council provided for the community.

Councillor Redmond commented that it was good to note that this was the start of a career progression for a number of people.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

7.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Al Blackie.

Councillor Blackie was not present to provide an update.

7.2 Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Multi-use Sports Stadium, Libraries/Service Centres, Town Halls and Museums) – Councillor Robbie Brine.

- Attended a meeting with Richard Lindsay who consulted for the Council on community facilities. They had a thorough conversation encompassing the district on what might potentially be needed looking forward. There were some things Councillor Brine wanted included in the potential Long Term Plan however he would rather have a conversation if staff had not included them in the first instance

7.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Brent Cairns.

- Attended Food Secure North Canterbury strategy meeting, with the final hui on Friday 25 August 2023, where it will go over where to from here and decide who will be part of the strategic group moving forward.
- Community funded CCTV cameras. The Council was developing a policy to take ownership of the cameras once installed. Concern was that a number of areas around the district would not have cameras as there was no active residents groups that would raise the required funding.
- Community highlighted the need for youth events in Pegasus - the first youth event in Pegasus was a movie night with planning for next event and more students assisting.
- Would encourage Councillors and staff to visit the new Waimakariri Heritage website launch with loads of images and with the opportunity to load or send in images, videos and audio to tell stories.
- Visited the Oxford Observatory who are progressing with the dark sky accreditation. A Variety show would be held on 10th September 2023. Oxford was becoming a more vibrant community due to the activity of the Oxford Promotions Action Committee and the many volunteers in the community. Listen out for their jingle and for events happening in Oxford.
- Waimakariri Access were hosting an inclusive games at Mainpower stadium, a first for the district. Zack the high school organiser was a dynamo and had worked hard to get this first event in the district. Bringing those with disabilities to compete and try new sports. The sports day was on the 29th September 2023.

- Working with M Maxwell and have finished conducting the Promotion Association stakeholder interviews, asking questions like what's working well, what are the challenges, how do you see Council supporting you in the future. One thing was for sure the current model was not meeting the needs of these important groups. If we want vibrant communities that have events that bring people to the district, which in turn can result in people moving to the district the current Council Promotions Policy was going to need to change. We would soon be presenting its findings to the Promotions Working Group.
- Kaiapoi Community Support, 40 food boxes handed out the same month last year, this year 188 and 19 in one day. Creating pressure on the team, changes are being made, like 0800 number to call etcetera. Community Services were being stretched, budget advice were saying they were dealing with people with complex, high needs. Other groups were dealing with mental health and family harm issues.
- The Police report they had a full complement of staff serving the community and recently during a alcohol check found that 1/100 were over the limit, the same in Christchurch is 1/250, so if you get stopped by Police you will be breath tested.

7.4 **Waimakariri Arts and Culture – Councillor Al Blackie.**

Councillor Blackie was not present to provide an update.

8 **QUESTIONS**

9 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

10 **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), it is moved:

Moved: Councillor Redmond

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

1. That the public is excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting

Replacement of Library Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the 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:

Meeting Item No. and subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public.
10.1 Replacement of Library Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To enable the local authority to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial) negotiations as per LGOIMA Section 7 (2) (i).

CARRIED

CLOSED MEETING

Refer to Public Excluded Minutes.

Resolution to resume open meeting.

Moved Councillor Redmond Seconded Councillor Brine

THAT open meeting resumes and the business discussed with the public excluded remains public excluded as resolved.

CARRIED

The public excluded portion of the meeting commenced at 4.56pm and concluded at 5.34pm.

OPEN MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6pm.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date

Workshop (5:34pm to 6pm)

- National Policy Statement indigenous Biodiversity – Dr Bex Dollery (Ecologist – Biodiversity)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee will be held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 3.30pm.

NOTES OF A WORKSHOP OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2023, AT 5.34PM.

PRESENT

Councillor P Redmond (Chairperson), Mayor D Gordon , Councillors R Brine (departed 5:45pm) and B Cairns.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors T Fulton, J Goldsworthy and P Williams.

J Millward (Chief Executive), S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), P Eskett (Libraries Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), V Spittal (Principal Policy Analyst – Climate Change and Sustainability), Dr B Dollery (Ecologist – Biodiversity), and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

APOLOGIES

Councillors A Blackie and N Mealings.

1. **National policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity** – Dr B Dollery (Ecologist – Biodiversity) and V Spittal (Principal Policy Analyst – Climate Change and Sustainability)
PowerPoint (Trim 230821127973)

- Did this policy include Lineside Road?
Lineside Road was not a Significant Natural Area; however, the Council was restoring the land and it would add to this increase. It would add into the indigenous vegetation cover in the district.
- What was the change here, was this being required nationally? Because Council went through a voluntary process with landowners, were we changing that?
The NPSIB came out on 7 July 2023 and came in to force on 4 August 2023. Council was required to identify and map our SNAs within five years.
- Interested to understand where a future Government may be by way of an oppositions policy on this before Council embarked on a certain direction. It would upset a significant amount of people.
- Depending on the RMA Reforms it may be another entity that would be making these decisions? If they had these regional representation groups and have regional district plans?
Currently the guidance was that the roles of the Territorial Authorities was to do this on the ground SNA work and the Regional Councils put it all together and they had highly mobile formula across those different districts.
- Understand that this was effectively looking at native plants or naturally occurring plants. Every food forest that he had designed included native trees. Was it the entire food forest that would be included as part of biodiversity or only the native trees element?
Environment Canterbury was putting those targets together regarding the percentage of indigenous vegetation that they had to have and also guidance on how we would distinguish because the tree canopy cover, the flyovers often would not distinguish between exotic and native. Also, indigenous biodiversity was not just vegetation, they would be looking at if there were native birds or native invertebrates or reptiles.
- Taken some interest in some pre-election policy announcements carbon sequestration policies, particularly that pertain to native planting. Interested to get that overall view of what natives would qualify particularly existing native cover.
- Support what staff were doing on a voluntary basis because that was what Council had been working towards. Anything that became compulsory Council would become a target. Like to understand where other parties were coming from and what a future Government might look at before Council started having pre-consultation with our public.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE WORKSHOP CONCLUDED AT 6PM

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

FILE NO and TRIM NO: GOV-01-04 / AQU-02-09 / 231004157525

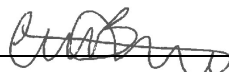
REPORT TO: COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 17 October, 2023

AUTHOR(S): Matthew Greenwood, Aquatics Manager

SUBJECT: Aquatics October Update

ENDORSED BY:
(for Reports to Council,
Committees or Boards)


General Manager


Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Community and Recreation Committee with a summary of the Aquatic Facilities unit's year to date progress, as measured against the unit's most significant Key Performance Indicators. It includes a summary of customer attendance and a budget update for the year to 31 August 2023.
- 1.2. This report also details how the facilities manage the water treatment risk posed by Cryptosporidiosis and other notifiable diseases.

Attachments:

- i. Nil

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 231004157525.
- (b) **Notes** Aquatic Facilities progress against key performance indicators including facility Attendance and Financial results.
- (c) **Notes** that Te Whatu Ora notified Council staff that an individual with Cryptosporidiosis visited Dudley pool on the 8th of September during an infectious period.
- (d) **Notes** staff were advised that no further action was required following an investigation by Te Whatu Ora into our water treatment standards.
- (e) **Notes** that further increases in community count with cases directly linked to a pool may require a significant closure, testing, drain down and cleaning of the facility before it is cleared to reopen.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

3. BACKGROUND

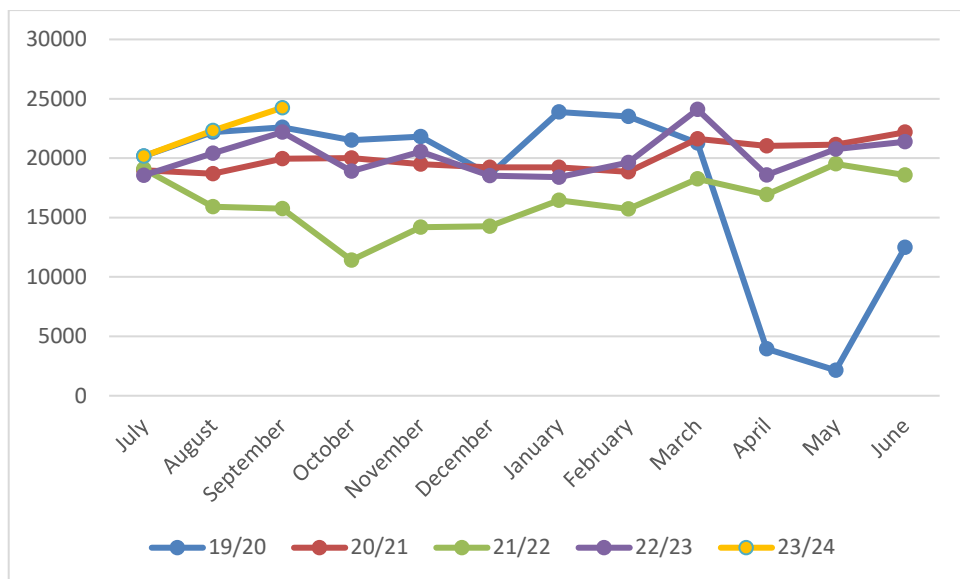
- 3.1. The Waimakariri District Council's Aquatic Facilities team deliver best practice aquatic programmes and enjoyable recreation opportunities for the ongoing wellbeing of our community and visitors. We do so from four sites: two indoor, year-round facilities and two seasonal summer pools, which operate over the summer period from October to April.

- 3.2. The Aquatic Facilities team work closely with partner organisations, clubs, trusts and interest groups to support water safety programmes, grow and develop swimming and Aquatic exercise initiatives, and works with the Council to ensure our facilities are inclusive places, accessible to all members of the community.
- 3.3. Staffing and recruitment activities over the past couple of years, have been hampered by low unemployment, and a dynamic, fast moving employment market. Aquatics staff continue to work closely with Councils Human Resource team to ensure we identify and develop a strong pool of talent, ensuring high standards and safe enjoyable facilities for our community.
- 3.4. Customer satisfaction surveys are run every six months as a means of engaging with our users, inviting feedback on the facilities, staff and programmes offered. Overall satisfaction with our offering is measured as part of the survey against a target result of 90% or greater and is one of the facilities non-financial key performance indicators.
- 3.5. The Waimakariri District Council has been part of Recreation Aotearoa's Poolsafe programme since early in its inception as, in lieu of other legislation, the programme offers an independent assessment against key operating criteria, ensuring robust health and safety practices. Recreation Aotearoa enable sharing of best practice examples within the industry while engaging, lobbying and seeking clarification from Government departments on behalf of the industry.
- 3.6. Further, a significant part of the Poolsafe audit involves an assessment of our water quality and treatment processes. Daily testing results, systems and procedures are checked against their compliance with National Standard 5826:2010 for the treatment of public swimming pools with recommendations made by senior assessors to ensures customer comfort and safety.

4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

4.1. **Aquatics customer attendance**

The following table provides a summary of ticket sales across the facilities to date as at 30 September 2023.



The large dip in 2020 (blue) coincides with the first national lockdown in April 2020 with the facilities closed. September through November of 2021 (green) saw the introduction of level restrictions, vaccine passes and head count limits within indoor spaces which restricted our ability to deliver services, on top of a time when the community were cautious of gathering in groups and indoor spaces.

Attendance at the facilities is up on a month by month comparison with last year, with September 2023 being our busiest month to date. Dudley’s leisure pool was closed for tiling works in June and while alternatives were available, this will have impacted recreation numbers towards the end of the previous year.

It is also important to note the economic impacts both currently in play and across the last few years, with a surprisingly strong economy initially, post covid outbreak, through to the current economic situation impacting consumer discretionary spending.

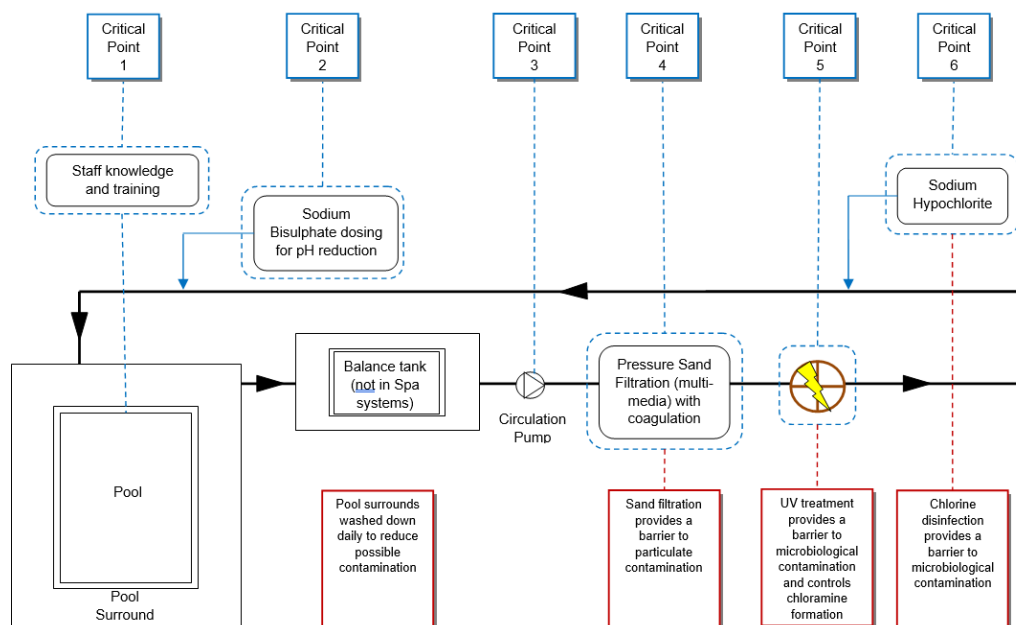
4.2. **Cryptosporidiosis cases on the rise and the associated risk**

On the 29th of September, staff were notified by Te Whatu Ora, formerly Canterbury District Health Board, that an individual who visited Dudley pool on the 8th of September had subsequently been diagnosed with Cryptosporidiosis and was likely infectious at the time of their visit.

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite that causes the diarrheal disease cryptosporidiosis, most notably currently affecting the Queenstown community. The parasite is protected by an outer shell that allows it to survive outside the body for long periods of time and makes it tolerant to chlorine disinfection. While this parasite can be spread in several different ways, drinking water and recreational water are the most common. With the Queenstown outbreak, it is important to note that the cases in that community are not currently linked to the swimming pool there.

Symptoms, including diarrhoea, cramps, vomiting and nausea, usually show within two to ten days and will last for around one to two weeks. For people with a weakened immune system there can also be more serious consequences.

Te Whatu Ora have confirmed the current community risk to be low and are satisfied with the steps we are currently taking as part of our ongoing pool treatment process. As pictured below, in addition to pressure sand filtration and chlorine (sodium hypochlorite), our sites utilise UV treatment, which is known to be effective against Cryptosporidium.



Cryptosporidium can be passed on by ingesting untreated pool water. While filtration and chlorine have limited effect, UV treatment breaks down the nucleic acid, rendering cryptosporidium inactive, thereby preventing further multiplication of the parasite.

Another key factor in managing the risk posed by Cryptosporidium and other water borne diseases risk is customer personal hygiene. This is why we advise customers to shower prior to swimming or not swim for two weeks if they have recently had diarrhoea.

Additionally togs and swimming nappies on young children should fit tight and if an accident does occur, to notify staff immediately so steps can be taken.

Te Whatu Ora have confirmed that they will continue to monitor the situation and advise us of any change in case numbers. Should case numbers increase or an outbreak be linked to our facilities they can require us to perform a full closure, drain the pools and complete a full site wash down, prior to filling and retesting.

We are currently working hard to ensure we maintain high standards of treatment and clearly communicate key hygiene messages to our customers.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

As detailed in 4.2, the treatment systems and processes around the ongoing monitoring of water quality are designed to minimise risk to customers from water borne illness and communicable disease. Staff will continue to work closely with Te Whatu Ora to address situations as we are made aware of them and take the appropriate steps.

Community Wellbeing continues to be the key driver for all activities within the district's Aquatic Centres. From the sharing of knowledge, developing key life skills, fellowship and the opportunity for recreation, rehabilitation and recovery, the wellbeing of our community is central to our ongoing relationship with our customers.

- 4.3. The Management Team has reviewed this report and support the recommendations.

5. COMMUNITY VIEWS

5.1. Mana whenua

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū are not likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the subject matter of this report.

5.2. Groups and Organisations

There are no groups and organisations likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report. Aquatics staff continue to work closely with our key community partners and wider industry organisations, including North Canterbury Swim Club, Water Skills for Life, Waimakariri Access Group, Recreation Aotearoa, Swimming NZ and the North Canterbury Sports and Recreation Trust, to name a few.

5.3. Wider Community

In our most recent General Customer Satisfaction survey run April 2023, Aquatics achieved an overall customer satisfaction rating of 95%. This is up from our previous result of 94% six months prior and ahead of our targeted ≤90%. The next survey is scheduled to run in November 2023.

Aquatics staff continue to engage with our community, through platforms such as SwimDesk, the Councils website, Facebook pages and emails to members. Further, we invite feedback through our in-house surveys, customer feedback boxes, staff engagement and social media channels.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1. Financial Implications

The following table summarises the Aquatic Facilities operational financial position in the 2023/24 year as at 31 August 2023.

Aquatic Facilities Budget Summary	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000
Operational Income	243	251	(8)

Rates Funding	652	662	(14)
Total Income	896	917	(22)
Operation Expenses	581	637	56
Maintenance	42	42	0
Corporate overheads	143	138	(5)
Internal Interest	57	55	(2)
Depreciation	149	147	(2)
Total Expenditure	973	1,020	47
Total Surplus (deficit)	(77)	(103)	(25)

Attendance continues to improve year on year overall, with learn to swim numbers still lower than forecast but continuing to grow following the impacts of both covid and cost of living. Income results for all three main activities, recreation, learn to swim and pre-paid entries were largely on budget, with the income result balanced by savings in Operational Expenses through careful management and decreased resource usage. Direct staffing costs remained on budget due to the need to continue to meet contractual obligations and safe operating requirements. With summer pools opening shortly this savings in Operating Expenses is likely to decrease.

There are no financial implications of the decisions sought by this report.

This budget is included in the Annual Plan/Long Term Plan.

6.2. Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts

While the recommendations in this report do not have a direct sustainability or climate change impact, the impact our operation has on the community and environment are key drivers for the delivery of services and our planning processes.

As explored in the District Aquatic Strategy, ensuring the efficiency of our operation is key to managing the sustainability of current and future offerings. This ensures that facilities will be well utilised and continue to be good value for money for future generations.

Aquatic staff continue to investigate more sustainable and climate conscious alternatives with examples including switching to LED lighting, closely monitoring our water quality to reduce the need for additional chemical balancing and switching products to prioritise less impactful chemicals for cleaning and filtration.

To further minimise its environmental impact, our pool plant utilises systems to recirculate water and recover heat, which decrease the overall energy required to operate.

6.3. Risk Management

While we have completed a number of recruitment activities the market continues to be fluid and ongoing movement threatens to further impact services. We are currently working with staff to ensure the optimisation of our current resource before we once again seek externally for new candidates.

As detailed in 4.2, the treatment systems and processes around the ongoing monitoring of water quality are designed to minimise risk to customers from water borne illness and

communicable disease. Staff will continue to work closely with Te Whatu Ora to address situations as we are made aware of them and take the appropriate steps.

Fluctuating attendance affects the revenue split between ticket sales and rates revenue. Staff will continue to monitor revenue and expenses closely, reporting regularly, working to refine the business model to identify efficiencies and meet the community demand for low cost, safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities.

There are no risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

6.4. **Health and Safety**

Customer and staff safety is key to the ongoing success of the facilities with leadership staff working closely with Council's Health and Safety team, SportNZ, and other key groups to ensure our ongoing operation continues to comply with Ministry of Health instructions and guidance.

Community spread from colds, viruses and notifiable diseases can impact our availability to safely operate facilities. The Aquatics Standard Operating Procedures and Pool Water Quality Risk Management Plan outline the steps we taken around effective treatment of pool water to ensure we provide a safe environment for our customers. Our Aquatics BCP outlines how we will manage staffing pressures to ensure we continue to operate a safe and secure environment for our customers at all times.

Poolsafe accreditation requires robust practices around reporting, investigation, trending and management of both staff and public accidents. This is on top of the Council's Health and Safety requirements and ensures a comprehensive overview.

There are no health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

7. **CONTEXT**

7.1. **Consistency with Policy**

This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

7.2. **Authorising Legislation**

Poolsafe - Though not currently a legislative requirement, Poolsafe accreditation is recognised as industry best practice, representing a base safe standard for operating a public aquatic facility following a coronial enquiry delivered in October 2006

7.3. **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

Public spaces and facilities are plentiful, accessible and high quality, reflecting our cultural identity.

There is a strong sense of community within our District.

There is a healthy and sustainable environment for all.

There is a safe environment for all.

People needs for mental and physical health and social services are met.

Businesses in the District are diverse, adaptable and growing.

People have wide ranging opportunities for learning and being informed.

7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

This committee has delegated authority for the governance of the Aquatic Facilities.

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** GOV-01-04 / CMS-09-10-02 / 231004157359**REPORT TO:** Community and Recreation Committee**DATE OF MEETING:** 17 October 2023**FROM:** Tessa Sturley – Community Team Manager**SUBJECT:** Community-Led Housing Response Working Group Report**SIGNED BY:**
(for Reports to Council,
Committees or Boards)


 General Manager



 Chief Executive
1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides an overview of the role of a Housing Response Working Group, whose role is to affect a community-led response to a lack of emergency, transitional and supported housing in the Waimakariri District. This has been led by Social Services Waimakariri, with support from Council's Community Team Manager.
- 1.2. It introduces a detailed formative evaluation paper, 'Draft report- Joint Community Working Party - North Canterbury Emergency and Transitional Housing and Homelessness'. The paper has been prepared over a nine-month period on behalf of the Housing Response Working Group, with input from Ministry of Social Development, ComCare, Vision West and Waimakariri District Council, as well as a number of local agencies who support our more vulnerable residents.
- 1.3. This report also discusses the value of a collaborative approach and the role that Council's Property Portfolio Working Group might play addressing key issues identified as part of the preparation of the Housing Response Working Group paper.
- 1.4. A delegation from the community-led Housing Response Working Group will present an overview of the attached paper: Draft report- Joint Community Working Party - North Canterbury Emergency and Transitional Housing and Homelessness (Trim: 231004156816)

Attachments:

- i. Draft report- Joint Community Working Party - North Canterbury Emergency and Transitional Housing and Homelessness. (Trim: 231004156816)

2. RECOMMENDATION**THAT** the Community and Recreation committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 231004157359
- (b) **Endorses** the Joint Community Working Party paper, to be submitted to Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) to evidence pressing housing need in the Waimakariri District.

- (c) **Notes** that members of the Housing Response Working group will present an overview of the paper.
- (d) **Notes** that the draft paper was used as supporting evidence in Waimakariri District Council's Request for Support submission to MHUD for older persons housing funding.
- (e) **Notes** that, given that local agencies that have a stake in addressing the issues highlighted in the Housing Response Working Group paper operate across wider North Canterbury, the Group has made a request to present it to Hurunui District Council, seeking their endorsement also.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. In response to a report commissioned by Council in 2019 and produced in February 2020, and to a campground survey undertaken by Social Services Waimakariri (SSW) and local social service agencies, community development staff worked with the SSW Facilitator and North Canterbury Work and Income to host a district-wide Housing forum.

The forum was held in August 2021. Its aim was to present key stakeholders with an overview of local needs and potential opportunities to address those needs; and to engage stakeholders in workshopping potential local solutions.

- 3.2. Following collation of the workshop information, SSW and community development staff held two key stakeholder forums. The aim of these was to further inform priorities and to identify and cement relationships with local housing providers and key decision makers in the social housing space; particularly Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) and Ministry of Social Development.

- 3.3. A number of key issues were identified at these workshops:

- That a lack of adequate emergency and transitional housing, locally, means that our more vulnerable residents are being sent into Christchurch, away from the community and whanau supports that can affect positive social outcomes for them.
- That wrap around support is a key factor in affecting positive social outcomes for those in emergency, transitional and social housing; and that a collaborative, community-led response is crucial to ensuring this.
- That communication is crucial to ensure that our more vulnerable local residents are at the top of the local housing list and are placed locally.
- That if we are to affect increased social housing provision in the district, we must ensure that people are supported by service providers to get their names on the housing list.

- 3.4. The two key stakeholder forums helped to define a way forward. It was agreed that, with Council prioritising older person's housing, the community-led response should focus on our most vulnerable, i.e., the homeless. or those at risk of homelessness. The intent was that the first priority should be to target a lack of emergency housing and disproportionate allocation of transitional housing in the Waimakariri District,

- 3.5. It was decided that there were also broader considerations in addressing the local housing issue and that the best way forward for our community was:

- For Social Services Waimakariri to continue to host regular housing-related forums to ensure that local service providers could share information about housing-related

entitlements, services and supports, so that they can best support clients with housing needs.

- To continue to build relationships with housing providers, with a view to affecting a collaborative response to addressing key housing issues for the district.
- To establish a smaller working group (the current Housing Response Working Group) to progress the preparation of a case for support for adequate local provision of Emergency and Transition Housing, to be presented to MHUD.

4. ISSUES AND OPTIONS

4.1. Housing Response Working Group Response

The Housing Response Working Group was established in mid-2022, with representation from Ministry of Social Development, ComCare, Vision West and Waimakariri District Council. Its aim was to gather broad-scope qualitative and quantitative evidence around housing issues affecting our most vulnerable residents and prepare a case for support for increased local provision of emergency and transitional housing.

4.2. Evidence-base

4.2.1. The attached paper presents the case for support. It has been prepared by Mary Sparrow, Policy Analyst and Board Member for Abbeyfield Trust and Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Community Trust. The paper provides a broad overview of the housing situation for the district's more vulnerable residents. It includes quantitative data gathered from a number of sources, including Ministry of Social Development (Work and Income) ComCare (who support local people whose lives have been impacted by severe mental health and/or addiction issues) and Vision West.

4.2.2. In terms of the quantitative data, the group have been most grateful to Ministry of Social Development, North Canterbury, who were able to pull out specific data for Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts over a three-month period.

4.2.3. Qualitatively, the report tells the stories of those whose lives are impacted by a lack of adequate emergency and transitional housing in the district. It reflects on two key areas of concern that the group believe are within its scope to address:

- Youth – particularly those transitioning from Oranga Tamariki Care
- Those transitioning from violent relationships or recovering from addiction.

Police, Oranga Tamariki, Hope Trust, Te Whare Hauora (Otautahi Women's Refuge) and Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Community Trust.

4.3. Getting the Report in Front of decision -makers

4.3.1. Given that local agencies that have a stake in addressing the issues highlighted operate across wider North Canterbury, the Housing Response Working Group has made a request to present the attached paper to Hurunui District Council, seeking their endorsement, alongside that of Waimakariri District Council.

4.3.2. The group has established relationships within MHUD and it was on their advice that the case for support paper was prepared. The draft paper has since been discussed with MHUD contacts, with the aim of identifying the most appropriate means to progress support for local action.

- 4.3.3. In presenting the paper to Waimakariri District Council's Community and Recreation committee, the aim is to gain its endorsement for the content and for the Housing Response Group to approach Council's Property Portfolio Working Group.

4.4. **Emerging and Evolving Priorities**

- 4.4.1. In preparing the paper, it became obvious that the most pressing need was to address a lack of supported transitional housing for local youth. The Housing Response Working Group have consequently prioritized this and are considering successful models adopted by other communities; particularly Ōtipoti Youth Transition House, a successful, supported youth housing model, run by Methodist Mission, in Dunedin.

<https://mmsouth.org.nz/what-we-do/youth-transition-services/>

- 4.4.2. Alongside Youth Housing, the paper uncovered concerning issues related to one of our local motor camps, which houses some of our most vulnerable residents with unskilled management. Two local faith-based Trusts are offering a degree of support; however, the Housing Response Working Group are considering the potential to affect a more sustainable solution.

- 4.4.3. Staff often receive requests in response to reports of people living in cars in our public spaces. A small working group is developing a sustainable response to this. The group includes representation from Council's Environmental Services Unit, Social Services Waimakariri, Pegasus Health Support Navigators, Community Wellbeing North Canterbury, Person to Person Help Trust and Riverside Community Church.

4.5. **Options for Community and Recreation Committee**

Staff present the following options for consideration by the Community and Recreation Committee:

- 4.5.1. Option 1: Endorse the attached draft report *Joint Community Working Party - North Canterbury Emergency and Transitional Housing and Homelessness*. (Trim # 231004156816)

The rationale for seeking Community and Recreation Committee endorsement is that such endorsement and the collaborative approach applied, will add weight to applications to funders and Community Housing Providers (CHiPs).

- 4.5.2. Option 2: Do not endorse the attached draft report *Joint Community Working Party - North Canterbury Emergency and Transitional Housing and Homelessness*. (Trim # 231004156816)

Implications for Community Wellbeing

There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report.

- It is now widely understood that housing plays a significant role in health outcomes, especially for those on limited incomes. In addition, stable housing also contributes strongly to the social and ultimately cultural wellbeing of communities and to the sense of identity that communities forge over time.
- Dry, warm, safe, secure, and affordable housing for all is fundamental to individuals, whanau and community wellbeing and overall social cohesion.

5. **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

5.1. **Mana whenua**

The relationships that the community have built through engagement with Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū and local and regional Māori health providers have fostered an increased the reach of information and supports for the rūnanga and the whanau that it supports.

Staff continue to seek Ngāi Tūāhuriri feedback and representation on local networks associated with these and the broader range of community development projects.

5.2. **Groups and Organisations**

Through its various working parties, project coalitions and steering groups, the Community Team has established and maintains an in-depth working knowledge of the Waimakariri District and the physical, socio-economic and environmental factors that affect the quality of life of our residents. The Community Team applies a community-led approach to its work, collaborating with well over 300 community, education, business: and government and non-government stakeholders. These relationships have been valuable and are well represented in this work.

5.3. **Wider Community**

Broad community engagement is an important part of the work of the Community Team. This ensures a community-led approach that is relevant to all with a stake in creating a safe, healthy, connected and resilient District.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are no significant short term financial implications for Council in relation to the content of this report. Community Team staff will assist with the acquisition of external funding to support these priority projects. However, in terms of Long-Term Plan considerations, there is potential that Council may be approached to support community-led endeavours to support response to key priorities.

6.2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

The information in this report does not have sustainability impacts.

6.3. **Risk Management**

Relationship Management is the biggest risk associated with the contents of this report. The Community Team and Housing Response Group have built and maintain strong relationships with key agencies, Housing Providers and other stakeholders in addressing the issues raised in this report. Developing an effective working relationship with Council's Property Portfolio Working Group will be key in addressing the issues raised.

6.4. **Health and Safety**

Health and Safety considerations are included in planning for all Community Team facilitated initiatives.

7. **CONTEXT**

7.1. **Consistency with Policy**

This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. It is possible that future housing-related actions by the Council in accordance with its policy may involve potentially significant decisions to be considered as such at that time.

7.2. **Authorising Legislation**

S10 of the Local Government Act 2002 confers on Councils a broad mandate to promote community wellbeing.

7.3. **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

As detailed in the attached report, the collective work of the Community Team aligns with the following Community Outcomes:

- **People's needs for mental and physical health and social services are met**
 - *Housing is available to match the changing needs and aspirations of our community.*
 - *There are wide ranging opportunities to support people's physical health, social and cultural wellbeing.*

7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

A delegation from the community-led Housing Response Working Group will present an overview of the attached: Draft report- Joint Community Working Party - North Canterbury Emergency and Transitional Housing and Homelessness

Joint Community Working Party

North Canterbury Emergency and Transitional Housing and Homelessness

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Executive Summary

The study

The study reviews the situation for emergency and transitional housing in North Canterbury and summarises data, reports and information from various agencies and Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)'s of homelessness in the area. For the purposes of this study, the North Canterbury area includes the Waimakariri (main centres include Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Oxford) and Hurunui (main centres include Amberley, Hanmer Springs, Cheviot) Districts. Together these districts currently have an estimated population of 82,000.

Emergency housing is housing for individuals and whānau who have nowhere to stay tonight or in the next 7 days. It is funded by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) through the Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant. Transitional housing is funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) and delivered by Transitional Housing Providers to provide temporary accommodation and wraparound services for individuals and whānau who don't have anywhere to live and urgently need a place to stay.

Waimakariri District Council (Council) initiated work on housing in its district in 2020 with research on housing needs and likely future demands and prepared the Waimakariri District Housing Demand and Need Report. This work is carried on by the Property Portfolio Working Group. The Property Portfolio Working Group requested Council staff to draft a Housing Policy which is currently out for consultation with the community. The Housing Policy covers a broad range of housing including emergency and transitional housing, and Council's roles, of an enabler, provider, advocate and regulator.

In reviewing the situation for emergency and transitional housing, it is important to consider the situation of social housing and other housing along the continuum as illustrated below. This figure outlines the housing continuum and Council's support within it as per its draft Housing Policy.



The Report

This report has been prepared by a Joint Community Working Party including local Work and Income, Community Housing Provider (CHP)'s in particular Vision West and Comcare, and the Waimakariri District Council Social Services Waimakariri and community Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) representatives.

This report was presented to Council's Property Portfolio Working Group, which was broadly supportive of the findings of this draft report, at its 3 August 2023 meeting. It is also intended as a resource document for other agencies that have an interest in housing need in North Canterbury.

Social Housing

There are 102 households in Waimakariri and 21 households in Hurunui on MSD's Public Housing Register (the Register) as at March 2023. In Waimakariri this has grown from 93 as at March 2022, the 7th highest increase over the year by Territorial Authority according to MHUD's Local Authority Dashboard.

According to a breakdown of the Register, there is a higher demand for 1 – 2 bedrooms, compared to 3 – 4 bedrooms which are currently provided for in the districts. From this it can be deduced that there is a higher demand for 1 bedroom properties for singles and/or couples in the districts.

Based on information provided by the Rangiora office of Work and Income we estimate approximately 50% on the Register have been there for up to a year, 33% on it for 1 – 2 years and the remaining number for more than 2 years. In addition, it is concluded that the Register does not fully reflect the demand for housing in the districts because there is limited supply of social housing in the districts and the likelihood of being allocated accommodation in the district is very limited. Those who list on the Register are more likely to be housed if they are willing to move to Christchurch.

Kainga Ora – Homes and Communities (Kainga Ora) currently provide 213 dwellings across North Canterbury and have plans for the redevelopment or refurbishment some of these properties, to produce additional homes in Kaiapoi and Rangiora over the next couple of years.

Of the properties where redevelopment is scheduled to begin in late 2023, 4 of the new units will have 2 bedrooms, 4 will have 3 bedrooms, 5 will have 4 bedrooms and 2 will have 5 bedrooms. Redevelopment is also scheduled to begin in late 2023 for properties in Kaiapoi that will see 21 new units built.

There are number of CHPs operating in the area, including Vision West, Comcare Charitable Trust, Emerge Aotearoa. Currently Vision West provides of 21 social houses, and there are 5 transitional housing places provided by Emerge Aotearoa in Kaiapoi.

Homelessness in North Canterbury

There is currently limited emergency housing available in the area as there is a lack of traveller accommodation and only one motel may allow a Work and Income client to stay, if acceptable to the management.

The results of interviews with agencies including Oranga Tamariki, Work and Income and the NZ Police, NGOs and community volunteers are presented in terms of the main groups identified as having issues around homelessness or housing insecurity.

The findings of this research for those seeking to remain in North Canterbury can be summarised as follows:

- A young person leaves Oranga Tamakiri's care in North Canterbury and does not move to the dedicated accommodation in Christchurch, is likely to find their only option is high risk accommodation at a campground in the Waimakariri District.

- A young woman with a baby who has nowhere to live approaches Work and Income is given a range of options including campgrounds and might well end up living at one of these in the Waimakariri District.
- Single man who is homeless will either sleep in his car, gravitate to a rural property and live in a sleepout or similar, or go to a campground in the Waimakariri District.
- A man is released from prison might go to dedicated accommodation in Christchurch, but if he has links with North Canterbury and wants to return to the area, is likely his only option will be able to live at a campground in the Waimakariri District.
- An older person without financial resources to sustain their existing tenancy becomes homeless and is likely to find that the only place that he/she can live is in a caravan or similar on a rural property or at a campground in the Waimakariri District.

The research also highlights the fact that poverty in New Zealand is not confined to urban areas. North Canterbury not only has housing shortages, but for the Waimakariri District its campgrounds play the same role as some of the boarding houses in larger urban area. These areas have become the location of last resort for people who are homeless and do not choose to live in their vehicles. For Hurunui there are job opportunities but there is not sufficient housing that matches the need of this workforce.

Youth

Youth, between the ages of 17 - 24 including those previously in foster homes have critical housing needs which should be addressed. Those organisations with Youth Services contracts indicated that their mandate was to encourage the young people that they look after to continue to live where they are currently and to reconcile their differences within the household. If it is deemed necessary for a young person to move to another location care is taken to ensure that they are supervised.

The position for young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care is similar, among the 60 youth currently in foster homes in North Canterbury the chances of their finding suitable accommodation when they move on are limited. There is a transitional worker to support them but there is no guarantee that they will find stable accommodation. If they find stable accommodation it will be in Christchurch, and away from their social network.

Based on discussions with these organisations, it is difficult to determine the approximate number of youth in the area requiring some form of stable housing with wraparound services, including those graduating from Oranga Tamariki's care. This is because there is no recognised pathway for youth into some type of stable accommodation. This could take the form of a similar transitional house to Dunedin's Otepoti Youth Transitional House. Further investigation is required.

Single women with children

There are very few housing options for women with children who are homeless in North Canterbury. Some may find their way to one of the campgrounds in the Waimakariri District, but the environment in some of these campgrounds is unsuitable. Those who are placed in emergency or transitional housing will most probably have to move into Christchurch. For some this move may be satisfactory, but for others it means losing contact with their community networks and for children having to move schools.

The issues faced by women leaving violent relationships with their children, are similar to those for other women with children facing accommodation difficulties. There are further considerations, however, because their previous partners are likely to put additional difficulties in their way.

These women often walk out of their home with nothing, and even if they are entitled to have access to funds the partner may make it very difficult for them to get access to this money. In violent relationships the partner will often exert retribution to a pet that is loved by the women. Accommodation that allows animals is therefore often a consideration.

Some women who have left a violent relationship may not qualify for social housing, and the availability of affordable rental accommodation would provide an important housing option for these women. However, rental affordability and availability is very limited in the area.

Based on conversations with local agencies, it is hard to determine the approximate number of women in the above situations, however there is a known need for additional housing supply to accommodate them. To enable this, it is recommended that Work and Income and community organisations continue to encourage these women to register North Canterbury as a location on the Register, and Council as part of their advocacy role, advocate for smaller bedrooms to be built in the area and additional rental and social housing supply.

Single adults

Single adults have a high level of homelessness in North Canterbury, and this is reported to be increasing. In recent months, the NZ Police reported 15 to 20 people sleeping in cars in the Kaiapoi area that “park-up” at night in groups for safety and move regularly so to avoid the authorities. Others arrive in the Mandeville area late at night and are away again very early in the morning. It is unlikely that this cohort are on the Register.

In 2019, a Campground Study in the Waimakariri District was undertaken by social workers from NGOs active in North Canterbury under the auspices of Social Services Waimakariri. The 2019 study reported that many of the people interviewed were happy with their lifestyle and were not seeking to move. However, the situation in some of the campgrounds has changed since then. The situation at Pineacres, in particular, has deteriorated to the extent that it is now considered an inappropriate place for women and children, due to the other people there with mental health issues, drug use and gang affiliations.

In the Oxford area there was a report from an NGO working in that area of men living in caravans on a rural property. These men were described as “marginal to society” and it was suggested that they may also represent an environmental risk due to effluent disposal. It is understood that there are likely to be similar arrangements elsewhere in the rural areas, but it is difficult to identify exactly where it is happening or to quantify its the extent.

However, based on discussions with local groups, there is a need to provide more appropriate housing for this cohort. This will require further investigation into suitable options.

Older people

The Waimakariri District Council currently provides 112 Elderly Persons Housing (EPH) with a waitlist of over 50 which is steadily growing. Hurunui District Council currently provide 34 EPH.

There were reports from NGOs working in Kaiapoi, Rangiora and Oxford of people who have reached 65 years of age and living in rental accommodation who are finding it difficult to

meet their housing costs and other expenses. There are several initiatives across North Canterbury to supplement food for those facing food poverty including community meals, which are being attended by older people. One of the food banks in Rangiora is providing food to people in the Council's EPH to supplement what they are currently able to afford.

Having suitable housing for a growing number of older people who are finding it difficult to continue to live in their own homes but do not have sufficient funds to move to a retirement village, is an increasingly pressing issue.

Relatively few older people will be high on the priority list for social housing as they may not be in urgent need of accommodation, which means that providing more affordable or supported housing is very important.

It is recommended that Council and other organisations, continue to provide housing for the elderly and consider expanding their provision of housing for older people who have limited financial resources.

DRAFT

EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING IN NORTH CANTERBURY

1 The purpose of the study

1.1 Origins and Context

The purpose of this study is to review the situation with respect to emergency and transitional housing in North Canterbury. Consideration is also given to the extent of homelessness and possible housing distress in North Canterbury which has been reported in interviews with the area's service providers. In addition, the numbers of food parcels given out by North Canterbury's food banks are reported as an indication of financial distress or housing insecurity for some households seeking assistance with food supplies.

For the purposes of this study, the North Canterbury area includes the Waimakariri (main centres include Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Oxford) and Hurunui (main centres include Amberley, Hanmer Springs, Cheviot) districts.

Emergency housing is housing for individuals and whānau who have nowhere to stay tonight or in the next 7 days. It is funded by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) through the Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant. Transitional housing is funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) and delivered by Transitional Housing Providers to provide temporary accommodation and wraparound services for individuals and whānau who don't have anywhere to live and urgently need a place to stay.

This study forms part of a wider initiative by the Waimakariri District Council to understand the District's housing stock and likely future demand. In February 2020 the Council released a document prepared by Livingston & Associates Ltd "*Waimakariri District Housing Demand and Need*". That report provided a valuable overview of the situation, and it prompted the Council to establish a Working Party within Council which has now become the Property Portfolio Working Group. The Property Portfolio Working Group requested Council staff to draft a Housing Policy which is currently out for consultation with the community. The Housing Policy covers a broad range of housing including emergency and transitional housing, and Council's roles, of an enabler, provider, advocate and regulator.

In reviewing the situation for emergency and transitional housing, it is also important to consider the situation of social housing and other affordable housing along the continuum as illustrated below. This figure outlines the housing continuum and indicates the Council's support within it as per its draft policy.



The Council also recognised that there was need for community engagement, as it is not the only organisation capable of contributing to solutions for the area's housing needs. To streamline the work required to provide detailed understandings of the various dimensions of

housing needs, a sub-group was established to exploring issues relating to emergency and transitional housing.

1.2 The Report

This paper has been prepared by representatives of the Waimakariri District Council, Social Services Waimakariri and social housing providers based in North Canterbury (the Joint Community Working Party). This report sets out the findings of this working group. As the group's work progressed it became apparent that attention should be paid to homelessness and housing insecurity in North Canterbury and these findings are also included in this report.

In addition, it provides background information about North Canterbury (the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts), in terms of population trends, levels of relative socio-economic disadvantage within the districts, patterns of social service provision and indications of homelessness as well as reviewing numbers on the MSD Register.

It draws on information from the 2018 Census and more recent population estimates which give an indication of the number of people living in North Canterbury. The Register data available from the MSD's website as well as more detailed information provided from the Work and Income office at Rangiora is canvassed.

Those involved with the research also held discussions with people working for the Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust, the Oxford Community Trust, the Hope Community Trust, Oranga Tamariki's Rangiora office, consultants involved with people experiencing family violence and the NZ Police. Discussions were held with volunteers who regularly visit campgrounds which can be regarded as locations of last resort for people unable to find housing elsewhere. In addition, people familiar with the situation in the Hurunui District were consulted.

Section 2 reviews key statistics of the North Canterbury communities including information from the 2018 deprivation indices for the area.

Section 3 discusses what is happening to the people who register with the MSD and whose names are on the Register.

Section 4 reports the social housing available in North Canterbury, the Councils' Elderly Persons Housing (EPH) and information about households living in rental accommodation from the 2018 Census and recent trends in weekly rents paid from the Tenancy Tribunal data from the housing dashboard.

Section 5 deals with more general issues of homelessness and homeless insecurity in North Canterbury and draws on the information provided by social service providers who were interviewed for this project.

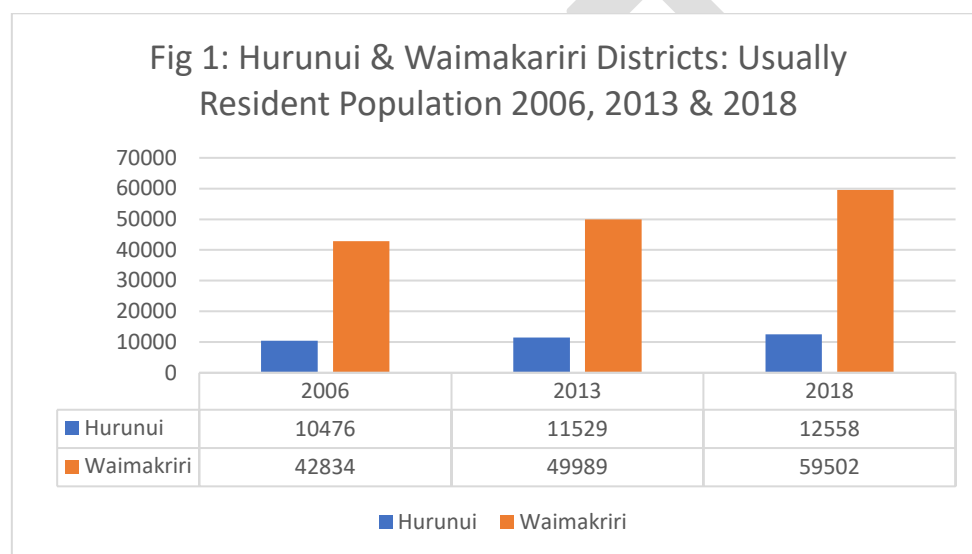
Section 5 sets out information from the North Canterbury foodbanks which has been collated by Food Secure North Canterbury.

2 North Canterbury Statistics

2.1 Population

Prior to the reorganisation of local government in the late 1980s the communities to the north of the Waimakariri River were collectively known as North Canterbury. Now these communities are in the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts. For the purposes of this study, it is appropriate to look at these two Districts together as many of the social services provided in the area originate from organisations based in the Waimakariri District. The area to the south and east of the Waimakariri District is included “Greater Christchurch”, the collaboration between parts of the Waimakariri and Selwyn Districts and Christchurch City.

Figure 1 sets out the usually resident populations for the Hurunui and Waimakariri Districts at the 2006, 2013 and 2018 Censuses.



Statistic NZ 2006, 2013 and 2018 Censuses

Figure 1 shows that the number of people living in the Waimakariri District between 2006 and 2018 increased by 16,668 (39%) and the number of people in the Hurunui District increased by 2082 (20%).

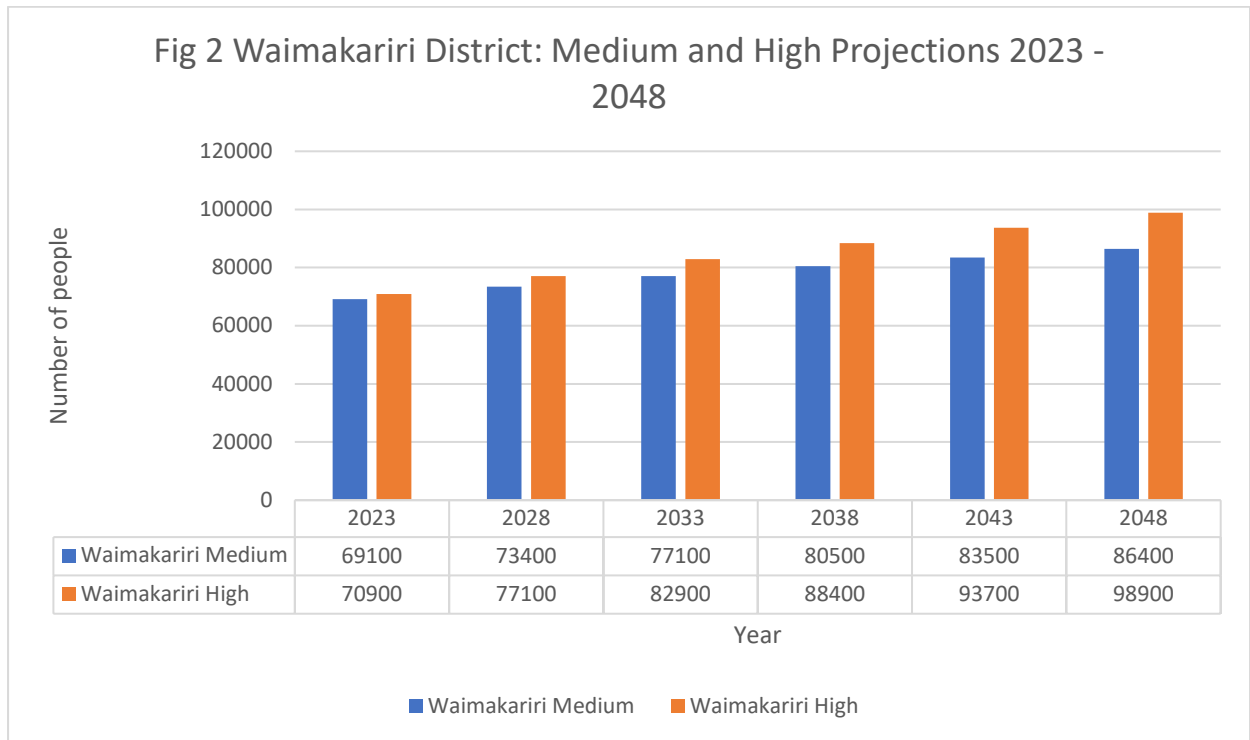
Some of Waimakariri’s recent population can be attributed to the movement of people from eastern Christchurch after the Christchurch earthquakes. This growth has continued as new areas have been opened for development. This increase has been accompanied by an overall increase in the level of social services being provided in the District.

The Hurunui District has seen more modest population growth during this period but has seen significant change during the period. This has been triggered by the Waiau/Kaikoura earthquake and sustained periods of drought, following on from the changes associated with the introduction of dairying, the growth of the wine industry and an increasing hospitality and tourism industry. This has seen a mainly ad hoc extension of social services into the Hurunui District in response to these adverse events.

The estimated resident populations for 30 June 2022 for the two districts saw Waimakariri with an estimated population of 67,900 and Hurunui with 13,700. This means that North Canterbury had an estimated population of 81,600 in mid-2022.

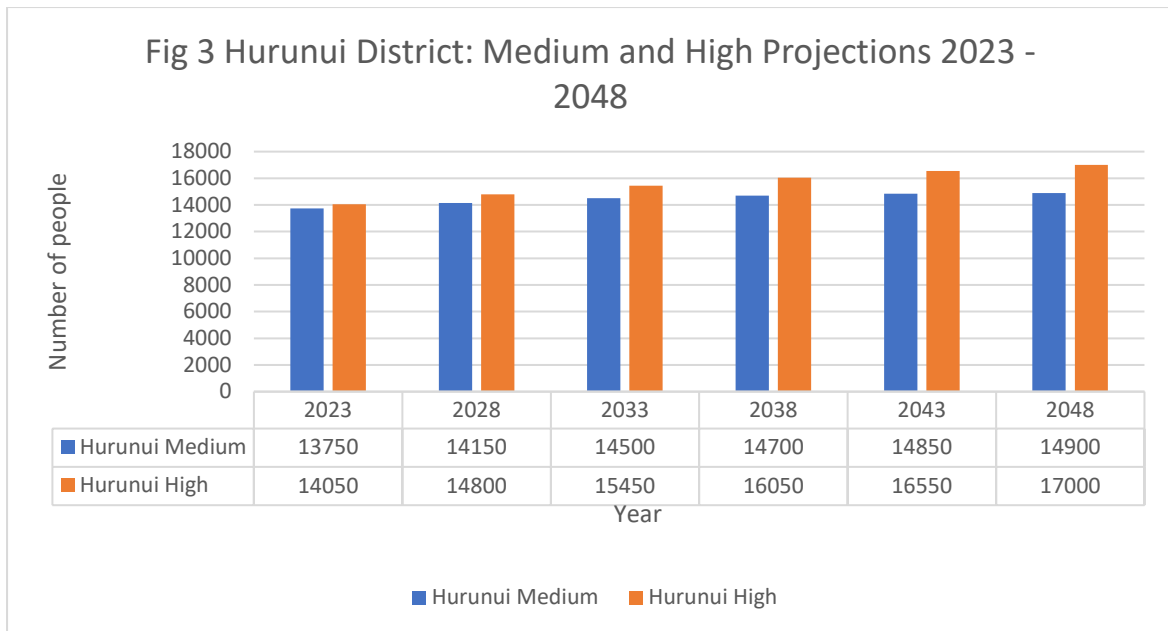
The estimated resident populations at that stage for Christchurch City was 389,300 and for the Selwyn District 79,300. Together with the Waimakariri District the estimated population of the greater Christchurch area at 30 June 2022 was 536,500. With the inclusion of the Hurunui District the total was 550,200, and North Canterbury with an estimated population of 81,600 had a 14.8% of the total area’s population.

Figures 2 and 3 set out the medium and high projections for the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts.



Statistics NZ: Projections

Figure 2 shows that the recent increases in the Waimakariri District are projected to continue, and this trend is underpinned by the land recently released for residential development, and the potential for redevelopment within the existing urban areas.



Statistics NZ: Projections

Figure 3 shows that while increases in the number of people living in the Hurunui District is projected it is much slower than for the Waimakariri District.

The inclusion of the Hurunui District in the greater Christchurch area is a departure from the way in which this area is normally conceptualised but is considered reasonable for the purposes of this report which is looking at the distribution of access to emergency and transitional housing. The Hurunui District has a large area with relatively few people who have limited access to social services many of which come from government agencies or NGOs based in the Waimakariri District.

2.2 Deprivation

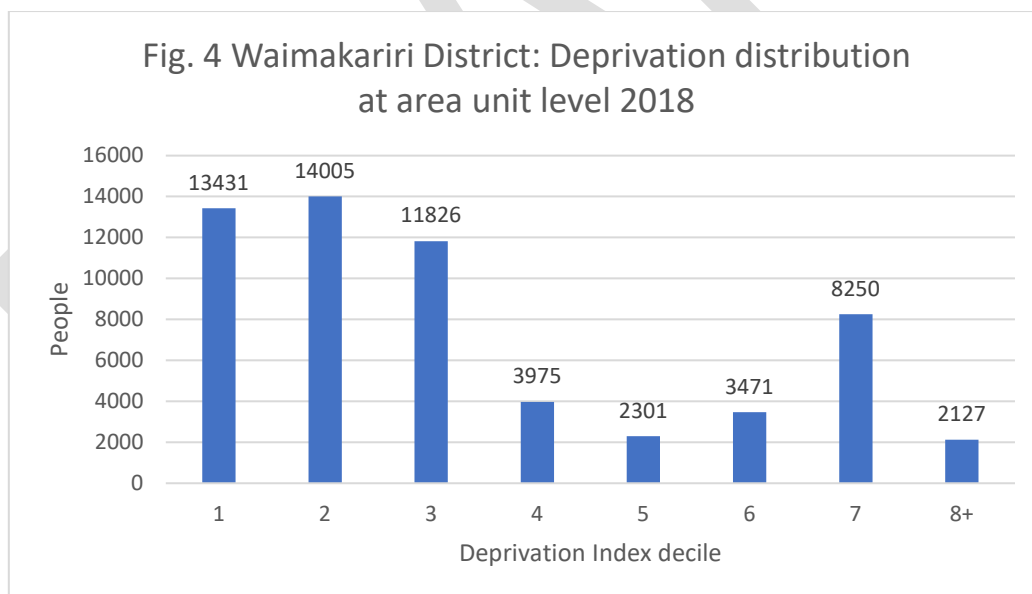
An index based on key Census variable identified as providing an overall indication of socio-economic disadvantage in a particular locality is drawn up after each Census initially based on Meshblock data. This is then aggregated to Area Unit and then to local government territorial authority level. The readings provided by the deprivation index gives a general overview of the mix of people living in an area.

NZDep2018 index combines the following Census data (calculated as a percentage of each small area).

Dimension of deprivation	Description of variable (in order of decreasing weight in the index)
Communication	People with no access to the Internet at home
Income	People aged 18-64 receiving a means tested benefit
Income	People living in equivalised* households with income below an income threshold
Employment	People aged 18-64 unemployed
Qualifications	People aged 18-64 without any qualifications
Owned home	People not living in own home
Support	People aged <65 living in a single parent family
Living space	People living in equivalised* households below a bedroom occupancy threshold
Living condition	People living in dwellings that are always damp and/or always have mould greater than A4 size

*Equivalisation: methods used to control for household composition.

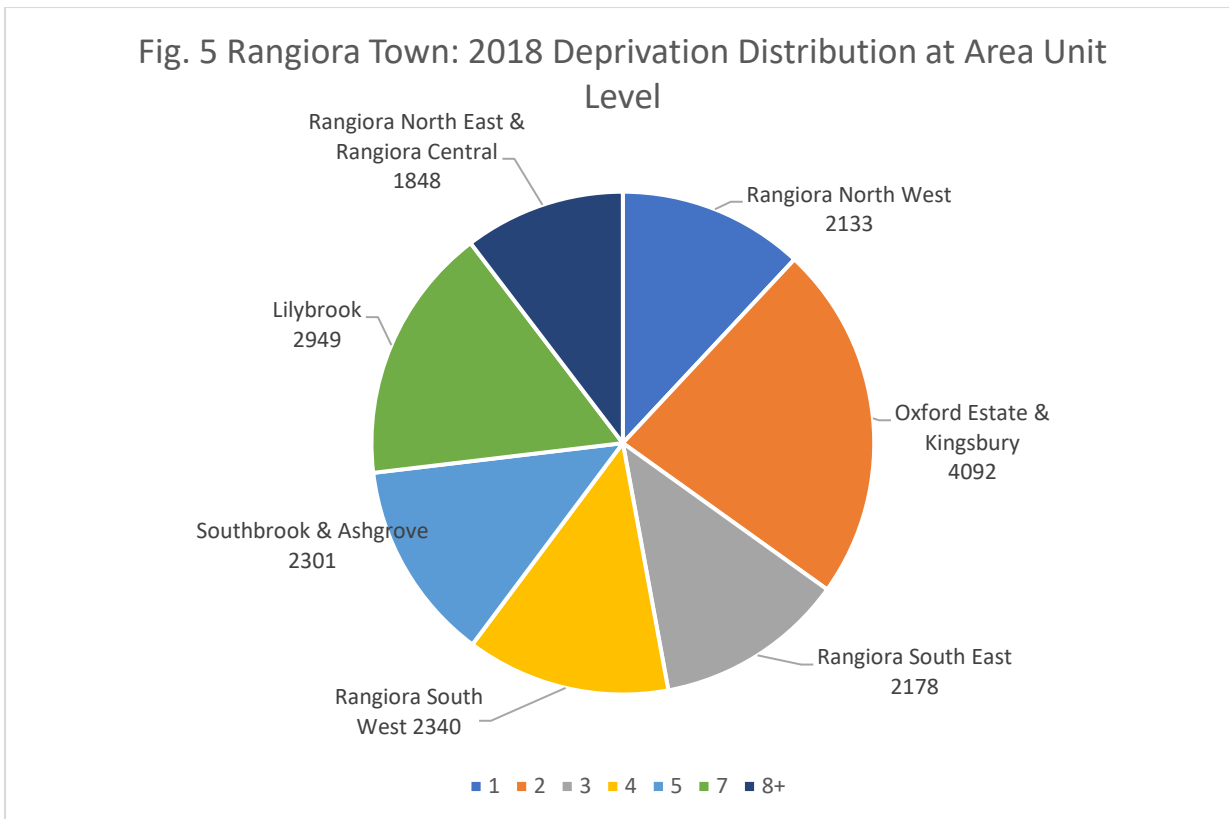
Figure 4 shows the deprivation distribution calculated at area unit level for the Waimakariri District for 2018. Note that for the NZ Deprivation Index 1 denotes the most advantaged and 10 the least advantaged.



University of Otago

Figure 4 shows that although a high proportion of the population is clustered towards the higher end of the scale, there are significant areas within the District with relatively high levels of disadvantage. These are principally found within the two main towns (Rangiora and Kaiapoi).

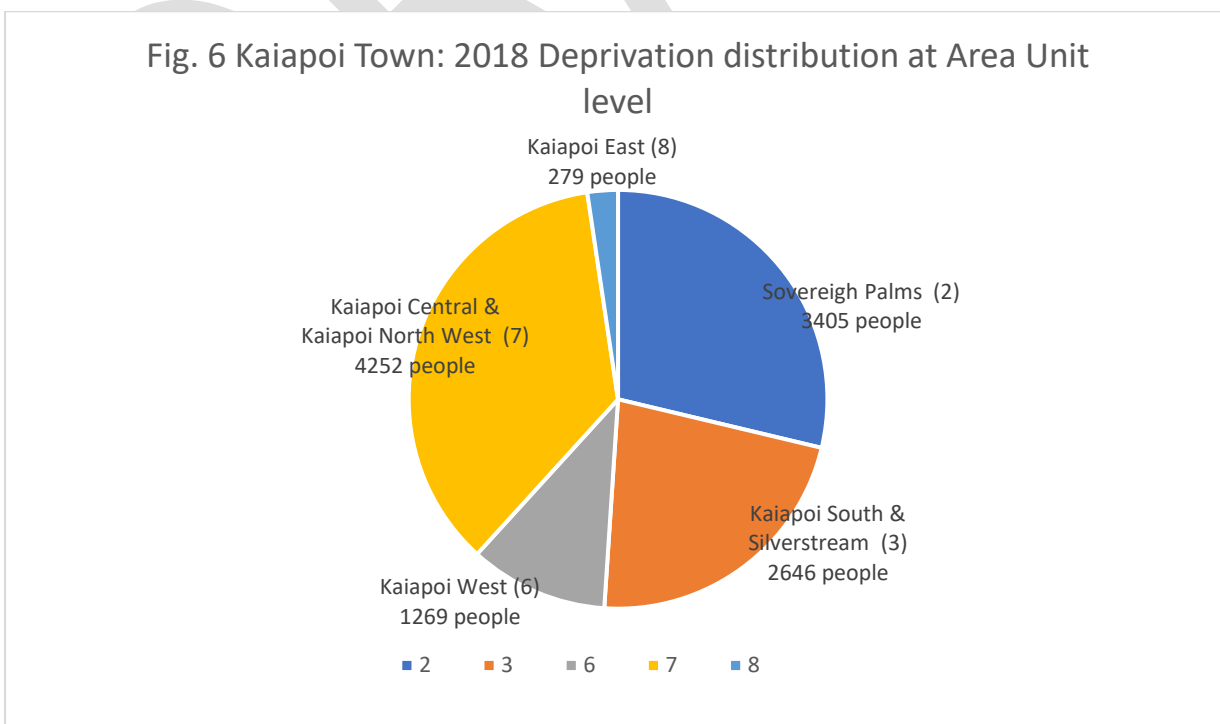
Figure 5 shows the distribution for deprivation index scores for Rangiora as recorded at Area Unit level for the 2018 Census.



University of Otago

The Rangiora graph shows the Rangiora North-East and Rangiora Central areas with a population in 2018 of 1848 as having decile scores of 8 or more, and Lilybrook with 2949 people having a decile score of 7.

Figure 6 sets out deprivation index scores for Kaiapoi in 2018.



University of Otago

This graph shows that there were more people living in areas with deprivation scores of 7 and 8 in Kaiapoi than in Rangiora.

While most of the rural area within the Waimakariri District had decile scores of 1 to 3 in 2018, the Oxford township had a decile score of 6 with a points scores of 988. This reflects the relative disadvantage of those living in Oxford, and which has a decile score and the number of points similar to the Kaiapoi West area unit.

The following table sets out the NZ Deprivation scores for the Area Units for the Hurunui District for 2013 and the new areas established by Statistic NZ for 2018.

Hurunui District: 2013 and 2018 Area Unit Deprivation Decile Scores				
2013 Census		2018 Census		
Area Unit	Decile	Area Unit	Decile	Population
Leithfield	3	Balcain	4	2343
Amberley	6	Amberley	5	2067
Hurunui	4	Ashley Forest	2	699
Cheviot	8	Omihi	5	1242
Parnassus	5	Upper Hurunui	5	1472
Amuri	2	Parnassus	6	1323
Culverden	5	Amuri	4	2223
Waiau	8	Hanmer Springs	3	960
Hanmer Springs	4	Hanmer Range	2	261

Otago University

This table shows that with the removal of a separate Area Units for Cheviot, the Parnassus Area Unit which now includes the Cheviot village has changed from 5 to 6 on the decile scale indicating an overall increase in the relative deprivation vis-à-vis New Zealand as a whole. Similarly, the Amuri Area Unit that now includes both the Culverden and Waiau villages has moved from 2 to 4 on the decile scale. In 2013 the Hanmer Springs Area Unit was 4 on the decile scale, and the division of this Area Unit into Hanmer Springs and Hanmer Range has seen these areas move up the scale to 3 and 2 respectively. Similarly, the Amberley Area Unit, which covers the Amberley urban area has improved its deprivation score from 6 to 5. An alternative source retained the 2013 areas and provides 2018 calculations for these areas, and both Waiau and Cheviot are identified as decile 9.

3 Public Housing Register

3.1 The system

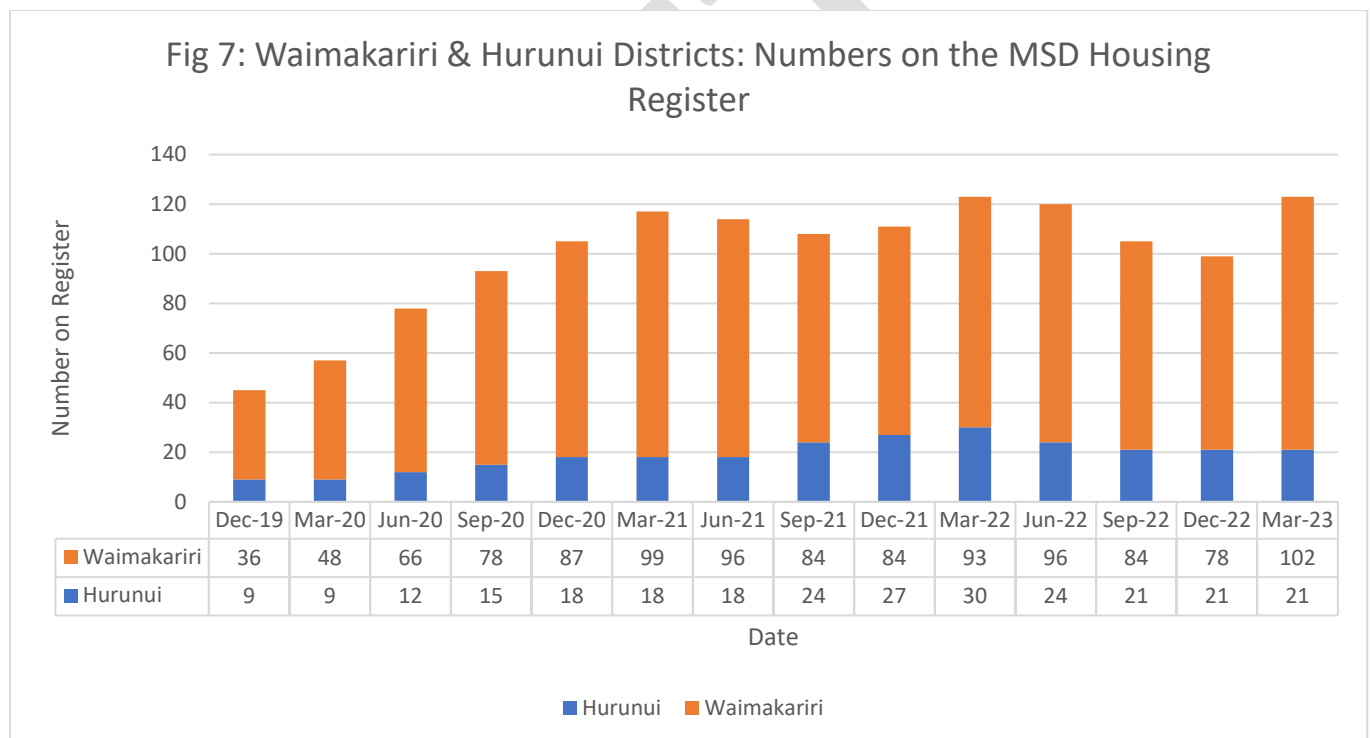
MSD maintains a Register which lists people who do not have secure housing and who meet various criteria. Public housing is means tested, and those who qualify currently have less than \$42,700.00 in cash and other assets, and for individuals an income of less than \$744.52 after tax, and for couples or individuals with children \$1,145.46 after tax per week. These people/households must also meet other tests including having New Zealand citizenship or residency, be receiving a main benefit such as job seeker support or are recognised as a refugee or protected person by Immigration New Zealand.

In addition, the people with their names on the register are ranked by MSD according to the assessment of their need, but are selected to be housed by Kainga Ora or CHPs. As a result, the people who are assessed as having an A priority ranking are also ranked from A1 (low) to A20 (high) in terms of need.

Whether a person/household with their name on the list are ultimately offered social housing depends will not only on their overall ranking, but also on whether they have special requirements such as wheelchair access, and/or disability bathroom facilities. Given these considerations and the overall shortage of social housing however, it is cases rated between A16 and A18 that are likely to be placed more regularly than those with a higher ranking.

3.2 Housing Registers for North Canterbury

Figure 7 sets out the numbers on the Register for the period from December 2019, just prior to the emergence of the COVID virus in New Zealand, through to March 2023.

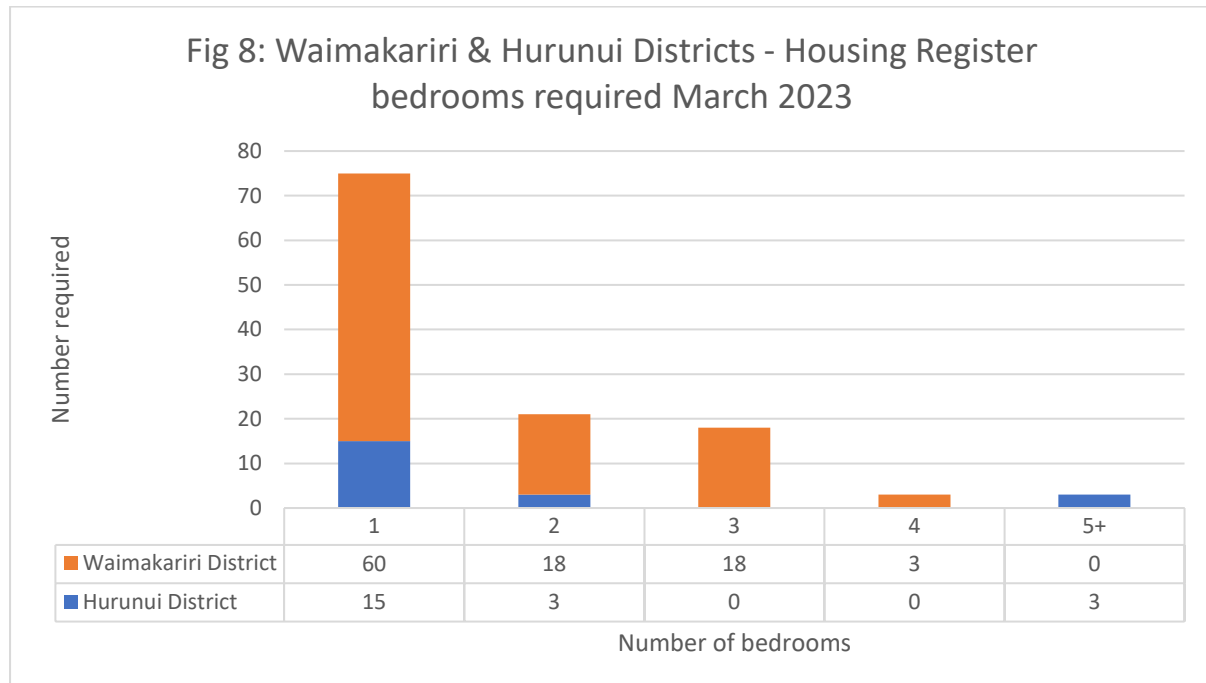


Housing Register MSD website

Figure 7 shows that there were relatively few households on the Register in December 2019 with the number for the two districts combined and recognising the practice of “rounding to 3” totalled 45. During the year after the first COVID lockdown the number of cases listed for North Canterbury climbed to 117, with 99 of these recorded for the Waimakariri District. The peak during the period under review, however, was for March 2022 when there were 123 households on the register and 30 of these from the Hurunui District.

In March 2023 the number of people on the register for the Waimakariri District was 102. Since 2018 there has been an increase of +162% in the number on the Register for this district and a +10% increase for the 12 months since March 2022. The growth in the number on the Register for this district during the 12 months to March 2023 represented the 7th highest for a territorial authority according to MHUD’s Local Authority Dashboard.

Further information that is publicly available from the Register website about the households on the Register for the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts gives the number of rooms required and the priority category for each. Figure 8 sets out the distribution for number of bedrooms for the accommodation required for the people or households on the register in March 2023.



Housing Register MSD website

Figure 8 shows that 75 of the 123 households listed for the two districts in March 2023 required a one bedroom unit, while a further 24 each required accommodation with two bedrooms. Relatively few required larger dwellings.

At national level the Register reports demographic information for the individuals who seek housing assistance and the representatives of the households that approach the department and qualify to have their names placed on the Register, but this information is not readily available at territorial authority level. From the distribution for number of bedrooms it can be deduced that most to those registering from the Hurunui and Waimakariri Districts are either single people or people from small households. These are either couples or sole parents with one or two very young children or older children of the same gender able to share the second bedroom in two bedroomed dwellings. Accepting the potential distortion resulting from “rounding to 3”, figure 8 nevertheless indications that it only about 18% of those on the register for North Canterbury in March 2023 were larger families.

Given the concern among those interested in public housing about the time that people/households in North Canterbury spend on the Register, information was sought from Work and Income. In general, approximately 50% are likely to have their names on the register for up to 12 months, about 33% for up to two years and the remaining households on the list for more than two years. Some of these people will never be offered public housing.

At the time of assessment a few the people/households on the Register, excluding those in public housing and waiting to transfer, will be living in emergency housing, boarding or staying with friends. More are likely to be living in caravans/mobile homes, or campgrounds with a few “sleeping rough” in vehicles. The main reasons for people being on the Register

are likely to be “homelessness” or the termination of their existing tenancy including eviction. The inadequacy of their current accommodation and/or the inability of accessing alternative housing are also likely to be some of the other reasons for people having their names on the Register.

Assessments are undertaken by skilled Work and Income, and the results of these are reflected in the priority rating of the person/household. For some on the register, however, their position may not adequately be represented at the initial assessment. In these cases, having another person involved who can encourage that person to open-up about their circumstances can help to ensure that their situation is fully understood. A consultant involved with supporting women leaving violent relationships also suggested that these women may need encouragement to explain fully their circumstances when she is seeking housing or other social support.

The Rangiora office of WINZ indicates from recent data that most of those on the register in North Canterbury have priority ratings of around A13 to A18, which means that some may be relatively unlikely to be allocated public housing. Those with their names on the Register are obliged to advise Work and Income of any change to their circumstances. Having somewhere to stay, even at a campground, may see a decrease in a person’s/household’s assessment of the level of need as they are seen as having a “roof over their head”.

3.3 People with names on the Housing Register

Efforts have been made by the Rangiora office of WINZ to try to understand what is happening to the individuals or households on the Register for Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts. When people sign-on to the register they are asked to nominate the localities in which they would like to be accommodated. Around 60% of the people on the register are likely to nominate Christchurch only or Christchurch and North Canterbury. Those who only nominate North Canterbury are less likely to be allocated public housing even if they have sufficiently high priority rating to qualify. In fact, to avoid being in this situation, those on the register in North Canterbury may want to stay in the area but will list Belfast or Northern Christchurch among their preferred options to increase the likelihood that housing will be found for them.

For some a placement in Christchurch may be satisfactory, but for others it presents difficulties. When people move to Christchurch it can mean severing ties to their community networks. Some go to considerable lengths to maintain contact with North Canterbury. Examples have been identified of families with children at schools in the Waimakariri District placed in accommodation Christchurch bringing their children back to the area so that they can continue to attend their school. A further concern is where people have been supported by social services based in North Canterbury. If they are relocated to Christchurch they may find it difficult to maintain links with their support network or gaining access similar support services in Christchurch.

For those used to living in rural or per-urban areas and are at risk, the move to Christchurch may prove particularly unsettling. Many people who have lived for extended periods in North Canterbury, will have little experience of fully urban living and can become “lost” in Christchurch. Someone who is used to riding a bicycle in a rural village, or Rangiora or Kaiapoi will find it difficult to cope with the complexity of navigating busy streets in Christchurch, for example. In a previous era, this was recognised by Housing New Zealand officers and every effort was made to accommodate those needing public housing in North Canterbury in the area for this reason.

4 Housing supply

4.1 Social Housing provision

New Zealand has a range of approaches to providing housing for people unable to provide suitable housing for themselves. The government is a major provider of public housing, the administration of which involves the MHUD, MSD including Work and Income, and Kainga Ora (previously known as Housing New Zealand).

Public housing is also provided by Registered CHPs. These are non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that contract to the government to provide accommodation for people who qualify for public housing. In addition, some territorial authorities provide social housing which is administered directly or via social housing trusts or similar that work at “arms-length” from the Council. The Waimakariri and Hurunui District Councils provide housing for older people.

4.2 Kainga Ora’s Housing in North Canterbury

In September 2022 Kainga Ora has 189 dwellings in the Waimakariri District and 24 in Hurunui. Table 2 sets out the distribution for numbers of dwellings and the numbers of bedrooms for Kaiapoi, Rangiora, the balance of the Waimakariri District, and the Hurunui District at that time.

Bedrooms	Kaiapoi		Rangiora		Elsewhere Waimakariri		Hurunui	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1 Bedroom	22	23.9	34	38.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
2 Bedrooms	35	38.0	23	26.1	1	11.2	4	16.5
3 Bedrooms	27	29.4	24	27.2	5	55.5	19	79.4
4 or more Bedrooms	8	8.7	7	8.0	3	33.3	1	4.1
Total	92	100.0	88	100.0	9	100.0	24	100.0

Table 2 shows that Kainga Ora had 213 dwellings in North Canterbury. There were 24 (11.6%) in the Hurunui District, and most of these are three or four bedroom family homes. Of the dwellings in the Waimakariri District most are in Kaiapoi or Rangiora, with a few located outside of these towns. The mix of dwellings in terms of the number of bedrooms varies. Of the Kainga Ora dwellings in Rangiora the highest percentage had a single bedroom. Kaiapoi has higher percentages of Kainga Ora’s dwellings with two or three bedrooms than Rangiora.

Kainga Ora has provided information about its proposed activity in North Canterbury within the next two years. In Rangiora it will be commencing the redevelopment of two sites where it currently has two or three dwellings on adjacent properties. In late 2023 it will commence construction of 4 two bedroom unit, 4 three bedroom, 5 four bedroom and 2 five bedroom homes on two sites. On another two sites it is proposing to construct 9 new homes with construction scheduled to begin in 2024. Kainga Ora will also be buying 16 homes in Rangiora in late 2023 or 2024.

Kainga Ora will begin the redevelopment of a Princess Place/Williams Street site in Kaiapoi in late 2023 which will yield 21 units. In addition, the purchase of 13 homes is scheduled for Kaiapoi in late 2023 or 2024.

Information was requested regarding the length of tenure of people/households living in state owned social housing in the Waimakariri. Kainga Ora advised that the average length of tenure for the years 2015 – 2021/22 was 9.2 years. Tenancies that lasted for less than one year were excluded from the calculation of this average.

4.3 Housing provided by Registered Community Housing Providers

Vision West is the main the CHP with public housing in the Waimakariri District, with 21 dwellings, with 16 in Kaiapoi and 5 in Rangiora. Of these dwellings nine have two bedrooms and 12 have three bedrooms. These provide long term social housing. Vision West takes its referrals/prospective tenants from the Register, and these people are selected from those specifically listing Waimakariri on their housing assessment.

These people are provided with a wrap-around support service as they first move in, and this continues until they are stable and do not require on-going support or have support from other community or iwi groups. Vision West has the capacity to re-engage at any time if the whanau/family in its houses need support from it. It also provides sustaining tenancies support (under the Sustaining Tenancies programme) for anyone needing support who is not a Vision West tenant.

Comcare Charitable Trust has a base in Rangiora and provides mental health and addiction services in North Canterbury but does not currently have any social housing in this area.

Emerge Aotearoa operates transitional housing in the area but does not currently provide any social housing.

4.4 Waimakariri and Hurunui District Council Elderly Persons' Housing

The Waimakariri District Council and its predecessors have traditionally provided EPH, previously known as Pensioner Housing. The following table shows the units that this Council has for elderly people.

Location	Single accommodation	Double accommodation
Kaipoi	21	4
Rangiora	26	8
Woodend	0	3
Oxford	10	3
Total	57	18

This accommodation is means tested along with other eligibility criteria, and it is understood that there are currently approximately 60 names on the waiting list for these units.

The Hurunui District Council has 34 units for older people and those on Supported Living Payments, and these are found in Amberley, Waikari, Cheviot and Hanmer Springs. Access to these units is means tested. In June 2023 there were 64 people on the waiting list for these units, and approximately 60% of these cases were classified as either priority 1 or 2.

4.5 Availability Emergency and Transitional Housing for North Canterbury

For those seeking housing assistance the first step on the ladder to obtain longer term tenancy in social housing can be through emergency or transitional housing.

Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG)'s are provided by Work and Income and involves the payment of the first seven days accommodation for homeless people to pay for private rental accommodation. In the quarter to March 2023, there were \$13,370 EH SNGs paid in the Waimakariri District and \$0 in the Hurunui District. After the first seven days the individual/household is required to make a contribution towards the cost of this accommodation. The government also provides a housing supplement (Accommodation Supplement) for people living in rental accommodation facing difficulties with meeting their housing costs.

There is very limited access to motel accommodation in the Waimakariri District, mainly because it has little traveller accommodation. There is only one motel in the Waimakariri District that will accept homeless women with children who must be approved by the manager of that facility.

The Hurunui District has more travellers' accommodation, particularly motels and one of these in Amberley is understood to provide emergency housing. Overall, there is a reluctance by motel owners/managers to offer emergency housing as having one unit being used for emergency housing can make it difficult to maintain a traditional motel business because of conflict between those in emergency housing and the travelling public using other motel units.

Transitional housing is provided by Transitional Housing Providers (THPs) on contract to the MHUD. The funding for transitional housing comes from a separate budget to that funding social and emergency housing. The THPs funded to provide transitional housing are required to provide accommodation that is warm and dry. It is designed to be occupied for a short period and may include contracted motels. People in transitional housing receive support services tailored to their needs with the aim of helping them to secure a long-term home or improving the likelihood of their "staying housed". The various THPs with transitional housing contracts have different criteria which influence the cases they accept for their transitional accommodation.

Comcare Charitable Trust previously had transitional housing in Waimakariri but does not currently have any social or transitional housing in this area. It indicated that it discontinued its transitional housing contract because it had not been able to find suitable tenants which fitted with its particular brief.

Emerge Aotearoa has five transitional houses in Kaiapoi, but it understood that this organisation views these as part of its Christchurch City operation. From the MHUD's perspective, however, these five houses are in the Waimakariri District which undermines the contention that there is no transitional accommodation in North Canterbury. This situation highlights the fact, nevertheless, that the provision of transitional accommodation in a particular area is dependent on having a THP active in that area and able to secure a contract for this service.

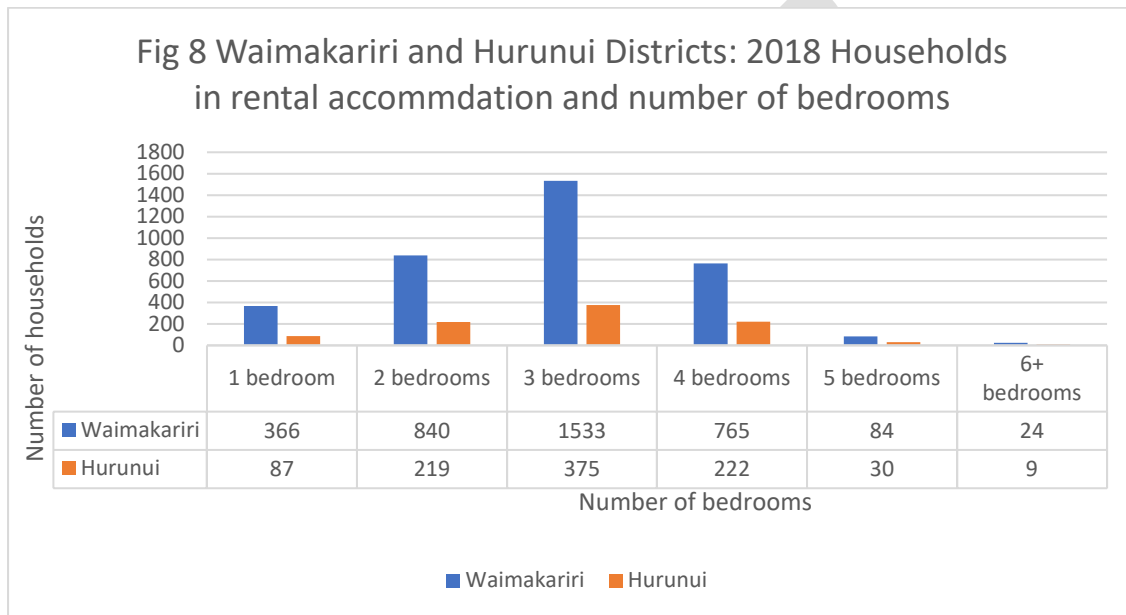
4.6 Rental accommodation

The information about households in rental accommodation from the 2018 Census indicates that there were 3,612 households in the Waimakariri District, an increase of 732 households

compared 2013, or 25.5%. In 2018 the Hurunui District had 1146 households living in rental accommodation compared with 999 in 2013, an increase of 147 or 14.7%.

The Waimakariri District in 2018 had 3276 (84.0%) of the households living in rental accommodation had private sector landlords, with 114 (3.1%) living in homes provided by the Waimakariri District Council and 172 (4.8%) living in accommodation provided by Kainga Ora or a CPH. The Hurunui District in 2018 had 1047 (91.7%) of the households were living in accommodation provided by the private sector, 45 (3.9%) were living in dwellings provided by the Hurunui District Council and 30 (2.6%) were provided by Kainga Ora.

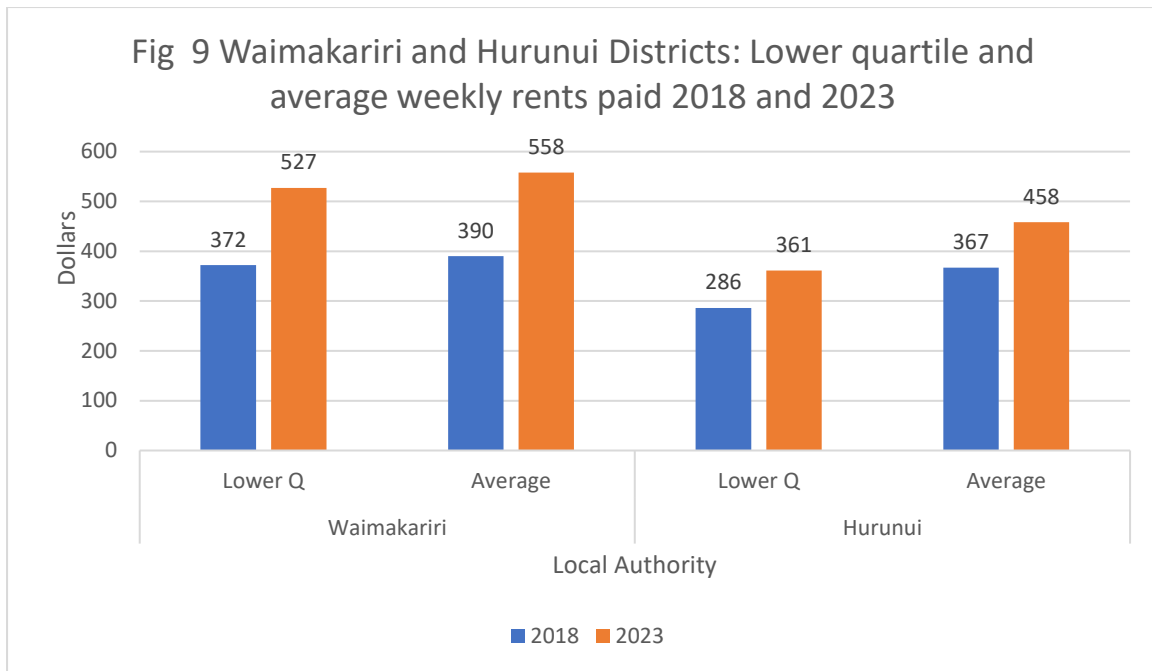
The number of bedrooms in the homes rented which were recorded at the 2018 Census for the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts is set out in figure 8.



Statistics NZ: 2018 Census

Figure 8 shows that of the households in rental accommodation in the Waimakariri District in 2018, 2406 (66.7%) were in houses with three or more bedrooms. For the Hurunui District 636 (55.6%) were in similar accommodation. Of the 250 households in the Waimakariri Districts in dwellings with one or two bedrooms 162 (65.0%) were in units provided by either the Waimakariri District Council or Kainga Ora. Similarly, 42 (58.5%) of the 72 households that were in one or two bedroom dwellings in the Hurunui District were in units provided by the Hurunui District or Kainga Ora.

Figure 8 sets out the lower quartile and average (geometric mean) for rents paid in the Waimakariri and Hurunui District in 2018 and 2023.



HUD housing dashboard – Tenancy Services data

Figure 9 shows that there has been a relatively gradual increase in the weekly sums being paid for rental accommodation in in the Waimakariri District of 4.8% for the lower quartile and 9.5% for the average or geometric mean respectively. The Hurunui District has recorded a much greater increase of 28.0% for the lower quartile and 26.5% for the average.

5 Homelessness in North Canterbury

5.1 The research

As part of this project a series of interviews were conducted with people from NGOs and government agencies familiar with homelessness in North Canterbury. These included the Rangiora Police, Oranga Tamariki, various members of the staff of the Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust, the Oxford Community, experts in addressing family violence, the Hope Trust and St Vincent de Paul working in the area. Discussions were also held with Hurunui District Council Staff and Together Hurunui, the social service collaboration based in that district.

Informal conversations were conducted by two members of the team involved with the project who reported back to the wider group which included the Waimakariri District Council, Social Services Waimakariri, the Rangiora office of Work and Income, Vision West and Comcare. In addition to the information gathered via the interviews, representatives of the organisations that formed the project group contributed information directly, and this is incorporated into this report.

Prior to the COVID lockdown a group of NGO representatives were involved with a survey of the residents living in the campgrounds in the Waimakariri District. These findings of this research are relevant to this project investigating homelessness to the extent that it provided an understanding of the mix of people living in these camping grounds and their future housing aspirations. It is recognised nevertheless that the situation in some of the campgrounds have changed somewhat since 2019.

The findings from these interviews are summarised in terms of the people mostly affected by homelessness, including youth (including those who have been in Oranga Tamariki's care), women with children (including those who have recently left violent relationships), people on their own, and older people.

5.2 Youth

5.2.1 Youth leaving Oranga Tamariki Care

There are 60 children and young people presently in foster care in the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts and 18 of them are between 14 – 18 years of age. Brook Turner's reported in his master's thesis that there are approximately 6,000 young people who leave Oranga Tamariki's care each year, and there are 400 dedicated transitional housing places available for these young people across New Zealand. There are 25 of these places in Christchurch, however none are located in North Canterbury.

Young people leaving Oranga Tamariki's care in North Canterbury, therefore, have very few options with respect to accommodation. A few return to their natural families, although Oranga Tamariki advised that this is not always in their best interests. A few might be given one of the specialist units available in Christchurch, but this will involve severing any ties they may have in North Canterbury.

Those not able to access this accommodation can find themselves in high risk campground accommodation if they want to remain in North Canterbury. Another option is "couch surfing", as it is highly unlikely that a private landlord would accept a young person aged 18 with no history of having been a responsible tenant.

While conducting the research for this project, reports were received of at least one young person who was living at Pineacres. For young women who find themselves in environments such as Pineacres campground, who are already traumatised by their earlier experiences are very vulnerable and are particularly at risk of establishing inappropriate relationships with older men. For young men in this situation, it could lead to involvement with criminal behaviour including drugs, associations with gangs and time in prison.

Transitional social worker services for those leaving Oranga Tamariki care have been introduced recently in greater Christchurch. The Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust holds one of these contracts. This transitional social worker provides support for the young people leaving government care, but this does not overcome the problems associated with the lack of suitable supported housing.

Based on discussions with NGOs the general conclusion regarding housing for young people leaving the government care system is that they are far worse than most, and that cases with failed transitions out of care often end up in longer term homelessness. This feeds into the growing number of New Zealand's homeless people from the outset.

5.2.2 Youth Services

Those working in North Canterbury on a youth services contract are mandated to work with teenagers 16 – 18 years in education rather than employment who are identified as being at high risk. They also have responsibility for young parents 16 – 20 years of age. Their contract provides for them to be responsible for up to 80 young people within an area stretching from the Waimakariri River through North Canterbury to Hanmer. They are

currently looking after 50 teenagers in the Waimakariri District and three in the Hurunui District and advise that currently all enjoy stable accommodation.

The youth workers described their mandate as to persuade their clients to repair relationships, and to encourage them to remain in their current home. If it is necessary for them to be moved to more suitable accommodation, it is likely to be with a member of their extended family or someone else with close links with the family.

In some of these cases accommodation can involve the young person living in a van on a property where there is oversight. Cases were also cited of young people who when offered the opportunity to relocate to Christchurch having resisted this because they wanted to remain in the area with which they were familiar.

5.2.3 General accommodation for youth in North Canterbury

The absence of supported transitional housing for youth who are unable to remain in their current accommodation is a serious gap in North Canterbury's range of housing options. There is no established pathway to stable accommodation for any young people seeking to transition to independent living in North Canterbury. To ensure that youth in North Canterbury successfully transition to adult life, the lack of suitable housing in the area must be addressed.

This could take the form of accommodation like the Otepoti Youth Transition House in Dunedin, with supportive supervision provided by staff at the facility. Alternatively, there should be a substantial increase in the number of dedicated places in suitable accommodation for youth, and these should be spread across Greater Christchurch. This will help ensure these young people do not have to sever the social connections.

The provision of public housing for youth in North Canterbury has been of concern for many years as there is no supported housing for them. Further investigation into suitable housing options for all youth, including the possible numbers involved should be undertaken.

5.3 Single women with children

The options that are available for homeless women with children are limited, especially those who have left violent relationships. There is one motel in the Waimakariri District that is understood to be willing to provide emergency accommodation for women with children, but only with the approval of the manager. Access to this motel is not automatically available to a homeless woman with a child or children. One motel in Amberley also provides emergency housing.

The only other options are to find suitable affordable rental accommodation or to move to one of the campgrounds in North Canterbury. At least one case was identified of a homeless young woman with two young children who had approached Work and Income wanting help, who went to a campground, which was one of the options offered by the agency as there was no suitable rental accommodation in the area. The mix of people and the standard of facilities at this campground made it an inappropriate place for this young woman and her children. This family remained in this accommodation for some time, and social work efforts to find accommodation. This went so far as to put out a general call across a community email network, to see if anyone knew of suitable rental accommodation in a particular locality which would allow the older child to continue at the same school.

Discussions with a consultant with extensive experience working with women leaving violent relationships stressed that these women are likely to have needs in addition to those of homeless women generally. When they leave violent relationships, they often leave with nothing, do not have any immediate access to money, and former partners can make it difficult for them to gain access to funds to which they are entitled.

Some will have children who they need to have with them and/or pets. Both children and pets are important considerations when a woman leaves a violent partner as the partner is often violent towards the children and/or pets. Violent men are often likely to be bullies and so, even if they have not been violent towards pets prior to a woman leaving the family, can use pets as leverage after she has left.

Accommodation for a woman escaping domestic violence varies according to circumstances but it must be suitable to her needs. For some motel accommodation may be viable, but not if she has children and/or pets. The mix of people using the motel will be a factor that needs to be considered.

Safe houses are not now preferred as they often do not offer security and can mean co-habiting with other women and their dependents. The location of accommodation for women escaping a violent relationship can be important, as it is often important to consider where they are likely to move and who they are going to meet. For those with children, attention will also need to be paid to ensuring that the children will be able to continue to attend their school.

Based on conversations with local agencies, it is hard to determine the approximate number of women in the above situations, however there is a known need for additional housing supply to accommodate them. To enable this, it is recommended that Work and Income and community organisations continue to encourage these women to register North Canterbury as a location on the Register, and Council as part of their advocacy role, advocate for smaller units available for long term rental to be built in the area, which would add to affordable housing supply.

5.4 Single Adults

Single adults, mainly men, would appear to be the group with the highest level of homelessness in North Canterbury and is steadily increasing. The distribution for number of bedrooms for those on the Register also suggests that this group is well represented.

There were reports from the Police and NGOs that the number of people living rough or sleeping in cars in the Kaiapoi area has increased in recent years. Prior to the arrival of COVID those involved with Kaiapoi Community Support knew of about three men who had no fixed abode. They used contact addresses such as the local post office. When filling in a food parcel form they would list their address as “the river” or similar, and in these cases “river meant river”.

In recent months the NZ Police report there have been around 15 to 20 people sleeping in cars in the vicinity of Kaiapoi. They park-up in groups at night for security and regularly move where they choose to sleep so that they do not attract the attention of the authorities. In addition to those who may have limited links with the community, there were reports of cases where parents are leaving their children to sleep at a family/whanau member’s home and sleeping elsewhere in their vehicle. Some of those who are sleeping in vehicles in the vicinity of Kaiapoi are receiving food parcels from the Kaiapoi Community Pantry operated by Kaiapoi Community Support.

In addition to these people, the NZ Police also indicate there is a group that regularly parks-up in the Mandeville area. They arrive very late at night and move away early in the morning. There has also been at least one incident where a resident noted a car parked for some time in the Whites Road Reserve. When this was investigated by a concerned member of the community a woman was found to be sleeping in this vehicle.

The rural areas of the Waimakariri District in particular offer numerous opportunities for people without permanent accommodation to locate their caravans and house buses on small holdings, while others are occupying sleep-outs. At least one person interested in the possibility of having an Abbeyfield House in the Waimakariri District, who was living in a vehicle on a rural property approached people running a fundraising stall for Abbeyfield at a community market day. There were also other reports of groups of people living in the Mandeville/Swannanoa and Oxford areas. It is unclear how many similar cases are elsewhere in North Canterbury. This environment also poses a potential environmental risk associated with effluent disposal. In the Hurunui District there are instances of people "sleeping rough" either close to rivers or in the forestry area and they are most likely to be there in the summer months.

The campgrounds have traditionally provided a place to stay for single people, particularly men. In previous years, the Lehmans Road campground has been seen as attracting single men including some with criminal records and often involved with drugs. This campground is now recognised as being well managed and relatively fully occupied so the management is able to turn away people likely to present difficulties for other residents. Currently it is the Pineacres campground which has significant numbers of single men, many of whom have psychological issues and drug habits. Police based in the Waimakariri District are frequently called upon to visit this campground to deal with disturbance among residents.

The Hurunui District Council does not encourage long-term occupancy of its campgrounds, and in this context, these reserves are like the Woodend and Waikuku campgrounds in the Waimakariri District which are on reserve land and thus leased to camp operators to be used as camping accommodation only.

It would appear the availability of space in the peri-urban and rural areas of North Canterbury is an attraction for homeless people. In addition to the campgrounds the rural areas attract people facing housing difficulties. It is easier to find somewhere to sleep in vehicles that are not as well policed as in Christchurch. There are also places where residents will allow caravans and house busses to be parked, or a spare "sleep out" on a rural property. These are often found on small holdings already rented by individuals or groups of people whose housing situation can be described as already insecure.

Discussions with those involved with social services in Oxford suggested that the authorities could consider developing supervised accommodation for single men in their middle years who do not fit easily into the community. This will require further investigation into suitable options such as a transitional house.

5.5 Older People

The Waimakariri District has a relatively high proportion of its population in the older age groups, and Figure 9 sets out the projections for people 65 years and over.

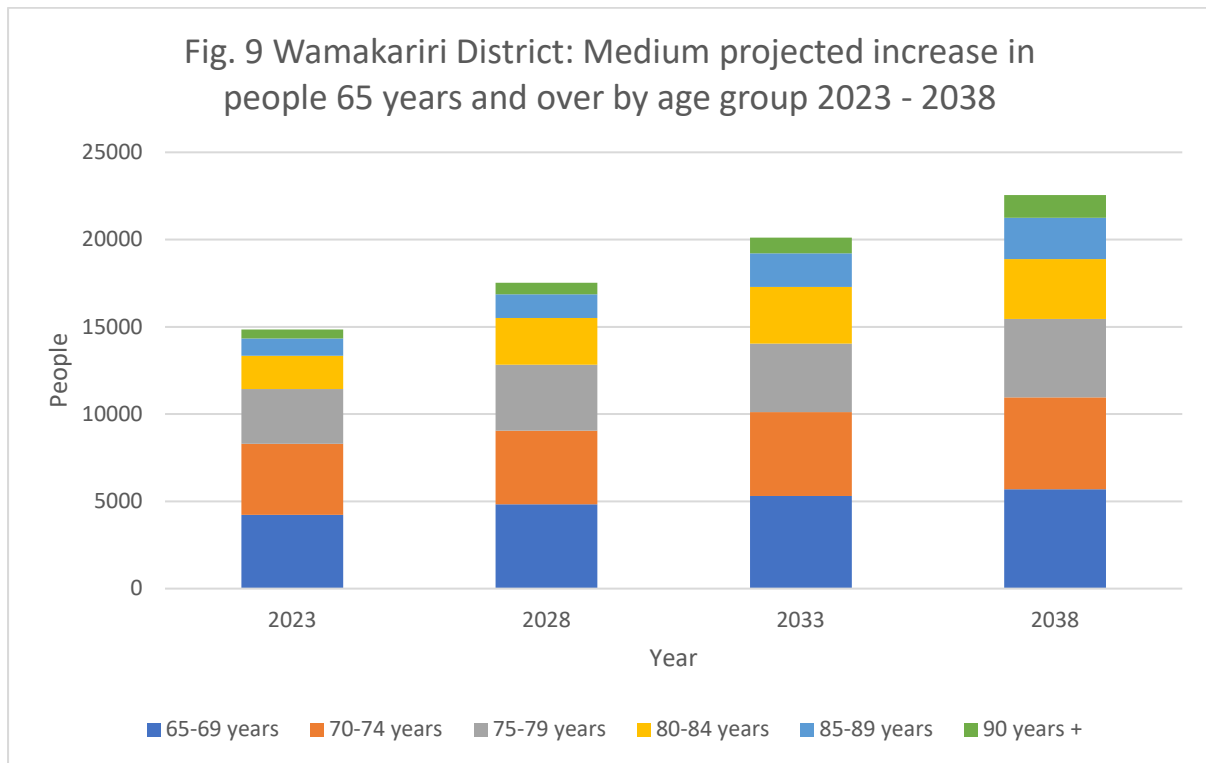


Figure 9 shows the projected accumulation of people aged 65 years and over in the District over the next 25 years and highlights the likely increased number of people who will be aged 80 years and over in the District in the years to come. It is people in this age group who are among most likely to face difficulties if they are living in their own homes, as they find it increasingly difficult to look after themselves and their properties. Those in the younger age groups are among the more likely to face difficulties with the increasing cost of rental accommodation, or the cost of paying off the remainder of their mortgages if they have left the workforce without a debt free home.

The criteria for access to social housing can make it difficult for many older people to gain access to it, and for those who do meet these conditions are not likely to score highly on the priority list. As with the deprivation index, the criterion for acute hardship tends to focus on the needs of households with children.

Council currently provides 112 EPH in Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Woodend and Oxford. Hurunui District Council provide approximately 34 units for those over 65 or those on a supported living payment. However, we understand there are over 60 people on the waitlists for Council's EPH and this is growing. Therefore, the supply does not currently meet demand.

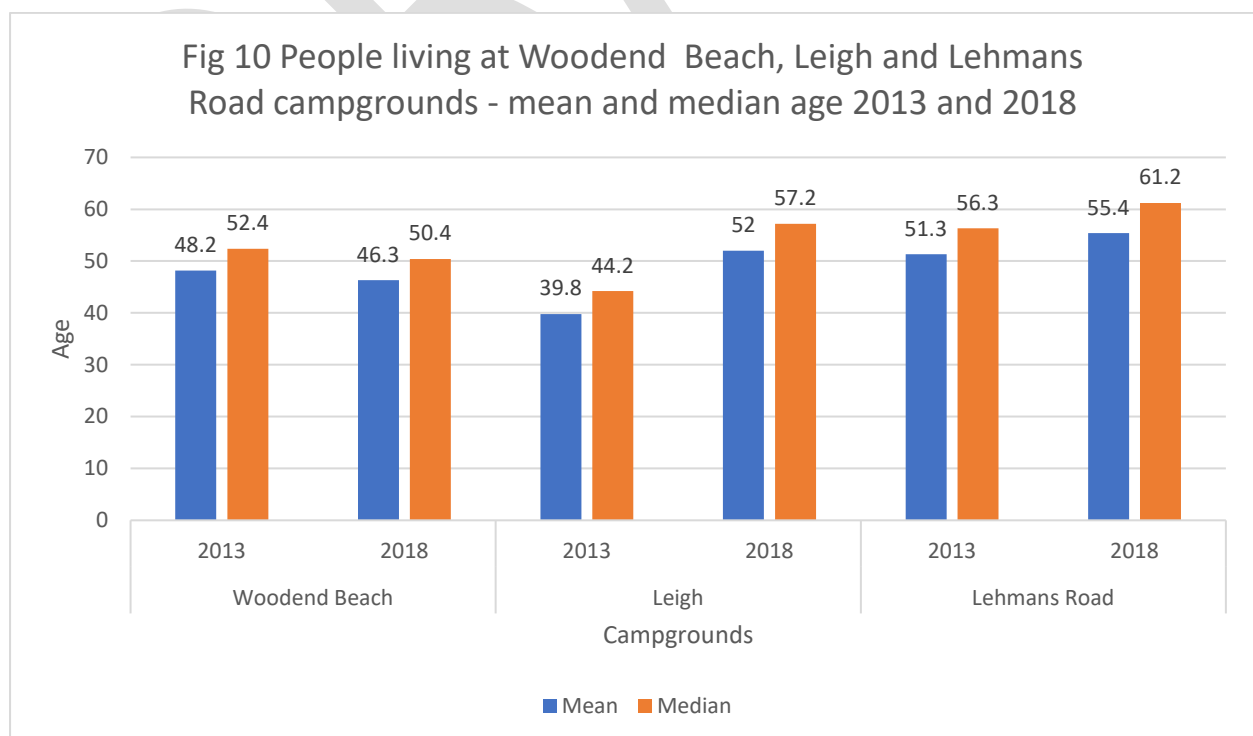
The Retirement Commissioner indicates that there is a general trend for more people to be reaching 65 years and over who do not have a debt free home or are living in rental accommodation. Those in private rental accommodation are regarded as being particularly at risk, as the rents being charged by private landlords increase along with other living costs.

In addition, in North Canterbury more people are entering their late 70s and 80s living in older properties that are often becoming difficult to maintain. The cost and availability of support services can be making it difficult for them to sustain themselves in their present homes which is likely to lead to increasing social isolation and the neglect of self-care including nutrition. These people can be regarded as falling into the “missing middle”, they do not have the financial resources to move to a retirement village and are not sufficiently incapacitated to qualify for full residential care.

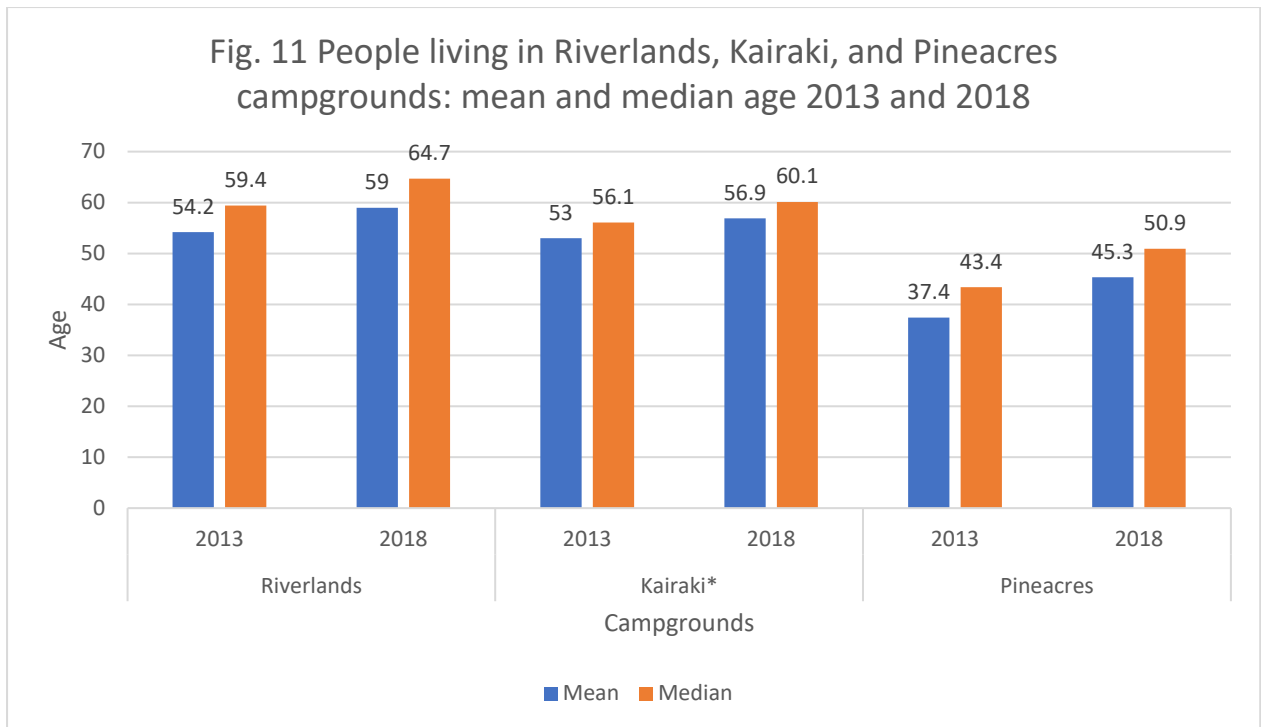
In 2018 the Waimakariri District had approximately 1,100 people 70 year of age and over who were in accommodation that they did not own, or part own, or was not owned by a family trust and had incomes of \$30,000.00 or less. A few of these people may have been in residential aged care facilities, but others can be regarded as falling into this most vulnerable group.

When reviewing the situation for the Hurunui District, most of the villages or small settlements have a high percentage of older people and these areas have scored highly on the deprivation indices that have been prepared after recent Censuses. Reports from the Hurunui are that there are strong community networks enjoyed by older members of the community. The situation would appear to be more critical for the oldest members of the community, however, some of whom are finding it hard sustain themselves in their homes and are anxious that if they indicate they need further support may lead to them being told they cannot continue to time in their homes. This would trigger a need for them to move away from their community and probably move into institutional care.

The 2019 Waimakariri Campground Study found a high proportion of people living in our campgrounds in the older age groups. The trend towards having an increasing number of older people living in campgrounds is confirmed by an analysis of data for the meshblocks in which the Waimakariri District campgrounds are located at the 2013 and 2018 Census. In each instance in figures 10 and 11 the median age exceeds the mean age which indicated that the age distribution is skewed towards the higher end of the range.



Statistic NZ 2013 and 2018 Censuses



Statistic NZ 2013 and 2018 Censuses

These figures show that the greatest concentrations of older people in 2018 were at the Riverlands, Kairaki and the Lehmans Road campgrounds. The Riverlands campground, which is close to the Waimakariri River stop banks differs from the other campgrounds in that it does not allow children to live there permanently. This will tend to drive up the age related statistics for this campground. The sharp increase in the mean and median ages at the Leigh campground between 2013 and 2018 could signal the potential for a significant number of older people are now living at this campground.

When asked about their intention to move away many of those interviewed indicated they had no intention of moving. Among those who had considered moving stated that their preferred move would be to the Council's EPH.

Since 2019 the circumstances for some of the North Canterbury's older people has deteriorated. The Pineacres campground is visited regularly by a St Vincent De Paul team. This group delivers food to approximately 20 individuals or household representatives and advise that around eight of these people are in the older age groups. Among these people, for example, is one older person who is living in a small cabin costing \$250.00 per week who reports they have not been able to buy meat for more than a year. The circumstances faced by older people living at this campground is of particular concern, as they must go outside of their cabins or caravans to reach toilet and cooking facilities in all weather. This increases the risk of them slipping and being injured in a fall.

The Hope Trust based in Rangiora is active in providing food support for people living in the Council's EPH in addition to the food parcels that they give to older people who approach them for support. This organisation sees the provision of supplementary food support as an important way of offsetting some of the worst effects of rising costs for older people.

Reports from the Oxford Community Trust indicate that there are older people living in rental accommodation in its area who are finding it very difficult to meet their financial commitments. Food is also being provided for older people at Oxford by way of community

meals with the food being provided by Satisfy Food Rescue based in Kaiapoi. Some of the dishes served at this lunch are prepared by members of the District service clubs.

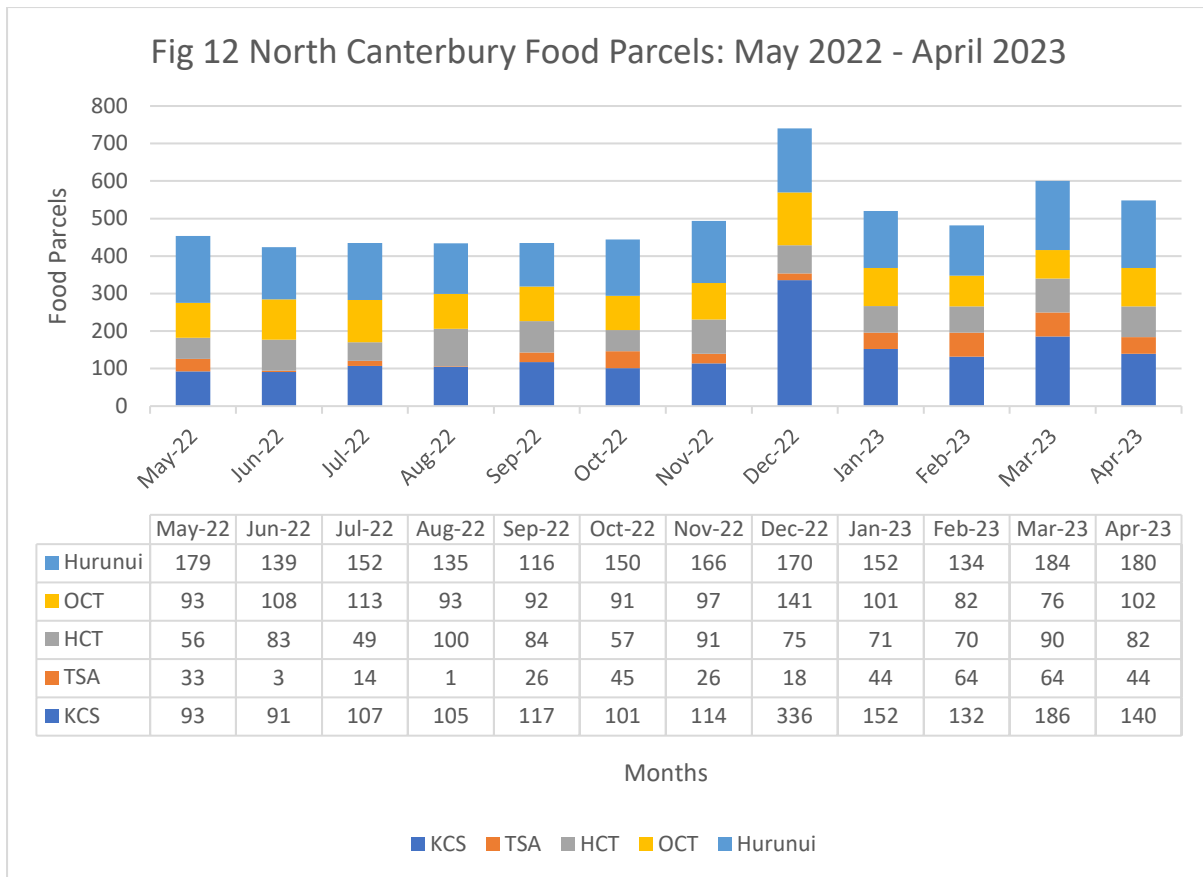
Kaiapoi Community Support is also seeing more older people turning to it for help. A few of these requests relate to housing and efforts are made to help these cases. In one instance a move to the Riverlands campground was the only option available.

Given that the oldest of the “baby boom” generation are in their mid-70s, there are substantial numbers of people who will be ageing in the years to come and who will be placing demands on social services. The significance of housing for older people is something that has not received very much attention until now as most of those who have mortgage free homes have been able to live within national superannuation supplemented by their savings. The current situation is an indication of what is likely to come, but the number of people facing difficulties is likely to increase rapidly and the need for housing solutions for older people will become more pressing.

It is recommended that Council and other organisations, continue to provide housing for the elderly and consider expanding their provision of housing for older people who have limited financial resources. It is also recommended that Council as part of its advocacy role to continue to make representations to the government to allow people living in this accommodation to claim the housing supplement (Income Related Rent Subsidy) available to people in accommodation provided by registered social housing providers.

6 North Canterbury Food Bank records

Food bank records can be seen as an indicator of housing distress, even if it is not always associated with homelessness. Local budget advice services are understood to be advising those seeking support who find it difficult to meet their financial commitments to pay their rent or mortgage ahead of buying food, and to go to food banks to make up the shortfall of food. The North Canterbury food bank records set out in figure 12 clearly signal relatively widespread financial housing stress in the area.



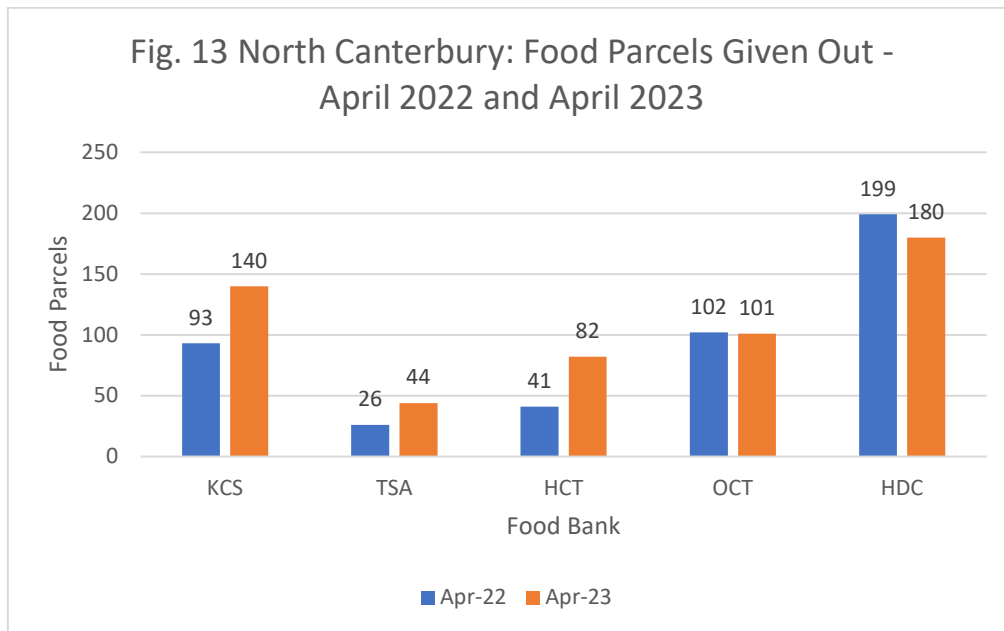
North Canterbury Food Secure Network

This data is from the area's main food banks that are part of the food secure action group for North Canterbury. The Kaiapoi Community Support (KCS) community pantry mainly provides food parcels for the Kaiapoi area, the coastal area from the Waimakariri River and Waikuku, and the southern part of the District including Ohoka, Mandeville, Eyreton, and West Eyreton. KCS is the recipient of Kaiapoi "Toot for Tucker" collection held in early December year. The Rangiora Salvation Army (TSA) would appear to be playing a lesser role in providing food parcels in the Rangiora area than the Hope Community Trust (HCT). The food collected by the Rangiora "Toot for Tucker" drive goes to the Salvation Army food bank. The Oxford Community Trust (OCT) provides food parcels for people seeking help living in the west of the Waimakariri District. The food parcels records for the Hurunui District are consolidated for recording purposes. The number of food parcels being provided by the OCT and in Hurunui are high compared with those being given out by the Kaiapoi Community Pantry from a population perspective.

While each of the food banks has an area for which they take responsibility, there are occasions when a food parcel is given by one of these food banks to an individual or a household living outside of its area. In cases people approach a food bank that does not serve their area, they will generally be given a food parcel and then directed to the appropriate food bank for their area if they require further help. There is an exception for people who are clients of the Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust's social workers who receive from KCS, which is a branch of this organisation irrespective of where they live.

Overall, the total number of food parcels being given out across North Canterbury during the second half of 2022 was reasonably stable. The increase in the number of food parcels recorded for KCS and OCT for December 2022 were mainly responsible for the overall increase at the end of 2022 and are attributable to the KCS Christmas giving programme and an extra demand in anticipation of the holiday season when food banks are closed. The

demand in assistance during the first four months of 2023 is higher than for most of the period from July to October 2022. A comparison of the numbers being given out in April 2022, which is not shown in Figure 12, with the April 2023 highlights the extent of the increase in demand and this is shown in Figure 13.



North Canterbury Food Secure Network

The main feature of the changes recorded between April 2022 and April 2023 is the substantial increase in the number of parcels handed out by the Rangiora and Kaiapoi food banks. The number given out by the Hope Community Trust in 2023 was double the number handed on in April 2022. The number given out by the Rangiora Salvation Army food bank was 71% higher, and the number given out by Kaiapoi Community Support was 50% higher. The number being given out by the Oxford Community Trust and across the Hurunui District were higher than the Rangiora and Kaiapoi food banks in April 2022 and maintained that level of activity in 2023. In addition, there are reports of many people with surplus food leaving it out for those in need to collect it in the Hurunui District.

7 Conclusion

The research undertaken on behalf of the Joint Community Working Party clearly identifies that there is very limited emergency and transitional housing available in North Canterbury. This situation is exacerbated by the tendency to view the south-eastern part of the Waimakariri District as being part of Greater Christchurch and does not recognise that the area to the north of the Waimakariri River is a separate community. Although often regarded from a socio-economic perspective as “average” in terms of attributes like income is better described as a “microcosm” of New Zealand as a whole, with a wide range of incomes and quite substantial areas of disadvantage.

North Canterbury has “networked” communities and can look after people who require support from social services. Social Services Waimakariri is a collaborative involving all the NGOs and government agencies working in its district, and the churches which play active roles in their communities. Similarly, the Hurunui District has “Together Hurunui” which plays a networking role in its district. Collectively, these organisations have the capacity to provide a foundation for the development of the wrap-around services that many of those facing housing difficulties need.

Clearly, some of those with their names on the Register have their own social networks in the North Canterbury communities, and when relocated to emergency, transitional or social housing in Christchurch City will cut off from their support people. This is evidenced by the efforts that some of these people make to ensure that their children do not have to move schools. There is a call for housing resources to provide equitable access for those with housing needs wanting to remain in the North Canterbury community.

A review of the North Canterbury Register together with a more general exploration of homelessness and food parcel data highlights the fact that issues associated with poverty are not limited to New Zealand's urban areas. For North Canterbury the same housing issues are prevalent.

In the Waimakariri District there is an acute shortage of emergency, transitional and affordable rental accommodation. The provision of transitional housing is problematic given that the contract for this is held by a Christchurch based CHP. In addition, with the pressure of the rising cost of living seeing an increasing number of working people living in rental accommodation seeking food parcels. This suggests that the District would benefit from the construction of purpose-built affordable permanent rental dwellings.

The housing situation in the Hurunui District differs, in the sense that there are jobs available but there is limited housing for this workforce. This means that people working at Hanmer, for example, are paying high rentals for their accommodation some of which are likely to be overcrowded. Some employers are providing accommodation for their workers, but this means that people living in these dwellings are having to vacate them when they change jobs. Workers in the dairy industry face a similar dilemma with tied accommodation.

The general conclusion is that overall, there is a shortage of suitable affordable accommodation in North Canterbury for those with limited or no financial resources in addition to pressure on housing. Of particular concern, is the situation faced by youth seeking to transition to adulthood in North Canterbury as they do not have any clear pathways to suitable accommodation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

Apply a collaborative approach to:

- 1 Exploring options for people currently sleeping in vehicles and other instances of homelessness in North Canterbury.
- 2 Continuing to respond to campground issues.
- 3 Researching the provision of transitional accommodation in North Canterbury for youth leaving Oranga Tamariki care and other disadvantaged youth likely to benefit from support services while transitioning to adulthood.
- 4 Working with Kainga Ora to ensure a mutual understanding of the social housing needs in North Canterbury and the desire of the community, including its service providers to be able to support their own people.
- 5 Identifying models of suitable and affordable accommodation for older adults (50 years and over) who wish to live on their own with limited financial resources, and progress these where feasible.

DRAFT

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DRAFT

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** GOV-01-04 / CMS-09-10-02 / 231005158446**REPORT TO:** Community and Recreation Committee**DATE OF MEETING:** 17 October 2023**FROM:** Tessa Sturley – Community Team Manager**SUBJECT:** Alcohol and Drug Harm Update**SIGNED BY:**
(for Reports to Council,
Committees or Boards)


General Manager



Chief Executive
1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The report introduces a research paper prepared on behalf of the Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group, from a collation of qualitative evidence researched by Emma Woods, Open Polytechnic Intern, engaged by Council's Community Team.
- 1.2. The paper details 'best practice models' around which to frame local activity related to addressing alcohol and drug harm.
- 1.3. The recommendations in the paper will be used to inform community-led responses to alcohol and drug harm in the Waimakariri District, led by the Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group, supported by the Community Development Facilitator – Safe Communities
- 1.4. A staff presentation will accompany the presentation of this report.

Attachments:

- i. Waimakariri Community Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021
(Trim: 220330047681)
- ii. Draft paper, "Current Condition 2023 Alcohol and Drug Harm Informative Report"
(Trim: 231005158007)

2. RECOMMENDATION**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 231005158446.
- (b) **Endorses** the attached Draft paper, "Current Condition 2023 Alcohol and Drug Harm Informative Report." (Trim: 231005158007)
- (c) **Notes** the broad community engagement approach applied to the preparation of the 'Current Condition' report.
- (d) **Notes** that the paper details 'best practice models' around which to frame local activity related to addressing alcohol and drug harm.

- (e) **Notes** the intention to apply a holistic approach to addressing the priority issues identified in the 'Current Condition' study, including the impact of alcohol and drug use on relationship harm, mental health and suicide.
- (f) **Notes** that the recommendations in the report will inform community-led responses to alcohol and drug harm in the Waimakariri District, led by the Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group, supported by the Community Development Facilitator – Safe Communities; and in line with the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1. **Alcohol over-use in New Zealand**

Many New Zealanders gain social benefits from low-risk drinking. However, a significant number are harmed from their own drinking and from the drinking of others. Alcohol is linked to more than 200 diseases and a factor in New Zealand statistics for death and injury. Sadly, all New Zealanders pay the costs associated with alcohol-related harm, whether they choose to drink or not.

There is much evidence around the incidence and impact of hazardous drinking on our society.

3.1.1. Hazardous drinking:

One in four New Zealanders are 'Hazardous Drinkers'. Of these:

- Men are twice as likely as women to be hazardous drinkers, with younger men (18 – 34 years) the most highly represented.
- 1 in 2 Māori men who drink and 1 in 3 Māori women who drink are hazardous drinkers.
- 2 in 5 young adults drink hazardously.
- Pasifika and Asian men and women are the least likely to drink alcohol but hazardous drinking is high among Pasifika who do drink

Note: Hazardous drinkers are those who scored 8 or more on the 'Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test'. The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test is a 10-item screening tool developed by the World Health Organization to assess alcohol consumption, drinking behaviours, and alcohol-related problems.

The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test can be completed online at:

<https://www.uptodate.com/contents/calculator-alcohol-consumption-screening-audit-questionnaire-in-adults-patient-education>

3.1.2. The cost of alcohol-related harm

At roughly \$7.85 million per year, the annual cost of alcohol harm greatly exceeds the revenue collected via alcohol excise tax (only \$1 billion in 2017)

3.1.3. Alcohol-related death and injury

43% of all deaths attributed to alcohol are due to injuries, 30% to cancer and 27% to a variety of other chronic diseases. Alcohol is known to be a factor in 1 in 5 fatal crashes between 2015 and 2017. It is also a factor in 15% of serious injury crashes and 10% of minor injury crashes.

3.1.4. Alcohol and interpersonal harm

Alcohol is also involved in 1 in every 3 family violence incidents, with either the offender, the victim or both drinking at the time of the offence.

Source: <https://alcohol.org.nz>

3.2. Local Responses to Date

3.2.1. In 2009, the Safer Community Council developed a three-year Community Alcohol Action Plan, aimed at framing a community-led response to the issue of alcohol-related harm.

3.2.2. Local and national data was utilised alongside qualitative evidence from a consultation process with over 200 key stakeholders across our community to inform the development of this plan.

The broad objectives of the action plan were to:

- Minimise alcohol related harm through effective regulatory and planning mechanisms.
- Undertake an advocacy role for change in alcohol legislation and promotion for a safer community outcome.
- Educate and empower the community to make safe and responsible choices about alcohol.
- Promote safe drinking, the principles of host responsibility and engage in partnerships with key stakeholders across Waimakariri District
- Engage with young people in the community through education and recreation opportunities.

3.2.3. This resulted in the development and delivery of a number of key projects and culminated in the adoption of a Local Alcohol Policy in 2013, updated and re-adopted in 2018.

3.2.4. Following the Canterbury earthquakes, a hiatus in funding availability, limited community capacity and staff resourcing meant that work in this priority area slowed somewhat. An overburdened social and community sector had reduced capacity and motivation to address what they saw as a lesser priority. For a time, initiatives were largely staff driven, focussing largely on promotion and input into liquor licencing applications and national consultations.

A Community Safety Forum held in mid-2019, identified that alcohol-related harm and 'problem drinking' continue to be key issues affecting the safety and wellbeing of local residents. The value of reviewing the Alcohol Action Plan was recognised as a key aspect of maintaining a safer, happier and healthy District as part of our commitment to International Safe Community status.

3.2.5. In early 2020, a review of the Alcohol Action Plan, 2009 – 2012, was undertaken, in alignment with national and local evidence from regional and national strategies for the prevention of alcohol-related harm. This resulted in the development of the attached Waimakariri Community Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021, the objectives of which are to:

- Minimise alcohol and drug related harm through effective regulatory planning.
- Where appropriate, undertake an advocacy role for change in alcohol and drug legislation and promotion for a safer community outcome.
- Educate and empower the community to make safe and responsible choices about alcohol and drug use.
- Promote safe drinking, the principles of host responsibility and engage in partnership with key stakeholders across Waimakariri District.

- Engage with young people in the community through education and recreation opportunities.
- Promote collaboration at local, regional and national level.

3.2.6. Consequently, the Waimakariri Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group, was established, with membership including Police, Wellbeing North Canterbury, Oxford Community Trust, Corrections, Police, Oranga Tamariki, Methodist Mission, Community Board Members, Youth Development and Council Environmental Services Unit community development staff. The Mission of this Group is *“To promote the safe and responsible use of alcohol in our communities and to focus on harm minimisation with respect to alcohol and other drugs.”*

3.2.7. Waimakariri Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group has been tasked with giving effect to the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021. (Attached)

4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

4.1. **Recent Activity**

4.1.1. At its February meeting, the Waimakariri Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group discussed the impact of COVID-related interruptions to the work of the steering group, resulting in something of a loss of focus. To that end, staff led a workshop aimed at reviewing the objectives in the Plan and considering ‘next steps initiatives that might address each of those.

It was highlighted particularly that:

- a) There is the need to frame a quality localised formative evaluation/storytelling project. -Will need external support.
- b) There is a need to build key relationships. E.g. HPA, Environmental Services.
- c) A need to consider appropriate partners to inform and progress this work.
- d) There is also merit in applying evidence-based initiatives that have worked for other communities.

4.1.2. It was agreed that the first priority should be to more clearly define the issue and that, in line with priority a), above, there was significant value in undertaking a broad stakeholder engagement that captured the perspective of those who had experienced struggles related to alcohol and drug harm and those agencies and community organisations that support those affected by the issues.

4.1.3. In February 2023, the Steering Group undertook a review of the Waimakariri Community Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021. It was decided, at that time, to engage an intern to undertake a qualitative research project among the community’s key stakeholders in order to ensure any changes to the Action Plan would effectively and positively impact the wellbeing of the Waimakariri community.

4.2. **‘Current Condition’ –building a picture of alcohol harm in the Waimakariri District**

With sound local data essentially unavailable and/or unreliable, it was important that anecdotal and qualitative evidence was acquired through a broad range of appropriate ‘experts’.

From April 2023 to August 2023, various stakeholders provided a diverse range of local, relevant knowledge regarding local alcohol and drug harm across the district. In preparing her report, our intern spoke to a number of groups to build a clearer picture of key issues and likely contributing factors related to the misuse of alcohol and other drugs in the Waimakariri District. Information was gathered through group and one-on-one facilitated discussions with a total of 13 participant groups consisting of 52 individuals.

The 'Current Condition' Paper is the result of the collation of the responses from those interviewed, alongside current research and the consideration of health promotion models around which to frame a local response.

4.1. **Alcohol and Other Drugs**

- 4.1.1. Largely the paper deals with alcohol harm, although the alarming increase in vaping could not be ignored, particularly in our local young people. The paper summarises recent research and pending changes in legislation, related to vaping.
- 4.1.2. The paper also discusses evidence related to marijuana as a gateway to other, often more damaging drugs.

4.2. **Themes**

Five key themes emerged from the collation of the responses from interviewees.

- The need for community education about Drug & Alcohol Harm
- The need to empower individuals to make responsible decisions.
- Societal trauma plays a significant role in Alcohol & Drug Harm
- The cultural tendency to resist help is exacerbating the problem.
- Well resourced, locally relevant solutions to addressing Drug and Alcohol Harm should be collaboratively explored.

These themes have been considered against the Objectives of the Waimakariri Community Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021. Whilst there is overall, alignment, there is an obvious gap around societal trauma and empowering people to ask for help.

4.3. **Recommendations**

The 'Current Condition paper details a number of recommendations for consideration by the steering group. Broadly these relate to:

- Professional Development opportunities to "educate the educators."
- Education opportunities for the wider community
- Reviewing the 2021 Action Plan to incorporate Key Discussion Themes 4 (societal trauma) and 5 (resistance to help)
- Insuring increased capacity and collaboration within the steering group

These recommendations could form a review of the current Action Plan, as well as priorities for its implementation going forward.

4.4. **Best Practice Models**

The 'Current Condition' paper details three 'best practice' models that will be valuable in framing local activity related to addressing alcohol and drug harm. They are:

- 4.4.1. **Te Whare Tapa Whā**, developed by Māori Health Advocate, Sir Mason Durie (1984), this is a Māori model of health and wellbeing, which enables a holistic approach that addresses the dimensions of Hauora (health):
 - Taha tinana (physical well-being)
 - Taha hinengaro (mental and emotional well-being),
 - Taha whanau (family and social well-being)
 - Taha wairua (spiritual well-being).
- 4.4.2. **Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory**, which considers the various ecosystems surrounding the individual which can positively or negatively impact the determinants of their health and wellbeing. These range from whanau and friends, through to global. (Salem Press, 2022)
- 4.4.3. **The Spectrum of Prevention**, which provides a framework for addressing social health issues, including drug and alcohol harm. It consists of six strategies that consider the determinants of community health and can guide the development of an approach to prevention (Ratray, et al. 2002).

The paper discusses how, when used together, these three models offer a thorough and holistic approach to alcohol and drug harm prevention. By applying this approach, the steering group will ensure a multi-pronged, effective response to the issues within the drug and alcohol harm space.

4.5. **Conclusions**

Among its conclusions, the report reflects on the use of alcohol and drug use as coping mechanisms and raises the need to destigmatise harmful use, to remove barriers to people getting help. It also considers the role that decision makers can and should play in ensuring that legislation supports positive social outcomes in communities and that communities are adequately resourced to ensure that the people adversely impacted by alcohol and/or drug harm can access the services and supports that they need to address.

4.6. **Options for Community and Recreation Committee**

Staff present the following options for consideration by the Community and Recreation Committee:

- 4.6.1. Option 1: Endorse the attached "*Current Condition 2023 Alcohol and Drug Harm Informative Report.*" (Trim # 231005158007) The rationale for seeking Community and Recreation Committee endorsement is that such endorsement will add weight to applications to local funders, requesting funds to cover project costs associated with the implementation of the recommendations of the Current Condition Report
- 4.6.2. Option 2: Do not endorse the attached "*Current Condition 2023 Alcohol and Drug Harm Informative Report.*" (Trim # 231005158007). If such endorsement is not received, staff will consider the feedback from the Community and Recreation Committee in a reworking of the paper, before presenting it to the Alcohol and Drug Harm Steering Group.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

There are significant implications on community wellbeing as a result of these activities:

- The application of an evidence-based, community-led approach ensures the development of sound, relevant initiatives that empower residents to plan a part in creating a safe, healthy, connected and resilient district.
- This work centres on the creation of connected, inclusive communities, where people have a sense of belonging.
- Broad sector collaboration results in better and locally accessible social, health, education and community service provision.
- The collective wisdom, experience and opinion of local residents is applied to local decision making.

4.7. The Management Team have reviewed this report and support the recommendations.

5. COMMUNITY VIEWS

5.1. **Mana Whenua**

The contents of this support may be of interest to local iwi. The relationships that the community have built through engagement with Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū and local and regional Māori health providers have fostered an increased the reach of information and supports for the rūnanga and the whanau that it supports.

Staff continue to seek Ngāi Tūāhuriri feedback and representation on local networks associated with these and the broader range of community development projects.

5.2. **Groups and Organisations**

The Community Team has established an in-depth working knowledge of the Waimakariri District; and the physical, socio-economic and environmental factors that affect the quality of life of our residents. Collectively collaborating with well over 300 community, business, education, government and non-government stakeholders, the Community Team facilitates a community-led approach to its work.

5.3. **Wider Community**

Broad community engagement is an important part of the work of the Community Team. This ensures that a community-led approach that is relevant to all with a stake in creating a safe, healthy, connected and resilient District.

6. IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are no significant short term financial implications for Council in relation to the content of this report. Community Team staff will assist with the acquisition of external funding to support these priority projects.

6.2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

There are no significant sustainability or climate change implications related to the contents of this report.

6.3. **Risk Management**

The Community Team maintain strong relationships with internal (Council) and external stakeholders to ensure that initiatives are community-led and sustainable.

6.4. **Health and Safety**

Health and Safety considerations are included in planning.

7. CONTEXT**7.1. Consistency with Policy**

This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

7.2. Authorising Legislation

Sale and Supply of liquor Act 2021

7.3. Consistency with Community Outcomes

The contents of this report align with the following Community Outcomes:

- There are wide ranging opportunities for people to contribute to the decision making that effects our District.
- There is a safe environment for all.
- People's needs for mental and physical health and social services are met.
- People are friendly and caring, creating a strong sense of community in our District.

7.4. Authorising Delegations

None



Tessa Sturley
COMMUNITY TEAM MANAGER

Current Condition

2023 Alcohol & Drug Harm Informative Report

Researched by
Emma Woods

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Executive Summary

Background

The purpose of the Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group is to provide a structure for collaboration between community organizations to address alcohol and drug harm in the Waimakariri District by supporting the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Action Plan for Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021 (Waimakariri Steering Group, 2021) using evidence-based practice.

In February 2023, the Steering Group undertook a review of the Waimakariri Community Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021. It was decided, at that time, to engage an intern to undertake a qualitative research project among the community's key stakeholders in order to ensure any changes to the Action Plan would effectively and positively impact the wellbeing of the Waimakariri community. This report is tailored where possible to align with the Waimakariri Community Action Plan for Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021 objectives.

Research Methodology

From April 2023 to August 2023, various stakeholders provided a diverse platform of local, relevant knowledge regarding local alcohol and drug harm throughout the district. Information was gathered through group and one-on-one facilitated discussions with a total of 13 participant groups consisting of 52 individuals.

Community Perspectives & Context

Waimakariri social development organizations, justice organizations, steering group members, education facilities, rural organizations, government organizations and non-government organizations are valued participants. Involving these stakeholders in the development of the report helps to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the real-time, locally relevant issues is clearly understood with the information in the right place.

Ethical Considerations

Informed consent procedures were followed, and high value was placed on the privacy, storage and deletion of information. Organization names and any other identifying details were removed. With these measures in place, the report is able to be collaborative, transparent and respectful, leading to enhanced outcomes.

Key Findings and Themes

Five key themes were identified through this report:

1. The need for community education around drug and alcohol harm
2. The need to empower individuals with the tools to make responsible decisions
3. Societal trauma plays a significant role in in the misuse of drugs and alcohol
4. The cultural tendency to resist help exacerbates the problem
5. Well resourced, locally relevant solutions to addressing Drug & Alcohol Harm should be collaboratively explored

Introduction

‘Current Condition’ aims to provide an overview of the relevant local knowledge collected from various organizations regarding Alcohol and Drug Harm. The information gathered is intended to inform local government, associated working groups and partnering organizations about the specific challenges and behaviors that are being observed along with the consequences associated with Drug and Alcohol Harm in the community.

Using a qualitative research approach, this report hopes to provide a narrative of key findings and, most importantly, a collection of voices across diverse, local community contexts, to gain an authentic understanding of Alcohol and Drug Harm in the Waimakariri. It is tailored, where possible, to align with the Waimakariri Community Action Plan for Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021 objectives (Waimakariri Steering Group, 2021):

1. Minimize alcohol and drug harm through effective regulatory planning.
2. Where appropriate, undertake an advocacy role for change in alcohol and drug legislation and promotion for a safer outcome.
3. Educate and empower the community to make safe and responsible choices about alcohol and drug use.
4. Promote safe drinking, the principles of host responsibility and engage in partnerships with key stakeholders across Waimakariri District.
5. Engage with young people in the community through education and recreation opportunities.
6. Promote collaboration at local, regional and national level.

Overall ‘Current Condition’ aims to facilitate evidence- based decision-making, collaboration, and the implementation of targeted interventions to promote healthier and safer communities. Its intention is to effectively communicate the experiences, perspectives, and narratives surrounding Alcohol and Drug harm in the Waimakariri District. The report is intended to serve as a baseline for actionable steps while also providing a deeper understanding of the dynamics related to Alcohol and Drug harm.

Methodology

In the context of communicating the Waimakariri Drug and Alcohol Harm voice, the various stakeholders who contributed to this report provided a diverse platform of local relevant knowledge. Waimakariri social development organizations, justice organizations, steering group members, education facilities, rural organizations, government organizations and non-government organizations were valued participants.

- Education facilities are important due to their direct contact with young people and their wider environments, including whanau and their communities, risk factors, prevention strategies and effective, targeted educational programs. Partnering with education facilities may give a deeper understanding of the impacts to young people and their whanau.
- Rural organizations and community groups can offer valuable insights into the Alcohol and Drug harm behavior observed and the implications of those. Rural areas face unique challenges, for example aspects of isolation, access to services, and different social dynamics.
- Local Government has the authority to implement policies and allocate resources. They can provide valuable insights into the social factors that may be contributing to substance harm in the Waimakariri and hold a significant interest in developing strategies for prevention and intervention.

Informed consent procedures were followed, and high value was placed on the privacy and storage and deletion of information. Organization names and any additional identifying details are removed to ensure the report remains collaborative, transparent, and respectful, leading to enhanced outcomes.

The 'voices' reflected in this report were gathered via group and one-on-one facilitated discussions with a total of 13 participant groups consisting of 52 individuals. Open questions

were used to gain deeper understanding and playing the role of the naïve enquirer. Robust healthy discussions were prompted with the following set of questions being asked of each participant/group:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Alcohol and Drug Harm look like in your space?
 - Positive and negative aspects.
 - Substances consumed.
 - Behaviors observed
2. What are the factors of your space that contribute toward positive outcomes? That is, people avoiding or recovering from long term harmful consumption.
 - Positive aspects of environments.
 - The capacities of people.
 - What is helping people make good decisions?
 - What do they have?
3. What are the contributing factors you observe hindering positive outcomes?
 - Think... Wide.
 - Incapacities of people and environments.
 - What hinders people?
 - What don't they have?
4. If everybody has a part to play in prevention of Alcohol and Drug Harm
 - a. What do those positive outcomes look like?
 - b. What do service providers and users need?

Think... Aspirational, Accountability, Resources, Capacity.

These approaches encouraged open dialogue, inclusive participation, and meaningful interactions.

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Models

'Prevention' refers to a range of proactive measures and interventions aimed at reducing the occurrence or impact of various problems and negative outcomes. It involves taking actions and implementing strategies to prevent or mitigate potential harm before it happens.

There are three models that have been key to the analysis of this research. When used together, they help to build a holistic understanding about the role prevention plays in the alcohol and drug harm space.

I. Te Whare Tapa Whā

Te Whare Tapa Whā was developed by Māori health advocate Sir Mason Durie in 1984 (Mental Health Foundation, 2023).

Prevention, using the perspective of Te Whare Tapa Whā, a Māori model of health and wellbeing, enables a holistic approach that addresses the dimensions of Hauora (health):

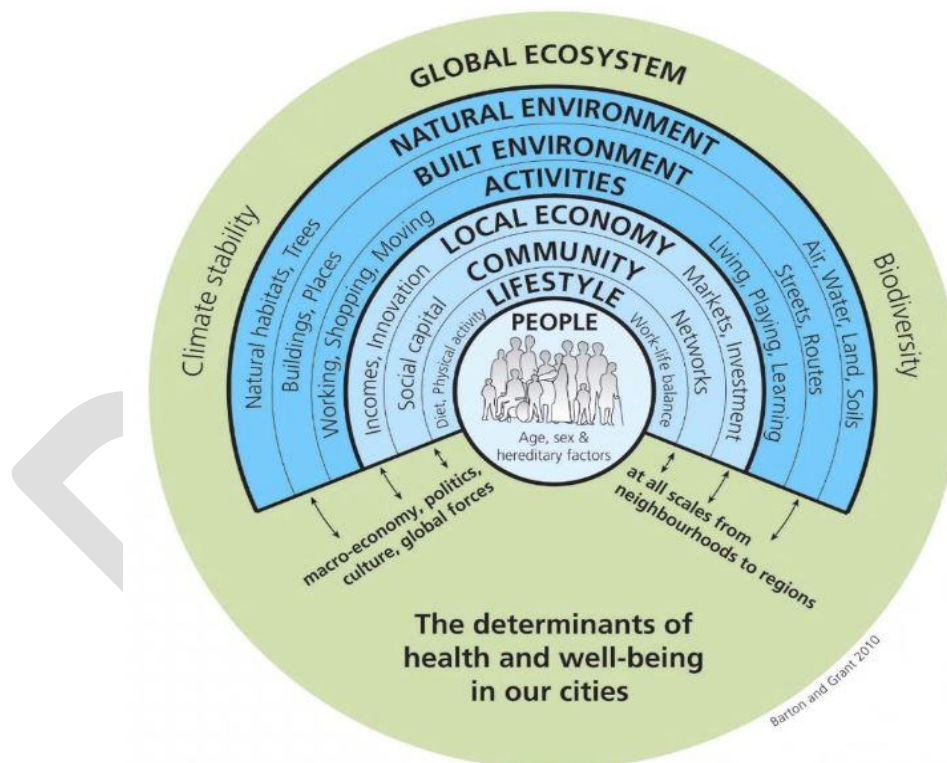
- Taha tinana (physical well-being)
- Taha hinengaro (mental and emotional well-being),
- Taha whanau (family and social well-being)
- Taha wairua (spiritual well-being).



From a prevention perspective, the Te Whare Tapa Whā model can be utilized to help individuals avert the onset on physical and mental health issues, including addiction, and promote overall community wellbeing.

This approach can be adapted to address a wide range of societal issues and challenges and regenerate capacities in our individuals and communities affected from drug and alcohol harm (Mental Health Foundation, 2023).

II. Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory



Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory allows us to "... zoom out, as if using Google Earth" (Salem Press, 2022), gaining a more holistic view of the factors at play within this space.

This image of Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory shows the relationship between people's biology and the nested systems that exist in their day-to-day lives. The dynamic interactions between these concentric environments and their associated levels of influence can help provide a wider understanding in relation to the role alcohol and drugs can play in an individual's life.

Alcohol and drug harm can have wide reaching effects on different levels of society, communities, and interpersonal relationships. In the context of alcohol and drugs, 'harm' can refer to the adverse consequences and risks associated with the consumption and misuse of substances. The impacts may be extensive, affecting the strength and resilience of individuals within our communities. These consequences can stretch the resources and capacities of substance consumers, families and whanau, local organizations, ultimately leading to the destruction of individuals and the social fabric of the wider community.

Applying a wider environmental perspective provides us with a broad scope and a framework to act "...before the horse has bolted so to speak" (Participant Voice, 2023) ...

III. The Spectrum of Prevention

In 1982 Larry Cohen developed the framework the Spectrum of Prevention to guide and design the implementation of prevention programs (Cohen, L. 1982).

The Spectrum of Prevention is a comprehensive model that provides a framework for addressing social health issues, including drug and alcohol harm. It consists of six strategies that consider the determinants of community health and can guide the development of an approach to prevention (Rattray, et al. 2002).

The Spectrum of Prevention



Connecting the Three

When used together, these three models offer a thorough and inclusive approach to alcohol and drug harm prevention.

- Te Whare Tapa Whā focuses on the necessity to look at everyone holistically when considering methods of prevention, support and treatment.
- Bronfenbrenner’s Theory then highlights the importance of considering the different societal levels of a person’s life, which may ultimately inform their decisions.
- The Spectrum of Prevention then moves us into the response—supporting the individual through diverse prevention strategies.

Together these models offer the opportunity for stakeholders to create a multi-pronged, effective approach to the issues within the drug and alcohol harm space.

Key Discussion Themes

1. The need for community education about Drug & Alcohol Harm

Throughout this study, participants were passionate about the need to empower Waimakariri communities through education. There was a strong desire for learning opportunities available to families, whānau, parents, young people, and educators themselves.

We need real information in schools about the real hard harms drug and alcohol harm produces” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“More conversations in schools about the consequences, like the smoke packets” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“What worked so well for drink driving to change through the generations... Let’s repeat that somehow” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“Start this education young... age appropriate of course, like I’m talking preschool with children and their whanau” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“Parents are perhaps experimenting with a ‘They’ll learn culture’ this tells me parents have lost the confidence to provide education on alcohol and drugs with their children. So, they have relinquished control. They don’t know what they don’t know” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“It’s just like talking about sex with them” (Participant Voice, 2023)

“Vaping and smoking weed are surely gateways to other sources and types of drugs. More serious ones... if that’s okay to say?” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“There is so much denial evident and it has turned into substance use being normalized. I’m talking about vape stores, these substances are the precursor to the next substance, the next high. The brain becomes wired for a better result. Their addiction behaviors are now activated” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“Break times, in class, in toilets, before school, on the way to school. It happens all over the place” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“People can’t be bothered to find other ways of coping” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“Vape is easy to get, easy to hide, easy to share” (Participant Voice, 2023“)

“Parents use vapes as rewards” (Participant Voice 2023).

2. The need to empower individuals to make responsible decisions

“Ultimately there is no safe amount of anything... No safe amount of steak, no safe number of cigarettes, no safe amount of road crossings. However, if we provide the resources communities have capacity” (Wasted Wisdom Symposium, 2023).

This statement reminds us of the importance of being mindful and educated when it comes to the choices we make. It also underscores the role of individual responsibility in prevention efforts, education, and harm reduction strategies.

“Alcohol harm is everywhere. It’s how harmful they choose to make it, or how harmful their environment is making it, I mean the drinkers” (Participant Voice, 2023).

By promoting a culture of responsible decision making and awareness, we can work towards minimizing the risks associated with harmful substances and behaviours, ultimately fostering healthier and safer communities.

Strengthening individual knowledge and skills involves direct interactions with individuals to provide information and promote behaviour change. Interactions between service users and providers can enhance their understanding of social issues and develop the skills for maintaining their wellbeing.

3. Societal trauma plays a significant role in Alcohol & Drug Harm

It has been international news that the people of Aotearoa New Zealand have experienced a series of traumatic events in recent years, including the devastating Christchurch earthquakes in 2011, followed closely by the Mosque shooting in 2019. Later in 2019 another 22 people were killed in the volcanic eruption on White Island. Only months later the COVID-19 pandemic, with thousands of deaths and forced isolation for millions of people (Kiyimba & Anderson. 2022).

Unresolved pain and distress, despair and hopelessness can push vulnerable individuals to seek an escape from the harsh realities of their lives. Kiyimba & Anderson (2022) explains that trauma is not new for Aotearoa New Zealand and that the longing effects of intergenerational influences can impact the values and experiences of our individuals and their communities.

Challenges can create unstable environments, making it difficult for individuals to access safe spaces for protection within the community. Left unchecked, these environmental impacts leave individuals vulnerable and can create vicious cycles in their lives. These impacts ripple through communities, tearing apart social structures, breaking hearts and eroding trust and safety.

“As a community we have the choice to recognize the relationships between these issues or ... not” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“Trauma is rife. Historical, daily, violence, poverty... I cannot list them all” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“Unfunctional in society, society becomes foreign. This is relevant in our rural isolated pockets of the Waimakariri” (Participant Voice, 2023)

“There are teams of three in the gyms of Waimakariri. They circulate to sell. They are targeting new Mums” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“Problem drinking as opposed to addiction” (Participant Voice, 2023)

“They are under the influence of alcohol, weed, MDMA, LSD under our watch. Do we have any idea where they get the need to be addicted comes from?” (Participant Voice, 2023).

4. The cultural tendency to resist help is exacerbating the problem

“Do we have addiction culture, or do we have you can’t ask for help culture?” (Participant Voice, 2023)

“It’s hidden in plain sight” (Participant Voice, 2023)

“High functioning addicts are very hard to work with. The smarter they are the better they are at hiding it and prolonging getting help. The more judgemental their environment is the more they hide it” (Participant Voice, 2023).

“It’s abnormal to ask for help. Particularly in our rural settings” (Participant Voice, 2023)

“Rural women are afraid of the implications of asking for help” (Participant Voice, 2023)

5. Well resourced, locally relevant solutions to addressing Drug and Alcohol Harm should be collaboratively explored

There was a high level of communication received about accountability and the capacity for education delivery across our district. Ensuring our community and organizations have the necessary resources and relevant information is vital in addressing these challenges effectively.

Are we putting our money in the right places?" (Participant Voice, 2023)

"The Waimak needs to provide for the residents. There's something about the option to be in your space, to protect your space, to hold your space and to receive from your space. It's in the heart and gut and having the option to receive from their places and people provides a deep kinship...Kaitiakitanga" (Participant Voice, 2023)

We want to take an opportunity and build a guard rail. Why wait? We want to plug people into projects that deliver" (Participant Voice 2023).

"We need a place to do this well, one place, a one stop shop" (Participant Voice, 2023).

"A walk in Community Hub. I'll even make a name for it" (Participant Voice, 2023).

"Hot desk rostered clinical practitioners, parenting programs, mental health support, yoga, music classes, cup of tea, a walk in 9-5 support service one stop shop" (Participant Voice, 2023).

Note: This situation may highlight the need to assess resource allocations and provides us with a glimpse of the reality individuals and whānau in our communities may be faced with.

"And this is only the beginning of help for some, sigh..." (Wasted Wisdom Symposium2023).

By promoting accountable practice, we can empower stakeholders to actively participate in improving education and other essential services. Properly resourcing these efforts enables us to harness the full potential of our community, organisations, and individuals, leading to more impactful outcomes.

It is through collaborative efforts and informed decision-making that we can work towards a more equitable and inclusive educational landscape for the Waimakariri District ensuring that every individual has access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

A WORD ON VAPING

While other substances were also discussed during the research phase of this report, vaping was consistently brought up by participants.

Vape shops have become a concerning aspect of the alcohol and drug harm landscape.

The presence of such shops within or near communities amplifies the risk of teens experimenting with e-cigarettes and other vaping devices, potentially leading to long term health effects, and perhaps reinforcing substance misuse tendencies. These establishments often glamorize vaping products with appealing flavours and packaging.

ONGOING NEW ZEALAND RESEARCH

Dr Kelly Burrowes, Associate Professor in the Bioengineering Institute of Auckland University New Zealand is undertaking a significant research project using computational modelling, medical imaging and experimental measures to measure and understand the impacts on lung function from the effects of exposure to e-cigarettes (Radio NZ, 2021). Dr Kelly Burrowes states in her research she has discovered that over 40 000 Kiwis are vaping daily and there are over 15 000 flavours available to ingest through the process of oral inhalation.

2023 LEGISLATION

With the submission of the Smoked Tobacco Regulatory Scheme Proposal aiming to strengthen tobacco control measures and safeguard community wellbeing, advocacy efforts in influencing policy and legislation have been instrumental in driving significant changes in vaping regulations at a central government level. As a result, new legislation was introduced in August 2023 to tighten regulations on vaping products, including restrictions on flavors and location targeted at minors.

“From August this year, all vaping devices sold in New Zealand will need to have removable or replaceable batteries. This limits the sale of cheap disposable vapes that are popular among young people.”

“We also want vapes as far from the minds and reach of children and young people as possible, so any locations within 300 meters of school and marae will be off limits for new shops” (Verrall, 2023).

A WORD ON WEED

The research ahead of the New Zealand cannabis referendum in 2020 credible sources of information were gathered from the Dunedin and Christchurch studies to capture the detail required in developmental patterns of cannabis use (Poulton et al. 2020).

These longitudinal projects studied approximately 1000 people from birth into their 40's. The findings dictate cannabis use in the Christchurch cohort began relatively early at 15% haven partaken in cannabis use by age 15 years and a rapid increase to 80% partaken in cannabis use by mid-twenties.

As cited in Poulton et al. (2020) by (Silins et al. 2014) a study conducted with information from the Christchurch study along with the data from two Australian cohorts reported that daily use of cannabis before 17 years was associated with a much higher chance of using other illicit drugs by 30 years of age.

Cannabis users are more likely to try other drugs because of their relationships with other substance using peers or contacts through drug dealers. There may also be neurobiological effects from cannabis that lead to their illicit drug use (Silins et al.2014 as cited in Poulton et al. 2020).

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Looking Ahead

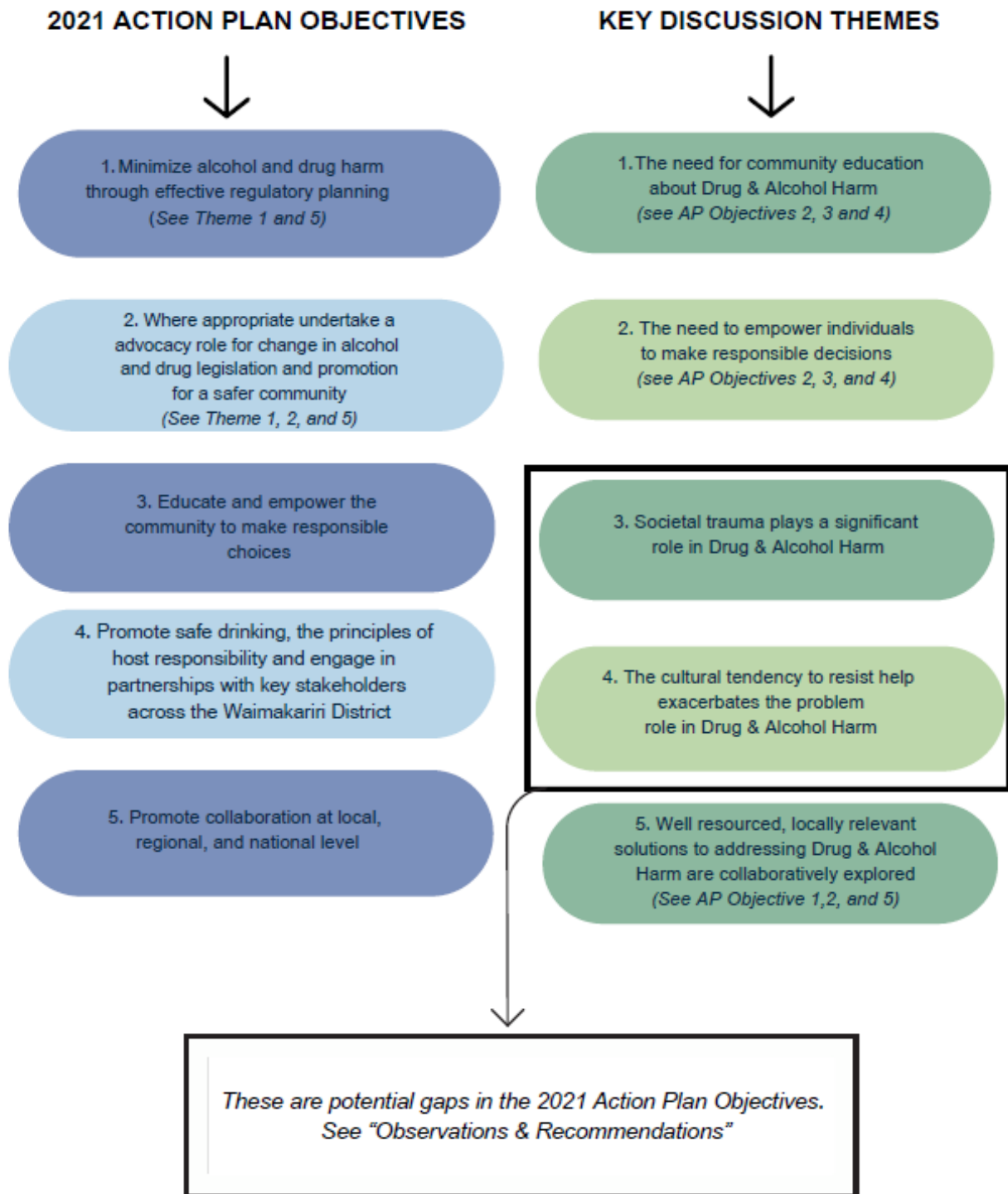
While alcohol and drug harm and the societal challenges feeding it are numerous and complex, there are number of community support organizations and resources across the Waimakariri District whose work engages the Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Systems Theory and the model of Te Whare Tapa Whā:

“1kg meth – about \$350 000. This is why the financials are so affected and crime is prevalent and prostitution” (Participant Voice, 2023)

Engaging and collaborating with existing organizations working to meet the whole needs of the individual can help to ensure an effective, holistic prevention strategy in the alcohol and drug harm space.

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2021 Action Plan Objectives' Alignment with Research



Observations and Recommendations Based on the Data

Overall, the objectives of the Waimakariri Community Action Plan on Alcohol and Drug Harm 2021 | align with the Key Themes identified through the 2023 research undertaken through this report. However, there is an obvious gap around societal trauma and empowering people to ask for help.

Based on this alignment, below are some initial recommendations for the Steering Group's consideration:

- Professional Development opportunities to “educate the educators.”
- Prioritise education opportunities for the wide community and for individuals to equip people with knowledge of Alcohol & Drug Harm as well tools to make responsible choices. This aligns most closely with the needs identified by the community.
- Explore ways to incorporate Key Discussion Themes 4 (societal trauma) and 5 (resistance to help) into the action plan. These could be through targeted education programs, support services, etc. Using the models included in this report while integrating these themes into a plan will help ensure a holistic approach.
- Ensure effective community collaboration by continuing to build relationships with key stakeholders across the Waimakariri. This can be facilitated in several ways:
 - Community Workshops/Forums
 - One-on-one discussions
 - Invitations to join or present to the Steering Group
 - Inviting stakeholders to participate in specific projects

These recommendations could form a review of the current Action Plan, as well as priorities for its implementation going forward.

Conclusion

The pressing need for immediate support facing drug and alcohol dependencies in the Waimakariri and the South Island is evident.

The reality of limited resources highlights the need for collaborative action and prioritization of effective, locally relevant responses.

Alcohol and drug harm in communities are deeply concerning issues, further exacerbated by various social factors prevalent in the Waimakariri District such as poverty, violence, addiction, trauma, and other challenges. Addressing these issues requires a holistic approach that involves recognizing the relationships between these interconnected problems.

- Substances and behaviours such as vaping, drug use and alcohol misuse may be used as mechanisms to escape from harsh realities. Understanding the underlying causes and addressing inter-generational influences is crucial to breaking the cycles of addiction and harm.
- Vape shops and the availability of various substances can contribute to the concerning behaviours being observed in our young people. The legislative changes in August 2023 are vital in preventing harm.
- Effective communication and community education about substance use and the risks associated with it, play an important role. They also can play a part in breaking the stigma in seeking help and creating a more supportive and understanding community, where the individual is recognised and valued.
- Promoting accountable practice and proper resource allocation in the Waimakariri can lead to more impactful outcomes. By working collaboratively and making informed decisions, we can create more equitable solutions to local alcohol and drug harm.

Addressing alcohol and drug harm requires a collective effort. By recognising the complex interplay of factors contributing to substance dependencies and addiction, we can build a stronger foundation for a healthier and safer community, where individuals can seek help without fear of judgement. Together, we can create a society that values every individual, ensuring that no one is left behind on the path to a better tomorrow.

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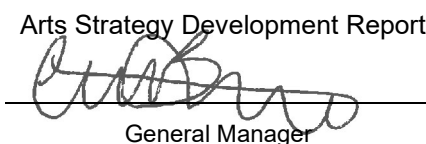
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WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** GOV- 01-04 / CMS-09-10-02 / 231003155688**REPORT TO:** Community and Recreation Committee**DATE OF MEETING:** 17 October 2023**FROM:** Tessa Sturley – Community Team Manager**SUBJECT:** Arts Strategy Development Report**SIGNED BY:**
(for Reports to Council,
Committees or Boards)


General Manager



Chief Executive
1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of draft content for Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy, seeking approval for the draft published document to be released for community consultation, via Council's 'Let's Talk' platform.
- 1.2 The report details the collaborative, broad discipline process applied to the development of the strategy, and details next steps to ensure its effective and timely implementation.
- 1.3 This work has been supported by Council's Arts and Culture portfolio holder.
- 1.4 A Project Control Group consisting of internal stakeholders as well as an external stakeholder reference group, with representation from the various Trusts and key local practitioners have informed and guided this work.

Attachments:

- i. Comparison Matrix for Waimakariri draft versus other strategies (Trim: 230927152386)
- ii. Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy, draft unpublished document content (Trim: 231003155698)

2. RECOMMENDATION**THAT** the Community and Recreation committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 231003155688.
- (b) **Approves** the Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy to go out for community consultation, from 30th October, until 20th November, via Councils 'Let's Talk' community engagement function.
- (c) **Notes** the collaborative, broad scope approach that will be applied to the development of the strategy.
- (d) **Notes** that Councillor Al Blackie is the appointed portfolio holder for this project.

- (e) **Notes** that staff approached both Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd (MKT) and Ngāi Tūāhuriri leadership to identify the most appropriate way forward in ensuring a bicultural, partnership approach could be applied to the development of the strategy.
- (f) **Notes** the intent to actively pursue a bicultural approach to the potential evolving of the strategy, with future iterations being an Arts and Culture Strategy.
- (g) **Notes** that upon adoption of the strategy staff will establish a steering group to guide this work, supported by an appropriately skilled facilitator.
- (h) **Notes** that the facilitator role does not sit within the scope of existing community development provision and that, in the event that external funding cannot be acquired, staff have made tentative provision for this in the Long-Term Plan budget to resource the facilitator role at a cost of \$78,000, including overheads.
- (i) **Notes** that, following consultation period a report will be brought back to Council including consideration of any funding implications for the Long Term Plan.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The arts strategy project was conceived out of the 2020 COVID-19 Social Recovery Forum, as one particularly interesting and rather unexpected opportunity. The potential role that the arts could play in the district's recovery and on-going resilience was identified; as well as the potential for the arts to impact economic development and district attraction.

Following the 2020 COVID Recovery forum, an initial project group was established to scope the potential and frame a process to get the project underway. This group consists of:

- Chair of the Waimakariri Arts Council
- Oxford Arts Trust
- Council Arts Portfolio holder
- Community Team Manager

- 3.2. The project continued under the guidance of a Project Control Group, with representation from Council's Policy and Strategy, Communications and Greenspace Teams, with support from a Key Stakeholder Reference Group, consisting of leading local practitioners in the arts sector.
- 3.3. A mapping of the local visual, performing and literary arts sectors was undertaken, including not only the larger or more recognised groups and individuals, but also 'cottage' arts industries in recognition of their (oftentimes) under-realised potential. This ensured that engagement and consultation would reach a suitably representative practitioner community.
- 3.4. A key stakeholder reference group was established to help inform the mapping, survey development and wider engagement. This group also provided input into the development of the goals and objectives of the strategy.

4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

4.1. **Community Engagement**

4.1.1. A key priority was engaging with mana whenua, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri, to ensure that Waimakariri District's rich Māori heritage and the talents of local Māori arts practitioners were central to considerations in the development of the Strategy. Staff recognised the importance of ensuring that mana whenua are involved as early as possible, and that the strategy reflects true partnership. Consequently, they approached both Mahaanui Kurataiao (MKT) and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri to identify the most appropriate way forward in ensuring a bicultural, partnership approach to the development of the strategy.

Staff have appreciated their acknowledgement of this work and the input of local Ngā Toi Māori practitioners into the stakeholder engagement.

4.1.2. Engagement undertaken included surveying and consulting with those involved in local arts (practitioners) and local residents (audiences), alongside others that have a stake in supporting the arts sector, including business, education, social and wider recreation sectors. Responses indicated that both surveys had met their mark in engaging stakeholders from a broad range of artistic genre.

4.1.3. Alongside the surveys, other aspects of the engagement included:

- A stakeholder reference group workshop, which engaged with leading practitioners from across the local visual, performing and literary arts sectors, to review the collated survey findings and develop a draft Vision, Goals and Objectives for the Strategy.
- A District-wide forum, capturing the experience, expertise and ideas of those who have a stake in contributing to the development of a strong local arts sector. The aim of the forum was to test the draft Vision, Goals and Objectives and to 'populate' the strategy, identifying opportunities and possibilities under each of the key themes that were drafted.

4.2. **What the Community told us**

4.2.1. Themes

A number of common themes emerged from the results of the arts sector and general public surveys, stakeholder workshops and community forums, these related to:

- Resourcing
- Empowerment for local artists to make a living from their craft.
- Community-led arts projects
- Increased collaboration
- The potential role of the arts in District attraction
- Increasing the profile and value of the arts; particularly in terms of their impact on wellbeing
- Inclusion of the Arts in local decision making around local places, spaces

4.2.2. Arts Space

A shortage of suitable practice and display facilities for the arts sector has been recognised as a key issue for the district for some time. Some Council-owned facilities can be relatively inexpensive to hire but may not be fit for purpose and can be heavily booked. The district's 'larger' performance spaces only cater for several hundred people, limiting opportunities for bigger ticketed creative events in our district. While we have well-curated exhibition spaces in Oxford and in the two larger district libraries, they only provide limited opportunities for a select number of local artists to display their work.

Evidence to support these and other space-related concerns for the local arts sector were raised in the recently released draft report by Recreation Sport Leisure Consulting. *'The review document entitled 'Waimakariri District Community Facilities Network Plan'*. The draft report presented the results of a broad scope survey of facility users and user groups, and third-party owners of facilities available for community use. It has provided useful formative information for the delivery of one of the key actions referred to in this Strategy: *"Apply an intentional approach to local provision of a variety of spaces that suit the needs of emerging and established practitioners."*

Whilst not yet properly scoped, there is potential for consideration of some of these space-related issues and associated opportunities in Council's Long-Term Plan. For example, partnering with external stakeholders to facilitate the provision of a larger-audience performance space in the Waimakariri District. These will be raised with Rangiora Library and Civic Precinct Redevelopment Working Group, and in a staff briefing to Council, as part of Long-Term Plan deliberations.

4.3. **Strategic Alignment**

4.3.1. National

In considering a framework for the strategy, staff reviewed Arts Strategies from a number of communities with similar priorities and/or demographic make-up to our own. As illustrated in the table in attachment ii, (Trim # 230927152386) Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy aligns well with the goals of the other considered strategies and importantly, directly aligns with all five of Creative New Zealand's Strategic Outcomes.

4.3.2. Local

Locally, Ngā toi Māori - Waimakariri Arts Strategy aligns with all four of the Waimakariri District Council's Community Outcomes and the four local government well-beings for the building of a healthy, resilient, connected, environmentally attractive and economically strong Waimakariri District.

It is also directly linked to the achievement of key objectives within two key Council strategies for the district: Waimakariri Community Development Strategy and Waimakariri Economic Development Strategy; and those for those of the Council-supported local economic delivery organisation Enterprise North Canterbury. This alignment broadly relates to:

- District attraction
- Employment opportunities
- Activation of places and spaces
- Facilities planning

- Empowerment of people and organisations to achieve their aspirations.
- Increased collaboration for better local outcomes

4.4. **Strategic Framework.**

- 4.4.1. As illustrated in the chart, on the following page of this report, the Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy details five strategic goals, along with their associated objectives for a more vibrant connected, resilient and empowered local arts sector. The goals and associated objectives align with the key themes identified from the community engagement as detailed in 4.2.1, above.
- 4.4.2. The strategy also details specific community-identified actions that Council could undertake to achieve the objectives and considers likely outcomes, and how those might be measured.
- 4.4.3. This work contributes to the Vision that *“Waimakariri is a district where the arts are championed, celebrated and accessible to all.”* Council’s role in this is reflected in the strategy’s Mission: *“To champion the arts, recognising their ability to inspire, challenge, and bring people together.”*
- 4.4.4. This framework has been reviewed by both the Project Control Group and Key Stakeholder reference group, and the attached document approved by the Project Control Group, before publication.

Goals and Objectives



4.5. Implementation

4.5.1. As detailed in 4.4.3, above, to ensure that Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy achieves its objectives, the document includes a set of actions for which Council have responsibility. With the support of a community and Council-led steering group, these will be prioritised into an implementation schedule that frames the delivery of the strategy over a three-year period. A detailed annual implementation plan will be developed each year to guide activity over the duration of this strategy.

4.5.2. A Council appointed Arts Facilitator will progress this work, ensuring that a collaborative approach is widely applied, and that adequate resourcing is acquired to achieve the delivery of priority projects. The facilitator will monitor achievement of the desired outcomes, in accordance with the stated measures and other appropriate targets identified by the steering group. Such a role does not sit within the scope of existing community development functions; therefore resourcing is a consideration.

4.5.3. Mindful of Council's commitment to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and desire to see our bicultural heritage reflected, key strategic priorities include the intent to establish partnership with local iwi around the arts and encourage and support the establishment of heritage projects that recount our bicultural history through creativity. In line with this and in acknowledgment of the breadth of Māori talent in the local arts sector, it was decided that there should be scope for review of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy, so that, with the establishment of a closer arts-focused working relationship with iwi, a future iteration can be repurposed as an Arts and Culture Strategy.

4.6. **Next Steps**

4.6.1. Staff seek approval from the Community and Recreation Committee for the attached draft, in published form to go out for Community consultation via the Council 'Let's Talk' community engagement function, from 30th October to 20th November. Consultation will also include seeking feedback from Community Boards, who were given a recent overview of the project at the September 'All Boards' meeting. Additionally, staff will seek direct consultation from the Key Stakeholder Reference Group.

4.6.2. Upon completion of the Community Engagement, staff will present the updated, published document back to Council, seeking to have Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy formally adopted as a Waimakariri District Council Strategy.

4.6.3. Terms of Reference will be developed for a steering group, established to guide this work. These will be presented to Council as part of the report seeking formal adoption of the strategy. The report will also include considerations regarding any ongoing financial investment from Council required for the Plan's implementation. Staff would like to note that the current draft identifies the need for an Arts Strategy Implementation Facilitator.

4.7. **Options for Community and Recreation Committee**

Staff present the following options for consideration by the Community and Recreation Committee:

4.7.1. Option 1: Approve the draft content for Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy, to be released for community consultation, via Council's 'Let's Talk' platform.

4.7.2. Option 2: Approve the draft content for Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy to be released for community consultation, via Council's 'Let's Talk' platform, but with suggested modifications to the draft content, prior to its publication.

4.7.3. Option 3: Do not approve draft content for Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy to be released for community consultation, via Council's 'Let's Talk' platform. This is the least preferred option, given a risk that a delay will result in an overlap with consultation for the Community Development Strategy, which is currently under review.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

There are significant implications on community wellbeing as a result of this work.:

- It is well evidenced that the arts can play a significant role in affecting positive social outcomes, in terms of its impact on wellbeing, connection and a sense of belonging.
- A well-resourced local arts sector could play a significant role in the District's resilience, with the potential for a strong, connected and well-resourced local arts sector to impact economic development and district attraction.

4.8. The Management Team have reviewed this report.

5. COMMUNITY VIEWS

5.1. Mana whenua

The content of this report may be of interest and have relevance for local iwi.

In developing the strategy, staff recognised the importance of ensuring that mana whenua are involved as early as possible. Consequently, they approached both Mahaanui Kurataiao (MKT) and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri to identify the most appropriate way forward in ensuring a bicultural, partnership approach to the development of the strategy. We have appreciated their acknowledgement of this work and the input of local Ngā Toi Māori practitioners into this engagement.

5.2. Groups and Organisations

In line with Community Development practice, a wide range of Community Stakeholders continue to be engaged in the Community Development function of the Waimakariri District Council Community Team, fostering a collaborative response to identified community issues and opportunities, including the development of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy.

5.3. Wider Community

Broad community engagement was important in the development of Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy, to ensure that the general public, as well as the arts sector, could have a voice in the strategic direction for the arts in the Waimakariri District.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1. Financial Implications

6.1.1. As detailed in 4.5.1, above, some staff resourcing will be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the strategy over the coming three years. In the event that external funding cannot be acquired, staff have made tentative provision for this in the Long-Term plan budget, which will be considered as part of the LTP deliberation process.

6.1.2. As detailed in 4.2.2, above, whilst not yet properly scoped, there is potential for consideration of resourcing to address issues raised around performance and display space in Council's Long-Term Plan.

These will be raised with Rangiora Library and Civic Precinct Redevelopment Working Group, and in a workshop briefing to Council, as part of Long-Term Plan deliberations.

- 6.1.3. Any projects to come out of the development of this strategy will be externally funded. Community Development staff are willing and appropriately skilled to assist with this process, where necessary.

6.2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

The information in this report does not have sustainability impacts.

6.3. **Risk Management**

- 6.3.1. If the draft content is not approved for consultation there is a risk that a delay will result in an overlap with consultation for the Community Development Strategy, which is currently under review.

- 6.3.2. There is a risk that, without properly skilled facilitation, the strategy's objectives will not be achieved. Staff will endeavour to acquire external funding for this role, however in the event that this is not successful, will seek funding via the Long-Term Plan to ensure the effective implementation of Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy.

6.4. **Health and Safety**

Health and Safety considerations are included in all planning.

7. **CONTEXT**

7.1. **Consistency with Policy**

This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

7.2. **Authorising Legislation**

None.

7.3. **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

Community Development aligns with the following Council Community Outcomes:

- *There are wider ranging opportunities for people to contribute to the decision making by local, regional and national organisations that affects our District.*
- *People are friendly and caring, creating a strong sense of community in our district.*
- *People have wider ranging opportunities for learning and being informed.*
- *The community's cultures, arts and heritage are conserved and celebrated.*
- *Public spaces are plentiful, accessible and high quality.*

7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

None

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Foreword

Mā te pohewa mā te auaha hoki, ka whakapuaki ngā kura e huna ana. With imagination and creativity, a hidden jewel can be revealed.

A strong, cohesive arts sector delivers positive social and economic outcomes for communities. Research shows that two or more hours per week of arts engagement is associated with better mental wellbeing, and that taking part in artistic and cultural activity can increase social cohesion, helping people to create networks and find a sense of belonging. A strong, vibrant arts sector creates employment opportunities. Furthermore, arts-centred decision making around local spaces, places and activities creates a district that is more attractive, both for existing residents and those making decisions about where to settle, applying their talents and financial resources to the local economy.

Waimakariri District Mayor, Dan Gordon is a strong supporter of the arts. He is actively engaged in key arts networks, committees and advisory groups in the district including the Oxford Arts Trust, where he has been involved since its establishment, and he supported the formation of the Arts in Oxford Gallery. He has also been involved with the Waimakariri Arts Trust and the iconic and regionally recognised annual Kaiapoi Arts Expo.

A word from the mayor

The need for a Waimakariri District Arts Strategy was conceived through planning for the recovery of our District from COVID-19. The intent was to facilitate a strategic approach to increasing the capacity, capability and reach of the arts sector in the Waimakariri District, enabling our local arts-centred groups and organisations to adapt, grow and develop in the post-COVID environment. It was recognised that this would benefit, not only the arts sector, but also the well-being and resilience of the wider community.

The application of a strategic approach to the Arts has gained the endorsement of elected Council and Community Board members and the various Trusts that represent the local arts sector. Waimakariri District Council has shown commitment to this work, at governance level, in establishing a 'Waimakariri Arts and Culture' Councillor portfolio. In line with its commitment to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Council acknowledges the particular importance of Māori Arts, and through the Waimakariri Arts Strategy, supports initiatives that work with local iwi to identify project opportunities that publicly communicate Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri heritage and culture.

The Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy builds on the solid foundation laid by the various groups, collectives and individuals who make up the arts in the Waimakariri District. A key aspect of its implementation is to ensure that practitioners, associated organisations and trusts are resilient and sustainably resourced. Collaboration will be critical to allow shared and maximised resources, including collective marketing and promotion. The Waimakariri District is well served with people of creative talent. By increasing its visibility and making it accessible to a wider range of consumers, we can help the arts to thrive, increasing the likelihood that our artists can make a living from their passion. With adequate support, the effective implementation of this strategy has the potential to help our arts sector and its practitioners to 'put Waimakariri on the map' as a creative destination.

I endorse this approach and look forward to seeing the fruit that it produces.

Insert photo.

Mayor Dan Gordon

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Executive Summary

The Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy is the result of the extensive research and community engagement undertaken to inform the development of five strategic Goals, along with their associated Objectives for a more vibrant connected, resilient and empowered local arts sector. It details community-identified actions that Council could undertake to achieve those objectives and considers likely outcomes and how those might be measured.

As illustrated below, this work contributes to the Vision that **“Waimakariri is a district where the arts are championed, celebrated and accessible to all.”**

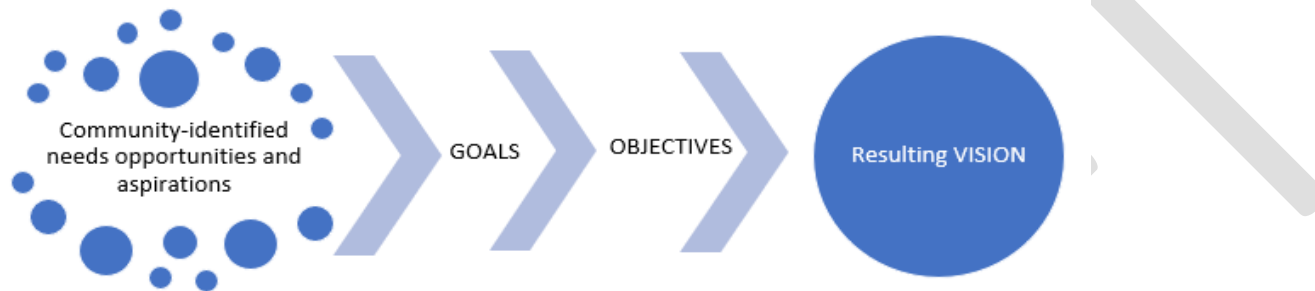


Figure 1: Defining and achieving the vision.

The Goals and associated Objectives align with key themes. These emerged from community-identified needs, opportunities and aspirations reflected in the sector and community surveys, the key stakeholder workshop and community forum. Broadly, they relate to:

- **Resourcing**
- **Empowerment for local artists to make a living from their craft**
- **Inclusion of the Arts in local decision making around local places, spaces**
- **Community-led arts projects**
- **Increased collaboration**
- **The potential role of the arts in District attraction**
- **Increasing the profile and value of the arts; particularly in terms of their impact on wellbeing.**

The identified actions to achieve each of the strategic objectives, align directly with these themes, ensuring that Council’s response meets the expectations of local stakeholders, in line with its mission: **“To champion the arts, recognising their ability to inspire, challenge, and bring people together.”**

Ensuring Measurable Results

As detailed below, the goals and objectives in this strategy have active intent, including measurable outcomes for the local arts sector and the community that it serves.

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Goals and Objectives



Figure 2: The Framework - Goals and Objectives

The Local Government Act 2002 (“LGA”) provides for councils to meet the current and future needs of their communities for good-quality local public services. Arts and culture are a community amenity, which is a core service to be considered by Council in performing its role under the LGA Section 11A. The Ministry for Culture and Heritage administers the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 2014, which outlines how local authorities may act as community arts providers.

The national strategic direction for arts and culture sector funding and development is set by Creative New Zealand through a range of corporate documents including the Creative New Zealand Strategic Direction, Te Hā o Ngā Toi – Māori Arts Strategy 2019-2024 and Creative New Zealand Pacific Arts Strategy 2018- 2023.

Locally, the Waimakariri Arts Strategy aligns with and contributes to key Council and non-Council strategies and work programmes. As illustrated below, Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy directly aligns with all five of Creative New Zealand’s Strategic Outcomes, as well as all four of the Waimakariri District Council's Community Outcomes and the four local government wellbeings for the building of a healthy, resilient, connected, environmentally attractive and economically strong Waimakariri District.

Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy is also directly linked to the achievement of key objectives within two key Council strategies for the district: Waimakariri Community Development Strategy and Waimakariri Economic Development Strategy; as well as those for those of the Council-supported local economic delivery organisation Enterprise North Canterbury. This alignment broadly relates to:

- District attraction
- Employment opportunities
- Activation of places and spaces
- Facilities planning
- Empowerment of people and organisations to achieve their aspirations.
- Increased collaboration for better local outcomes

GOAL	WAIMAKARIRI DRAFT	Creative NZ Strategic Outcomes	Council Community Outcomes, that Waimakariri is a District.
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1	Reflect belonging and identity	New Zealanders participate in the arts	...Where everyone can have a sense of belonging. ...Where people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity. ...That is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.
2	Activate Artistic Expression	New Zealanders participate in the arts.	...Where people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity. ...That values and restores our environment.
3	Connect Community and the Arts	New Zealanders experience high quality arts	... Where people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity.
4	Influence Decision Making	New Zealand Arts gain international success	...Where people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity. ...That values and restores our environment. ...That is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.
5	Strengthen the Arts Sector	New Zealanders experience high quality arts. New Zealand's arts sector is resilient	...Where people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity ...That is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

Figure 3: Strategic alignment

District Profile

The Waimakariri District lies is located 20 minutes north of Christchurch, just over the iconic Waimakariri River. It covers some 225,000 hectares, extending from Pegasus Bay in the east to the Puketeraki Range in the west. It is bounded to the north by Hurunui District. The territorial area governed by the Waimakariri District Council sits within the takiwā (territory) of Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Mana Whenua for this rohe (area).

The district's major urban areas are Rangiora and Kaiapoi, with key urban settlements including Woodend, Pegasus and Oxford. There are also a number of village and beach settlements and a relatively high proportion of rural or lifestyle block properties. Waimakariri is one of the fastest growing districts in the

country with a growing local economy. The population has increased from 49,989 in 2013 to well over 65,000, with projections indicating a population of around 97,000 by 2048. Despite rapid growth, the district has retained its attractive mix of rural and small-town character. It's thriving town centres, extensive range of quality services and recreational facilities, sitting alongside a diverse natural landscape of forests, mountains, rivers and sea, offer accessible recreation possibilities making Waimakariri an attractive option for potential new residents and visitors.

Tuahiwi, the home of Ngāi Tūāhuriri rūnanga, has played a vital role in Ngāi Tahu history. The takiwā of Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga centres on Tuahiwi and extends from the Hurunui River in the north, to the Hakatere River in the south, and inland to the Main Divide. It has Māori Reserve 873 (Tuahiwi) as its centre. Nearby the famous Kaiapoi Pā was established by the first Ngāi Tahu ancestors when they settled Te Waipounamu. Kaiapoi Pā was the major capital, trading centre and point from which further penetration of the South Island occurred making the area a genealogical centre for all Ngāi Tahu Whānui. Kaiapoi Pā was established by Moki's elder brother Turākautahi who was the second son of Tūāhuriri hence "Ngāi Tūāhuriri" is the name of the hapū of this area"

¹The Waimakariri District Council has been in a formal partnership with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga since a Memorandum of Understanding agreement was first developed in 2003 and renewed in 2012. In partnership with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Council continues to build their relationship through mutual understanding, on-going discussion and consultation on relevant issues as supported by the agreement.

Arts in the Waimakariri District

"It doesn't matter when, but I paint every day." Philip Trusstum (2020)

The Waimakariri District is well served with people of creative talent. It is home to many skilled practitioners in the visual, craft, literary and performing arts. This includes a number of published writers and poets, nationally recognised painters and potters, recording artists and performers. The bicultural and

¹ ^NNgāi Tūāhuriri Education Committee reference. NB: to APA standard.

multicultural make-up of the local arts sector was reflected in the response to the stakeholder survey that informed the development of this strategy, with 10% of responses coming from Māori (Ngā Toi Māori) and Pasifika Artists.

Three district-wide Trusts provide governance support for the visual arts:

- Waimakariri Community Arts Council
- Waimakariri Art Collection Trust
- Waimakariri Public Arts Trust

These are complemented by several geographically or disciplinary-specific Trusts and Incorporated Societies, including:

- Arts in Oxford
- Wai (Waikuku Artists Inc)
- Rangiora Art Society
- Kaiapoi and Rangiora Photographic Societies

The 1970's saw the development of a burgeoning Waimakariri arts scene. This began with a select group of passionate and well-connected locals, and an appreciative audience of music and art lovers, entertained with concerts and exhibitions in people's homes. Eventually demand exceeded capacity and the need for designated small-concert music and gallery spaces was identified. This resulted in the establishment, in 1996 of what is now the Chamber Gallery. With its wonderful acoustics and ideal display space, the Chamber Gallery features exhibitions and musical recitals by a range of leading Canterbury artists; as well as aspiring and emerging local talent that has caught the eye of Waimakariri Community Arts Council.

The Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre was built to house both the Kaiapoi Library and Kaiapoi Museum, as the previous buildings were lost in the Canterbury earthquakes. Its design included provision of space for an art gallery. 'Art on the Quay' gallery offers a diverse rotation of exhibitions, attracting visitors from outside of the district, who travel across the Waimakariri River to enjoy the work of some outstanding local and regional visual artists.

The culmination of a community vision saw Oxford Gallery opened by Chris Finlayson, Minister for Arts Culture and Heritage, in 2010. Since then, the gallery has been visited by over 100,000 people and is acquiring a reputation, nationally, for its determined, grass roots exhibition program. Committed to enhancing the artistic and cultural life of Oxford and its surrounding community, Oxford Gallery often holds workshops that engage local schools and local residents in exploring their creativity in a relaxed, collegial environment.

With such a plethora of practitioners in the local visual arts sector, a good number contribute as exhibitors and patrons to the annual Corcoran French Kaiapoi Art Expo - Waimakariri District's largest visual art show, established in 2007 and featuring the work of around 140 artists, including painters, photographers, ceramics and textile artists. The expo includes the Pak n Save School Art Expo, which displays artworks from 17 local schools. Waimakariri District also enjoys several smaller, long-standing expos in Rangiora, held by the Rangiora Arts Society; and in Pegasus and Waikuku by Waikuku Artists, Inc.

In addition to the Chamber Gallery recitals, the local performing arts scene features three key organisations:

- North Canterbury Musical Society (North Canterbury Musicals) was established in the 1960 and has since produced highly acclaimed, professional standard productions of high-profile musicals, including the likes of Les Misérables, Oliver, Chess, and the Sound of Music.
- Hartley School of Performing Arts was established 22 years ago and delivers exceptional, youth-centred productions of well-known musicals and plays.
- Originally established in 1880 as Rangiora Dramatic Society, in its current iteration Rangiora Players presents largely comical plays, ranging from the farcical to comedy thrillers, in a small performance space at the Northbrook studios creative hub. These receive rave reviews from dedicated audiences.

The quality performances put on by these three groups attract not only local audiences, but those outside of the district. In the majority of cases, performances are sold out within days of bookings opening.

Whilst Waimakariri has a number of published authors, the literary arts are underrepresented as organised groups. However, U3A operate well-attended memoir writing groups, and over the years there have been several small writing groups operating at various times, including 'Night Writers', which resurface regularly, allowing people to meet in a safe environment to develop their craft under the supportive critique of fellow writers.

District Libraries have played a crucial role in showcasing some of our local poets and writers, including running workshops with young people on writing and compositions, as well as short story and poetry writing competitions, which attract quality entries from across the district.

The Strategy - Process and Scope

Following the 2020 COVID Recovery forum, Council felt it appropriate to create an elected member Arts and Culture Portfolio role and also a preliminary project group that included the Arts and Culture Portfolio holder, Chair of Waimakariri Public Arts Trust and Community Development management. The group was tasked with framing a process to support the development of a Waimakariri Arts Strategy and in scoping its potential.

A mapping of the local visual, performing and literary arts sectors was undertaken, including not only the larger or more recognised groups and individuals, but also 'cottage' arts industries in recognition of their (oftentimes) under-realised potential. This ensured that engagement and consultation would reach a suitably representative practitioner community. A key priority was engaging with mana whenua, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri, to ensure that Waimakariri District's rich Māori heritage and the talents of local Māori arts practitioners were central to considerations in the development of the Strategy. We have appreciated their acknowledgement of this work and the input of local Ngā Toi Māori practitioners into this engagement.

What you told us

Engagement included surveying and consulting with those involved in local arts (practitioners) and local residents (audiences), alongside others that have a stake in supporting the arts sector, including business, education, social and wider recreation sectors. Responses indicated that both surveys had met their mark in engaging stakeholders from a broad range of artistic genre, as evidenced in Figure 4, below.

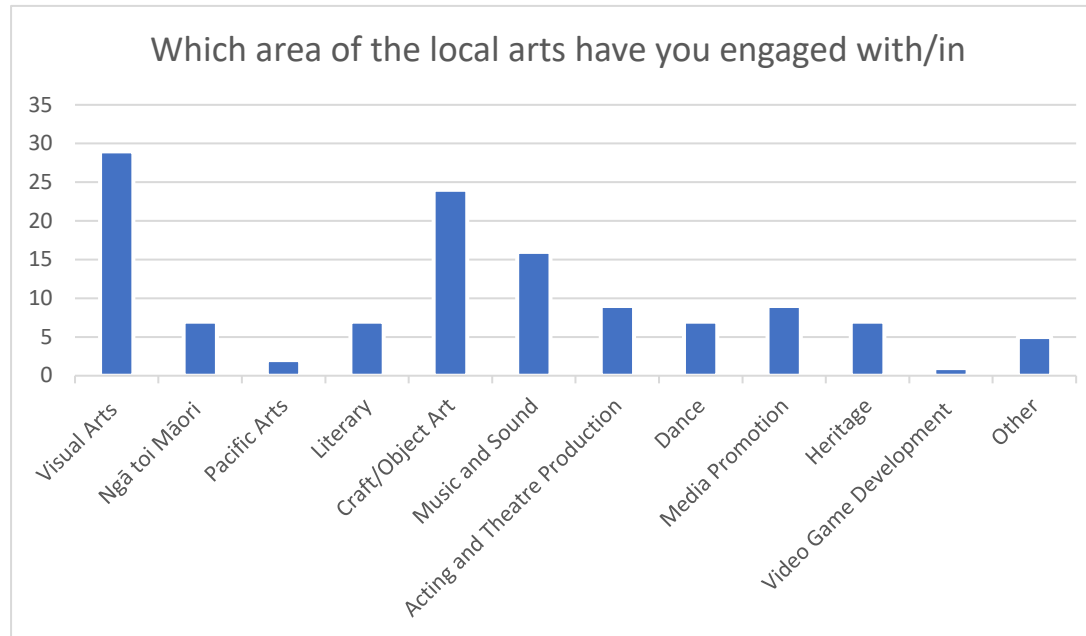


Figure 4: Areas of the arts engaged with by local residents and practitioners (combined).

Figures 5 to 7, below provide some insight into the nature of some of the feedback received from the surveys .



Figure 5: Ways to better connect community with the arts.

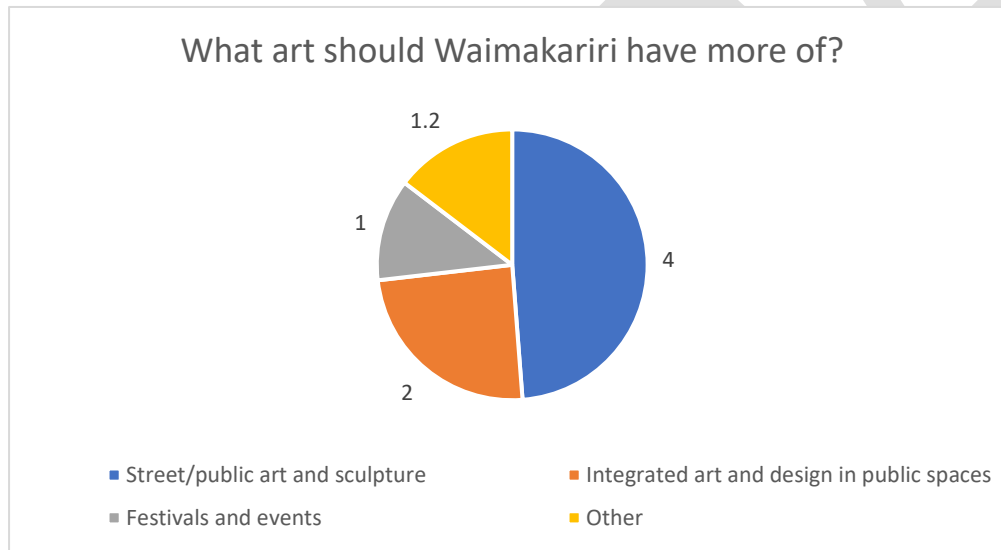
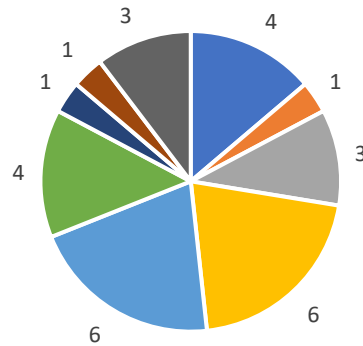


Figure 6: What type of art should Waimakariri have more of?

How can the arts make Waimakariri places and spaces stand out?



- Sustainable, creative and quality art
- Empowering our wider community with opportunities in public spaces
- Having more arts festivals and events that enliven the District
- Celebrate narratives of place through the arts
- Other
- Being intentional about collaboration
- Ensuring public arts and creativity is visible and valued
- Community-wide artistic projects
- Integrated place-making design throughout public realm (built and natural)

Figure 7: How can the arts make Waimakariri places and spaces stand out?

Other aspects of the engagement included:

- A stakeholder reference group workshop, which engaged with leading practitioners from across the local visual, performing and literary arts sectors, to review the collated survey findings and develop a draft Vision, Goals and Objectives for the Strategy.
- A District-wide forum, capturing the experience, expertise and ideas of those who have a stake in contributing to the development of a strong local arts sector. The aim of the forum was to test the draft Vision, Goals and Objectives and to ‘populate’ the strategy, identifying opportunities and possibilities under each of the key themes that were drafted.

A number of common themes emerged from the results of the arts sector and general public surveys, stakeholder workshops and community forums:

- The need for adequate and sustainable resourcing for the arts and its practitioners.
- The need to empower local artists with the skills and connections to make a sustainable income.
- A desire to see the arts included in local decision making around places, spaces, as well as district economic and community development.
- The need for more community-led arts projects – “by the people for the people”.
- The need for increased collaboration within and across the various artistic disciplines.

- The potential role of the arts in district attraction, e.g., through events, workshops and arts trails.
- The need to increase the profile and value of the arts, particularly in terms of their impact on wellbeing.

Review and collation of the workshop material finalised the strategic Goals, Objectives and clarified the Actions that Council could take in giving effect to and measuring the Strategy's vision, that: *"Waimakariri is a district where the arts are championed, celebrated and accessible to all."*

Space

A shortage of suitable practice and display facilities for the arts sector has been recognised as a key issue for the district for some time. Some Council-owned facilities can be relatively inexpensive to hire but may not be fit for purpose and can be heavily booked. The district's 'larger' performance spaces only cater for several hundred people, limiting opportunities for bigger ticketed creative events in our district. While we have well-curated exhibition spaces in Oxford and in the two larger district libraries, they only provide limited opportunities for a select number of local artists to display their work.

Evidence to support these concerns were raised in a 2023 review commissioned by the Council's Community and Recreation Department to Recreation Sport Leisure Consulting. The draft review document entitled *'Waimakariri District Community Facilities Network Plan'*, presented the results of a broad scope survey of facility users and user groups, and third-party owners of facilities available for community use. Its aim was to:

1. Address future demand arising from population growth and community expectations.
2. Ensure a network of facilities that are fit for purpose.
3. Address gaps or duplication in the provision of community facilities across the district.
4. Ensure equitable, fair and transparent provision of community facilities.

In relation to the arts, the Plan highlighted a shortage of specifically arts-based facilities, as well as limiting factors, with respect to existing facilities that are or could/should be available to the local arts sector, specifically:

- The lack of a larger theatre for bigger audiences (suggestion of 1000 pax).
- Limited backstage space at Rangiora Town Hall.
- A lack of facilities with mirrors available to hire (performing arts groups).
- A lack of performing or visual arts spaces in some of the smaller towns. E.g. Woodend and Pegasus.
- Lack of a large art gallery.
- Lack of a local music studio / production space / sound space including space with basic electrics set up for small bands.

The draft Community Facilities Network Plan report detailed planned Council and community developments that should be considerations in addressing issues and opportunities related to local arts space provision. For example, the potential for Council/community partnerships to deliver larger audience spaces. The report has provided useful formative information for the delivery of one of the key actions referred to in this Strategy: *"Apply an intentional approach to local provision of a variety of spaces that suit the needs of emerging and established practitioners."*

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Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy

VISION: Waimakariri is a district where the arts are championed, celebrated and accessible to all.

MISSION: To champion the arts, recognising their ability to inspire, challenge, and bring people together.

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	COUNCIL ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	MEASURES
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<p>1. REFLECT belonging and identity.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> In line the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, local arts should recognise and celebrate the rich bicultural heritage of our district. Local arts should also reflect the lived experience of the whole diversity of our local population. If people see themselves, their whakapapa and ways of being reflecting in local arts, they feel like they belong in the Waimakariri District.</p>	<p>1.1: Ensure that identity and belonging are reflected in our creativity</p>	<p>Establish intentional partnership with local iwi around the arts.</p> <p>Encourage and support the establishment of heritage projects that recount our bicultural history though creativity.</p> <p>Encourage and support the establishment of identity projects – Telling our stories through various creative genre.</p> <p>Encourage and support the establishment of creative projects that celebrate diversity and inclusion</p>	<p>People are empowered to tell their stories and express their cultural heritage through the arts.</p> <p>The diversity across our communities is represented and celebrated through artistic expression.</p>	<p>Prevalence and variety of Māori-led creative activity across the District.</p> <p>Number of culturally oriented creative activities</p> <p>Number and nature of diversity and inclusion oriented creative activities</p>
<p>2. CONNECT community and the arts.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> The arts can play a significant role in affecting positive social outcomes for local people. By engaging and connecting people with the arts, and in helping them to unlock their creative potential, we empower them toward better wellbeing.</p>	<p>2.1: Develop and strengthen opportunities for the community and the arts to connect.</p>	<p>Promote the role of the arts in wellbeing.</p> <p>Utilise digital and online tools to increase engagement with the arts.</p> <p>Encourage artistic response to social issues.</p> <p>Encourage and support arts-centred community connection.</p> <p>Facilitate local provision of subsidised arts-centred night classes.</p> <p>Support the establishment of local Arts Trails and Open Studio events.</p>	<p>Local people increase their engagement with the local arts sector.</p> <p>People’s responses to social issues are reflected in relatable creative contexts.</p> <p>People can learn and develop creative skills in a cost-effective, supportive environment.</p> <p>Local artists have to a wider audience and/or market for their work.</p>	<p>Audience/attendance number and demographic profile</p> <p>Participant numbers involved in arts-centred activities</p> <p>Arts-based night classes in place</p> <p>Sales from Arts Trail and Open Studio events</p>
	<p>2.2: Put Waimakariri on the map as an arts destination.</p>	<p>Support the development of a local arts website.</p> <p>Develop a District Arts Calendar</p> <p>Support the holding of arts-centred events on private property.</p> <p>Support the establishment of a multidisciplinary Waimakariri Arts Festival.</p>	<p>People from outside the District can easily access information about Waimakariri art-centred activities.</p> <p>People from outside of the district can enjoy local arts in a variety of private and public contexts.</p>	<p>Number of website ‘hits’ from outside the district.</p> <p>Arts calendar in place and promoted widely.</p> <p>Audience/attendance number and demographic profile</p>

		<p>Scope the establishment of a permanent arts market.</p> <p>Link into regional arts events and opportunities</p>	<p>Local artists are exposed to a wider audience and/or market for their work.</p>	<p>Arts Market established and well supported.</p> <p>There are tangible links to Waimakariri at Christchurch based events</p>
<p>3. ACTIVATE artistic expression.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> The Waimakariri District has an abundance of talented amateur and professional artists. In facilitating collaboration, support and the provision of a broader range of creative platforms, we help them to develop their craft and increase their profile.</p>	<p>3.1: Activate and enhance diverse creative expression.</p>	<p>Encourage and promote broader diversity of artistic expression.</p> <p>Support the establishment of community-led arts activities.</p> <p>Encourage and enable amateur arts.</p>	<p>People express themselves creatively via a broader range of means.</p> <p>Local people are empowered to lead creative initiatives.</p> <p>The amateur artist is recognised and celebrated.</p>	<p>Evidence in places, spaces and online platforms of diverse artistic expression.</p> <p>Participant number of those engaged in community-led and amateur creative activities.</p>
	<p>3.2: Encourage collaboration and the sharing of knowledge and practice.</p>	<p>Support the establishment of creative networks within disciplines.</p> <p>Develop a shared database of local artists.</p> <p>Support the establishment of a peer-peer mentoring programme to develop local artists.</p> <p>Facilitate increased collaboration between arts-centred groups, organisations and Trusts.</p> <p>Encourage and support creative collaborations, within and across disciplines.</p>	<p>Local artists can more easily connect to share skills, celebrations and challenges.</p> <p>Resources are shared amongst local artists.</p> <p>Local artists and residents enjoy richer artistic experiences</p>	<p>Engagement with local arts database</p> <p>Number and membership of creative networks</p> <p>Number of collaborative creative initiatives across the district.</p> <p>Audience/Participant number at collaborative local creative events.</p>
	<p>3.3: Facilitate accessible platforms for creative expression.</p>	<p>Facilitate and support placemaking activities for local places and spaces, with the arts at its centre.</p> <p>Support opportunities to build on existing community events and activities to incorporate creative opportunities into planning.</p>	<p>Local places and spaces are enlivened with creative expression.</p> <p>Local events and activities include creative elements.</p> <p>Local arts spaces display a wider range of artistic genre.</p>	<p>Number of local places and spaces featuring artistic performance or activity.</p> <p>Number of local events that incorporate creative opportunities for attendees.</p>

		<p>Enable a wider variety of works to be displayed in local art spaces.</p> <p>Create interactive online platforms for artistic expression.</p>	<p>People have access to a wider range of platforms for creative expression.</p>	<p>Variety of artistic genre displayed in local arts spaces.</p>
<p>4. INFLUENCE local decision making.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> The arts play an important part in District attraction, a key aspect of economic development. Design for local spaces and places that are engaging, attractive, and relevant to residents and visitors to our District pays significant dividends for the local economy.</p>	<p>4.1: Embed the arts in Council decision making.</p>	<p>Develop a Placemaking Plan, with the arts at its centre.</p> <p>Apply an intentional approach to local provision of a variety of spaces that suit the needs of emerging and established practitioners.</p> <p>Encourage and facilitate opportunities to integrate arts into the natural environment.</p>	<p>Local places and spaces are enlivened with creative expression.</p> <p>Local artists and performers have better choice in the range of available spaces to best showcase their talent.</p> <p>Local artists and performers can showcase their talent to a wider audience.</p> <p>The natural environment is celebrated and respected through artistic expression.</p>	<p>Placemaking plan is developed, including an associated implementation plan.</p> <p>Number and variety of local exhibition and performance spaces.</p> <p>Number and variety of activities that integrate arts into the natural environment.</p>
	<p>4.2: Advocate for Waimakariri Arts at local, regional and national level</p>	<p>Ensure that the arts are a consideration in district attraction planning.</p> <p>Facilitate the establishment of the Waimakariri District as an 'arts destination'.</p> <p>Maintain a designated Councillor portfolio to champion the arts across Council and other key stakeholders, including funders.</p> <p>Encourage local representation in regional and national arts forums.</p> <p>Facilitate Waimakariri representation on regional and national arts-centred steering groups, and governance organisations.</p>	<p>People from outside of the district are aware of the range of local creative experiences and creative talent in the Waimakariri District.</p> <p>Waimakariri is represented at regional and national decision-making forums and on national arts-centred steering groups, and governance organisations.</p>	<p>District promotion includes reference to the range of local creative experiences and talent.</p> <p>Local data reflects visitor engagement with the arts.</p> <p>Waimakariri representation at regional and national decision-making forums and on national arts-centred steering groups, and governance organisations.</p>
<p>5. STRENGTHEN our arts communities.</p>	<p>5.1: Support initiatives that facilitate a more sustainable local arts sector</p>	<p>Facilitate brand development for Waimakariri arts.</p>	<p>Waimakariri arts has a recognised brand across and outside of the district.</p>	<p>Local data reflects local resident and visitor engagement with the arts.</p>

<p><u>Context:</u> The Waimakariri District has a rich source of artist practitioners and creative entrepreneurs. The effective implementation of a local arts strategy will enhance the economic value and viability of this creative market, strengthening the sector and increasing its visibility to local, regional and national consumers of the arts.</p>		<p>Facilitate the development of a marketing and communications plan for the local arts sector.</p> <p>Support the acquisition of sustainable funding for local arts.</p> <p>Scope the establishment of a local arts hub.</p> <p>Facilitate stronger relationships between the business and arts sectors.</p>	<p>Waimakariri arts have a more visible profile locally and outside of the district.</p> <p>The local arts sector is well resourced.</p>	<p>Local artists report being better funded and supported.</p> <p>Planning is in place for the establishment of a local arts hub.</p> <p>There is measurable evidence of the business sector supporting the local arts.</p>
	<p>5.2: Champion, promote and develop Waimakariri arts</p>	<p>Establish a role to facilitate the implementation of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy.</p> <p>Establish a multidisciplinary arts steering group to guide the implementation of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy.</p> <p>Develop annual implementation plans to guide the implementation of the Waimakariri Arts strategy over a three-year period.</p> <p>Identify and record current artworks.</p>	<p>The implementation of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy is supported and ensured.</p> <p>Current artworks are appropriately catalogued.</p>	<p>A facilitator role and steering group are established.</p> <p>The objectives and actions of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy implementation plans are met.</p> <p>A catalogue of local artworks is developed.</p>
	<p>5.3: Facilitate capacity and capability building opportunities for local artists</p>	<p>Enable and support development pathways for emerging local artists.</p> <p>Support the development and provision of arts sector training, including, business acumen, planning, marketing, funding, basic accounting etc.</p> <p>Encourage, support and promote local provision of technique-based workshops.</p>	<p>Emerging artists and performers have a means to develop and progress their careers.</p> <p>Local arts practitioners can make a living off their craft.</p> <p>Local arts practitioners can improve their skills</p>	<p>Development pathways are identified, documented and established.</p> <p>Number of artists participating in training.</p> <p>Local artists report positive outcomes from attendance at training workshops.</p>

A Word on Implementation

To ensure that Ngā Toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy achieves its objectives, this document includes a set of actions for which Council have responsibility. With the support of a community and Council-led steering group, these will be prioritised into an implementation schedule that frames the delivery of the strategy over a three-year period.

A detailed annual implementation plan will be developed each year to guide activity over the duration of this strategy. A Council appointed Arts Facilitator will progress this work, ensuring that a collaborative approach is widely applied, and that adequate resourcing is acquired to achieve the delivery of priority projects. The facilitator will also monitor achievement of the desired outcomes in accordance with the stated measures and other appropriate targets identified by the steering group.

Mindful of Council's commitment to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and desire to see our bicultural heritage reflected, key strategic priorities include the intent to establish partnership with local iwi around the arts and encourage and support the establishment of heritage projects that recount our bicultural history through creativity.

Results

The successful implementation of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy will provide increased benefits to our arts sector, its practitioners, our communities and wider district. It will result in:

- Increased funding for the local arts; its endeavours and management, so that people can make a living from their craft.
- Increased collaboration for efficient and optimised use of resources, skills and talents.
- Increased provision of local performance and exhibition spaces that are fit for purpose and allow the Waimakariri arts scene to grow.
- Better provision for the recording, storage and curation of local works, ensuring that they can be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.
- The arts included as active partners in planning for the enhancement and activation of local places and spaces.
- The district's bicultural heritage and increasingly multicultural presence in our communities appropriately reflected in local places and spaces.
- People having increased understanding of the lived evidence of the diversity of people who make up our district.
- The arts being relevant and accessible to a broader audience of local people,
- The arts perceived as being a pivotal aspect of district attraction and a thriving local economy, with the Waimakariri arts 'brand' being well recognised beyond the district's borders.

Acknowledgements

Council have been grateful to Creative NZ, whose funding grant enabled us to quickly respond to the clearly identified need to progress this piece of work. Throughout this journey we have also been most grateful our community leaders in the local arts sector, who have lent their skills, knowledge and expertise to the creation of this document. We have valued their connections, advice and insight into our local creative community – its needs, desires and aspirations. We would also like to acknowledge the many locals who contribute in various ways to the arts in our district. Whether a practitioner, volunteer, or patron, your contribution and insight into the development of this strategy has been most valuable.

“The one thing that you have that nobody else has is you. Your voice, your mind, your story, your vision. So write and draw and build and play and dance and live only as you can.” – Neil Gaiman

Glossary

- **Artist:** Anyone involved in the performing, visual or literary arts
- **Discipline:** Type of artistic practice. E.g. Dance, drama, pottery, photography
- **Craft:** A collective term for types of artistic practice
- **Practitioner:** Someone who engages in artistic pursuits – Visual, performing, literary or craft

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WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION**

FILE NO and TRIM NO: RES-08/ 230928153573

REPORT TO: WOODEND SEFTON COMMUNITY BOARD

DATE OF MEETING: 9th October 2023


AUTHOR(S): Chrissy Taylor-Claude – Parks Officer.
Justine Rae – Senior Adviser Community & Recreation - Assets & Capital.

SUBJECT: Woodend Town Centre Public Toilet Upgrade.

ENDORSED BY:
(for Reports to Council,
Committees or Boards)



General Manager



Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report is seeking approval from the Woodend Sefton Community Board to demolish the existing Woodend Town Centre toilets and construct a new toilet block in the same location.
- 1.2. The Woodend Town Centre toilet block is surrounded by the Woodend Community Centre, Woodend School, Woodend Recreation Reserve, and Woodend Bowling Club. The toilets are across from Electronic Vehicle (EV) chargers, alongside the Rangiora Woodend Cycleway, and the main rest stop for State Highway 1 users.
- 1.3. The toilet block is a high use toilet and in poor condition. The block was built in 1972 and is made of concrete blocks with a roof of plastic and iron. The toilet block currently has 1 female, 2 male, and 1 accessible toilet and the exterior wall includes a mural by Woodend School. These toilets receive more maintenance-related service requests than any other toilets in the district. It has also been identified as an entrapment risk due to poor design and does not meet the desired level of service nor accessibility standards.
- 1.4. Council's Public Toilet Strategy listed the Woodend Town Centre Toilet as needing renewal in 2037 but due to the poor condition of the toilets and ongoing operational costs and service requests, Council staff looked into funding options to bring this forward. Council put in an application for the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) through Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) and was successful, receiving \$197,500 to contribute to the rebuild of the Woodend toilets. The new toilet block would include 4 unisex toilets, 2 of which would be accessible, and 1 would include a baby change table.
- 1.5. Council can work with Woodend School and the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust to retain the value of publicly displayed art on the current toilets if possible. Along with this, Council will engage with the Waimakariri Access Group around the proposed design.
- 1.6. The recommended option would see the renewal of the toilet at Woodend Town Centre which is estimated to cost \$395,000. If this option is approved Council would be contributing half of the overall estimated cost of the project (\$197,500) which would come from capital budget that is assigned to toilet renewals within the Annual and Long Term Plan. Due to a current project (Woodend Beach Toilets) not being able to be delivered at this time, there is sufficient budget to undertake this work without needing to bring money forward. The Woodend Beach toilets will then be reprioritized and delivered within a future financial year.

Attachments:

- i. Letter of support from the Woodend Sefton Community Board. (Trim: 230626094945)
- ii. Letter of support from Enterprise North Canterbury. (Trim: 230626094938)
- iii. Location map and images of current toilet facilities. (Trim: 230928153595)

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Wooden Sefton Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 230928153573
- (b) **Notes** that the existing toilets at Woodend Town Centre are currently in a poor state of repair, require high levels of ongoing maintenance and do not meet current level of service levels and accessibility regulations. These toilets generate the highest number of service requests in the district.
- (c) **Notes** that these toilets are currently planned for renewal in the year 2037 and are currently estimated to cost \$395,000 to renew.
- (d) **Notes** that Council staff applied to the Ministry of Business and Innovation's Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) and were successful in this application with MBIE committing to contribute \$197,500 towards the project.
- (e) **Notes** that the Woodend Sefton Community Board and Enterprise North Canterbury provided a letter of support in Council's application to TIF to receive funding for the Woodend toilet in May 2023.
- (f) **Approves** the removal of the existing toilet and construction of the new toilet block noting that this will be 2 accessible unisex toilets and 2 standard unisex toilets all accessible from the front facing the street.
- (g) **Notes** that the cost of the project covers the entire works, including the demolition and construction of the new toilets and associated landscaping such as plantings and installing a new rubbish bin.
- (h) **Notes** the timeline in which the construction must be completed with procurement, approvals and consents required to be in place prior to 18th February 2024.

AND

THAT the Woodend Sefton Community Board recommends:

THAT the Community & Recreation Committee

- (i) **Receives** Report No. 230928153573.
- (j) **Approves** the recommendation that the upgrade of the Woodend Town Centre toilets be bought forward from 2037 and is undertaken in the 23/24 Financial Year.
- (k) **Notes** the impact of bringing the Woodend Town Centre toilets forward in the plan is that other scheduled public toilet projects will be pushed out 1 additional year to accommodate this project.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Woodend Town Centre Toilet is located on School Road and surrounded by Woodend Community Centre, Woodend School, Woodend Recreation Reserve, and Woodend Bowling Club. The toilets are also across from Electronic Vehicle (EV) chargers, alongside the Rangiora Woodend Cycleway, and the main rest stop for State Highway 1 travellers. Currently, the toilet block includes 1 female, 2 male, and 1 accessible toilet.

- 3.2. This toilet block is an extremely high use toilet in our district and the current condition of the toilet is poor. The block was built in 1972 and is of concrete block construction with a roof which is a combination of iron and plastic. At the end of 2022, a mural was painted on the exterior wall by Woodend School to make it more appealing. This was funded by Keep New Zealand Beautiful.
- 3.3. Council has a Public Toilet Strategy which provides recommendations for the future management and the proposed levels of service for public toilet provision of Waimakariri District Council public toilets. The strategy lists the districts public toilets and prioritises which toilets need upgrading and when. The Woodend Town Centre toilet was identified to need replacing in year 2037. However, the toilet was also identified as an entrapment risk due to the design of the building. Due to the old nature of the toilet block and the high-profile site within the Woodend Town Centre, these toilets receive more maintenance-related service requests than other toilets in the district. Therefore, in order to provide the desired level of service and reduce ongoing operational costs, Council staff began looking at funding options to bring this replacement forward.

4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1. In May 2023, Council put in an application to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) through the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) to get co funding to replace the toilet. Council received letters of support for this application from the Woodend Sefton Community Board and Enterprise North Canterbury.
- 4.2. On 18 August 2023, Council received confirmation that the application to the TIF was successful. The specific details of the contract between MBIE and Council must be signed within 6 months from the initial notification of the successful application including confirmation of procurement, all consents approved and in place and any other approvals in order. Council then has 18 months to complete the project in its entirety. This means staff need to begin preparatory work for this project as soon as possible in order to procure and consent the toilet demolition and replacement within the next five months.
- 4.3. The Public Toilet Strategy prioritises which toilets need upgraded and when. There are a number of toilets in our district that are in need of upgrades and improvements. Due to the Woodend Town Centre Toilet receiving external funding it makes sense to prioritise this project and bring it forward in the schedule.
- 4.4. The project is estimated to cost a total of \$395,000, which will be co-funded by TIF and Council with each party contributing \$197,500. Council will be funding this through the Toilet Renewal programme (100283.000.5014). This is a programme budget that covers toilet renewals within the Toilet Strategy. The other commitment within this budget for the 2023/2024 Financial Year is for Maria Andrews. There is \$243,000 remaining within this budget for allocation towards the Woodend Town Centre toilet replacement.
- 4.5. The following table outlines the project timeline for this work.

Milestones and Project Tasks	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
'Milestone one'		
Complete detailed engineering plan	Aug-23	Oct-23
Tender project	Oct-23	Nov-23
Seek consent for toilets	Nov-23	Dec-23
'Milestone two'		
Demolition of existing toilets	Mar-24	Mar-24
Toilet installation	Apr-24	May-24

Amenity landscaping complete	May-24	May-24
'Milestone three'		
As-built information collected and processed	May-24	May-24

- 4.6. As part of this process, staff have reviewed the current toilets to identify the issues and challenges with the current toilets. It was identified that the current accessible toilet does not meet required levels of service for accessible users. The internal grab rail is at the wrong height, the doors should open outwards rather than slide, the cubicle is too small, and the hand basin is too far away from the toilet. This has an impact on community wellbeing as the location is not suitable for all users. As noted above, there is also concern that this building is an entrapment risk for users.
- 4.7. The Community Board have the following options available for their consideration:
- 4.8. Option One - The Board approves the rebuild of the Woodend Town Centre toilets according to the proposed change in configuration due to high usage. As part of this and in reflection of current standards and levels of service and the safety concerns with the existing layout, staff recommend the new toilet block configuration be changed. Currently it has 1 female, 2 male, and 1 accessible, this would change to 2 accessible unisex toilets and 2 standard unisex toilets all accessible from the front facing the street. Each cubicle would contain a basin and 1 of the accessible toilets would include a baby change table. There would also be some amenity plantings and potentially a picnic table surrounding the area to enhance the natural environment. If the Board approves this option, Council staff can also work with Woodend School and the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust (WPAT) to retain the value of publicly displayed art on the current toilets if possible. This option will keep to level of service requirements of having a minimum of 4 cubicles in a standalone toilet block within a town centre. A significant benefit of this project is that half of the costs will be covered by external funders and the timeframe would be moved forward from 2037 to completion within 2024/25.
- 4.9. Option Two- Decline the recommendations in this report and leave the toilet renewal for the existing renewal year of 2037. This option is not recommended due to the poor condition of the toilet and the impact of operational maintenance costs. This would also mean we would lose the ability to co-fund through the TIF funding opportunity. If the toilet block is not renewed, the agreed level of services will not be met. This toilet block is the main toilet stop in Woodend. It is the closest toilet to State Highway 1. The longest and most significant road in the New Zealand Road network. The Woodend Town Centre Toilets are highly used, therefore not meeting level of services not only has an impact on the local community but on all road users from across New Zealand who travel this route.
- 4.10. Option Three- Decline the recommendations in this report and consider minor maintenance of the toilet block. This option is not recommended as ultimately it would not be cost effective as there are several repairs and structural changes that would need to be regularly maintained to bring the toilet up to a higher level of service. It would also not alleviate the safety concerns around it being a potential entrapment area.
- 4.11. There will be a disruption to toilet users during construction of the new toilets, Greenspace staff will work on a cost effective temporary solution, this may include Portaloo's.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report. Community wellbeing will be improved by providing an

accessible, practical, and more welcoming toilet block. A key purpose of the Local Government Act is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. The social aspects of equity of opportunity, and rights and freedoms in the use of these facilities are not being met.

4.12. The Management Team has reviewed this report and support the recommendations.

5. **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

5.1. **Mana whenua**

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū are not likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the subject matter of this report.

5.2. **Groups and Organisations**

There are groups and organisations likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report. Due to the central location of the toilets, there are groups and organisations such as Woodend School and the Waimakariri Access Group that may have an interest in the subject matter of the report. Woodend School students painted the artwork on the toilets recently. Council will work with the school to ensure the value of the artwork is not lost. Council will ensure that all accessibility requirements are met in construction of the toilet block and will engage with the Waimakariri Access Group around the proposed design.

5.3. **Wider Community**

The wider community is likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report. The location for the toilets is in a busy town centre which may result in the wider community having an interest in the subject matter of the report. Council will work with the wider community to keep them updated on the project. During construction of the new toilet block, they will not be available for public use. This will impact thousands of users of State Highway 1. Council staff will have a plan to notify the public to ensure minimal impacts are felt.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are financial implications of the decisions sought by this report.

The recommended option would see the renewal of the toilet at Woodend Town Centre which is estimated to cost \$395,000. If this option is approved there will be financial implications of the decisions sought by this report. Council will be contributing half of the overall estimated cost of the project (\$197,500). This will be funded through the Toilet Renewal programme (100283.000.5014).

Greenspace staff had intended to deliver a public toilet renewal for Woodend Beach toilets during this financial year however due to the complexity of this project, this has not occurred which leaves budget available to undertake this work on the Woodend Town Centre toilets. The Woodend Beach toilets will then be reprioritized and delivered within a future financial year. This means that there is no need to bring money forward to complete this project at Woodend Town Centre and that there is sufficient budget to undertake this work.

If Options 2 or 3 are approved and the toilet is not renewed there will be no need for capital investment until such time as it is renewed. However, there will still be significant ongoing annual operational expenditure based on this being the toilet facility within our district that receives the most service requests. Over time, there may be increased costs as the building continues to deteriorate which would require additional operational budget. This will in turn have an impact on rate payers as operational budgets are rates funded.

This budget is included in the Annual Plan/Long Term Plan.

6.2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

The recommendations in this report do not have sustainability and/or climate change impacts. The building materials will be of a high standard that are long lasting, requiring less maintenance and a greater lifespan. It is a requirement from TIF that consideration is given to ensure the building is resilient.

6.3 **Risk Management**

There are risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. There will be a risk management plan in place to ensure any risks are mitigated. There is a risk that vandalism and graffiti will continue to appear on the new toilet block but working with Woodend School and WPAT will ensure we have a welcoming space, preventing negative behaviour. Any risks during construction will be mitigated with a risk management plan. If Option 2 or 3 are approved and the toilet is not replaced, this replacement will be planned for 2037. However, based on the failure to meet current levels of service and accessibility standards it is likely that requests from the public will increase for these to be replaced earlier. If this is the case, not only will building costs likely have increased but the TIF cost share option will not be an option at that point.

6.3 **Health and Safety**

There are health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. Due to the central location of the toilets, there will be a health and safety plan in place to ensure the public's wellbeing during the construction of the new toilet block. Once the toilets have been completed, it is expected that health and safety will improve as the toilets will be fully accessible.

7. **CONTEXT**

7.1. **Consistency with Policy**

This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

7.2. **Authorising Legislation**

Local Government Act

7.3. **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

- Public spaces and facilities are plentiful accessible and high quality, and reflect cultural identity.
- Core utility services are sustainable, resilient, affordable; and provided in a timeline manner.
- The community's cultures, arts and heritage are conserved, developed and celebrated.
- Effect is given to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

The Woodend Sefton Community Board has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in this report.

Our Reference: GOV-26-09-04 / 23050564419

5 May 2023

Tourism Infrastructure Fund
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Letter of Support for Application to Tourism Infrastructure Fund for Woodend Town Centre toilets

This letter is to support the application from the Waimakariri District Council to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund for the replacement of the Woodend Town Centre Toilets.

The Woodend-Sefton Community Board is pleased that this application is being lodged. The Board have formally signalled to Council that they will be requesting that the replacement of the Woodend Town Centre Toilets in School Road be brought forward in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034.

The Board has previously expressed concern around the toilets through the Long-Term Plan process (2021-31), however this was during the pandemic and funds were restricted. The Board have therefore made a new submission through the current Annual Plan process for budget to be brought forward. We have been receiving feedback from the community and the local Woodend Community Association that the toilets should be replaced as they do not meet the needs of users. The council has identified them as high use toilets.

On behalf of the community, the Board is in full support of the Council application to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund for the following reasons.

- These toilets service travellers/tourists using State Highway 1 and are not a good reflection on the District or New Zealand
- The traffic count through Woodend is around 20,000 vehicles per day. SH1 through Woodend is the east coast route in the South Island between the Cook Strait ferry and Christchurch and further south and is a popular route with tourists.
- These toilets are located near food outlets and a great playground and are an ideal stopping place for visitors and tourists to have a break.
- They are located on the Rangiora Woodend cycle/walkway which is well used by locals and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council application.

Yours sincerely



Shona Powell
Chair – Woodend-Sefton Community Board



4 May 2023

Chris Brown
Community and Recreation Manager
Waimakariri District Council

Dear Chris,

Re: In support of WDC's application for funding - Tourism Infrastructure Fund

As the [local economic](#) and tourism development agency, [Visit Waimakariri](#) for Waimakariri, it is our role to support and promote the region to businesses and visitors. I am writing to endorse the Council's application to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund for the replacement of the old and not fit for purpose toilets in Woodend.

Woodend is a popular stopping point on State Highway 1 for travellers and tourists. Many of them are passing through the district and do not contribute to the local economy therefore the local Council is seeking Government funding to build back better toilets for the high demand from tourists.

It has just been confirmed that an EV charging station will be built alongside the toilets which once again provide visitors with another reason to stop. It is necessary to provide the best possible infrastructure (toilets, EV chargers) for discerning visitors who expect this service.

The toilets in Woodend are also used by a huge number of cyclists who ride the Rangiora to Woodend cycle path. This cycle route has proven extremely popular since the Northern Motorway Cycle way and clip on bridge was built, offering a circuit from CHC, Kaiapoi, Rangiora, Woodend, along the Tuhaitara Coastal Track back to Kaiapoi via Pines Beach opening up our region to new visitors being cyclists from Christchurch and beyond.

In summary, we see the provision of new toilets at Woodend as being a valuable addition to the area, providing much needed facilities for all and adding value to existing and future tourism opportunities. We support your application.

Yours Sincerely
Enterprise North Canterbury

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Heather Warwick'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Heather Warwick
CEO

Attachment iii.

Location Map of Woodend Town Centre Toilets.



Images of the current Woodend Town centre Toilet block exterior.

